

Appledore Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting on 15th February 2016 at 19.30hrs

Appledore Village Hall

Present

Cllrs: James Perkins (Chair), Lyndsey Jenkins, Jasmin Kellar, Chris Vane, Charles Wilkinson and Derek Winter.

In attendance: County Cllr. Michael Hill, Borough Cllr. Mick Burgess, Community Warden Jo Vos, Footpath Warden Ken Girken and the Clerk Mary Philo.

1. Formalities

- I. The meeting was quorate.
- II. Helen Hennig was absent due to family ill health.
- III. James Perkins declared a significant interest on the proposed village hall grant as he was a hall committee member and Derek Winter declared a significant interest as a village hall trustee on the same agenda item.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting on 18th January 2016 as a true record. Proposed by Cllr. Lyndsey and seconded by Cllr. Winter.

[The meeting was adjourned.](#)

Extraordinary Meeting Monday 29th February 2016 19.30pm Village Hall
There would be a public council meeting to discuss the proposed plans to possibly develop the parish council owned field as part of the Ashford Local Plan 2030.

County Councillor Report

The County Council Budget - had been finalised. There had been a further last minute reduction in funding from central government. The County's share of the council tax had had to be increased by £37 million (3.99% of which 2% dedicated to adult social care). Central Government had reduced county funding by £430 million (50% of the total budget) in the last 4 years.

Parkwood Picnic Site - Preparations were underway for the county to consult again on their parks (approx. 20) including Parkwood (86 acres) on how to keep them open and remain viable. All interested parties would have plenty of time to take part.

Borough Councillor Report

Royal Military Canal Bridle Path – A grant from Marsh Millions would be funding the initial start-up process. The meeting with Southern Rail and their architects regarding the station building had been positive and the building structure had been found to be sound. A path from the village to the station should bring trade into the village.

International Dark Skies Community – It was hoped to create an area, including Appledore, for night sky observation. Ashford Council was already promoting minimal light pollution via its Supplementary Planning Document: Dark Skies.

Public Questions

Fourwents area – A resident complained about speeding cars and requested a speed reduction from 40mph to 30mph to be sought. The clerk to remind highways that a response was awaited regarding the Stop Sign (from Kenardington direction) at Fourwents. It was commented that a footpath from Fourwents to Limen Cottages would be less costly than work on Parkwood and its paths.

Highway lighting - The clerk had reported the lights and the need for safe lighting between Appledore Heath and the main leisure area but was still awaiting news on a final policy decision by Ashford Borough Council. Two bulbs were reported as being out. The council to report.

Parking on the pavement and curb – There was a request to assist with keeping cars off the pavement and curb so pedestrians could walk unhindered and safely. It was advised that there was only enforcement of illegal parking for H.G.V.s on yellow lines.

Community Warden – Jo Vos

Jo would speak to enforcement officers about parking issues. The burnt out wreck on the marsh, had been removed. Jo would be meeting with the new Ashford Borough Housing Manager shortly to review properties in Appledore. Residents were reminded to keep their sheds and garages locked and secure, especially as there had been some thefts in the area. Shopping areas were becoming more dementia friendly and there will be a dementia friendly café in Tenterden in April.

Correction : Lyndsey Jenkins no longer works for the Police Force.

[The meeting was reconvened.](#)

3. Matter Arising from the Previous Ordinary Meeting

Salt bags – The empty bags on the Tenterden Road / The Street junction had been removed. A new salt bag had been supplied by Ashford Borough Council. The county council supplies salt bags at this junction and by the bridge as it is seen by them as being necessary. Should a salt bin be required there, the parish council would have to buy it. The council was requesting a review of the parish, in this respect, as one had not been done for several years. This would happen in the coming year. The parish council was also working with highways about placing a salt bin on the corner of Heathside. Currently salt and grit would be supplied for free by the County Council but any parish council bins may have to be filled by the parish council. The clerk was awaiting a response on prices, from Highways and other approved contractors for bin hard standing and bins.

Defibrillator – the clerk would approach first responders about speaking to the council.

4. Finances

I. It was resolved to agree the signing rules in the current mandate for the account in Sect 2 (Appledore Parish Council) be replaced in accordance with section 5 (removal of J. Telfer) and the authorised signatories to be changed in accordance with section 6 (addition of D. Winter and C. Wilkinson) and the current mandate will continue as amended. Proposed by Cllr. Vane and seconded by Cllr. Kellar.

II. It was resolved to grant the sum of £3,800 to the Village Hall Management Committee towards new emergency doors. Proposed by Cllr. Vane and seconded by Cllr. Jenkins. Three councillors abstained.

III. It was resolved to donate the sum of £200 to the Good Neighbours Scheme running costs. Proposed by Cllr. Winter and seconded by Cllr. Wilkinson.

IV. Cheques

20.01.2016	
£ 87.19	Southern Electric – Electricity Supply for public toilets
£ 328.53	Zurich Insurance plc – parish council insurance
£ 618.60	Salaries not including paye
£ 84.00	M Philo (Society for Local Council Clerks) – Clerks subscription
15.02.2016	
£ 55.00	KALC – chairman's conference /update training
£ 37.25	Clerk's Administration expenses: room, files, paper, wallets, screws
To be advised	Salaries

VI. Assets Register

It was possible that there was an area between the public toilets and recreation ground pavilion and behind the toilets that was unregistered. The land had been used as part of the recreation ground since 1972. Whomever wished to register the land would have to prove use and maintenance of the land for the last 20 odd years. It might be difficult for anyone else other than the recreation ground management committee to register the land.

5. Planning

I. Decisions Received from A.B.C.: None.

II. New Applications:

a) **16/00052/AS – Lilac Cottage**, 80a The Street: Conversion of existing garage to habitable space. Replacement of the existing tile hanging with hardie pink boarding. Erection of porch to front elevation and conservatory to rear. **Appledore Parish Council voted to support this application.**

b) **16/00065/AS – Little Greenfield**, School Road: Erection of a two storey side elevation and first floor extension over porch. **Appledore Parish Council voted to support this application.**

c) **16/00112/AS – Oak House Farm**, Woodchurch Road: Provision of all-weather riding arena. **Appledore Parish Council voted to support this application.**

d) **16/00148/AS – 3 Elm Tree**, Heath Road: Erection of part single part two storey rear extension. **Appledore Parish Council voted to support this application.**

6. Highways and Byways

I. Report for Footpath Warden K. Girken

According to the 2013 definitive map detailing all footpaths, Old Way (AT125), a 'permissive' footpath, was adrift of the official route and logged for consideration by Kent County Council in due course. The land owner had advised that the path had remained unchanged since the land acquisition in 1969. The Public Rights of Way Officer Mr Denne had been requested to confirm who would be responsible for maintaining the bridge and gate on Old Way.

Mr Girken had been given permission to reinstate or put up way markers.

II. Roadside Litter and Rubbish

Cllr. Wilkinson commented on the amount of roadside rubbish. The chair adjourned the meeting to consult with Mr. Hennessey the parish council's street cleaner. The various routes taken by Mr. Hennessey were extensive. It was advised that litter louts were indiscriminate which occasionally resulted in rapid re-littering. Should the council organise a clear up day, equipment could be obtained from 'Street Scene' Ashford Borough Council.

III. The council had received a report from T. Howe of K.C.C. Highways advising that K.C.C. were considering putting improvements works to 'Wish Bridge' in the financial budget for next year, as well as looking at options for improving the Court Lodge Road/ The Street junction. Furthermore, the Highway Steward would be asked to work on the stop sign visibility at School House.

7. Parkwood Picnic Site

The parish council had received a letter of support from Woodchurch Parish Council. Since the notice of possible disposal of Parkwood, the parish council had contacted organisations that might be interested in the woods (Kent Wildlife Trust) and were looking to learn about woodland management and had contacted Fairlight Estate Manager who had experience of woodland management by local communities. The parish council have also written a non-binding letter expressing its possible interest in the woodland.

8. Mobile Library Service

Residents were requested to register their comments on the proposed cancellation of the mobile library service stops to Appledore. Stops with less than 2 people attending would be cancelled. The duration of stops would be increased but the frequency would be reduced for the remaining stops. The county council would also appreciate any comments about the change of routes and timings for stops.

9. Information for Councillors

Contingency Planning

Cllr. Vane believed that it would be appropriate for the council to put a plan in place.

Planning Applications

Cllrs had now signed up to Ashford planning application alerts. There was a discussion about the need for the paper plan. Cllrs were asked to consider any of the discharge of conditions applications and any tree work applications that arose and advise the clerk of any which should go before the council for consideration.

Website and Logo

The logo was now on the website and a new site map was being designed to provide the required council information with greater focus to parish council work. The clerk had been advised by Eis who support the council website that the platform would be shortly moved to a word press platform.

Public Toilets

The electrician would be starting work on the 25th February. Quotes had been obtained for fixing one ladies toilet flush mechanism.

Electoral Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission had recently completed the local governance review which reviewed parish council boundaries and Appledore Parish boundaries remained the same. The Boundary Commission had moved on to review Kent County Council, with regard to the total number of councillors, number and sizes of ward boundaries and number of councillors representing each ward, in order to deliver electoral equality, reflect community interests and promote effective government. There were no proposed changes for Appledore which would remain part of Ashford Rural South with one county councillor.

10. Date of Next Ordinary Meeting

21st March 2016 at 19.30 hrs Village Hall. The meeting closed 21.00hrs.