

Appledore Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting on 16th November 2015 at 19.30hrs

Appledore Village Hall

Present:

Cllrs: James Perkins (Chairman), Terry Blaney, Helen Hennig, Garry Morgan.

Clerk: Mary Philo

1. Formalities

- I. The Council was quorate.
- II. Apologies: None
- III. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: None

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th November 2015 as a true record.

Meeting Adjourned

Hamstreet Surgery – Dr Jacobs

The Hamstreet practice had been considering the issues of running the Appledore Surgery (the last remaining branch surgery) for many years. Of the 7,000 patients registered with the Surgery, 400 live in Appledore. A greater number and wider range of specialist doctors and nurses were now required to care for the population which was living longer. Along with all surgeries nationally, Hamstreet was experiencing difficulties recruiting those specialists. It had taken the decision to become a training site, as a step towards resolving their recruitment problems. A direct consequence was the recruitment of Dr Patel. However, it had now become no longer financially viable to be able to provide the amount of services required across two sites. The practice had requested the National Health Service to confirm the decision to close the Appledore Branch. Residents registered with Hamstreet Surgery would remain so. Hamstreet surgery was considering continuing the prescription collection service, attended by a staff nurse, once a week but from the Methodist Church. Should any patient be too ill to or unable to attend the surgery, then a doctor would be able to make a home visit.

Appledore Surgery Building and Land – Dr Colledge

Dr College advised that the lack of population growth in Appledore and the 5 surgeries in close proximity were contributing factors to the Appledore Branch closure. For the last 6 and half years, Dr Colledge had endeavoured to find another commercial use for the building, approaching other doctors practices, dentists, Rare Breeds Centre among others, to share the facility or for full use. To date he had not been successful. He thus planned to convert the plot to 1 or 2 bungalows.

15/01459/AS – Land Adjoining the Surgery – Dr Colledge

Dr Colledge advised that as no final decision had been made by Ashford Borough Council as to which plots of land, (put forward by various land owners), would be included in the Local Development Plan, he had moved forward with an application of his own. Unlike most developers, he was applying for just 4 homes which would leave the wildlife pond and trees unaffected. He had a vested interest in a smaller development with sympathetic styling as he planned to live within it. The new homes would be a small step towards reinvigorating Appledore's population numbers.

Repositioning of Kissing Gate to Boundary of Land Adjoining the Surgery with Parish Council owned Field – Dr Colledge

It was advised that the footpath course would remain unchanged but so as to stock proof the council's field which sometimes had grazing sheep on it, Kent County Council had proposed to reposition the gate subject to both land owners' agreement. Kent County Council would also be improving access with new steps. The kissing gate would be the responsibility of the boundary owner which was currently Dr Colledge.

Within the general discussion, it was advised that the Local Development Plan was in its last stage of discussion and expected to be finalised next year. A Community Interest Company was suggested to "self-build" on the parish field. It was also suggested that residents were kept informed about any development on the parish council owned field.

Public Questions

Street Light - A member of the public advised that they had walked into the necked street light opposite the recreation ground, because it was so dark. Clerk offered to assist them to report the issue.

Proposed Flower Troughs for Verges Between The Black Lion and Old Way - Public concern was raised with regard to: home owners having been consulted; cars rarely being parked on the verges there; making it harder for those owners to keep the verges as well as they are and the maintenance of these flowers troughs.

Village Hall Donation Request – The Hall Committee were unhappy that they had not been officially advised that the request for a donation had not been included on the agenda. It was advised that an extraordinary parish council meeting had been held to seek solicitor's advice on the legal position that the council now found themselves in, in order to both: make progress on the legal paperwork being requested by the Hall Committee and to deal with the funding request correctly. The Hall Committee would in future receive communication by paper.

Allotments – A resident advised that one plot on the allotments was very overgrown and needed tending. It was advised that the council members no longer included anyone from the Allotment Committee and it was suggested that they first contact the committee.

The Meeting was reconvened.

3. Matters Arising

61 The Street – County Cllr Hill had been contacted to assist with a request for the property to be tidied.

Street Lights – Residents who wish to request “necked” street lights (unsafe light posts which have been cut down to waist height) to be replaced can email engineering@ashford.gov.uk

Ivy Court Surgery – Ivy Court Surgery had advised that they were not currently in a position to take on a branch surgery.

4. Council Member Resignation and Co-option

Cllr Telfer had resigned and a notice of vacancy posted. The council awaited advice from ABC as to whether there would be an election for the position. Should no election request be forthcoming then the council would seek to co-opt a resident. The council had already posted notices inviting residents to be co-opted for the two places still outstanding from the new council formed after May this year. Mr C Vane was invited to become a member of the council. It was requested that a chasing letter be sent to ABC, to obtain ABC's confirmation of their acceptance of Appledore Council's position being just 5 members.

5. Finance

I. **It was resolved to agree the payment of £30 a month for Office Premises at the Clerk's address.**

II. Current Financial Status

The reserve account held £ 10,802 and the current account £ 48,981.51 as at the 30th September 2015. The remaining expenditure for the year included approx. £6,500 village hall loan payment.

III. Cheques

06.11.2015	
£53.76	Southern Electric – Power supply to public toilets
£405.00	Salaries
£121.00	HMRC – PAYE for October
16.11.2015	
£114.00	Society for Local Council Clerks – Charitable Trusts Seminar
£23.35	KCC Services – Cleaning materials for public toilets
£1,430.00	The Friendly Fencer – Supply and erection of oak posts along The Street
£220.00	The Friendly Fencer – Make good verge damaged by the Water Authority

IV. Assets Register

Progress had been made compiling a list, whilst awaiting solicitor's advice regarding the village hall ownership. It was suggested that an article be included in the Parish Magazine requesting residents to inform the council of any other property, not already listed, which should be included.

6. Planning

I. Decisions Received:

- a) 15/00847/AS: Court Barn, Court Lodge Road – Various Alterations: 3 additional first floor side windows; raised ridge and continued roof form; conversion of Garage to studio and garden stores on ground floor replacing glazed entrance – ABC permitted with listed building consent approval.

- a. 15/00605/AS: Gusbourne Estate Vineyard, Kenardington Road – Condition 4 Salvaged and additional tiles. ABC permitted.
 - b. 15/01177/AS: Gusbourne Estate Vineyard, Kenardington Road – Erection of non-illuminating free standing canopy signage. ABC granted consent.
 - c. 14/000963/CONA/AS: Griffin House, School Road – Discharge of conditions 2, 4 and 8. ABC permitted.
- II. New Applications
- a. 15/01459/AS: Land adjoining The Surgery – Change of use/construction of 4 detached houses with associated vehicle and pedestrian access.
Appledore Parish Council voted to support this application with the following 2 conditions: the development be limited to only 4 across the whole plot and there be no future development and that the styling is sympathetic to the village.
 - b. 15/01466/AS: 1 The Street – Part demolition, restoration and conversion of existing site to 6 residential units, 2 of which will be live/work units.
 It was suggested that a visit to the location would be appropriate. Clerk to organise a site visit and extraordinary meeting to vote on the application.
 - c. 15/01487/AS: The Wish House – First floor extension and dormer, roof extension to flat roof and erection of porch.
 As the application had been advised on the day of the meeting then the council would vote on the application at the proposed extraordinary meeting.
- III. Kissing Gate for footpath Boundary of Land Adjoining Surgery and K826186
It was resolved to agree the locating of a Kissing Gate for the footpath crossing the Parish council owned field, Land Title K826186, straddling the boundary with 'Land adjoining the Surgery' with the kissing gate curved section aligned northwards to provide stock proofing subject to the council having the right to the kissing gate being removed if they wish. The maintenance of the gate will be the responsibility of the land owner of the 'Land adjacent to the Surgery', currently Dr Colledge.

7. Highways and Byways

- I. Report from Appledore Footpath Warden (K Gerkin): There was nothing to report but he would be looking at path 121A and its use as a result of earlier discussion.
- II. Traffic Monitoring Programme: There had been a safety training session for Speed Watch volunteers and the official sites, where volunteers could stand, had been inspected. These would be shortly confirmed. Speed Watch sites had to be within speed restricted roads up to 50 mph. The clerk advised of the 3 main types of radar devices and suggested that Unipar should demonstrate the options to councillor. It was suggested that over the winter period funding could be sourced to assist with buying the various pieces of equipment that would be required for speed and lorry watch as well as speeding issues on national speed limit roads.
- III. Verge posts from council noticeboard towards the shop. The clerk had been advised that the grant received for these had come from County Councillor Mike Hill Members Grant" and not from ABC.

8. Noticeboards/Signage/Flower Troughs

- I. Village map
 It was suggested that this was deferred awaiting information on the village hall ownership.
- II. Council Noticeboards

It was resolved to provide two waterproof hardwood noticeboards. Estimated cost £800. The village shop owner had been consulted. The noticeboard would have a named header.

III. Free Visitors Car Parking Sign

This was deferred awaiting information on the village hall but it was suggested that the Kentish Express Appledore item should include advice that parking at the village hall was free for residents and visitors.

IV. Flower Troughs

Further to comments made in the Public Session, **it was NOT resolved to purchase up to 10 troughs and plants on grass verges between the Black Lion and Old Way.**

9. Parish Plan

Following an initial review of the Parish Plan, it was suggested that the parish council should use the plan to form the objectives for the current council's period in office. However, it would be necessary to review the prioritisation of the outstanding items. It was requested that this be put on the agenda for the next monthly meeting.

10. Parish Council Logo/Brand

Chris Vane spoke on behalf of the three judges and advised that the judges had been impressed by the quality of entries. The winner was Nigel Comber. He had produced three designs but the winning design was a development of the Millennium Village Sign. The winner would be consulted on typographical details. The final product would be revealed in due course. It was requested that all entrants were thanked for their contributions.

11. Street Lighting Consultation KCC consultation

Appledore Parish only had 2 street lights run by KCC: Coxland and Heathside. The remaining lights were amenity lights managed by ABC. The council was therefore responding to lighting of main roads. Councillors responses had been collated and **it was resolved that Appledore Parish Council response would be that once the new LED bulbs were installed that the street lights should continue to be turned off from midnight to dawn and therefore periods of dimmed lighting was not supported.**

12. Recreation Ground

Further to review of additional financial information, **it was resolved to award a grant of £1,900.43 to Appledore Recreation Ground Committee in respect of its annual insurance cover.**

13. Public Toilets

Due to time constraints, Cllr Hennig had been asked if a report could be delayed to the next month.

14. Any other business

Good Neighbours Scheme - Cllr Hennig had been advised that the Good Neighbours Scheme may be struggling financially and requested that they be advised that the council might provide assistance.

KALC AGM – The Clerk would give the council's apologies.

County Councillor Hill – Mike Hill will be attending the council's January Meeting.

Publication Scheme – The clerk advised that the council was required to have a scheme announced on its website. The clerk hoped to have this completed next month.

Village Hall Quiz Night 28th November – Tables were still available for the evening.

Council Accountants – It was requested to have an agenda item on this for the next regular meeting.

15. Date of the Next Meeting

Monday 21st December 2015 at 19.30 hrs, Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 21.30hrs.