

APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL



4th January 2021 Minutes of the Virtual Meeting 7.30 pm

Present

James Perkins (Chair), Roger Hiskey, Helen Hennig, Lyndsey Jenkins, Charles Wilkinson and Chris Vane

In Attendance: County Councillor Mike Hill and the Clerk Mary Philo

Members of the Public: 13

1. Formalities

I) The council was quorate. (LGA Act 1972 schedule12, 12/28/45)

II) Apologies had been received from Councillor Winter. It was resolved to agree his absence.
(LGA 1972 schedule12, 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 7th December 2020 as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Hiskey and seconded Councillor Jenkins. (LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

The meeting was adjourned at 7.37 pm

Report from County Councillor Mike Hill

The County Council work had been dominated by Covid-19 and Brexit. During the tier 4 restrictions for Kent, services had continued to run on a restricted basis. A few libraries had closed whilst others offered a click and collect service. Civic weddings were cancelled. Support for the NHS continued and symptom free Covid testing centres were now being rolled out. One would be available in Ashford. Tests could be booked via Kent County Council's website. At the time of the meeting most primary schools in Kent were closed and secondary schools were reopening with a staggered start across the year groups. A government announcement scheduled for later in the evening may mean further changes.

The French Government's decision to close, just before Christmas, the channel route (rail and ferry) because of the pandemic, resulted in lorries backing up in ports and on motorways. The plans for Brexit had been deployed. Once the border reopened and Covid testing of drivers was underway at Manston Airport and Operation Stack, these had been replaced with Operation Brock. The blockage cleared quickly although the Port of Dover had seen significant disruption. Difficulties were anticipated again, as under the very recently agreed Brexit deal more paperwork would be required. Following the New Year, traffic crossing the border is yet to reach its usual levels. The County Council had closed its budget gap and it should be approved in February.

Public Questions.

Sale of Council Field

A resident restated their request that the council halt expenditure of the proceeds of the council field sale and reconsider the refurbishment works in the light of the pandemic and that the council should work with them to ascertain what residents would like the funds to be used for. They also requested that

residents work with the council to approach Martello to discuss the issues around the refurbishment of the hall. The council suggested that the group should bring proposals resulting from the questionnaire to be discussed at the next council meeting.

Financial Strategy Policy 2021

In response to a query the National Association for Local Councils recommends that council's hold around the sum equal to about 50% of its precept as a reserve. The new policy reflected the council's previous decision to hold a lower amount in reserves and the allocation of excess reserves to highways improvements. As a result, the council is able to keep much tighter budget control.

Model Standing Order and policies to be considered at the meeting

The clerk to look into the paging issue that was brought to her attention. Various date issues were highlighted on these.

No. 1 The Street

A couple of residents commented that the proposal to paint the historic building more than it already is, would be inappropriate. Painting the side near to the ditch to resolve damp issues would be appropriate as it is already painted. The building is not listed.

Reconvening Meeting at 8.05 pm

3. Planning

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

3.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council:

20/01564/AS and 20/01565/AS Listed Building Consent- Queen's Arms, 2 Court Lodge Road: Provision for lime mortar render to lower half of flank wall – Permitted.

3.2 Planning applications to consider

20/01688/AS The Tithe Barn, The Street: Single Storey Rear Extension. It was resolved to support this application. Proposed by Councillor Jenkins and supported by Councillor Hiskey.

20/01721/AS No 1 The Street: Variation of condition 2 on planning permission 18/00381/AS (part demolition, conversion and extension of existing building to provide office accommodation or use as a Heritage Centre and the erection of 4 detached dwellings) to change the external appearance of the existing mill to include Keim Mineral Paint to the brickwork to the South, North and Eastern elevations. It was resolved to comment as follows: The Parish Council considers that it would be appropriate that only the walls already painted, ought to be repainted and all the options available to deal with the brick work issue should be reconsidered along with an explanation as to why these are not being put forward. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Perkins.

4. Policies

It was resolved to reconfirm the following policies: (policies can be found on the website)

Armed Forces Covenant

Co-option Policy

Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

Equal Opportunities Policy

Grants Policy

Health and Safety Statement

Financial Regulations with the amendment to raise the threshold which requires 3 quotes to £500

Financial Strategy as per amended copy distributed

Media and Communication Policy

Publication Scheme

Public Communication and Public Enquiries Policy

Proposed by Councillor Hiskey and seconded by Councillor Vane

5. Highways Update

Only the removal of 40mph road surface roundels were outstanding from the Phase I works. There may be some damage to the road surface as a result of its removal. The road would only be resurfaced if the surface was considered hazardous in which case Highways may find some funding for these. Councillor Hennig would ascertain costs. The replacement Appledore Village sign on Tenterden Road appeared to have slipped down the posts.

7 road surface 30mph roundels through the village

Highways had provided an estimate of £4931.29 which Highways may offer some funding assistance. These would have to be included in Phase II of Appledore Highways Improvement Plan.

Speed Watch

This can only start after the all the speed limit signs showed the correct speed and then only when Covid allows it which may be spring this year.

Pedestrian Crossing

The required survey for a crossing is around £1,000. Since Highways have advised that the survey is unlikely to record the numbers needed, it may not be justifiable expenditure. Councillor Hennig would enquire about any ways to reduce the cost.

Faults/concerns reported

The road condition of Station Road and Marsh Road have been made worse by the weather conditions but are being reported. The footpath sign post at Park Farm has been temporarily propped up and the footpath Warden Paul Ripley has suggested laying wood chipping at footpath steps to the canal bridge. The graffiti to the pill box is being reported to the National Trust.

6. Update on Public Conveniences

There has been a delivery delay for the cubicles which are anticipated mid-January. Completion should be about two weeks after that.

7. Finances

7.1 Bank Account: as at 30th November 2020 £41,359.62

7.2 November Receipts

£0.18	November Bank Interest
£44.68	Public Conveniences Donations

7.3 December Payments

£61.04	Laser: Toilets September electricity charge
£40.28	Laser: Toilets October and November
£42.00	Refund C Vane: Broadband Leaflet
£1664.43	December Salaries
£30.24	Pett PC: Share of Clerk's mobile phone October to December

7.4 Precept 2021 - 2022

It was resolved to set the precept for financial year 2021-2022 at £26,000 per annum. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Vane.

8 Council Insurance

The council insurance renewal date is the 27th January. The insurance value for the public toilets has been increased to reflect replacement build cost. **It was resolved to renew the insurance with Zurich insurance Company.** Cost £453.56 (last year's premium £450.13). Proposed Councillor Hiskey and seconded Councillor Jenkins.

9. Clerk Society Subscription

It was resolved to pay the Clerk's annual subscription to the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Cost to be shared by Appledore, Pett and Iden Parish council in proportion to their precept. Appledore share £83.20. Proposed by Councillor Hiskey and seconded by Councillor Vane.

10. High Speed Broadband

The Clerk submitted 65 households plus 6 others without recognised addresses to the open reach site, on the 1st January 2021. Advice is that it takes a few weeks to get an initial ball park quote. Those who had registered were very spread across the parish.

11. Residential Enabling Car Park Court Lodge Car

The new application for 5 dwellings and car park was approved on the 10th December with the same conditions as the previous application. The developer had advised that the recording of artefacts found during the archeological dig would not delay progress. Archeological works and the ecologist would be finishing this month.

12. Date of Next Meeting - Virtual

Monday 1st February 7.30pm 2021, not the 8th as advised at the meeting.