

**Appledore Parish Meeting
Minutes
18th March 2019, 7.30pm, Village Hall**

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone – There were 20 members of the public in attendance. Apologies were noted from District Councillor Mick Burgess who was attending another parish meeting scheduled for the same date and time.

Minutes of the last Parish Meeting

The minutes of the 23rd April were agreed.

Report by the Chairman of Appledore Parish Council

Report attached.

County Councillor Mike Hill

Report attached.

Reports from Local Groups

Appledore Parish Magazine

Report attached.

Appledore History Society

Report attached.

Carm

Carm provide a befriending service to help the lonely to make each day bearable. Carm has 8-part timers working at the Methodist Chapel who with the help of 100 volunteers work with 300 lonely and isolated people in the Romney Marsh area. If you know of anyone who may be lonely please contact them. The befriending service will provide them with about 80 minutes of companionship a week. It also provides reminiscence musical sessions mainly at homes to help those with dementia come out of themselves. Carm also hosts help points including one in Appledore. Giving up some of your time to chat with someone who is feeling lonely is very rewarding. If you would like more information about Carm take a look at their website <https://carmromneymarsh.org.uk> or contact them on 01233 758 122

Village Hall Report

Report attached.

Appledore Garden Society

Report attached.

'Roundabout' Kentish Messenger

The deadline for the reports to the Messenger is Sunday. So, if you would like to advertise any local event in the paper you must get the information to Ruth Smith by Saturday evening. It would help Ruth if you could let her know about events happening

only two weeks in advance. If Ruth has been not been able to attend your event, she is happy to include a review. Obviously, you will have to send her a report on the event but it must be within a week of the event happening. Ruth can be contacted as follows: ruthsmith@sky.com or telephone 01233 758 564

Friends of Appledore Station
Report attached.

Air Ambulance Presentation

Air Ambulance is a charitable body not funded by government which supplies an additional service to that provided by the government ambulance service. It brings the ability to carryout surgery on the spot to save lives till the patient is transported to the appropriate hospital. Air Ambulance covers Kent, Surrey and Sussex areas with 2 helicopters which are in 24-hour service with a team consisting of an experienced consultant doctor, an anaesthetist, pilot and paramedic. It also has three rapid response vehicles. The service costs £11 million a year to run. Air Ambulance raise money via monthly and weekly lotteries as well as accepting direct donations and bequests from wills. If you would like to make a donation of time or money, please take a look at their website <https://www.aakss.org.uk/>.

Public Questions

None

Meeting Closed

9.30pm

Parish Council Chairman's Report

This year, like Brexit has been challenging but I think that everyone will agree that 2018 was a good year for our village.

Dominated of course by the sale of the Parish Field.

Chris Vane has worked tireless throughout the year negotiating with Martello Developments to achieve our current position.

Planned is an open forum presentation. This is to be held over a weekend, allowing for as many people as possible to drop by, view the proposals and air their views. Please do come along, although the contract has been signed to work with Martello, the ideas within it are not completely finalised.

The road signage and speed problems are an on-going concern. As a result of Charles and Helen's determined efforts, the speed restrictions surrounding the village at various locations are planned to be lowered in the near future.

Everyone will agree that The History Society organised a series of memorable events for the Centenary Remembrance Weekend. Many thanks to all concerned and we will hear more from them shortly.

Thanks to Tom and Bev for all of their continued hard, keeping the village clean and tidy.

Council members, an enormous thank you to you all, without your tireless efforts we would not have achieved what we have.

Lindsay The Hall Committee

Helen Friends of Appledore Station

Charles Highways

Derek Recreation Ground

Chris The Field Project

Roger Roger is our newest member of our team and has very much been our 'go to man' any projects, however small or large we put his way, always coming up with a positive result. Thank you, Roger.

Mary Thank you for keeping us in check and up to date with all information.

This year in early May are the Parish Council elections for those who wish to stand for the Council. All are welcome, if interested; please speak to our clerk Mary Philo

Report for Mike Hill County Councillor

During the last year I have continued in my post as Cabinet Member for Community Services. This portfolio contains some 15 front-line services including many of our softer discretionary services such as sport and the arts.

Council activity over the last few months has been focussed on budget and Brexit. The budget was the most difficult to set in the 18 years I have been in the County Council. In early December we were looking at a £20m blackhole which we were unable to fill without the prospect of serious damage to some services. However, at the last minute, just before Christmas, we received additional funding from Government who had finally realised the desperate straits many County Councils were in, highlighted by the financial failure of Northampton and dire warnings from half a dozen others. This extra funding allowed us to set a budget in February. It has required us to increase Council Tax by the maximum permitted level of 3% plus an additional 2% for Adult Social Care. I am afraid we had absolutely no alternative. Although the budget is very tight and has required savings to be made right across the Council, I am pleased to say we have retained some very significant discretionary expenditure to provide to those service so important to the quality of life of our residents. The prospects of next year are also looking very demanding with the hope of better things to come the year after.

For Brexit we have been planning for some months for a no deal scenario focussing on three main areas: transport, Trading Standards and resilience.

Transport

We have been working with Highways England to minimise disruption to the road system of Kent. The plan is to absorb the expected build-up of lorries delayed at the tunnel and the ports by increased parking at Dover, a new contraflow system on the M20 to allow the motorway to be kept open while still parking a large number of lorries, utilising Manston Airport to park vehicles and in extremis using the M26. These measures will provide capacity to absorb some 12k lorries while maintaining access to the motorways. It should be much better than Operation Stack.

Trading Standards

This is a major concern as we need to prevent illegal and unsafe goods entering the country. We have already recruited extra Trading Standards Officers and in the event of no deal may need more. Any use of alternative ports to Dover will exacerbate Trading Standards problems.

Resilience

KCC has been overhauling all its business continuity plans and providing advice to other businesses. We are looking at the option of working from home or using remote work sites such as libraries. We are also looking at the possible problems of major road disruption including schools, hospitals and vulnerable residents.

Other highlights have been:

Highways

Increased investment in Highways which has seen a funding rise from £70m in 17.18 to £96m next year.

Libraries

We have just launched our three-year strategy which does include some reductions in opening hours in order to meet severe financial challenges but crucially keeps all our libraries open. In contrast to many authorities who are planning wholesale closure of libraries.

Community Transport

I am pleased to say that one of our community transport pilots will be based in Tenterden and will provide a taxi bus service to Tenterden and surrounding villages. The pilot will run for 12 months starting in June this year.

And finally, the next County Council elections will be in 2021 so I am looking forward to another two years as your representative at County Hall. I am very much enjoying this role particularly the interaction with Parish Councils and local communities.

Appledore Parish Magazine

As the Editor of this local periodical, I am proud to say that the Appledore Parish Magazine is delivered to over 400 homes in the region free of charge and has a good selection of advertisements which support local businesses (my thanks to Brian Knight, who is in charge of this particular aspect). The team and I post most copies by hand or

mail while a few are sent out electronically; alternatively, for non-residents, the magazine is on sale in the village store and can also be purchased from the church.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who assist with printing, collating, and distributing - but we would happily welcome anyone else who is willing to lend a hand.

Occasionally, a private group has asked to produce a design for the front cover - this they print and pay for themselves. This is a welcome and successful idea that has provided us with some lovely and varied covers over the last twelve months.

Thanks to substantial donations and the success of our advertising, earlier this year we purchased a laptop along with more up-to-date software for the Editor; this has meant that no one need use their personal computer in order to compile all the articles together - I should also note that the new laptop is used solely for the production of the magazine. The electronic archive is stored on the hard-drive while paper copies of much older versions are stored by the Editor.

We use a rather large printer to bring your local magazine to press - and that printer is looking for a permanent home. At the moment, a space is rented in the Pavilion; however, with the works planned, we do not know what will happen to this facility. The paper and the printer itself take up a considerable amount of room. Ideally, these items (along with the archived versions of past magazines) should be stored in the Village Hall which is the hub of village life. I have requested that space should be provided for the printer within the planning for the renovations but this does not appear to be possible. I repeat my request here that a space should be provided for the Parish Magazine printer in the new and improved Village Hall.

And finally, we will be entering the National Parish Council 2019 Awards again this year - so watch this space!

Appledore Local History Society

The Appledore Local History Society meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Methodist Chapel where anyone is welcome to join us

We collect anything connected with the Village and surrounding area, be it written memories, family history, documents, property deeds, photos, pictures, artifacts etc. If anyone has items that would be of interest to the Society but does not wish to part with them, then we would be grateful if we could copy or photograph such items.

Some of our members have been very busy copying archive material onto our database with a lot more still to be done. On Sunday 28th April between 2.00pm and 4.30pm in the Village Hall we will be hosting a demonstration of our Community Chest database showing what we have loaded so far and how it can be accessed. There will also be a slide show of pictures relevant to the village.

There is no admission charge and refreshments will be available so do please come along.

We continue to produce the Walk Down the Street leaflets which give a brief history of the older properties in the street. These are on sale at Miss Molletts High Class Tea Room.

As mentioned last year the two signs giving details of the PLUTO Pipeline have been installed near the footpaths adjacent to the pipeline where it passes through the Village.

Last year the Society arranged the construction and installation of a Beacon near Mill Hill and I would like on behalf of the Society to convey thanks to everyone involved in that project. The Beacon was erected for the 'Battle's Over- A Nations Tribute' event which was organised by a separate committee but the History Society was very much involved.

We arranged a talk last year on the Royal Military Canal. Whilst it was well attended and interesting the subject was not quite what we were expecting.

We have a talk booked for Friday 17th May this year by Andy Saunders called 'Weird War 2' which is a selection of strange and bizarre stories from WW2.

We have on a previous occasion enjoyed a talk by Andy on the Messerschmitt 109 Shot Down Over Appledore.

Last summer we had a stand at the Village Car Rally exhibiting some of the Society's activities and in September we gave a Group of WI members from the East Kent Federation a guided walk of the Street giving the history of various houses and the village.

Two years ago, the History Society was involved in setting up a WW1 Heritage Trail in the village. As part of this we located and marked all the graves or memorials of soldiers killed in WW1. We were very disappointed to find that several were hidden under brambles or overgrown trees.

As a result of this one of our members contacted Ashford Borough Council, who are responsible for the maintenance of the Old Churchyard and they agreed to carry out the necessary works. This was carried out last year and in order to maintain the area History Society members and other volunteers recently spent a Saturday morning tidying around the Churchyard, edging paths, weeding flower beds, strimming round graves and walls etc. Our thanks to everyone involved.

We have our own Appledore Local History Society web site which is updated regularly. It is well worth a visit and can be found at www.appledorehistory.org.uk.

Once again if anyone wishes to join the History Society, they would be very welcome.

Appledore Village Hall

This has been a busy year successfully developing the use of the hall.

Bookings have increased substantially with regular bookings on all days. Most are weekly but some fortnightly or monthly.

In addition to fitness classes through T'ai Chi, Pilates and Yoga, you can now enjoy participating in the Rock Choir, sewing events, a variety of markets — craft, antique and food — or come to the regular coffee mornings and film nights.

There are also regular bookings for parties and family events.

The total number of people attending varies but total footfall in any one week would be upwards of 100 — 130.

The increased use means increases in cleaning and heating costs. As people hiring the Village Hall frequently comment on the cleanliness and appropriate temperature, it is important to maintain this.

As part of our plan we reviewed the Hire agreement and the Hire rates for the Hall — comparing them to others. This was difficult as Halls vary in what they have to Offer. However, the Trustees agreed new rates and they were introduced in January. Regular users have been able to negotiate rates and apart from one group, these have been agreed.

I would like to thank Marilyn Ray for her hard work in supporting and implementing the development and organisation of the Booking system.

The Village Hall Management Committee have had fantastic support from the Entertainment Committee in organising some enjoyable Fund-Raising Events — most recently the St Patrick's Day Event. Thank you especially to the team of Linda, Jenny, Marilyn, plus Sean and Roger and the wonderful waiters and waitresses. Our next main event is a Quiz and a Film and Curry night in July.

We have had our problems! The Heating being the main one. There are few firms that deal with servicing and repairs of this type of system. The complete breakdown has caused us to look more closely at re-using it in the refurbished hall. I shall be consulting over a more efficient and reliable system.

In addition, our Treasurer Will Roiston moved away from the area. The Finance team have taken over the financial of the Charity. However, we are looking for someone to take on the role.

Looking to the future the Trustees would like to reassure you.

I know many of you have specific concerns about the proposed developments, and your concerns will be listened to. However, it is important to look at the bigger picture. The plans are a development — building on the past. They won't Suit everyone but we are looking to the future to develop a hall that will cater for the requirements of the next generation. That means change but also compromise — by all parties. The Trustees are

working as a team to ensure all aspects of the refurbishment are monitored and the Parish Council have agreed to inform us of developments at all stages.

In the immediate future our concern is how to maintain the activities of the hall while it is closed. The Trustees are actively working on this but do not know when or for how long. This uncertainty has sadly already led to one group moving to alternative premises from April. We have yet to know how the building and refurbishment schedule is planned. Closing both the Hall and the Car Park will impact on the whole village and I ask for your support during this period.

The uncertainty is not helpful — but unavoidable. In the meantime, we continue to plan for the future. If you are interested in joining our team of willing helpers please contact me. The more people we have, the easier the work becomes.

Thank you all for supporting the events in the hall.

Appledore Garden Society

The Appledore Gardeners' Society is in good health.

We currently have 36 members, and new members are always welcome.

We meet generally, on the last Wednesday of every month, with a speaker on Wednesdays during the winter. These are currently held in the Methodist Chapel in the Street at 7.00 p.m.

We've just enjoyed our annual gardening quiz, with the knowledgeable, original and highly entertaining Jackie Aviolet. Topics on our programme this year include.

a) "Learning from the Wild" – how plants from around the world can be grown in our gardens;

b) "More gardening for less effort" (we must all be interested in that!),

c) and a talk on the Himalayan Gardens at Riverhill, near Sevenoaks, which we then plan to visit in 2020.

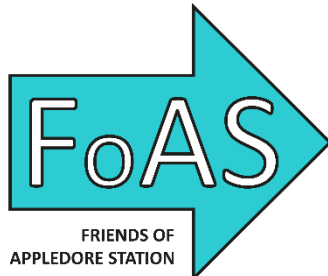
On Saturday 11th May we are holding our annual Plant Sale in the Village Hall. This is a popular event and raises important funds both for the Society, and more importantly, for the Rare Breeds Charitable Trust at Woodchurch.

During the summer we visit gardens which are usually not open to the general public. This year we are going to 2 gardens near Faversham; Orchard House and Wheelgate Nursery near Yalding; Godinton House; and Vita Sackville-West's first garden at Long Barn, near Sevenoaks. Particularly fascinating will be a guided tour of the RSPB Reserve at Dungeness, with its unique and rare flora.

A highlight of our year is a 2-day trip to gardens in an interesting area. This year we are visiting gardens near Tonbridge and Edenbridge, also taking in Hever Castle and Penshurst Place, and staying the night at The Leicester Arms, in Penshurst.

Indeed, the social element of the Society is very important. We try to arrange a lunch together on our garden visits, and also hold a summer picnic in the garden of one of our members, as well as a Christmas Party.

We hope, above all, that our Society is fun, and look forward to seeing some new faces, as well as the old, at our meetings.



Friends of Appledore Station

Friends of Appledore Station was Established to 'Improve the Image of Appledore Station by Providing a More Attractive, User Friendly Facility and thereby Encourage an Increase in the Usage of the Marshlink Rail Service'

The Major Issue that affects commuters and other passengers from Appledore and surrounding villages is the inadequacy of Car Parking, compounded by the introduction of marked bays and the anticipated introduction of parking charges, later in 2019. Penalty Notices have already been introduced for anyone parking outside of the marked bays, or in the hash marked areas. The issue is further aggravated by local residents who are not actually using the rail services, but park their vehicles in the station car park.

Matters were exacerbated recently by an unannounced programme of work initiated by Network Rail, with a team of Sub-Contractors taking over much of the car park for the best part of a week, as they installed level crossing security cameras, either side of the tracks.

Parking options have been discussed and prioritised. FoAS are seeking to find a workable solution, as it is evident that some commuters and passengers have been lost to the Marshlink Line, as they have naturally adopted alternative travel arrangements, in view of the uncertainty of parking availability.

Following extended overtures to Network Rail regarding their intentions for the main station building, we were advised during early February 2019, that as part of their surplus real estate divestiture programme, NR had sold off Appledore station and associated property to The Arch Company. We made contact with TAC, and were eventually informed that the main station building was not amongst the properties that they acquired. It seems that they do now own the old Goods Shed and land and buildings behind. We have again contacted NR, but are yet to receive a definitive answer regarding ownership, preservation, maintenance and intentions, for the 'listed' Appledore station building.

The first major Work party of the year will take place on Saturday, 23rd March 2019 and will involve the construction and painting of 6 Planters, in readiness for installation on the platforms. Once installed, a second Work Party will be organised to populate the Planters. A rota of Volunteers will be established to care for the Planters. A secure water supply has been installed for use by FoAS. Sponsorship will be invited for each of the Planters with appropriate recognition displayed.

Items under current consideration by FoAS are the expansion of the station name, to include a tag line e.g. 'Appledore - Pathway to the Romney Marsh Villages', Installation of a Defibrillator, Additional Platform Seating and Expansion of Bicycle Storage. Longer term plans involve a Pathway and a Bus Link from the village to the station and subject to what is learned from whoever does own the station buildings, creation of a Multi-Use Community Facility, including Public Toilets.