

APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Appledore Parish Council for Monday, 17th August 2015 at the Village Hall Commencing 19:30Hrs

PRESENT:

Cllrs. James Perkins (Chairman), Terry Blaney, Garry Morgan, Helen Hennig, Jayne Telfer
Acting Clerk: Theresa Knight

IN ATTENDANCE:

Joanna Vos : Community Warden
16 Parishioners/Members of the Public

FORMALITIES:

The Council was Quorate

1. Apologies for Absence: Borough Councillor M.Burgess
2. Declarations of Interest (DPI or OSI) – Cllr.Helen Hennig
Planning Application No.15/00720/AS Tudor Rose Cottage/39 The Street

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED FOR THE PUBLIC SESSION AT 19.40 HRS. DURING WHICH TIME THE COMMUNITY WARDEN AND FOOTPATH WARDEN WERE INVITED TO PRESENT THEIR REPORTS AND AGREEMENT GIVEN FOR THESE TO BE DOCUMENTED WITHIN THE MINUTES.

a) **Community Warden's Report** (Contact details: 07985 770578.e-mail Joanna.vos@kent.gov.uk) (Parish Magazine insert to be updated)

J. Vos gave a comprehensive report bringing attention to the recent spate of scams occurring in the vicinity. These included computer/house callers/postcode lottery and the public should remain alert and report their suspicions to Jo Vos, the police and or trading standards. There has also been reports of fly tipping and a number of recent break-ins mainly involving garden sheds.

The Chairman thanked the Community Warden for her report.

b) **Footpath Warden's Report**

K. Girkin brought notice to the inaccessibility of the footpath in Old Way due to an overhang of nettles and various vegetation. With direct contact with Public Rights of Way at E.Brabourne no longer existing any concerns are directed through an emergency number. Assurance given that the contract for clearance had been issued but it was acknowledged that this would take time to process. Cllr.H.Hennig confirmed notice displayed to warn the public if using the area. Matter in hand and meanwhile an approach to be made to the landowner.

Concern also expressed at the lack of footpath access across the fields to the Railway Station. Chairman agreed to investigate and an approach be made to the relevant landowners either by verbal or letter address.

Two further areas for concern – i) footpath to Kenardington where it was found that the gates were closed/locked. ii) footpath – Court Lodge – stile not suitable for access. Chairman to investigate. Chairman thanks the Warden for his report.

THE MEETING WAS RECONVENED AT 20.05 HRS FOLLOWING THE CLOSURE OF THE PUBLIC SESSION.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Appledore Parish Council for Monday 17th August 2015
Page 1 of 5

APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 29TH JUNE 2015 AND 20TH JULY 2015

The Minutes were agreed – Proposed by Cllr.T.Blaney : Seconded by Cllr.J.Telfer and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Newspaper Recycling Receptacle – Now removed. Matter closed.

b) 7(a) English Rural Housing Assoc. – Right to Buy

Cllr.G.Morgan gave a comprehensive and informative report. (copy held on file)

Local Authorities to dispose of high value vacant council houses to fund extended discounts and more affordable homes in the area.

Concerns expressed include threat of sale of ‘affordable housing’ would reduce supply for those on low incomes in rural areas. Supply of affordable housing already falling.

Net loss of council housing in villages demonstrates the lack of replacement of homes sold through ‘Right to Buy’. High price of rural properties means councils will be required to sell already small supply of rural stock when a council house becomes vacant. If land prices rise the amount of affordable housing that can be provided will be reduced.

Acknowledged that there was a need for rural exemptions to ensure a continuing supply for local people on low wages to remain in rural areas and villages to thrive.

Cllr.G.Morgan to make further enquiries regarding rural exemption and to report back to Council. Matter to be placed on Agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

5. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Agreed that incoming planning applications would be circulated to all Councillors prior to the next Parish Council Meeting and discussions and decisions would then be made at that meeting.

Planning Application 15/00720/AS : Tudor Rose Cottage – 39 The Street – New Garden Shed – Application supported. Proposed : Cllr.J.Perkins – Seconded : Cllr.G.Morgan.

(Cllr.H.Hennig having left the meeting whilst the decision procedure took place)

Planning Application 15/00605/AS : Gusbourne Estate Vineyard – Extension to existing vineyard building to enable its use as a winery. Noted ABC granted permission with conditions. Cllrs.raised concern regarding the potential raised volume of traffic and the route the delivery lorries were anticipating using with particular regard to The Street and the narrow roadways through Kenardington or Woodchurch. Agreed that a letter be written to Gusbourne Estate requesting clarification of their intentions in this respect.

6. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE – ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL FORUM

Cllr. J.Perkins (Chairman) agreed to stand.

Proposed – Cllr.T.Blaney/Seconded – Cllr.G.Morgan

All agreed.

Forthcoming meeting 22.09.2015 Chairmans’ Workshop and Training Modules

£72 inc. VAT – Chairman to attend.

7. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES – KALC MEETINGS

Agreed that when possible two representatives would attend each meeting and that a rota would be drawn up.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Appledore Parish Council for Monday 17th August 2015

Page 2 of 5

APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL

8. CLERK’S RESIGNATION

The Chairman confirmed that Mary Shaw – Clerk to Appledore Parish Council had submitted her resignation as of Tuesday 28th July 2015. APC actively seeking a replacement.

9. PARISH MAGAZINE – MONTHLY INCLUSION OF INFORMAL APC NOTES FROM MEETINGS

Proposed, with the agreement of the Parish Magazine that a half–page informal summary of meetings/planning would be submitted for inclusion each month.

10. APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

Proposed surgeries would take place for the purpose of the parish having access to Councillors to discuss issues, present ideas etc. A list of dates would be published in the Parish Magazine with an initial idea of Saturday mornings/Village Hall.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED TO ENABLE A BRIEF DISCUSSION TO TAKE PLACE WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH HALL. THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 8.40 HRS.

Cllr.J.Perkins to liaise further with Village Hall Committee.

11. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE – SUGGESTED INCLUSIONS

- a) Cllr.H.Hennig – Free car parking facilities at Village Hall Car Park
- b) Cllr.T.Blaney – Suggested a more user-friendly website be approved with a link for easy access.

12. NOTICE BOARDS/SIGNAGE

- a) Banners – Rother Valley Press had been approached. Considered £200 to be an excessive cost. Looking at possibility of funding from various avenues. Agreed to discuss further. Matter in hand.
- b) Village History (Church) – New sign in progress and hoped to be in situ by the weekend of the Flower Festival. Grateful thanks extended to John Mundy for providing same.
In the interim Cllrs.H.Hennig had placed a notice at the existing site informing public that a replacement would shortly be in place.
- c) Parish Council Notice Board – Cllr.G.Morgan circulated brochures for suggested variations. Costings varied between £785 – £950 + VAT and delivery.
Suggested location: i) remain as existing
ii) Wall of Village Hall
iii) On posts in front of Village Hall
iv) Village Shop Wall
Agreed to discuss further. Matter in hand.
- d) Village Map – Village Hall Car Park – Suggestion of replacing with more informative map. Cllr.J.Perkins to raise with Village Hall Committee. Matter in hand.

13. REVIEW OF VILLAGE PLAN

Whilst acknowledging the work and excellence in producing the Village Plan, it was noted that many of the proposals etc., had not been accomplished. Suggested that ideas for progression be discussed and taken to those personnel responsible for the instigation of the Plan for their input and assistance. Matter in hand.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Appledore Parish Council for Monday 17th August 2015
Page 3 of 5

APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL

14. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cllr.G.Morgan presented a comprehensive report with explanations of the idea of giving communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood, and shape the development and growth of their local area. (Copy held on file for more in depth information)

Noted that an NDP (Neighbourhood Development Plan) is an important document with legal force, and should be a clear community-led vision for the area.
NDP gives communities the right to receive and spend a proportion of community infrastructure levy funds on the local facilities they want. To choose where they want new homes, shops and offices and have a say on design of new build, together with the infrastructure that should be provided alongside.

Grants – There are two different types of support to assist in the preparation of an NDP
a) Technical Support b) Neighbourhood planning grant.

15. VILLAGE BRAND/LOGO

Discussion re appropriate logo for APC stationery etc. Considered competition for Appledore residents to participate. Final decision would be at APC discretion.
Cllrs.T.Blaney and G.Morgan offered to put up a monetary prize.
Matter to be discussed further, and entrants encouraged via Parish Magazine.

16. VILLAGE TWINNING

Discussion re concept and benefits of possible twinning took place. Agreed to carry out further research. Matter in hand.

17. PUBLIC TOILETS

Cllr. H. Hennig gave an update on current status. Cllr.Hennig had been in discussion with Laurie (cleaner) and agreed modified working hours/contract of employment/wages paid direct into bank account. Agreed.

Cllr.Hennig suggested that the toilets be closed earlier in the day to try and combat the misuse that is becoming apparent early evening. Cllr.Hennig had prepared a notice to be placed in the vicinity of the toilets for public to be reminded that standards must be maintained in order to preserve the facility being made available.

Lock on outer door of Ladies to be repaired.

Cllr.Hennig was thanked for her report and the effort put into the upkeep of the Public Toilets.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

19. FINANCE

Cllr.G.Morgan presented/circulated the independent reconciliation covering the period 01.04.2015 to 31.07.2015. (Copy held on file)

Financial statement (Y.Osborne 13.08.2015) approved at Meeting.

Proposed – Cllr.J.Perkins : Seconded Cllr.G.Morgan. All agreed and Chairman duly signed.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Appledore Parish Council for Monday 17th August 2015
Page 4 of 5

APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE CONT: /

Current Account balance 31.03.2015 (date of financial statement) £29,773.00

Current Account balance 31.07.2015 £33,073.64

Balance includes

* £14,505 from ABC

* Repayment of £500 loan to Appledore History Society

* £690 Cheque to Recreation Ground (this will be reimbursed)

* £1,458.00 payment to Recreation Ground (Mowing)

Balance inc.£690 (cancelled cheque) £33,763.63

Payments:

a) KALC £75.00 Cheque No.000898. New Cllrs.induction event.

b) Payments to Laurie and T. Hennessey held awaiting discussion with them re timescale of payments due whether 4 weekly or 5 weekly.

c) Noted that outgoing Clerk had been paid any outstanding monies owed.

K & S Accountants – Fees appear to be excessive. Cllr.G.Morgan to make possible alternative enquiries.

Cllr.G.Morgan expressed concern with regard to the financial position and certain items may need to be addressed before using the reserve account becomes an issue.

Cllr.T.Blaney requested a financial budget for the next Meeting.

Cllr.J.Telfer to approach NatWest with a view to interest rates in various accounts and moving some accounts to a more profitable account. Cllr.Telfer to report back.

20. HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

i) Supplementary Car Park – Further information is expected shortly on this item.

- ii) Traffic and Roads – Chairman advised of two open meetings to be held in Appledore. This will be an opportunity for parishioners to express their concerns regarding such issues as traffic volume/speeding and car parking in the street. A list will be given to KCC and Highways who will then attend a meeting to discuss possible resolutions to those areas raised. Dates of meetings and venues to be announced.
- iii) Old Way Footpath – addressed in Footpath Warden’s report.

21. REPORTS : REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- i) Village Hall – Cllr.J.Perkins reported that the Village Hall’s advisor, Jenny Bradbury from ACRK has informed the Hall Management Committee that the Village Hall Trust Deed needed to be updated. Meeting to be arranged between Village Hall Committee and APC with Jenny Bradbury.

22. DATE OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 21st September 2015 @ 7.30 p.m. Village Hall

23. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/AGENDA

- a) Village Hall and Recreation Ground funding
- b) Public Toilets
- c) Action points for the Village Plan
- d) English Rural Housing Association

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 21.30 Hrs.