

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 16th June 2025 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present: Gavin Murphy (Chair) Gill McBarnet
Donna Pearson Stewart Ross
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 and Stewart.	
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 19th May 2025	
Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 19th May 2025 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.	
The Clerk reported that a flag pole and flag would cost £705.44. Ashford Borough Council Planning department would need to give permission for this as the green at Oaklands is their land. The Clerk is awaiting a response from them.	
The flag pole near Old Rectory Close is under siege by the trees. The Clerk is to contact Knight Frank to ask that the trees be cut back.	
To receive report from Borough Councillor	
<p>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/</p> <p>Stonestreet Solar - The Stonestreet Solar examination period is closed. Recommendation is to be made to the Secretary of State by the end of August.</p> <p>Re-organisation - Parish Councils are advised to tell Ashford Borough Council of areas they would like to take ownership of. The Terms of Reference of the Re-organisation are due to be discussed on 30th June. The Clerk is to keep an eye on the content of the report ahead of this meeting.</p> <p>The Parish Council will need to discuss the taking on of important assets and decide as to whether they wish to take any of these on to protect them. If Cherry Glebe were to be taken on, perhaps this could be registered as a Village Green and barbecue areas could be installed to allow for community events to be held.</p> <p>Joint Transportation Board- Cllr Bartlett reported that he had asked the JTB for a response to the Church Road petition.</p> <p>Ward Members Grant – the Parish Council will apply to Cllr Bartlett for £500 towards a new notice board.</p>	
Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item	
There were no members of the public in attendance.	
To receive any update on the following:	
<p>i) Highways and Transport matters The Clerk had circulated the Highways Improvement Plan. There was no update to be received.</p> <p>ii) Village Amenities and Infrastructure</p>	

<p>Cllr Wells had circulated a report. The Clerk reported that the S106 funds had been approved.</p>		
iii)	<p>Environment and Sustainability The thistles on the High Field were not treated correctly last year so they are growing back. The PC will keep an eye out for the planning application for the IBF and will check their environmental plans. Cllr Murphy is in communication with HS1 regarding the proposal for a Community Orchard.</p>	
iv)	<p>Finance and Governance: The Parish Councillors noted the Financial Statement, £38183.06 in the bank as at 31 May 2025. The payment of the moling for the water leak at the Village Hall was approved at £2100.00.</p>	
v)	<p>Community Engagement The Parish Council discussed VJ80. Cllr Stewart is to ask the Royal oak if they are doing anything for this commemoration.</p>	
vi)	<p>Housing and Development There was no update to be received.</p>	
<p>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</p>		
<p>The Parish Council considered PA/2025/1048 and raised no objection. The Clerk noted OTH/2025/0866 – a biodiversity net gain application.</p>		
<p>Any Other Business</p>		
<p>Strimming at Old Rectory Close has been completed. Cllr Murphy is to invite Kent County Councillor Brian Collins to a PC meeting.</p>		
<p>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council.</p>		
<p>Monday 21st July 2025 Monday 20th October 2025 Monday 19th January 2026 Monday 16th March 2026 Monday 18th May 2026</p>		<p>Monday 15th September 2025 Monday 17th November 2025 Monday 16th February 2026 Monday 20th April 2026</p>