



Minutes of the Meeting on 6th November 2017 at 19.30 hrs Appledore Village Hall

Present

Cllrs: James Perkins (Chair), Julian Colledge, Helen Hennig, Chris Vane and Derek Winter.

In Attendance: County Cllr Mike Hill, Borough Cllr. Burgess arrived during the meeting and the Clerk Mary Philo.

Members of the Public: 5

1. Formalities

I) The council was quorate.

LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12/28/45

II) Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Jenkins and Wilkinson.

LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12

III) Declarations of Interest: None.

Dispensations request received: None.

Code of Conduct

2. Approval of Draft minutes

Following the addition of " It was believed that Wittersham School was the designated school for Appledore for approximately 30 years" at the end of the Public session report "School Bus Policy" ", it was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2017 as a true record. Proposed Cllr. Winter and seconded Cllr. Vane.

LGA Act 1972 sch12,19.1

The meeting was adjourned at 19.40 hrs.

Report by County Cllr. Hill

KCC Budget 2018/2019 – The county council was working on providing services with a further reduction of £8 million in funding from central government. The council was already consulting the public on a 2% increase plus an additional 2% increase dedicated to adult social care.

Highways England – The organisation was looking into the effect that Brexit would have on infrastructure such as Operation Stack /M20 and immigration control in Dover.

County Council School Bus Policy – Cllr. Hill was awaiting a response in the coming week regarding the cabinet member's decision on the various appeals made by parents in the parish who have been affected.

Highways Transportation and Waste Parish Seminars (report by Helen Hennig)

Seminars covered highways budgeting, HGV parking, drains, crash data, led light conversion and community transport. Kent County Council would be offering funding for small community minibuses or car services to be run by parishes as an alternative way to provide residents with a further means of getting around. Kent County Council already subsidised some services to be provided by commercial companies however there was still a gap. It was thought that there would be enough demand to make these viable providing a community centred service and jobs whilst building community cohesion and sustainability. Existing organisations may be able to apply for funding to expand their provision.

Public Questions

NHS/KCC cohesive care provision – A resident queried if the public would have any say in the care provision in the community. The response given was that the idea of both bodies providing care together was to provide better services without overlap or gapping. This should in turn save money.

Cars parked along Kenardington Road – The council were thanked for achieving the cars removal. Mixed comments about speeding cars along there had been received since the cars had been removed.

Precept (Parish Council Tax) – A parishioner encouraged the council to consider taking on larger projects with community benefit once the loan for the village hall grant had been paid off in 2020.

The meeting was reconvened at 19.50 hrs.

3. Matters arising from the previous ordinary meeting (not already covered under another item and not for decision at this meeting) None.

4. Finances

I) As at 31st October 2017 the combined bank balance after unrepresented cheques stood at £52,285.28. The second quarter figures showed that payments for this period had totalled £3,489.09, and receipts taken £15,659.38.

II) Income received:

£ 33.81 Public donations from the toilets

II) Cheques raised since the last meeting:

£ 1,070.90 October salaries

II) It was resolved to agree to draw the following:

£ 336.00 Hastings Locksmiths: Public Toilets – New electronic release and closure for men's door and removing locking bars on Yale Locks (vat refund £56)

£ 5,292.50 Public Works Loan Board: grant to Village Hall Management Committee

£ 69.89 M Philo Admin Costs: Room £30, Car £ 33.80,

£19.99 Refund to M Philo: Cartridge Discount set of ink cartridges (3 colour and 1 black) (vat refund £3.33)

v) Initial Precept Discussions - The central government requirement to hold a referendum for any increase of 2% or above in precept for parish councils has not been brought in for 2018-2019 but central government expects parishes to reduce their reserves or use their reserves to create income so as to prevent large precept increases for next year. Central government will be monitoring the situation and review their position in a year's time.

A first draft budget had been produced for the year 2018/2019 taking into consideration the possibility of annual grass cutting for Mannerings Corner and the Canal Bridge. In order to hold the precept the same, the level of donations might have to be reduced. It was noted that there had been almost no requests for donations from the council. It appeared unlikely that the public toilets anticipated expenditure level would be reached this year. Sanitary waste had not been set up as the doors not locking had prevented this. Cllrs were asked to consider if they had any comments or projects requiring funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 18.05 hrs

Report by Community Warden Joanna Vos – The warden regularly attended the CARM coffee morning. Her recent work had included making welfare visits to vulnerable people regarding nuisance calls and scams as well as reporting fly tipping. She had liaised with PCSO Welsh to check on the toilets.

Report by PCSO Welch – His written report advised that crime had remained low in the area but there had been a few burglaries recently. The following precautions were suggested: keeping the front gate closed at all times, locking external doors, using spot lights and timer switches on lights, using alarm systems for outbuildings, locking sheds and garages and using CCTV.

The meeting was reconvened at 18.15 hrs

5. **Planning** Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 sch1/2010
 I) Ashford Borough Decisions Advised:
 a) 17/01238/AS Court Barn, Court Lodge Road: Proposed variations to 15/00848/AS & 16/01303/AS - doors and window style -Permitted.
 II) New applications for A.P.C. to consider and vote on:
 a) **17/01523/AS 10 Court Lodge Road: Erection of a boundary wall and a traditional style two-bay garage with hipped ends. Alterations to drive and boundary treatments. APC voted unanimously to support the application.** Proposed Cllr. Vane and seconded Cllr. Winter.
6. **Council Field** – Clerk advised that a qualified valuer had been instructed as required by LGA 1972 section 127.
7. **Beacon**
 The Clerk had confirmed with insurers that the beacon could be covered and insurers had requested some further information and made some reasonable requests. **It was resolved to agree to the proposed wording of the agreement between the owners of Horne’s Place the Appledore History Society and Appledore Parish Council regarding the beacon.** LGA 1972 s 145
Proposed Cllr. Winter and seconded Cllr. Vane
8. **Training**
 Safety and Crime Prevention Conference – 7th December. Cllrs Jenkins and Hennig would attend. LGA 1972 s 175
9. **Highways and Byways**
Parked vehicles on Kenardington Road – All vehicles illegally parked had now been removed.
Route Study – Report awaited. A resident had recently complained about speeding vehicles along Tenterden Road and School Road. The report might throw some light on this issue.
Village Car Park Signage – Work in progress.
6th September Highways Visit – Footpath weed spraying schedule had been requested. The vegetation in front of the stop sign approaching the Junction of School Road and Tenterden Road had been cut back to the fence line improving visibility. Work was still needed on the hedge behind the same sign.
Dropped Curb for both sides of Heathside – A works order had been raised.
Old Way Street Name Sign – A request had been lodged to have the sign moved to make it less vulnerable to damage from vehicles.
Methodist Chapel Street Light – now working.
Woodchurch Road 40mph sign – now mended and reinstalled.
Deer and Wild boar on Kenardington Road – no incidents of boar causing road accidents there.
10. **Appledore Station Group**
 The group had now signed up to the Sussex Community Rail Partnership. The station buildings require a substantial amount of work to bring them back into use. The group would start with smaller measures such as flower planters to enhance platforms. The partnership would need to receive increased funding to improve the building itself.
11. **Public Conveniences**
 The automatic locking system for the doors was now working. Varying information signs were being looked into. A further £33.25 had been received in donations.
12. **Recreation Ground Report**
 There had been no meeting since the last council meeting. The grass growing within the forest bark

under some of the equipment was being looked into. It was commented that the depth of forest bark may be below the recommended amount and as such should be resolved quickly.

13. Village Hall Report

The flat roof was scheduled for repair and disabled parking bays were still being worked on. The parking signs were still in discussion. Future events: Antiques fair, quiz night for which raffle prizes were being sought, festive flower arranging, over 60's lunch which had several places still open, and an Italian pop-up restaurant.

The meeting was adjourned at 18.40hrs

Report by Borough Councillor Mick Burgess – He had met with the rail partnership and hoped that the group could lead to greater and better use of the station and its buildings.

The meeting reconvened at 18.50 hrs

14. Information for Councillors

Free Defibrillator training and basic life-saving skills had been organised for Monday 20th November at 7.30pm in the recreation ground pavilion.

Wittersham Parish Council wished to bring to the parish council's attention to the private social network - nextdoor.com - which provided communities with a safe forum to communicate.

15. Date of Next Meeting

4th December 2017 19.30hrs in the village hall. (January meeting Monday 8th January 2018 tbc)

16. Pursuant to section 1) of the public Bodies (Admission 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 consideration of the Clerk's annual review. Proposed Cllr. Perkins and seconded Cllr. Vane.

It was agreed to move the clerk's salary to scale point 27 from the beginning of November.