

**Minutes of Mersham with Sevington Parish Council Meeting held in
Evington Village Hall on Monday, 20th July 2015**

Present	Geoffrey Fletcher (Chair)	Robert Hansen
	Gavin Murphy	Jan Oakley-Hills
	Michael Smithers	Kenton Stewart
	Peter Turley	Lee Whitehead

In attendance: Cllr Paul Bartlett, a representative (Ian) from the Sports Club, Mr Colin Kibble and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by

The meeting started at 7.30pm	
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Gerald White.	
Declaration of interest in items on the agenda Cllrs Fletcher and Smithers declared a personal but non-pecuniary interest in the Sports Club.	
Minutes of the Meeting on 15 th June 2015 were amended to note that Cllr Murphy was in attendance, the minutes were then approved as a true record and signed accordingly.	
Matters Arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising.	
Public Session Ian from the Sports Club addressed the meeting. Ian explained that the new entrance for the sports club has planning permission and is set to go ahead funded by grants from the Borough Councillor for £2,700. The total costs for the project were expected to be in the region of £10,000 but now Kent Highway Services have provided a further cost quotation for bridging the pipe at the entrance of a further £4,000. The Sports Club are hoping to receive a grant of £7,000 from Ashford Borough Council to assist with the costs. An interest-free loan has been secured if necessary. The Sports Club are approaching Mersham with Sevington Parish Council for a grant towards the costs. Cllr Stewart offered to assist with the provision of other quotes for the job through Kent Highways approved contractors. The new access will be 40 metres up the field and will be safer as it will provide entry and exit allowing 2 vehicles to pass, there will be an extra 20 parking spaces and a new car park. Currently the field is used by 80 junior cricketers and 100 junior footballers and the Sports Club provides coaching provision to the school. The Sports Club are aiming to raise approximately £3,000 per annum by running a 200 club and would like the new entrance to be in by September/October this year. Ian was thanked for attending the meeting.	
Borough Councillors Cllr Bartlett reported that the discussion regarding Junction 10A had been deferred until after the summer for reasons as yet unknown, 2 meetings had been cancelled and not rescheduled. As yet there has been no meaningful update from AXA/English Heritage. A request was put forward for information regarding the properties at broad Oak which are now derelict. Ashford Borough Council is now able to get involved even if the properties are not listed. If the owner cannot make a meaningful return on the properties, The Borough Council could not make a compulsory purchase. The design panel met regarding Finberry School, a planning application has also been received for Kingsnorth. This looks to be a controversial development in Magpie Hall Road. It was suggested that Mersham with Sevington Parish Council could work with Kingsnorth Parish Council regarding the proposed development and Junction 10A. The Environment Agency has been contacted with regard to the flooding at Chessman's Green Lane. There is a recycling/scrap yard registered to Petworth called, "Latters." This is to be investigated.	

Isabella Cecil has also expressed an interest and she will be invited to attend the September meeting.	GF
To Sign the Clerks' contract The Clerks' contract was signed.	
To consider the replacement roundabout, following an update from Cllr Fletcher regarding funding from Ashford Borough Council, Conditions of the funding and undertaking works. Cllr Fletcher has secured £2,000 grant from Ashford Borough Council for the roundabout replacement. This will be discussed again at the September meeting after the Clerk has circulated all of the quotations for the Councillors to peruse. The Clerk is to ask Barge for an up to date quotation.	TB
To receive an update from Cllr Fletcher following the Leader and Senior Planning Officer Meeting. The meeting was postponed by Cllr Fletcher will be discussing this with the Leader of Ashford Borough Council. It is expected that the WE15 will come back with Industrial sites and residential sites.	GF
To receive an update on the Village Caretaker Scheme Cllr Fletcher had attended a meeting with the Councils in the prospective Cluster, present at that meeting had been John Rivers, The Clerk of Wittersham and the Handyman of Wittersham, Stone, Kenardington and Warehorne. Their Caretakers works 30 hours in the winter and 40 hours in the summer. Per week. A basic list of jobs has been created which are largely the jobs undertaken by KCC and ABC. KCC will give £8,000 per annum to the shared scheme of 4 parishes for the foreseeable future. There is a set up grant available and ABC will give circa £20,000 to the project. It was agreed that the Caretaker should be on a 3 month trial. Brian and Ian would be kept on as village litter pickers but jobs that are not currently undertaken will be. The Council agreed in principle to the idea, it is agreed that Sevington will not be covered by the Caretaker. It is hoped that this will increase relevance and heighten the profile of the Parish Council.	
To discuss the bollards at Church Road Following a parishioner asking who held the key to the bollards, Jennie Watson from Kent Highways responded saying, "The bollards are part of a permanent TRO and will only be removed in exceptional circumstances. The Emergency Services are approved to use these lockable bollards and there are no plans to unlock them for the public to use the road. I am sure that lorries would use it too!"	
To discuss the flooding off pavement on Church Road, Mersham The water above the school, on the same side as the school, across the pavement is to be reported to both KCC and Southern Water as there is a continual flow of water that is a safety issue, particularly as winter approaches.	TB
Any Other Business Dave Chapman has cleared the nettles around the perimeter of the Junior Playing Field, the Parish Council are very grateful to Mr Chapman for this. Cllr Fletcher had received an email reporting that the hedge on the access lane to the Junior Playing Field needs cutting. The Clerk is to contact Countrywide Maintenance regarding this matter. Cllr Whitehead is to email the Clerk regarding the bins in Sevington. The rubbish bags are being torn by animals and the rubbish strewn around Sevington. The location of the bins is required. The Clerk was asked to send an updated list of Councillors via email to the Councillors.	TB LW TB
The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 21 st September 2015, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 11 th September, please.	All
There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.20 PM.	