

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 16th February 2026 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present: Gavin Murphy (Chair) Peter Hawkins
Gill McBarnet Donna Pearson
Kenton Stewart Melanie Wells

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

To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr 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 19th January 2026

Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 19th January 2026 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 discuss.

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 report from County/Borough Councillor

Borough Councillor

A detailed report had been circulated; a copy can be found on the website:

<https://www.mershamparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/>

Cllr Bartlett reported that the Village Alliance intend to attend the PC meeting in March.

The car parking strategy closes on 16/2. The NPPF consultation closes on 10/3.

The next stage of the Local Plan has been deferred until the NPPF changes have been agreed. A consultation on the sites is expected in the autumn.

Stonestreet Solar judicial review is going for an oral hearing.

There was a Local Governance Review meeting on creating Neighbourhood Committee. This will enable local representation and would include Unitary Authority representatives, stake holders and parish councils, these would not be binding but it would be hoped that it would guide the Unitary Authority. There are 37 parishes in Ashford Borough but it is not known how this would be divided up.

The next IBF meeting will be held on Wednesday with the DfT and other stakeholders. They will be requesting a deferral of conditions on signage and litter. PB noted litter pickers have been out in the area.

To receive any update on the following:

To receive any updates on the following:

- i) Highways and Transport matters (to include the Highways Improvement Plan)**
KCC have agreed to fund the installation of pedestrian islands on the A20 with a crossing.
- ii) Village Amenities and infrastructure (to include The Village Hall)**
Village Hall report has been circulated.
- iii) Environment and Sustainability (to include the green buffer zone in High Field).**
The green buffer zone is in place for 30 years.

iv) Finance & Governance:

1) To note the Parish Council's financial position as at 31st January 2026.

2) To authorise any payments

Litterpicker	£162.50
HMRC	£82.40
Clerk	£346.92
Sevington with Finberry Parish Council	£40.00
Ransley Turf	£240.00
P Rodway	£100.08

v) Community Engagement

There was nothing to report.

vi) IBF Update following the meeting with the DfT planning team.

Cllrs Murphy and Wells and the Clerk will attend a meeting on 18/2.

vii) Housing and Development, to include any planning applications.

There were no outstanding planning applications to discuss. The road closure at Chequertree was discussed.

viii) Local Government Reorganisation

No further news at this time.

ix) Succession planning

There was a discussion about potential new Parish Councillors.

Any Other Business

Cllr Pearson agreed to contact EDF regarding an invoice received for festive lighting.

Cllr Stewart provided an update on the Sports Club. The club is thriving and most teams are going from strength to strength. There was a discussion about the lack of collecting subs.

Cllr McBarnet noted that the Brabourne Estate land needs maintaining, the Clerk is to make contact,

The Villager has come to an end. Dan in the shop wants to run a magazine.

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

Monday 16th March 2026

Monday 20th April 2026

Monday 18th May 2026