

<p>Report from Community Warden</p> <p>The Community Warden reported that there had been a report of a possible prowler. There was a theft with damage caused in Roman Road and there has been a vehicle burnt out in Blind Lane. It is necessary to wait until harvesting has been completed before removing the vehicle.</p> <p>The litter that had been dumped by Stone Green Farm was reported to the powers that be. There were credit card slips in the litter so the person could have been chased, however, it was decided by the authority that chasing this detail would be too costly so nothing was done about the littering.</p>	
<p>Presentation/discussion with Richard Alderton, Director of Development at Ashford Borough Council</p> <p>Please see Appendix 1 attached to these minutes.</p>	
<p>Village Caretaker Scheme.</p> <p>To consider a contribution towards a replacement van for the caretaker</p> <p>It was reported that the van the Caretaker is using has some mechanical problems which are likely to cost in excess of £1,000 to repair. It is, therefore, considered more sensible to purchase a replacement van. One has been found at John Child's garage for £2,000. The length of warranty that will be offered was questioned. In principle, the Parish Council agree to pay an additional sum in line with their proportion paid.</p> <p>To agree enrolment as an employer in the Local Government Pension Scheme</p> <p>The Parish Council discussed the need to enrol as an employer in the Local Government Pension Scheme. Cllr Smithers proposed that Mersham Parish Council pass a resolution to agree to enrolment as an employer in the Local Government Scheme, this proposal was seconded by Cllr Whitehead with all Councillors in favour.</p>	
<p>Planning Matters:</p> <p>A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:</p> <p>Reference: 16/00904/AS Address: 1 Chequer Tree Cottage, Mersham, Ashford, TN25 7HL Proposal: Change of use of part of paddock and erection of granny annexe. No objections raised</p> <p>Reference: 16/00918/AS Address: 15 The Street, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NA Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension Councillors to check application and to submit them to the Clerk</p> <p>Reference: 16/00903/AS Address: Pod A, 2D Ashford Business Park, Barrey Road, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0SG Proposal: Creation of a retaining wall and associated step access and balustrade to the front of Pod A and Pod B (retrospective) No objections raised</p> <p>Reference: 16/00931/AS Address: PC World, Unit 5, Ashford Business Park, Barrey Road, Sevington Proposal: Installation of a roller shutter door to the rear elevation No objections raised</p> <p>Reference : 16/00970/AS Address: Unit 5, Hall Avenue, Orbital Park, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0AA Proposal: 3no. non illuminated fascia signs No objections raised</p> <p>Reference : 16/01006/AS Address: Meadowside, Church Road, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NT Proposal: Conversion of garage to habitable room</p>	

No objections raised

Reference : [16/00953/AS](#)

Address: Unit 5, Ashford Retail Park, Barrey Road, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0SG

Proposal: Erection of 4 no. internally illuminated fascia signs

No objections raised

Financial Matters

To approve the following financial documents:

i. To note/authorise the following:

To note the Parish Council's financial position: The Parish Council has a bank balance of: £24,693.97.

To authorise any payments including the Clerk's Salary, Litter picker's Salary and payment to HMRC

The following payments were authorised:

Cheque	Payee's Name	Reason for Payment	Amount	Notes
501739	T Block	Salary – July	£387.89	
501740	I King	Litter picking – July	£ 93.60	
501741	Post Office	HMRC Payment	£ 58.60	
501742	I King	Litter picking – August	£ 93.60	Post-dated as no meeting in August
501743	T Block	Salary – August	£382.24	Post-dated as no meeting in August
501744	Mersham PCC	Donation to new gate	£100.00	

A budget over expenditure and financial statement had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

The Parish Council had received a request for assistance in purchasing a replacement gate. There was some discussion about the support of this in light of troubles being experienced when dealing with the church Commissioners. Cllr Whitehead proposed a contribution of £100 be made toward the costs of the replacement gate. 4 Councillors were in favour and 1 was against this. A cheque was therefore written.

Any Other Business

The rubbish outside the Village Hall was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Nobby Southern as this matter really needs addressing. The rubbish is left in black sacks which then get ripped and the contents strewn around by animals. The Parish Councillors offered to attend the next Hall meeting to discuss solutions to this issue.

A WE15 meeting took place explaining what is to happen next. Concerns were expressed that the response could prompt a counter/aggressive claim so the following response was considered as a means of registering WE15 remain as undeveloped land:

WE15 Land

Please find below consolidate input from Mersham and Sevington Parish Council in respect of the land designated as WE15 in the Ashford Borough Council 2030 local plan.

This land lies within Mersham and Sevington Parish and forms the major part of the countryside buffer between Mersham village and Ashford town. As a historic Kent country village it is imperative that the countryside nature of Mersham is protected.

In recent years Mersham has been impacted by developments including the M20 to the north and the high speed link through its heart. Most recently the approval for development to the land on the U19 site to incorporate massive distribution warehouses clearly starts to choke the village from the North.

Mersham continues to evolve with the Parish Council and local community supporting balanced growth of the village as evidenced by the local needs housing being developed to the South East of the village and the residential and village facilities proposed site adjacent to the current village hall.

We envisage this healthy growth continuing with balanced domestic developments on appropriate sites e.g. low lying areas.

TB

<p>The WE15 land is therefore the key residual countryside buffer for Mersham before you hit the massive warehouse development of U19. As such we would request that the WE15 site is recognised in the 2013 plan as fundamental to maintaining the country side buffer for Mersham.</p> <p>A short discussion was held with regard to Neighbourhood Plans. It was felt that these are still subservient to the Local Plans for the Borough and cannot prevent development but can enable development.</p> <p>The pumping station was discussed. It is thought that there have been some collapsed sewerage pipes. The Clerk was asked to contact Southern Water to find out why waste is being pumped into tankers on a daily basis.</p> <p>It was noted that Petworth have not been burning recently.</p>	TB
<p>The next meeting was confirmed as Monday, 19th September 2016, the Clerk would like any items for the agenda by Friday 9th September, please.</p>	All
<p>There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9.50 PM.</p>	