



4th December
Minutes of the Meeting
19.30 Village Hall

Present

Roger Hiskey (Chairman), Chester Lusk, Sharon Marsh, Paula Thornton, Gary Kinsley, Kevin Nicol
Julian Kenny (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Roger Kimber

In attendance: Johnny Shilton Borough Councillor,

Members of the Public: 5/6

1. Formalities

I) Quorum

The council was quorate.

II) Apologies and Reasons for absence Councillor Kimber (LGA 1972 schedule12, 12)
The Chair announced that the Clerk has decided to resign, but he will continue with the Council until a suitable replacement has been found.

III) **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** (Code of Conduct)

Councillor Kinsley – Recreation Ground

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November as a true record. Proposed by
Cllr Marsh seconded by Cllr Thornton

(LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

3. Co-Option

The Co-option was moved to the beginning of the agenda to allow a vote on Cllr Nicol to be co-opted back on. Proposed by Cllr Hiskey and seconded by Cllr Kinsley and approved unanimously.

4. Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

Report from Borough Councillor Johnny Shelton

ABC is working on a draft budget to reduce spending. There are discussions on the parking project in Heathside. The aim is to convert garages into parking spaces and ABC Officers are supportive of the plans. The aim is to stop parking on kerbs and on corners. There will be a survey in January and it is important to get a good response rate. It was pointed out that residents may put cars that are not roadworthy on spaces and there was discussion as to whether a permit system should be introduced. This would need monitoring and enforcing. Permits could be as low at £35 pa. It was pointed out that the only people who would use the parking would be residents and visitors, so it may not be the best way forward.

Public Questions 19.41

- i. It was pointed out that the personnel meeting minutes not on website and that there was no explanation for the previous clerk's resignation. The chair explained there was no link and that the previous clerk left because of a terms and conditions disagreement.
- ii. A member of the public gave Cllr Nichol a gift to welcome him back on to the Council

The meeting reconvened at 20.45

It was resolved to change the order so that Cllr Shelton could attend the section on 106 funding.

- i. Pavilion
Cllr Kinsley gave an overview of the plans for the pavilion and recreation ground. These include work on the tennis courts and MUGA. The surface of the tennis courts are in need of resurfacing and is becoming waterlogged because of poor drainage. Steel supports need to be moved so that the pitch can be used for 5-a-side and tennis. There are plans to create an additional tarmac on the east side to allow space for basketball. The funds will hopefully be allocated for the MUGA, basketball and steps leading up to the area and improved drainage around the south facing area. There are plans to put some tables around for spectators. The total cost will be £130,000

The recreation ground is popular. It is currently being used by 2 football teams (seniors and veterans), as well as the tennis club and dog training.

There are also plans to work on improvement of the children's playground
The surface will be a pit using old rubber tyres as it is safe and vandalism proof.

Some of the playground toys are rotten and will need replacing. The plans for the play area and educational toys is £15,944 and £9,184 will come from 106 money and the recreation ground will provide the rest of the funds.

The meeting was opened for public questions:

- There is not any funding currently for an outdoor gym, although it might be a possibility in the future as there may be funds available
- It was pointed out the area is only insured for children under 12

The meeting was closed again

Cllr Kinsley continued to give an overview of the work on the Pavilion which will include a new tin roof and guttering. It will also need underpinning. The building will be recladded and have a new fascia. The best quote is £48,500 and there will be an additional quote for the windows.

Cllr Nicol questioned whether it would be considered a capital asset for the Council. The Clerk will check with Ashford Borough Council and let Full Council know.

Cllr Hiskey proposed to accept the proposals to accept 106 funding for the recreation ground. This was seconded by Cllr Lusk and passed unanimously.

ii. Allotments

Duncan Gray from the Allotment Society gave an overview of the work at the allotments which has already started. A 13-ton digger has flattened the area

The quote for the work is £4,900. £2,268 106 is available from 106 funding and the allotment charity funding will cover the rest

Three quotes were requested, but only one was returned.

There will be 12 allotment new beds and these will be rentable at £35 per year. The area will be fully fenced lockable, SE Water have been approached to supply water to the area. The total cost of the water total cost of water 31,500 to mole under the road and access, donated water pipes. The manual labour work will be done by trustees

Christmas trees planted have been planted. There will be 3 accessible beds, 3 children's beds and there have already been enquiries about rentals. There are also plans for a woodland school from 106 funding and for raised beds moving forward.

Cllr Hiskey proposed to accept the plans and Cllr Thornton seconded and the Council voted unanimously to support the plans.

Cllr Shelton was supportive of both applications.

5. Planning

(Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 schedule 1/2010)

5.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

No decisions by Ashford Borough Council

5.2 Planning Applications Considered

- i. PA/2023/2066 Land adjacent to Griffin House, School Road, Appledore, TN26 2BA Fully supported on the condition that the footpath signpost is reinstated and the footpath along the driveway (as it is on the Kent Rights of Way map) should be maintained.

6. Finances

It was decided to change the order of salary payments so that updated salaries could be voted on before payments were voted on

- i) To consider moving the hourly rate for the toilet cleaner and street sweeper to £12 p/h (Living Wage Foundation's recommended minimum) from £11 p/h
 - ii) To move the Clerk's salary from £15.02 to £16.02 per hour in line with the NALC salary changes
- Cllr Hiskey proposed both changes and they were seconded by Cllr Marsh. Both were accepted unanimously.

Cheques for payment

Holes Christmas Tree	£162.00 (inc £27.00 VAT)
Salaries TBC	£1,711.17
J Kenny travel + home (Oct + Nov)	£71
Village Hall (room rental)	£210

7.1 Bank Account:

Reserve	£81,707.73
Current	£27,297.23

7.2 November Receipts

None

8. Online banking and signatories

Notifications for all councilors to be signatories are in place and the plan is to start the move to online banking in January

9. Pension payments

NEST pensions do not accept payments by cheque, so a system for monthly payments needs to be found. The Chair and the Clerk will look at ways forward with this.

10. Training budget

KALC Training course "The Clerk in Action" for the Clerk £60. This was no longer necessary as the Clerk has resigned. He has also not used the funds for the ILC training

11. Information for Councillors

12. Future agenda items.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8th January 2024, 7.30pm, Appledore Village Hall
The meeting closed at 20.40