

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church**

<b>Present</b>	Gavin Murphy (Chair)	Peter Hawkins
	Gill McBarnet	Donna Pearson
	Stewart Ross	Kenton Stewart
	Melanie Wells	

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

*To be actioned by:*

<b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies to be received.	
<b>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.</b> 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.	
<b>To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024</b> Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
<b>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.</b> The Councillors had been circulated with some information required for the registration of the shop as an Asset of Community Value.	
<b>To receive report from Borough Councillor</b>  <b>A detailed report had been circulated; a copy can be found on the website:</b> <a href="http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/">http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/</a>  Cllr Bartlett reported that:  He had been at a Joint Transportation Board meeting recently and the Forstal Bridge is still on the list for 2024-25.  He has met with Sodexo, the company who are managing the IBF. There is an agreement that they must provide some practical help with areas within Mersham, Sevington and Willesborough.  The 8 engagement events regarding the Local Plan are still scheduled.  The bin collection issues have been resolved.  He had met with Damian Green and showed him the vantage points in the Parish the Stone street Solar plans. He will ensure the next MP will be shown these.  The school PTA have applied for a grant but there is concern that ABC cannot fund something that KCC should be providing. Therefore, £750 might be available from Cllr Bartlett's funding pot.  There was a discussion surrounding the usage of the IBF going forward.	
<b>Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item</b> There were no members of the public in attendance.	
<b>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.</b>  This was covered by Cllr Bartlett in his report.	
<b>To receive an update on Highways issues (to include the Highways Improvement Plan)</b>	

<p>A meeting is to be arranged for the HIP.</p>													
<p><b>To receive an update on the Village Hall – to include discussion surrounding a working party for the redecoration of the Main Village Hall.</b></p> <p>The update from Cllr Wells was circulated to the Council. Fibre is to be installed and the bathrooms are being upgraded.</p>													
<p><b>To receive an update regarding the Cut and Cover</b></p> <p>Cllr Murphy has been in contact with Ben Olney at HS1. These preliminary discussions revolved around peppercorn rents, length of a lease, what would be allowed on site and whether fruit trees could be planted in order to grow a community orchard with some benches.</p>													
<p><b>To discuss the Local Needs Housing approach</b></p> <p>The lady who made an approach to the Council from The Church Commissioners is to attend the July meeting. It is an encouraging approach the Parish Council remains keen to hear more.</p>													
<p><b>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</b></p> <p>There were no new applications to be discussed.</p>													
<p><b>Financial matters:</b></p> <p><b>a) To note the Parish Council’s financial position.</b></p> <p>The PC noted the £30,838.88 held in the bank account as at 31<sup>st</sup> March.</p> <p><b>b) To authorise any payments</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="193 1106 1270 1256"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cheque No:</th> <th>Payee</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>OLT</td> <td>HMRC</td> <td>£ 74.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OLT</td> <td>I King (June salary)</td> <td>£ 148.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OLT</td> <td>T Block (June Salary)</td> <td>£ 310.68</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Cheque No:	Payee	Amount	OLT	HMRC	£ 74.00	OLT	I King (June salary)	£ 148.72	OLT	T Block (June Salary)	£ 310.68	
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<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Leigh from the Sports Club has extended an invitation to the Parish Councillors to attend the Open Day at the Sports Club.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked if the Caretaker could spray the weeds at the Village Hall.</p> <p>The hedge on the behind the hedge footpath needs to be reduced, this is scheduled for the winter months.</p> <p>The beacon lighting for D-Day 80 was a fabulous event and thanks were expressed to the Councillors involved.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked if the Caretaker could cut the path across Cherry Glebe. The purchase of the Kubota was discussed. The Clerk explained that the mower must fit in the lock up, on the trailer and be up to the job.</p> <p>Gulley suckers had been in Kingsford Street last week, Cllr Stewart continues to communicate with Clair Bell to this end.</p> <p>Thistle-down issues have not yet been resolved, the Clerk will follow this up with an email and Cllr Stewart will provide details of someone to communicate with.</p>													
<p><b>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.</b></p> <table data-bbox="193 2011 1185 2112"> <tr> <td><b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b></td> <td><b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b></td> <td><b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b></td> <td><b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b>	<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>	<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024</b>	<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>	<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>							
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