

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 21st July 2025 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present: Gavin Murphy (Chair) Donna Pearson
 Kenton Stewart Melanie Wells

In attendance: Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk).

To be actioned by:

To receive and approve apologies for absence	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hawkins, McBarnett and Ross.	
To receive declarations of interest (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests). The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared.	
Cllr Wells noted a personal interest in the Inland Border facility as a family member works on the site and a personal interest in the Village Hall.	
To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 17th June 2025	
Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 17th June 2025 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.	
Cllr Murphy had contacted Cllr Collins. He has the dates of the meetings in his diary. Cllr Murphy had received an email to say that the Cut and Cover details were still being discussed. Ben Oxney hopes to return to Cllr Murphy soon.	
To receive report from Borough Councillor	
A detailed report had been circulated; a copy can be found on the website: http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/ Cllr Bartlett reported: A “no pedestrians in the footway” sign is to be erected in Church Road. The PC had this on their Highways Improvement Plan so were already aware. There is no timing known yet for the PINS application from the DfT for the IBF. The Local Plan working group have approved Regulation 18 for the Local Plan to be put out for consultation. If approved by full Council it is expected that the consultation engagement events (7 in the borough) will take place over the summer. The issue for Mersham in particular will be the extension of Finberry and the access issues this might bring. It is hoped that access will not be granted through Mersham or Cheeseman’s Green Lane. The traffic infrastructure will need to be dealt with. There is no news yet regarding the Stonestreet Solar Planning Inspectorate decision.	
Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item	
There were no members of the public in attendance.	
To agree adoption of the IT Policy and Data Protection Policy in line with requirements to comply with the AGAR 2025-26.	
The Parish Council agreed to adopt the IT Policy and Data Protection Policy in line with requirements to comply with the AGAR 2025-26.	
To receive any update on the following:	
<p>i) Highways and Transport matters (to include the Highways Improvement Plan)</p> <p>There was no update.</p> <p>ii) Village Amenities and infrastructure(to include The Village Hall)</p> <p>The report from Cllr Wells was received. A discussion took place about the abandoned vehicle that is in the car park at the Hall.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the RoSPA report that has been received, a working group will be</p>	

created to look at replacement of the play equipment.

The Clerk will obtain costs and apply for grants for a new noticeboard.

iii) Environment and Sustainability (to include The green buffer zone in High Field/IBF).

There was no update.

iv) Finance & Governance:

- (1) To note the Parish Council's financial position as at 30th June 2025. The Parish Council noted the £35,503.97 in the bank as at 30th June 2025.
- (2) To authorise any payments, the Parish Council authorised payments in line with the payment schedule:

Litterpicker (July)	£162.50
HMRC	£79.80
Clerks Wages (July)	£336.79
Litterpicker (August)	£162.50
HMRC	£79.60
Clerks Wages (August)	£336.99
RoSPA Inspection	£120.00

v) Community Engagement

There was no update

vi) Housing and Development

There was no update

vii) Local Government Reorganisation

The Clerk provided an update following the meetings she had attended. She will complete and submit the questionnaire responses.

Planning matters: to authorise a response to any application(s) and to note any recent planning decisions by Ashford Borough Council or any correspondence on planning matters

There were no planning applications.

Any Other Business

Cllr Stewart reported that Mersham Sports Club House has decided to withdraw its interest in the club house offer due to unforeseen additional costs. There was a discussion regarding the Sports Club and how good it is.

Cllr Pearson is unable to attend the KALC meeting. Cllr Murphy will try and attend.
The JPF barriers have not been installed, Cllr Stewart has this in hand.

Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.

Monday 15 th September 2025	Monday 20 th October 2025
Monday 17 th November 2025	Monday 19 th January 2026
Monday 16 th February 2026	Monday 16 th March 2026
Monday 20 th April 2026	Monday 18 th May 2026

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