



**4<sup>th</sup> October 2021**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**7.30 pm St. Peter and St. Paul**

**Present**

James Perkins (Chair), Helen Hennig, Gary Kinsley, Charles Wilkinson, Chris Vane and Derek Winter.  
In attendance: County Councillor Mike Hill, Borough Councillor Mick Burgess and the Clerk Mary Philo.  
Members of the Public: 1

**1. Formalities**

**I) Quorum**

The council was quorate.

**II) Apologies**

Councillor Hiskey

(LGA 1972 schedule12, 12)

**III) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

None but some interests were declared later

(Code of Conduct)

**2. Approval of Draft Minutes**

**It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 as a true record.**

Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded Councillor Perkins. (LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7.31pm.

**Report from Borough Councillor Mick Burgess**

Ashford car parks, run by National Car Parks, are being refurbished and will re-open thereafter.  
Afghan refugees are currently being temporarily homed in hotels, but 5 families will be taken on permanently and initially housed in private accommodation, in the exactly the same way as Syrian Refugees.

**Report from County Councillor Mike Hill**

Council services are almost totally recovered from Covid. The back log of weddings has been cleared and the pressure from assisting the vulnerable is reducing.

Trading Standards officers are busy with the new regulations following Brexit and seventeen further new officers are being employed. Currently there is no hold up for imports but the supply chain could be disrupted by strikes at French Ports.

The budgeting process is underway and the county council awaits central government's decision regarding the amount of funding for county councils. County council tax for next year may have to increase.

**Public Questions**

Solar Panel Fit Payments

A member of the public questioned if it was sensible to pass on the Feed in Tariff payment to the village hall when the hall is already the largest beneficiary of the sale of the council field.

Councillors Interests

A member of the public queried councillors' declarations of interest.

### **The meeting reconvened at 7.42 pm**

### **3. Planning**

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

#### **3.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council**

I) 21/01405/AS The Old Bakery, Court Lodge Road: Installation of two rear roof lights – permitted

II) 20/00423/AS Elm Lodge, Tenterden Road: Erection of 3 dwellings with Associated access, parking and landscaping. – permitted

III) 21/00385/AS Land between Old watch house and Chi An Geltyon 2A, The Street: Erection of dwelling with associated access and landscaping – refused

IV) 21/01069/AS Listed Building Consent - Hornes Place, Kenardington Road: Internal alterations to include removal and provision of internal walls/doors, unblocking existing opening, replacement flooring, alterations of existing external opening – granted

V) 21/00790/AS – (in brief) 145 houses on Homewood School plying fields, Appledore Road – refused.

#### **3.2 Planning Applications Considered**

None.

### **4. Highways and Byways**

#### **4.1 Vision Zero**

Councillor Wilkinson had attended the event to launch Vision Zero which aims to reduce road deaths and injuries as close as possible to zero by 2050. The well organised event highlighted beneficial new technology such as Autonomous Emergency Braking. However, the question of what a parish council could do and the role it might play was still to be answered. The timeline for it is long and the idea is very ambitious.

#### **4.2 August Road Closure at the Narrows**

Whilst South East Water had responded to the council's letter of complaint about the works delay and poor signage within a couple of weeks, the council was only aware that Highways had received the letter as a result of enquiry from County Councillor Hill's Staff Officer. Highways is still to respond. County Councillor Hill offered to push the matter along.

#### **4.3 Report by Councillor Hennig**

Highway's officer had suggested that once the results of the traffic survey and footfall survey were in hand that a site meeting could be held to finalise the Phase 2 scheme including roundels and gateways for Appledore. Councillor Hennig thanked again those who were assisting with the footpath review. This group is waiting to hear from Public Rights of Way about any work they might undertake themselves. A footpath group meeting had been deferred to allow the council chairman to attend to help identify landowners. The group is considering how to approach the various landowners.

### **5. Finances**

#### **5.1 Bank Account**

As at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 £ 110,829.79 (this includes £70,000 ring fenced for capital projects and £19,985 ring fenced for highways)

## 5.2 August Receipts

£0.80	August Bank Interest
£8.06	Public Conveniences' Public Donations
£17.47	Public Conveniences' Public Donations

## 5.3 August Payments

£58.50	TP Jones & Co LLP (vat £9.75)
£35.69	Refund M Philo Administration Costs: stamps £3.02, Stationary £2.17 (vat £0.36), toilet requisites £30.50 (vat £5.08)
£52.80	V R Sani Co: Toilet sanitary collection March to August (vat £8.80)
£115.00	Kent County Council: Traffic Survey (no vat)
£50.00	Sponsorship: Flower Festival 1972 s145
£1,231.01	August Salaries

## 5.4 Additional September Payments

£44.94	Laser: Public Toilets Electricity June to August (vat £2.14)
£226.00	D B Griffiths: repair to noticeboards
£360.00	J C Wickens: work to install 12 oak posts along The Street verge
£60.00	KALC: New Councillor training (vat £10.00)
£52.70	Refund M Philo: £4.34 stamps, toilet requisites £48.36 (vat £7.57)
£1,759.70	September salary and HMRC

## 5.5 Agreement of payments

None.

## 5.5 Preliminary Budget

It was highlighted that the only guaranteed income for the parish council is the precept as the concurrent function grant stopped last financial year. The preliminary budget does not include donations from the public toilets as this cannot be guaranteed. The volume of donations is considerably down in comparison with pre-Covid levels. To assist with the following item, Feed in Tariff payments from the solar panels is also not included. Thus, total income available £26,029.00.

Budgeted payments had been juggled with a few small reductions. However, solicitor's fees have been increased to £3,000 to cover legally taking on the car park on Court Lodge Road and 'election and small assets budget' has been removed altogether. The historic sign in front of St. Peter and St. Paul Church is the 'small asset' in the most need and its refurbishment is the most expensive by far. Its refurbishment is part of the Appledore Signage project. No further work on it should be needed for a considerable time. The small asset budget has never been enough to cover the cost of anything but a very limited amount of up keep. This made total budgeted expenditure £26,195.00.

Rental income from the council owned affordable house on the ex-council field development will only come on stream once the house is built. Building work is being delayed by discussions with the archaeological officer who appears to require further digging. The first set of trenches were dug and work completed several months ago. No progress on the site has been made since then. Councillor Michael Hill asked to be updated with discussions in order to speak with the officer.

## 5.6 Solar Panels on the Village Hall

Councillors Winter and Kinsley had a pecuniary interest as executive committee members of the Village Hall Charity.

The village hall had requested that they become the beneficiary of the remaining years of Feed in Tariff payments period of 25 years, which started in 2012. About sixteen years currently remained. The cost of installing the solar panels was £9,816 and total fit payments received to date is £15,486.20. Due to the hall refurbishment works the solar panels are not working and therefore not generating any income.

Following the budget discussions and the delay to the building of the residential development and thus, the affordable house to be owned by the parish council, **it was resolved to make the village hall charity the recipients of solar Feed in Tariff payments as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 or from the time the parish council receives the first rental income from the affordable house to be built as part of the residential development on the ex-council field, whichever came first.** Proposed by Councillor Vane and seconded Helen Hennig. Due to the time period involved, it should be noted that a final decision may be down to a future parish council.

## 6. Heathside Parking Update

Discussions with the various departments interested in the road had revealed various pieces of information:

- 11 out of the 15 garages are empty and most modern cars were too big to fit into the garages.
- Ashford's Commercial Policy might mean that one block of garages could be sold to fund the refurbishment of the other block of garages. It was not clear if the land could only be sold for garages. Private individuals are unlikely to see renting garages as a viable business.
- Previous experience of refurbishing parking projected the cost of refurbishing one block to be between £30,00 to £45,000.

Some scrub clearance around the garages had been carried out but more is required to make the garages accessible.

No response had come back about the idea of using some of the verge to create roadside parking. It was suggested that a request be made to the borough council to budget for improvement works in the next few years.

## 7. Appledore Signage – Tourist Map

In conjunction with the history society, the contents of the tourist sign have been finalised. **It was resolved to commission Helen Cann to illustrate the map.** Approximate Budget £2,000. Proposed by Councillor Vane and seconded by Councillor Perkins. Councillor Kinsley abstained.

## 8. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

All local organisations had now discussed the idea and received it well. Three 1950's music acts are booked and several 1950's car owners had confirmed that they will show their cars. A selection of food and beverage stalls are also booked. It is anticipated that the contributions from stalls would cover the cost of entertainment. Any profits would go to local organisations including the village hall, church and recreation ground. A tug of war was suggested as that had been popular at similar previous events. Also, a service on the recreation ground, during the day. The event will be for one day only and between 500 – 600 people are anticipated.

Beacons across the country will all be lit at 9.15pm. The royal pageant master called for a bagpiper to draw the public's attention to the lighting. A bag piper is still being sought. The beacon is adjacent to Mill Hill and the public will be asked to move to the part of the recreation ground from which it could be seen. **It was resolved to fund the cost of the beacon lighting and bagpiper.** Maximum cost £300 any over spend to come from the jubilee event. Proposed by Councillor Kinsley and seconded by Councillor Winter

## 9. Information for Councillors

Clerk to change email to [apc.clerk@gmail.com](mailto:apc.clerk@gmail.com) within the month. The old email will be monitored if the emails cannot be automatically forwarded.

## 10. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021, 7.30pm, St. Peter and St. Paul. The meeting closed at 8.40 hrs.