

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 18th November 2024 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present	Gavin Murphy (Chair) Gill McBarnet Kenton Stewart	Peter Hawkins Donna Pearson
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In attendance: Borough Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk).

To be actioned by:

To receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Cllr Wells.	
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. There were no declarations of interest.	
To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 21st October 2024 Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 21 st October 2024 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising to be discussed.	
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 that: Comments for the Inland Border Facility Environmental Impact Assessment need to be submitted by 29 th November. Traffic impact on Church Road, Kingsford Street and The Street have not been mentioned. The air quality assessment does not include Cheeseman's Green Lane. 3 PINS hearings are being held this week. Cllr Bartlett will be attending the hearing on Thursday to highlight the solar farm movements of vehicles, these will affect Bank Road and Laws Lane. Compulsory purchase and a timetable are the other subjects covered by the hearing. Cllr Hawkins asked whether there are any plans for the land encompassed by 3 roundabouts, J10, J10a and the link road. Cllr Bartlett explained that this is Highways England owned land that is used for water management, it would be nice to have landscaping of the area. Sojan Joseph MP could not meet with Cllr Murphy recently but it is hoped that he will be available in January. Cllr Bartlett explained that he will be talking with Sojan regarding the small animal checks at the IBF as the Kennel Club is keen to have a discussion. There are potentially some rules to stop the importing of certain breeds. There was a discussion regarding the under usage of the IBF.	
Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item There were no members of public in attendance.	
To receive any update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in High Field/IBF. To include planting delays to the green buffer zone near Highfield Lane. Cllr Murphy attended a pre-consultation meeting regarding the IBF. The Chairman of Sevington with Finberry Parish Council had created a presentation, he had included the potential issues and shared this at the meeting with the applicant. The High Field must be protected.	
To receive an update on Highways issues (to include the Highways Improvement Plan) The Clerk had received a recent communication regarding the lack of lighting on the A20. There had also been concerns raised about speed issues in Church Road. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with Cllr Murphy	

and East Highways Improvements.																							
To receive an update on the Village Hall. The update from Cllr Wells was circulated to the Council. The PC supports the installation of WiFi at the Village Hall.																							
To receive an update regarding the Cut and Cover Cllr Murphy has chased Ben Olney at HS1 and is hoping to have a response ahead of the next meeting.																							
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 Planning applications needing a response: PA/2024/1768 and PA/2024/1837. The Clerk is to submit a response once everyone has seen the applications and commented.																							
To discuss and decide forward plan for email and website .gov.uk address Resolved: The Clerk will pursue the registering of gov.uk website domain and three email addresses via HugoFox.																							
Financial matters: a) To note the Parish Council’s financial position. The PC noted the £35,862.50 held in the bank account as at 31 st October 2024. b) To authorise any payments <table><tr><td>Cheque No:</td><td>Payee</td><td>Amount</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>HMRC</td><td>£ 100.00</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>I King (November salary)</td><td>£ 148.72</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>T Block (November Salary)</td><td>£ 438.24</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>I King (December salary)</td><td>£ 188.72</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>T Block (December Salary)</td><td>£ 326.84</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>HMRC</td><td>£ 77.00</td></tr></table>		Cheque No:	Payee	Amount	OLT	HMRC	£ 100.00	OLT	I King (November salary)	£ 148.72	OLT	T Block (November Salary)	£ 438.24	OLT	I King (December salary)	£ 188.72	OLT	T Block (December Salary)	£ 326.84	OLT	HMRC	£ 77.00	
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The Clerk had circulated a Financial Statement, Budget over Expenditure and Payment Schedules up until 18 th November. c) To approve a Budget for 2025-26 The PC approved the draft budget for 2025-26 d) To approve a Precept for 2025-26 The PC approved to precept for £26,000 for 2025-26.																							
Any Other Business The nettles on Church Road are overgrown, the Clerk was asked if the Caretaker would trim these back. The bollards on the JPF are to be installed before Christmas. The Christmas Tree light switch on is o be on 7 th December at 7pm. There is a Sports Club Quiz on 7 th December at the Village Hall. Cllr Pearson will attend the KALC meeting in November. The shop is to close on Sunday. The Church is busy in December with Christmas Tree event on 30/11-1/12, Carols on 8 th December, Christingle Service, Crib service on Christmas Eve and a Church service on Christmas Day.																							
Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.																							

Monday 20th January 2025
Monday 17th March 2025
Monday 19th May 2025.

Monday 17th February 2025
Monday 21st April 2025

