

Minutes of Sevington with Finberry Parish Council
A Virtual Meeting held in on Monday, 4th May 2020 at 7.30pm

Present

Cllr Martin (Chair)
 Cllr Oakley-Hills

Cllr Kennedy
 Cllr Townsend

In attendance: Borough Council Paul Bartlett, 4 members of the public and Tracey Block (Clerk)

To be actioned by:

<p>Election of the Chairman and any Vice-Chairman for the Council year 2020 – 2021 Councillor Townsend proposed Cllr Martin be Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Oakley-Hills, all were in agreement and Cllr Martin took the Chair. Cllr Kennedy proposed that Cllr Townsend be Vice-Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Martin, all were in agreement.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Chairmanship be taken on an annual basis and the responsibility circulated between the Councillors throughout the 4 year Council term.</p>	
<p>Completion of the Declaration of Interests form and the Acceptance of Office Form The Clerk had circulated the forms for completion but as this is a virtual meeting, completion at this time was agreed to be undertaken and copies sent to the Clerk.</p>	All
<p>Report from Borough Councillor</p> <p>In addition to his report, Cllr Bartlett explained that the Borough Council are managing at present with the demands they are under but there will be an estimated Borough Council shortfall of funds by £5.5 million at the end of year following loss of Council Tax payments, business rates, business rents, Social Housing rents, parking costs etc. It is hoped that the Government might help to make up that shortfall.</p> <p>£133 million has been spent on purchasing PPE for people by KCC. KCC have block booked beds for after-care for adults, spent more on adult social care and on buses. There is expected to be a shortfall across the County of £60 million per County Council and all of the reserves are being used up. The County Council is waiting to see where the losses will be made up from.</p> <p>Several enforcement issues have arisen and there has been a rise in rural crime especially associated with speeding and noisy vehicles. Please continue to report all episodes of Anti Social Behaviours.</p> <p>There will be much pressure on KCC and ABC as this unwinds and it is hoped that the Government will make up the shortfall but changes may well be required.</p> <p><i>Will PCs get their Precept?</i> It is anticipated that Parish Councils will get their Precepts as agreed. The Government has been spending vast amounts of money because we are in a crisis.</p> <p><i>What is the role of the Parish Council in a crisis? How can we best support our community and what do we do going forward?</i> Mersham Parish Council enabled the starting off of a Mutual Aid Group for their Parish. <i>Cllr Kennedy suggested helping out food banks.</i></p>	

<p><i>This should be discussed further and the Parish Council should look to reach a direction going forward.</i></p> <p>Cllr Bartlett suggested that the Parish Council should look at creating a Recovery Plan, looking at how the local area might recover from this and being that the prospect is a very long and dark recession, perhaps the Parish Council should engage in local projects and provide pump-priming funding for projects that will other-wise struggle to get off the ground for instance, traffic lights at the exit to Finberry or traffic calming measures. A balance must be found and all of the stakeholders need to be invited in to a conversation.</p> <p>Councillors were requested to send comments to Cllr Bartlett with regard to the Planning Meeting discussion regarding the area next to the School. Cllr Martin to look at height of the flats, comments to Cllr Bartlett by Wednesday, Cllr Oakley-Hills has no further comments to make on this application.</p>	
<p>Apologies for Absence No apologies had been received.</p>	
<p>Declaration of interest in items on the agenda There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
<p>Minutes of the Meeting of the Mersham with Sevington Parish Council on 17th February 2020 were approved as a true record and will be signed as they were previously approved by the newly formed Mersham Parish Council.</p>	
<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising to discuss.</p>	
<p>Public session: To receive questions and comments from the public on any agenda item. The members of the public were welcomed and had nothing to add at this time.</p>	
<p>Planning Matters: A list of Planning Applications was circulated as Appendix A with the agenda, those requiring a response were:</p> <p>20/00488/AS B & M Retail Ltd, Unit 2A, Ashford Business Park, Barrey Road, Sevington, Ashford, TN24 0SG Retrospective planning permission for the extension to the garden centre of Unit 2a by 112sqm and Increase in the height of the fence by 1.5 metres. The Parish Council raises no comment</p> <p>20/00515/AS Land between The Paddocks and Ashdown Cottage, Church Road, Sevington, Kent Proposed erection of 3 no. 4 bedroom houses and proposed new access The Parish Council objects to this application for the following reasons: Sevington is a meaningful settlement with its own Parish Church, new Parish Council and is separated from Ashford by the A2070. There are substantial green spaces between the A2070 and Sevington. Sevington was specifically taken out of the list of settlements covered by HOU5 to protect it from development. The settlement is predominantly listed; there are a number of listed properties close to this application site. Sevington must not be regarded as an urban extension to Ashford.</p>	

This is over-development of a small piece of land.
 There is no evidence of demand for new housing in this area.
 The access to this development is on a short stretch of road with a number of blind bends.
 This is a busy stretch of road with an unrestricted speed limit (60mph)
 The traffic survey 2012 is out of date, Bridgefield has now developed further and much traffic uses this
 Cheesemans Green Lane/Church Rd to access the A2070 and J10, exacerbated by the closure of Highfield
 Lane, all traffic from Bridgefield must use Church Rd to access A2070
 A response will be circulated prior to submission.

Financial Matters

- a) To approve the following financial documents:
 - i. To approve the statement of internal controls
 Cllr Oakley-Hills proposed this be approved, seconded by Cllr Martin.
 - ii. To approve the Financial Regulations
 Cllr Oakley-Hills proposed this be approved, seconded by Cllr Martin.

- b) To note/authorise the following:

- i. To note the Parish Council's financial position
The Parish Council bank balance as at 31/03/2020 was £5,057.96
- ii. To authorise any payments

Cheque No:	Payee	Amount
501994	Came and Co Ltd	£ 330.00
501995	Thomas Saint	£ 129.33
501996	Tracey Block	£ 398.76
501997	Kent Association Local Councils	£ 458.36
501998	Thomas Saint	£ 129.33
501999	Tracey Block	£ 398.76
502000	HMRC	TBC

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

12. To approve Standing Orders, Register of Assets and the Risk Assessment, and confirm arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks.

The Standing Orders, Register of Assets, the Risk Assessment and the arrangements for Insurance cover were all approved.

To consider any changes to the Risk Assessment

There were no changes to the Risk Assessment at this time

Any Other Business

Cllr Bartlett offered to fund the laptop for the Parish Council now that we are in a new Financial Year. The Clerk is to email Michelle Byrne and CC Paul Bartlett in to that email.

TB

Robin Bartram (a member of the public) is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor. Robin introduced himself to the meeting as a local man who works with a local Children's Home he has connections with the Police and is knowledgeable about safe-guarding.

<p>There are 2 vacancies for Sevington with Finberry Ward and 1 for Highfield Ward. And these vacancies are being advertised. Once this process is complete the Parish Council will be able to Co-opt should a bi-election not be called. There needs to be some Highfield representation.</p> <p>Cllr Townsend discussed issues regarding the adoptable roads, Cllr Bartlett had confirmation from Aaron at Kent Highways that KCC have only adopted roads to the tear drop roundabout. The rest is the responsibility of Crest/HML who will have limited availability for traffic calming.</p> <p>Following a discussion it was agreed that: HML and Crest Nicholson will be invited to a Parish Council meeting in the future to discuss a list of issues. Cllr Bartlett to advise who is best to contact. The Parish Council will agree specific questions to put to HML/Crest, perhaps having consulted residents. The Parish Council will then send an agenda for discussion with an invitation to a meeting with specific issues listed.</p>	All
<p>Determining the time and place of ordinary meetings of the Council up to and including the next annual meeting of the Council</p> <p>Monday 1 June 2020</p> <p>Monday 6 July 2020</p> <p>Monday 7 September 2020</p> <p>Monday 5 October 2020</p> <p>Monday 2 November 2020</p> <p>Monday 4 January 2021</p> <p>Monday 1 February 2021</p> <p>Monday 1 March 2021</p> <p>Monday 5 April 2021</p> <p>Monday 3 May 2021</p> <p>Thanks were expressed to Cllr Bartlett and Mr Turley and to the public for attending.</p>	
<p>The meeting closed at 8.57pm</p>	