

Minutes of Mersham Parish Council
Meeting held on Monday, 15th July 2024 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church

Present

Gavin Murphy (Chair)
 Donna Pearson
 Melanie Wells

Gill McBarnet
 Kenton Stewart

In attendance: Tessa from the Rural and Community Housing Enabling service for Kent, Cllr Bartlett and Tracey Block (Clerk).

To be actioned by:

<p>To receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies had been received from Cllr Ross.</p>	
<p>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. Cllr Wells and Cllr Pearson both noted PA/2024/1174 was an application submitted by a friend and they would not participate in the application discussion.</p>	
<p>To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 17th June 2024 Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 17th June 2024 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.</p>	
<p>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda. There were no matters arising from the minutes.</p>	
<p>Presentation from Rural and Community Housing Enabling (RACE) service for Kent Tessa introduced herself and explained that the Church of England had commissioned a report about housing called, "Coming Home." This led to the Church Commissioners coming forward with some exception sites for Local Needs Housing, 2 of which are in Kent. One of these Kent sites is in Mersham next to Quarry View. RACE has communicated with English Housing Trust who manages Quarry View and they have suggested that this site might be achievable if it was accessed by an extension of the existing road, if not, it might be too expensive to consider. The PC voted to take this forward. The first step is to undertake a Local Housing Need Survey. It is rare that a site is put forward for such a scheme and the properties will be rented at a 50-80% market rent and will have shared ownership options. There may also be a few open-market valued properties built for older people in the community wishing to stay but looking to downsize. Previously the scheme was over-subscribed and the PC has had a good experience so far with Quarry View. The survey will be undertaken in the autumn and Tessa agreed to be in contact with the Clerk.</p>	
<p>To receive report from Borough Councillor 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/ Cllr Bartlett reported that: The biggest issue is housing and the local plan. There are a series of consultations taking place, starting on 16th July at the Cinema. The Commissioners have submitted all of their land for development around Mersham. The new Government may have mandatory house numbers to be built. There was a discussion surrounding the previous plans for a road from J10a to Cheeseman's Green Lane in order to provide an access route. It will be interesting to see what is said in the King's Speech and when the next NPPF will be issued. There was a discussion around the number of homes that might be built in the Borough and the need for the infrastructure, transport, education and NHS capacity. There are over 60,000 legal net</p>	

migrations in to the UK each year. These people need to live somewhere.																																		
Sojan, the new MP has been invited to Mersham to see the vista of the Solar NSIP application site. He will also be shown the thistles on High Field.																																		
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 regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in High Field/IBF. To include planting delays to the green buffer zone near Highfield Lane. This was covered by Cllr Bartlett in his report.																																		
To receive an update on Highways issues (to include the Highways Improvement Plan) Cllr Murphy explained that a Highways Improvement Plan meeting had been had. This covered the Broad Oak crossroads, Frith crossroads, A20 is also on the HIP regarding the lighting being removed. We also discussed the house being damaged at the T-junction, Kieran from KHS is to visit the site and meet the resident. Cllr Murphy discussed the Bridge upgrade and he is hoping that it can be made single file with pedestrian walkway and the priority boards. The HIP is looking at flashing 20mph signs near the school. The Clerk was asked to add the crossing across The Street to the HIP.																																		
To receive an update on the Village Hall. The update from Cllr Wells was circulated to the Council.																																		
To receive an update regarding the Cut and Cover Cllr Murphy will follow this up with Ben Olney at HS1.																																		
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 There were 2 applications to be discussed: PA/2024/1150 – object to this application. PA/2024/1174 – no objection																																		
Financial matters: a) To note the Parish Council’s financial position. The PC noted the £32,212.28 held in the bank account as at 30 th June 2024. b) To authorise any payments <table><tr><td>Cheque No:</td><td>Payee</td><td>Amount</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>Arthur Gallagher Insurance</td><td>£ 639.86</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>I King (July salary)</td><td>£ 148.72</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>T Block (July Salary)</td><td>£ 325.88</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>HMRC</td><td>£ 73.80</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>HMRC</td><td>£ 73.80</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>I King (August salary)</td><td>£ 148.72</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>T Block (August Salary)</td><td>£ 310.68</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>Diamond Floorings</td><td>£ 1,144.08</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>Diamond Floorings</td><td>£ 1,144.08</td></tr><tr><td>OLT</td><td>Neil Radford</td><td>£ 1,644.00</td></tr></table>	Cheque No:	Payee	Amount	OLT	Arthur Gallagher Insurance	£ 639.86	OLT	I King (July salary)	£ 148.72	OLT	T Block (July Salary)	£ 325.88	OLT	HMRC	£ 73.80	OLT	HMRC	£ 73.80	OLT	I King (August salary)	£ 148.72	OLT	T Block (August Salary)	£ 310.68	OLT	Diamond Floorings	£ 1,144.08	OLT	Diamond Floorings	£ 1,144.08	OLT	Neil Radford	£ 1,644.00	
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The Clerk had circulated a Financial Statement, Budget over Expenditure and Payment Schedules up until 19 th August.																																		
Any Other Business ACV listing for the shop was discussed – Cllr Murphy to speak with the owner of the shop. Cllr McBarnett is attending the Planning Training provided by the Borough Council.																																		

<p>Cllr Bell arranged for the gulley sucking in Kingsford Street and has been undertaken.</p> <p>Cllr Stewart had attended a Sports Club Meet and greet. Parking remains an issue at the Sports Club.</p> <p>Cllr Pearson will attend the KALC meeting on 31st July.</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> <div> <div> Monday 16th September 2024 Monday 18th November 2024 Monday 17th February 2025 Monday 21st April 2025 </div> <div> Monday 21st October 2024 Monday 20th January 2025 Monday 17th March 2025 Monday 19th May 2025. </div> </div>	