



6th March 2023
Minutes of the Meeting
7.30 pm Village Hall

Present

Roger Hiskey (Chairman), Toby Davis, Gary Kinsley, Chester Lusk, Paula Thornton, Charles Wilkinson and Derek Winter.

In attendance: District Councillor Mick Burgess and the Clerk Mary Philo

Members of the Public: 6

1. Formalities

I) Quorum

The council was quorate.

II) Apologies

County Councillor Hill.

(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 6th February 2023 as a true record.

Proposed by Councillor Davis and seconded Councillor Lusk.

(LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

Report from Borough Councillor Mick Burgess

Citizen's Advice Bureau may be interested in holding a drop-in centre in Appledore. The hall trustees were already aware of its interest.

Miss Mollets is applying for an alcohol license.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the issues with the recently approved development for 4 flats in the open space area of Heathside. These included the loss of amenity space, loss of country outlook, lack of parking spaces, the dilapidation of unused garage blocks and their asbestos rooves, poor bus service, waterlogging of the site area, the existence of protected species and the difficulties for cars exiting the road.

Public Questions 7.53pm

Court Lodge Car Park

A resident queried the procedure regarding obtaining quotes.

Appledore Local History Society

A member had spoken to Active Appledore about the plans for a refurbished and extended pavilion on the recreation ground and been informed that there was no planned extension for the History Society.

The meeting reconvened at 7.50 pm

3. Planning

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

3.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

I) PA 2022/2625 The Old Bakery, Court Lodge Road: Proposed alterations to existing roof including addition of 2 no. dormers. Refused.

II) PA/2022/3166 Mill House, Heath Road: Proposed part single and part two-storey rear extension. Alteration to fenestrations to the front and rear. Granted.

III) 3 Maple place, Court Lodge Road: Application to install 6 x solar panels. Granted.

3.2 Planning Applications Considered

None.

3.3. Application 22/00056/AS Land between 10 and 13 Heathside: Erection of 1 (no) a block of flats comprising 4 (no) apartments including associated vehicular and pedestrian access, parking and landscaping.

It was resolved that Appledore Parish Council communicates to Ashford Borough Council its disagreement with the decision to allow 4 one-bedroom flats. Proposed by Councillor Kinsley and seconded by Councillor Winter.

4. Kent County Council Community Service Consultation

KCC is currently consulting on community services and is looking to reduce costs by reducing the number of buildings used to provide services. It was resolved to write to KCC and suggest that the hiring of small halls such as Appledore's might be a way of helping KCC with this issue. Proposed by Councillor Hiskey and Councillor Paula Thornton.

5. Residential Enabled Car Park Court Lodge Road

Following on from the transfer of the freehold of the car park on the 17th February, the contractor holding the signs (tourist sign and car park information sign) was met on site to discuss the location. Whilst there an inspection of the site was carried out and various major safety issues were noted. The contractor quoted for the safety work and the erection of the signage. Conversations continue with Court Developments (CD) to push along the erection of the agreed traffic management signage including yellow lining. Contact has been made with E.ON to take over the electrical supply. A meter reading has to be taken but the key for the cabinet has been lost. CD will have a new lock put on and read the meter.

The quote for the safety work exceeds the financial regulations emergency allowance. Obtaining further quotes will delay the safety issues being dealt with and closing the car park only limits the possibility of an accident.

It was resolved to contract Platford Contractors Ltd to complete various emergency works, for safety reasons, to the car park (extra fencing to provide cover for dangerous materials and prevent access into neighbouring properties, gate at road end of canal footpath, remove dangerous metal in open areas)

and erect car park signs. Cost £2,650.00 plus vat. Money to come from the funds ring fenced for Highways. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded Councillor Lusk.

It was resolved to acquire plants for the car park flower bed. Budget £ 250. Money to come from the funds ring fenced for Highways. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Winter.

It was resolved to acquire two disabled parking spaces sign and two 'Please close the gate'. Cost about £50.00. Money to come from the funds ring fenced for Highways. Proposed by Councillor Thornton and Councillor Winter.

6. Highways and Byways

Appledore Village Stores owner has asked if anything could be done to stop parking in front of the shop as it makes it difficult to take deliveries. Previous enquiries have revealed that there is nothing the parish council can do to assist. Councillor Hiskey will report the Kenardington potholes again. Councillor Wilkinson had reported the dangerous pothole on the way into Hamstreet.

7. Community Engagement

7.1 Resilience Planning

The survey collection box has been removed from Appledore Village Stores. Seven more volunteers have been added to the data base.

7.2 Speed watch

A session was held on the 9th February and another is scheduled.

7.3 Litter

The general waste bin at the public convenience has been reported as broken and the adjacent recycling bin has not been fitted correctly. These issues will be resolved in the coming weeks. March is the Spring Cleaning Month for litter and the borough council has lent 2 banners and 2 bin posters with their anti-litter campaign, to be put up in the parish. The borough has also provided litter pickers, bags with hoops for any residents that wish to help with litter picking. There is a guidance leaflet for volunteers. It was noted that the play area bin is in poor condition and needs looking at.

7.4 Planters and Plant Displays

Small mounted plant baskets were suggested for the new gateways. The Clerk to ascertain if these would be allowed.

8. Finances

8.1 Bank Account

As at 31st January 2023 stood at £99,096.05 (this includes £62,343.01 ring fenced for capital projects and £11,343.69 ring fenced for highways). Remaining funds £25,409.35 including £13,000 reserve.

8.2 January Receipts

£63.89	Bank Interest
£46.91	Public donations from the Public Conveniences
£10.02	Public donations from the Public Conveniences

8.3 January Payments

£122.90	TP Jones & LLP: Payroll July to September and October to December (vat £ 20.48)
£78.66	LASER Energy Public Toilets September to November (vat £3.75)
£43.18	Kent County Council: Toilet requisites (vat£7.20)
£460.71	Zurich Municipal: Council insurance

£2,430.69 December Salaries and HMRC 3rd Quarter

8.4 Additional January Payments

£90.00 P Caro: Car park at hall- Leaves and hedge
£1,800 Wellers Hedley LLP: Car Park Transfer (vat £300.00)
£66.00 Gibbs and Son: grass cutting round the public toilets (vat £11.00)
£189.44 Castle Water: Public Conveniences Fresh Water January to Jun 2023
£54.21 VR Sani-Co Ltd: Sanitary Waste February to May 2023

8.5 It was resolved to make the following payments

£39.11 Refund M Philo: Postage £8.89 and toilet requisites £18.02 (vat £3) and litter picking
£12.20 (vat £2.03)
£100.00 Village Hall: Room hire for January to March including annual parish meeting
£14.79 Pett Parish Council: Share of mobile phone January to March 2023
Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Lusk

8.6. Internal Audit

To agree to contract Mike Cuerden to complete an appropriate internal audit of the council. Hourly rate is £31 an hour so about £350 in total. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Winter.

9. Information for Councillors

'Purdah' starts on the 24th March. During this period the parish council is not permitted to support political parties or candidates standing for elections. Councillor emails are not to be used for election campaigning.

Nomination forms for parish elections are already available from Ashford Borough Council.

Following the decision by ABC to build on Heathside, Ashford Borough Council are looking into amending the section 106 contract to allow the funds (around £15,000) to be spent on the play area on the recreation ground. In due course further sums for the linear park (about £9,000), Mug/tennis court (about £22,000) will also be available from the infrastructure charges paid on the former council field. Councillor Kinsley had been in contact with the Football Association with a view to accessing additional funds for improvements to the recreation ground.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3rd April 2023, 7.30pm, Appledore Village Hall

11. Staffing Issues

Pursuant to section 1) of the Public Bodies (Admissions Act) 1960, it was resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during the item regarding Staffing Issues. Proposed by Councillor Thornton and Seconded by Councillor Davis
LGA sch. 12A part 1.3 (Personnel)

It was resolved to employ Denis Haylen for six months as litter picker as temporary replacement for Tom Hennessey.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm