



**3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**7.30 pm Village Hall**

**Present**

Derek Winter (Chairman), Toby Davis, Chester Lusk, Paula Thornton, and Charles Wilkinson.  
In attendance: County Councillor Mike Hill, District Councillor Mick Burgess and the Clerk Mary Philo  
Members of the Public: 6

**1. Formalities**

**I) Quorum**

The council was quorate.

Nominations for Chair of this meeting were taken. Councillor Winter was nominated and accepted the position. **It was resolved to elect Derek Winter as Chairman for this meeting only.** Proposed Councillor Thornton and seconded by Councillor Davis.

**II) Apologies**

Councillors Roger Hiskey and Gary Kinsley.

(LGA 1972 schedule 12, 12)

**III) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

None.

(Code of Conduct)

**2. Approval of Draft Minutes**

**It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 as a true record.**

Proposed by Councillor Davis and seconded Councillor Lusk.

(LGA Act 1972 schedule 12, 19.1)

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

**Report from County Councillor Mike Hill**

Delays of 20 hours had been recorded at Dover crossing to France, for coach passengers, over the first weekend of the Easter Holidays. Concern for other peak periods had been raised and preventative measures were being considered.

The county decision to refuse to accept any further unaccompanied asylum seekers has resulted in other counties now taking some of the strain. The county currently cares for 500 children and youngsters. Central government is finally covering the bill.

**Report from Borough Councillor Mick Burgess**

This would be Councillor Burgess' last attendance at the meeting as councillor but he may be attending as a member of the public in future. The go ahead had been given for the refurbishment of the Old Railway Works in Ashford, into a business/ entertainment area, which will bring more employment to the area. He hoped to see it come to fruition in his life time.

The national practice Emergency Alert is scheduled for Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. All mobiles and tablets will be sounding off as a practice test. There will be no need to take any action.

### Public Questions 7.37pm

#### Appledore History Society

The group reiterated their request for an in-principle agreement to be on the agenda for next month. Noted by the Clerk.

#### Recreation Ground 'Active Appledore' – Public Works Loan

In response to query, it was advised there are no current plans for a Public Works Loan to be taken out. As part of the application form, a public meeting must be held to confirm general agreement to a loan and it now takes almost 6 months to have the Secretary of State approve a loan. As a parish council can only raise taxes once a year, such a loan could not be considered during this financial year.

#### Lighting for the Car Park at the Village Hall

In a country location with dark skies nomination, lighting for a car park would not be considered an emergency safety issue however, neighbours to the hall had been consulted and were happy with the proposed led light with passive infra-red sensor set so passing wild life will not switch it on. The village hall committee have confirmed that they will pay the running bill. The parish council have to agree the installation cost as the car park belongs to the parish council rather than the village hall. The village hall no longer has a license to use and maintain this car park.

#### Thanks to County and District Councillors

A resident thanked these councillors for their regular attendance at meetings over the years.

#### The meeting reconvened at 7.51 pm

### 3. Planning

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

#### 3.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

I) Oak tree Cottage, School Road: Proposed new dormer to front elevation. Approved with conditions.

#### 3.2 Planning Applications Considered

I) PA/2023/0474 5 Magpie Farm: Proposed two storey side extension. **It was resolved to support.** Proposed by Councillor Thornton and seconded by Councillor Davis.

II) PA 2023/0343 Appledore Methodist Church: Change of use and conversion to 2 no. dwellings with associated landscaping. **It was resolved to comment as follows:** Appledore Parish Council does not object to the change of use to residential but it is concerned about the impact of the Chapel being altered to two dwellings rather than one. It is already difficult to find parking spaces thereabouts as the premise is nearly opposite the village shop. It is not clear how exactly parking will be provided. Currently parking at the chapel, on the tarmac pavement and verge, often blocks the pavement and obstructs pedestrians especially with pushchairs or on mobility scooters. It is also unclear what is being done with the trees particularly at the front of the property. Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Thornton. Majority decision.

### 4. No item 4

### 5. Residential Enabled Car Park Court Lodge Road

The emergency works have been completed and the carpark signs erected. One double sided directional sign was lying waiting in place to be erected at the entrance to the car park itself. Phase II Highways Improvement plan should incorporate the remaining directional signal to direct drivers on the main road

to the car park. Painting of the yellow lines along the road to the car park was scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> April. **It was resolved to agree the maintenance schedule for the car parks (circulated).** Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Winter.

## 6. Highways and Byways

Deferred.

## 7. Community Engagement

### 7.1 Speed watch

Deferred.

### 7.2 Litter

Following a resident's report of a white powder scattered in the parking area of Parkwood picnic site, the Kent County Council Ranger inspected it and reported that the powder was flour used for a trail for a group like a scout group.

Only some of the Ashford Borough Council anti-littering campaign posters had been erected due to insufficient fixings having been provided. Thanks were expressed to all those who had participated in litter picking during March.

### 7.3 Planters and Plant Displays

Highways has confirmed that hanging baskets may be hung on the three gateways. It was highlighted that it was more important to keep the signs clean and clear and that bulbs in the ground would have been a better option. As action had already been taken, **it was resolved to agree to trial providing planting for a year, on the condition that should at any time in the future the baskets were no longer maintained and were an eyesore, the baskets would be removed and not replaced. Budget not to exceed £100.**

Any long-term provision will have to be budgeted for in the next financial year under regular costs. Note contingency funds are for one off un-expected costs.

## 8. Finances

### 8.1 Bank Account

As at 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 stood at £95,204.31 (this includes £62,343.01 ring fenced for capital projects and £11,343.69 ring fenced for highways). Remaining funds £21,517.61 including £13,000 reserve. Current account £7,591.56. Note - £10,000 has been transferred, at the end of March, from the reserve account into the current account to ensure that it does not go into deficit during April while waiting for the 2023-2024 precept payment to be banked. The parish council does not hold an agreed overdraft facility. Charges would be made.

### 8.2 February Receipts

£62.94 Bank interest (correction to the agenda)

### 8.3 February Payments

£220.00	Appledore parish Magazine
£50.48	L Hiskey – Over 60's lunch (1972 Act s 137)
£102.00	Refund M Philo: Emergency Plumber All Gas for toilets leak
£13.20	Refund R Hiskey: Toilet unblocker (vat £2.17)
£121.26	M Philo: share of Clerks membership of the Clerk's Society for Local Council Clerks
£90.00	P Caro: Village Hall car park leaf raking, grass cut and part hedge cut
£54.91	VR Sani-co Ltd: sanitary waste removal from public toilets February to May (vat £9.15)

£66.00	Gibbs & Son: Cutting grass around the toilets 2023 (11 cuts) (vat £11)
£1,800	Wellers Law Group LLP: solicitor fee for Court Lodge Car park transfer (vat £300)
£189.44	Castle Water: Public toilets fresh water January to June 2023
£1,247.39	February Salaries

#### 8.4 Additional March Payments

£3,180.00	Platford Contractors Ltd: Safety works (gate and fencing) and erection of tourist signs (vat £530)
£26.68	Idea PC: share of ink cartridges
£13.95	Refund M Philo: Disabled Parking signs for Court Lodge Car park (vat £2.32)
£104.74	LASER: Electricity for the Public Conveniences December to February
£84.12	Refund L Hiskey: Annual Parish Meeting refreshments
£44.00	Refund M Philo: Court Lodge Car park gate signs
£64.40	TP Jones LLP: payroll services January to March 2023
£1,970.91	March salaries and 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter PAYE

#### 8.5 It was resolved to make the following payments

In order to ensure all payments that should be in the 2022-2023 year are paid before 31<sup>st</sup> March, many payments have been made last month.

£113.23	Business Stream: Public toilets waste water November – March 2023
£57.23	Refund R Hiskey: Plants and accessories for the baskets on the gateways

Business Stream had advised that their charges would be increasing in April by 13.1%

#### 8.6. Asset register

Following amendment, **it was resolved to agree the asset register as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.** Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Winter.

#### 9. Information for Councillors

The clerk thanked councillors and their partners for their time on the parish council.

#### 10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7.30pm, Appledore Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

