



**4<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**19.30 Village Hall**

**Present**

Roger Hiskey (Chairman), Roger Kimber, Chester Lusk, Sharon Marsh, Kevin Nicol

In attendance: Clerk Julian Kenny

Members of the Public: 6

**1. Formalities**

Cllr Hiskey welcomed the new clerk and thanked the locum clerk

**I) Quorum**

The council was quorate.

**II) Apologies and Reasons for absence**

Cllr Thornton, Cllr Kinsley, Borough Councillor Johnny Shilton. It was **RESOLVED** that the apologies be accepted. (LGA 1972 schedule12, 12)

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

Cllr Marsh declared an interest in the Methodist church

**2. Approval of Draft Minutes**

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 as a true record. Proposed by Councillor Nicol and seconded by Councillor Marsh.

It was resolved to agree the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Proposed by Councillor Marsh and seconded by Councillor Kimber.

(LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

**Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions**

**Report from County Councillor Mike Hill**

Councillor Hill explained that although August was a quiet month there had been two significant events:

- RAAC, no Kent schools are scheduled to be closed although some schools will need action.
- Unaccompanied asylum seeker children. KCC had agreed with the Home Office to send children to other parts of the country, but the decision was challenged in the High Court and it was

decided that children should be looked after by the authority where they are first reported. KCC is working with the Home Office to get the legislation changed. Sadly, more unaccompanied minors are arriving and Kent children do not currently have the same support as unaccompanied asylum seeking children. KCC is getting funding for the support, but the issue is capacity for supporting and housing the children.

### Report from Borough Councillor Johnny Shelton

Councillor Shelton sent his apologies.

### Public Questions 19.46

There were several questions about item 6 on agenda, leasing car park to a parking company. Residents were concerned about people who hire the Village Hall being charged to park during their events, this also includes members of the public being charged to attend Parish Council meetings. Councillor Nicol explained that the initial offer for the lease for the car park was £100 per month, but this had been increased to £175. He said the income could be used to protect the verges in the High Street. Future funds could be used to support footpaths, the church and other groups. A resident questioned about the fees that would be charged and if there would be a minimum period e.g. 30 minutes that would be free. It was also questioned whether the Parish Council owned the whole car park, as some of it may belong to the Village Hall. The Chair suggested that discussion from Councillors should wait to discuss the car park until the point was raised on the agenda.

A resident informed the meeting that some of the allotment area had been cleared, but more work was needed clearing, flattening and fencing the area and that the Allotment Society was considering planting and selling Christmas trees on some of the adjoining land.

A resident questioned whether some of the 106 money that was available could be used for footpath clearance and maintenance. The Chair suggested that the resident should liaise with the new clerk on this as he has some experience of upgrading footpaths.

A residents questioned whether the Parish Council would be able to continue to fund the Christmas lunch. It was suggested that the funding would still be available for this year.

A resident wanted to thank all those involved in the work on the allotments and the Village Show preparations.

The meeting reconvened at 20.05

## 3. Planning

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

### 3.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

There were none.

### 3.2 Planning Applications Considered

- i. PA/2023/1360 Scotland and Bates, Heath Road, Appledore, TN26 2AJ; Creation of a staff car parking area, boundary treatments, and landscaping. The application was **supported** on the condition that access to the footpath that runs through the field behind the office is reinstated.
- ii. PA/2023/1476 Hornes Place Oast, Kenardington Road, Appledore, TN26 2BS; Retrospective alterations to consented fence. The application was **not supported** as it was felt that the application was visually intrusive to the surrounding countryside

- iii. PA/2023/1461 Appledore Methodist Church, The Street, Appledore, Ashford, Kent TN26 2AE; Partial demolition of western extension, change of use, and conversion from redundant Methodist Church to holiday let accommodation with associated private amenity. Part demolition to create a letting property – it was originally 2 dwellings – the aim is to allow some garden space. The application was **supported**.

### **3.3 To consider S106 projects from the Railway Hotel**

As Councillor Kinsley was not in attendance, it was suggested to carry this item over to the October meeting.

## **4. Finances**

### **4.1 Bank Account:**

Bank Statement has not yet been received.

### **4.2 July Receipts**

Bank Statement has not yet been received

### **4.3 July Payments**

Bank statement has not yet been received.

### **4.4 Additional August Payment made**

August Salaries

£710.00      Locum Clerk

### **4.5 Payments to be Authorised**

£33.75 Locum Clerk expenses.

### **4.6 To receive update on the Business Stream invoice for March to June 2023.**

The new Clerk was asked to query the invoice

## **5. To receive update on tender for car park landscape maintenance.**

No tenders had been received at the time of the meeting. The Council praised Cllr Kimber for the specifications.

## **6. To consider leasing the village hall car park and court lodge car park to parking company to cover the income loss from the solar panels.**

Cllr Nicol was praised for his work on the potential leasing of the car parks. He pointed out that it is an asset that could bring in needed income to the Council and that the contract could be cancelled at any stage. He also pointed out that several other villages, including Dymchurch had started charging for car parks. It was pointed out that Dymchurch is a different type of village as it has a fu fair and is on the coast. Several Councillors felt that introducing parking charges for the car parks would not be a benefit to local residents as it may mean fewer people attended events, including Parish Council meetings, in the village Hall, Parking charges may also lead to more parking in the High Street.

**7. To receive report on footpaths in Appledore and agree actions.**

No update

**8. Information for Councillors**

None for noting

**9. Future agenda items.**

To review full financial statements

To consider car park maintenance

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023, 7.30pm, Appledore Village Hall

The meeting closed at 20.40