



4th July 2022
Minutes of the Meeting
7.30 pm Village Hall

Announcement

The chairman advised that the time period for residents to request a bye election had passed and Ashford Borough Council Democratic Services had advised that the parish council could co-opt a replacement for Helen Hennig at the next meeting. Those interested had until Friday 15th to let a Councillor or the Clerk know that they were interested in standing for co-option.

Present

Roger Hiskey (Chairman), Toby Davis, Gary Kinsley, Chester Lusk, Charles Wilkinson and Derek Winter.
In attendance: District Councillor Mick Burgess and Clerk Mary Philo.
Members of the Public: 8

1. Formalities

I) Quorum

The council was quorate.

II) Apologies

County Councillor Mike Hill. (LGA 1972 schedule12, 12)

III) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None. (Code of Conduct)

2. Approval of Draft minutes

Following minor amendment, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 6th June 2022 as a true record. Proposed by Councillor Lusk and seconded Councillor Davis.

Following minor amendment, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 13th June 2022 as a true record. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded Councillor Kinsley.

(LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

Report from District Councillor Mick Burgess

There has been a delay to the switching on of the new borough planning portal ARCUS. Borough councillors will be receiving a demonstration shortly. As part of the Marsh Link Community Rail Partnership Councillor Burgess had been to visit the Rye Discovery Centre. The centre was hoping to advertise on the train. Residents were asked to contact him if they have any issues with sewage as Councillor Burgess will be attending a Southern Water online workshop on the Friday following the meeting.

Public Questions 7.39pm

Bin on the Road Outside the Village Hall and Litter

A resident queried if there would be a bin on the pavement outside the village hall and at the new car park as they are keen to see no litter. There would be one for the new car park when in the council ownership but the other would be a matter for the village hall trustees. It was noted that there was still a bin in the car park behind the hall. The chairman advised that the council was thinking of holding another week of litter picking in October during the holidays so that families would be able to participate.

Plaque for the Platinum Jubilee Tree

A member of the public suggested that there should be a plaque on the tree to record the reason for its planting. This was already being looked into along with a plaque for the other 9 trees (on the recreation ground) that had been planted for similar reason.

Station Platform Planters

It was reported that the planters looked fabulous and suggested that the village itself could benefit from something similar. The council commented that this could be a good idea so long as there was a voluntary group willing to care for the plants and maintain planters. The council would revisit the idea in the future.

Solicitors for the Transfer of Court Lodge Car Park

In response to query, the solicitors put forward to assist with the car park have experience and knowledge of the parish council world and thus the issues and problems that parish councils face. There were no such local ones.

Defibrillators Registration with the Circuit

Confirmation was given that the defibrillators in the parish are registered with 'The Circuit' the new nationwide registration scheme (opposed to with the ambulance service) and are registered as being available.

Future Planning Application for Blackmore Granary

The new owners advised that they would be submitting a revised plan.

22/00819/AS Akers Cottage 72 The Street

The applicant advised the application was mainly to improve energy efficiency with some minor cosmetic changes.

22/00798/AS Land to the rear and north of The Old Surgery, the Street

The applicant advised the previously approved application had lapsed and that the new application was the same but the property will be clad to match the neighbouring residential development to be built.

22/00960/AS The Old Surgery, The Street

The applicant advised that the property needed a second floor and other improvements to create a home out of the surgery building.

The meeting reconvened at 7.55 pm

4. Planning

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

4.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

I) 21/02151/AS Prospect House, School Road: Proposed new dwelling and outbuilding (revision on of planning permission 18/00889/AS) – Permitted

II) 22/00133/TC 4 Maple Court - T1 Oak Tree: The emergency application for a tree preservation order for the oak tree and surrounding group of trees has been executed. Additionally, other trees on the site have also been included within the order.

4.2 Planning Applications Considered

I) 22/00798/AS Land to the rear and north of The Old Surgery, the Street: Proposed construction of a two-storey detached dwelling. It was resolved to support the application but noted that the land formed part of the local plan for more houses. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Winter.

II) 22/00819/AS Akers Cottage 72 The Street: Proposed Front extension to provide alterations to external appearance including replacement fenestration. It was resolved to support. Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Lusk.

III) 22/00960/AS The Old Surgery, The Street: Proposed two-storey extension. It was resolved to support. Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Lusk.

4.3 Residential Enabling Car Park

The car park is 98% complete, apart from a few unresolved issues such as fencing and spacing of car park slots, also disabled parking markers. It is being used in spite of none of the planned signage or traffic regulation order for yellow lining at the entrance to the car park and on the corner of Court Lodge Road and The Street. The latter is under constant review and being chased. The draft transfer conveyance has been received from Court Developments solicitors. This will be passed to Appledore solicitor once one of the three candidates is appointed.

It was resolved to contract Wellers Hedley to assist the council with the legal transfer of the car park in Court Lodge Road and registration. Costs est. £1,100 plus VAT. Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Davis.

5. Martello Contract Refurbishment Works Update

As part of the sale of the former council field, Martello still has to complete some outstanding work in kind. They have confirmed that it will provide the base for the safety surface for the double set of swings in the play area on the recreation ground. With regard to the work detailed in the contract schedule 1 item 4 for resurfacing work to the tennis/MUGA on the recreation ground, Martello has advised that they will make a cash payment as they do not have the required expertise.

Councillor Kinsley advised that Appledore Recreation Ground Committee would soon be clearing the area behind the MUGA/tennis court and trimming trees away from the area and leveling the ground along the parking area alongside the access drive to the sewage works. The committee was in touch with the Football Association which is assisting with Astro-surfaces to encourage walking football. Options to get the most out of resurfacing are being investigated including extending the MUGA. The committee is also looking into the unregistered land at the rear of the MUGA/tennis.

6. Highways and Byways

The fee for the gateways has been paid to Highways and installation is due around September.

Councillor Hiskey wanted to press highways to improve the road condition on Kenardington Road where the flooding was, to improve the condition of the pavement from Old Way to the pub and to improve the road condition of the road to the station. He will be writing to the head of Highways Maintenance Lisa Willoughby. Councillor Hiskey will also monitor the footway opposite Scotland & Bates as a fall there had been reported. Councillor Wilkinson had reported the slipped 40mph sign on the Tenterden Road, the parking sign towards the village hall and the Gusbourne sign.

7. Car Park at Village Hall

Both the Village Hall and Court Lodge Car Parks will require some regular 'gardening' (grass and hedging) maintenance. Whilst awaiting the legal transfer of the Court Lodge Car Park, **it was resolved to employ the village hall gardener (Peter J Caro) once a month for two hours at £15 per hour, while the council deals with the transfer of the car park at Court Lodge Road.** Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded Councillor Davis.

8. Finances

8.1 Bank Account

As at 31st May 2022 stood at £ 110,110.64 (this includes £62,343.01 ring fenced for capital projects and £19.885 ring fenced for highways).

8.2 May Receipts

£7.97	Bank Interest
£21.14	Public Donations: Toilets

8.3 May Payments

£283.77	Castle water: Public toilets fresh water
£54.91	VR Sani: Toilet sanitary waste removal (vat £9.15)
£75.67	Refund R Hiskey: Parish meeting refreshments
£1,264.05	May Salaries

8.4 Additional June Payments

£1,774.45	June Salaries
£8,541.31	Kent County Council Highways: Gateway improvement works

8.5 It was resolved to make the following payments

£ 58.50	TP Jones payroll services April to June 2022 vat £9.75
£158.40	Refund M Philo – Wix annual website hosting fee (vat £26.40)
£59.90	LASER Public toilets electricity March April and May 2022 (vat £2.85)
£19.14	Refund M Philo administration costs: Stamps £4.72, envelopes £2, Toilet requisites £8.92, ream of paper £3.50 (vat £2.40)
£40.78	Kent County Council: Toilet requisites (vat £6.80)

Proposed by Councillor Davis and seconded by Councillor Lusk

8.6 To add another Bank Signatory

It was resolved to nominate Councillor Toby Davis as another bank signatory and confirm that the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in 'About your business', be changed in accordance with section authorised signatories. Additionally, that the bank can phone the individuals identified as 'Call back Contacts to confirm or correct any instructions or information not given to the bank. And furthermore that, the current mandate will continue as amended.

Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Hiskey.

8. Information for Councillors

Any further allocation of councillor responsibilities is delayed till August when the council will have a full complement of members. Friends of Appledore Station no longer requires a council representative. Councillors are reminded that as a representative they will make regular reports on the group's activities.

The K6 Telephone Box has been repainted.

The clerk had received a request for the council to reconsider its Grant and Donation Policy and this will be on the agenda for the next council meeting.

In response to query, the clerk advised that the date agreed by the parish council to pass on the feed in tariff payments to the village hall is 1st April 2024 or when the parish council first receive income from the affordable house when built as part of the residential development of the former council field.

The clerk is in the process of repairing the baby changing unit belt in the ladies public toilets.

The clerk had recently received various queries with a connection to the environment and asked if the council should formulate a policy to answer these and cover the actions already taken. Councillor Davis would draft a policy for the council regarding net zero, becoming carbon neutral and the environment.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting: Monday 1st August 2022, 7.30pm, Appledore Village Hall.