

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church**

**Present:** Gavin Murphy (Chair) Peter Hawkins  
Gill McBarnet Donna Pearson  
Stewart Ross 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 Stewart. These were approved.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 16<sup>th</sup> February 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.

**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 contacted the leaf debris on Forstal Bridge.

Stone Street Solar is supposed to be listed as soon as possible. The team then has 7 days to submit a case.

There was a DfT meeting on 11/03. There have been reports of Anti-Social behaviour of lorry drivers. Kent Police are required to be involved in the access of the CCTV footage from HMRC and this is proving to not be straight forward.

The Council meeting last Thursday talked about the bridleway between Mersham and Aldington, this is supposed to be considered by the developers of Stonestreet Solar in the fullness of time. There is a DfT meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

There is no update as yet on the J10a upgrade requirements. KCC and National Highways will have to take this condition forward and this is not a condition that the PC will be involved in.

There will be an Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm on 20<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Bartlett will attend and speak about the Local Plan/Neighbourhood Forums. It will also include the County Councillor and the Chairman of the Parish Council.

**Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**Chairman's Report**

**The Village Times** – the new “magazine” has been circulated. A copy has been circulated to all homes. There was a discussion regarding financial contribution to the magazine. The Parish Council is not able to support this financially as this is being run from the business.

**Land by the shop** – there have been 2 vehicles that have continued to go forward to the land by the shop. ABC to be asked to reinstate the yellow lines by the shop.

**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)**

It was noted that the Parking Officer was at the School recently issuing tickets. Smeeth cross-roads, the Village Caretaker was clearing the drains, it is unclear whether this was within his remit.

**ii) Village Amenities and infrastructure (to include The Village Hall)**

The Village Hall report has been circulated. There was a discussion about a drop box facility.

**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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

2) To authorise any payments

Litterpicker	£162.50
HMRC	£82.20
Clerk	£347.12
HugoFox	11.99
Clerk	£97.42
Lushland	£430.00

**v) Community Engagement**

There was nothing to report.

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

Cllr Wells and the Clerk attended a meeting, Cllr Wells gave a report.

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

PA/2026/0253 – Parish Council to object.

PA/2024/1366 - Royal Oak, the double garage building is being advertised as an AirBnB.

**viii) Local Government Reorganisation**

No further news at this time.

**ix) Succession planning**

Cllr Murphy had circulated an advertisement for Parish Councillors. There is currently no vacancy but the Parish Council has invited those interested to attend a meeting.

**Any Other Business**

Cllr Pearson is unable to attend the next KALC meeting.

The hedge cutting has been completed along The Street in Mersham.

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

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026