

## Minutes of the Parish Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017

7.30pm Appledore Village Hall

### Welcome

The Chair thanked everyone for coming.

### Approval of the Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016

The minutes were approved.

### Report by the Chairman of Appledore Parish Council

The chair thanked all the members of the committee and council staff for their work in their respective areas. The two new noticeboards are now being put to good use as with the old noticeboard. Thanks were expressed to John Mundy for restoring the old board. Two new defibrillators will be installed this year: one on the public conveniences and one in the telephone box. The toilets continue to be well kept (thanks to Beverley and Duncan Gray). Donations taken are around £500. Tom does a fabulous job tidying the verges and footpaths. Work continues on the many highways issues, with Terry Blaney looking into a footpath for Griffin Cottages. The chair thanked everyone involved with the exciting week of events in the village hall. Finally, the chair presented Ken Girkin with a walking staff in recognition of his years of service as Footpath Warden for Appledore.

### Report by County Cllr Mike Hill

Kent County Council (KCC) were struggling to balance the books with the continued reduction in government funding while the costs of running services especially with regard to adult social care were increasing. Potholes repairs would shortly be restarting with a budget of £2.5 million. KCC were working on keeping the roads clean with the "Keep Britain Clean" Scheme. A third River Thames crossing had financial backing but was awaiting the political green light. KCC program to change street light lamps to light emitting diodes would be starting shortly. The program to bring broadband to all had reached 95.7% of the community and would continue. KCC was working with the NHS on a plan to create one body to deal with suppling healthcare. KCC children services were at full capacity dealing with young asylum seekers. On a local level the discretionary services had been reduced but not closed. The voluntary warden scheme had launched well. A multi-trust body was being set up for Homewood and the 3 primary schools to provide support for the primary schools.

### Report By Borough Cllr. Mick Burgess

His role was to participate in the running of the borough council and he participated on 3 committees: Joint Transport Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee; Planning Committee, as well as attending Isle in Oxney Parish Council Meetings. He had assisted the

village hall with a grant for the disabled ramp and handrail. During questions it was confirmed that ABC had chosen to go it alone instead of joining with other district councils. ABC was financially sustainable in its own right. Furthermore he had diligently persisted to keep the issue of the necked lights in the spot light to get a conclusion.

#### Appledore Recreation Ground Management Committee – Ian Bampton

Unfortunately the committee chair had been detained but the Annual Meeting had been held and there had been 3 members of the public in attendance.

#### Art Club – Denise Stephen

The club which meets every Tuesday afternoon has 16 members. A professional artist had attended some sessions. The group had held an art exhibition during the year and a summer trip was planned.

#### Walking Group – Ken Girkin

Ken took over the group in 2008 along with John Lindsey. At that time, there had been full support from Public Rights of Way. He had led many walks along the Military Canal and to Stone. Several styles had been replaced on the latter path with swing gates. During 2010 – 2011 the volunteer Dover group had cut out the steps off the Stone Road and other jobs. The most thrilling achievement was the discovery of the Pluto Pipeline bridge. The pipeline had been laid across the channel to provide oil for the invasion of France during WWII. The concrete footpath bridge over the pipeline had been railed off for safety and a new bridge nearby would be used in its stead. An information plaque to be installed at the bridge.

#### Garden Society – Andrew Elphick

The Club remained a social club with 30 members holding talks and garden visits with a summer trip away. The club had won the team competition at Detling Show last year. Working with the Rare Breeds Centre the club would hold its annual fundraising event as per usual: the plant sale. New members would be welcome.

#### Local History Society – Brian Knight

The society had been running for 28 years and is currently working on archiving all the artefacts in its possession. A WWI heritage trail around Appledore would be launched in the summer as part of "100 miles for 100 years". On behalf of the parish council the group were organising the installation, on Mill Hill, of a beacon to be used to remember the end of WWI in November 2018 and for any other future celebrations. The group would welcome any donations of local items of historical interest.

#### Appledore Church – Tessa Knight

The historic church and members form a solid part of the community. The building requires regular upkeep, currently the most pressing being the boiler room and toilets. Friends of Appledore Church sole purpose is to maintain the fabric of the church and are independent of the Parochial Church Council. The church council will be holding its annual meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

#### Appledore Events Week – Chris Vane

660 people had attended the 12 events that had been held, with 200 of them attending more than one event. The committee of 6 had the support of 50 helpers. Its aim had been to break-even. £1,500 had been made and would be split between the village hall and other village groups. It appeared that all 12 events would continue.

#### Royal Military Canal Footpath – Chris Mccreedy – CDM Consultancy

As a result of the popularity of the West Hythe to Aldergate Bridge extension of the multiuse footpath from Folkestone, Kent and Shepway Councils had chosen to carry out a feasibility study on continuing this footpath along the Military Canal, along the original path, to Rye. East Sussex are looking to assist with the section in their county. The canal was originally built as a defence against an attack by Napoleon. The path is expected to stimulate local business as well as opening opportunities to regenerate the rural area, such as tea rooms, B&B, pubs and camp sites. Furthermore, it is hoped to improve the opportunity for low cost holidays and cheap forms of exercise. The original path has now become the road so the future path would be on the canal's embankment. As well as landowners along the way responding very positively to the scheme, Highways England have assisted offering to complete road crossing works as necessary and Historic England (i.e. English Heritage) are in favour of greater links between urban and rural communities. During questions, it was advised that the number of people using the path had meant that motorbikes did not use the path. Sheep would still graze the canal banks and the waterway was owned by the environmental agency. Water activities would also be part of the new business opportunities.

#### Public Questions

A request was made for assistance with making sure that those fishing on the canal, take their rubbish with them.

A request was made to find out what progress had been made with the Community for Dark Skies initiative, which had been presented at the last parish meeting.

The meeting was closed at 21.15 hrs.