

**Minutes of Mersham Parish Council**  
**Meeting held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the Church room at St John the Baptist Church**

<b>Present</b>	Gavin Murphy (Chair)	Gill McBarnet
	Donna Pearson	Stewart Ross
	Kenton Stewart	Melanie Wells

In attendance: Tracey Block (Clerk).

*To be actioned by:*

<b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllrs Hawkins and Bartlett. These apologies were approved.	
<b>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.</b> 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.	
<b>To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b> Minutes of the Meeting of Mersham Parish Council on 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved as a true record and were signed accordingly.	
<b>To discuss matters arising from previous minutes not covered by the agenda.</b> There were no matters arising to discuss.	
<b>To receive report from Borough Councillor</b>  <b>A detailed report had been circulated; a copy can be found on the website:</b> <a href="http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/">http://www.mershampc.org.uk/community/mersham-parish-council-18392/borough-cllr-reports/</a>	
<b>Public Session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item</b> There were no members of the public in attendance.	
<b>To receive any update regarding the creation of a green buffer zone in High Field/IBF</b> The Clerk will contact the DfT regarding the thistle down as per recent emails from members of the public.	
<b>Parish Council Objectives for this administration</b> There was no further update on this.	
<b>To receive an update on the Village Hall</b> Cllr Wells circulated an update on the Village Hall.	
<b>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.</b> PA/2024/0514 – no objections raised but consideration requested for the neighbours.  PA/2024/0539 – no objections raised but consideration requested for the neighbours.  PA/2024/0402 – no objections raised but consideration requested for the neighbours.	
<b>Financial matters:</b> <b>To approve the following financial documents:</b> <b>a) To note the Parish Council’s financial position.</b> The Parish Council has £23552.92 in the bank.  <b>b) To approve the Statement of Internal Control 2023-24</b> The Parish Council reviewed and approved the Statement of Internal Control 2023-24,  <b>c) To review the Financial Regulations</b>	

The Parish Council approved the Financial Regulations.

**d) To authorise any payments**

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
OLT	HMRC	£ 73.80
OLT	I King (April salary)	£ 148.72
OLT	T Block (April Salary)	£ 325.88
OLT	KALC	£ 545.57

A copy of the budget v expenditure was distributed to all Councillors.

**Any Other Business**

The thistle down issue will be addressed by Cllr Stewart with the Environment Agency, Cllr Murphy with the DfT.

Cllr Pearson explained that a member of the public had requested an additional streetlight for the end of Bower Road. This is to be investigated but is quite unlikely.

Cllr Stewart reported that KHS and Cllr Bell are looking into the drainage issues in Kingsford Street and it is hoped this will soon be addressed appropriately.

Oakland parking area has been repaired by ABC where they are responsible.

Blind Lane needs reporting to Kent Highways.

The Empowerment Document was tabled and 2 further items needs adding – Local Plan 2041 and Planning Applications.

**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> May 2024