

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 19th January 2026 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present: Gavin Murphy (Chair) Peter Hawkins
Donna Pearson Stewart Ross
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 McBarnet.

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 17th November 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 17th November 2025 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 also reported that he had attended a positive meeting regarding the IBF. Work has now begun on the bridlepath, £19,000 had been provided under a S106 agreement towards this work.

The next Stone Street Solar meeting will take place at 6.30 on 26/1 in Aldington.

There has been a number of recent meetings within the Council as part of the budget setting. The Borough Council has had a windfall on finances from the Business Rate Reset. The Borough Council has engaged with Local Governance reorganisation and have been revisiting their policies. The parking policy is out for consultation until 20/2. There has been a meeting of the East Kent Design Panel and it has been agreed to create a Town Council.

The Edinburgh Road car park will take 6 months to demolish and it is hoped that the work will be complete by the end of 2026.

Cllr Bartlett credited Sojan Joseph MP for his coffee morning last Saturday at the Dog House. Cllr Bartlett asked Sojan to put pressure on the DfT to undertake the redesign of J10a, Sojan accepted that this is an issue.

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)

The Clerk was asked to request a 20 mph limit from Old rectory Close to the shop. The Clerk was also asked to request priority islands at the entrance to the village and on Church Road.

The Clerk will add both of these to the Highways Improvement Plan.

The Parish Council discussed the need to raise awareness of the footpath as some bus users are not using the footpath but are walking on the road edge instead. It was thought that better information could be distributed to residents about the footpath existing for the safety of those walking in the area.

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).

There was no update at this time

iv) Finance & Governance:

1) To note the Parish Council's financial position as at 31st December 2025.

2) To authorise any payments

Litterpicker	£162.50
HMRC	£82.20
Clerk	£347.12
JRB Enterprise	£69.90
Aldington and Bonnington PC	£1000.00

v) Community Engagement

The Clerk had circulated a communication regarding a Christmas Tractor Rally. This was discussed and it was agreed that this was not really a matter for the PC as it was a business venture.

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

Cllrs Murphy and Wells and the Clerk had attended a meeting with the DfT planning team regarding the conditions that the planning consent gave meaning that some of the 20 conditions must be dealt with including representation from the Parish Councils.

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

There were no outstanding planning applications to discuss.

viii) Local Government Reorganisation

No further news at this time.

Any Other Business

Cllr Murphy explained that he is moving out of Mersham in February so he is likely to step away from the Parish Council in May. He will not be standing as Chair in May.

A conversation ensued about contingency planning.

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

Monday 16th February 2026

Monday 16th March 2026

Monday 20th April 2026

Monday 18th May 2026