

Appledore Parish Meeting Minutes  
for 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm Appledore Village Hall

1. The Chairman welcome all there. Apologies had been received from Tricia Fogden, Mr and Mrs Elphick and Mr and Mrs Jenkins.
2. Following minor corrections, the minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were agreed.
3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council – attached.
4. Report from County Councillor Mike Hill  
Following the County Council elections in May, the new members were settling in well. The Conservative Party held 67 of the 81 seats. Michael is the Cabinet Member for Community Services and Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel. Funding from central government continued to fall as county councils became self-funding. Over the last 7 years the council had covered the 230 million reduction in funding. County Council tax would be increasing by almost 3% but central government now permitted county councils to raise tax a further 2% to cover the cost of adult social. The new Care Act expected for 2019 may bring further financial implications for county councils, but the plan to amalgamate NHS and council services may mitigate some costs. Community services such as libraries and PCSOs had become leaner but more effective and useful. The departure from the EU in March 2019 could result in major port disruption. A replacement lorry parking area was no further along so operation stack on the M20 may still have to be employed.
5. Report from Borough Councillor Mick Burgess – attached.
6. Report form PCSO Katherine Richards  
A further PCSO was in training – Luke Jones so that there would be two officers covering the area including Appledore. A new online reporting system was now operating so residents could report minor crime either online or by calling 101. The PCSO had carried out various speed checks in the village to remind drivers of the speed restrictions. PCSOs nor Community Speed Watch could issue fines but were recommend ways to re-educate drivers and an effective way to reduce speeding in villages.
7. Report from Appledore Village Hall - Vicki Self- attached.
8. History Society Report – Brian Knight – attached.

9. Report from Battle's Over  
A U.K. wide event would be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – centenary of the end of the First World War - to remember the fallen. A working party made up of representatives from various organisations were working on the event for Appledore. Monthly magazine articles will keep residents informed of the plans. So far the group was considering screening War Horse on the Saturday in the village hall and the Sunday event based on the recreation ground would include an exhibition open prior to the following schedule:  
6.40pm Reading of the names of the fallen from Appledore and poem 'We shall remember them'  
6.55pm Last Post  
7.00pm Beacon Lighting on Mill Hill – private ceremony  
7.05pm Ringing of the Bells of St. Peter and St. Paul.  
The group were looking for a photographer to cover the event as required by the national Pageant Master. Any funds raised would go to the Royal British Legion.
10. Report from Friends of St. Peter and St. Paul - Frances Smith – attached.
11. Report from the Garden Clun - Teresa Knight – attached.
12. Report from Appledore Art Club - Denise Stephens  
The club meets on Tuesdays from 1.00pm to 4.00pm in the village hall and work on their own projects or a specific topic. Attendees work in all mediums: charcoal, pastels, acrylic, etc. In the last year they have enjoyed demonstrations from artists and a visit to the Gerwood in Hastings. They continue to hold an annual exhibition. In August this year there will be an exhibition as part of the flower show – 'A Picture Paints a Thousand Words'
13. Report from the Book Club - Phillippa Perkins  
The club, formed in 2015, is an informal fun group who meet once a month to discuss the selected book, on the second Wednesday of the month at the Black Lion at 8pm. They books are very varied and the club welcomes any suggestions for titles. A recent read – The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society – was now showing on the screen.
14. Report from Appledore Recreation Ground - Nigel Peck  
The recreation ground was in rude financial health with 3 football teams playing with an under 8's and under 11's teams. Events for the coming year include the car rally and free use of the ground to support the Battle's Over Event. The play area swings fall surface had new a ground surface the tennis area had some remedial work carried out. The 11strong committee would be working on encouraging a tennis club to set up.

## **Annual Parish Meeting Chairman's Report**

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018**

The council continues steadily on with its daily work, whilst taking on more responsibilities, and planning for the future sustainability of Appledore's residents.

On the highways front Charles and Helen have to be commended for not despairing when dealing with these issues. One of these highlights being of the necked amenity variety (come on keep up). After a lengthy struggle with the Borough and a report on safety, they replaced all the necked lampposts and upgraded them to LED lamps. ABC were a shining example and decided not to pass on the management costs to the parish council. Now that we can see what we are doing, Charles and Helen have been making sure what we see is beautiful. Working closely with Aspire, the new inhouse landscaping contractors, the verges at the entrances to the village have been spruced up and kept in check. Those around Old Way have had new turf, and few posts had been installed to deter people from parking on them. The refurbishment of the curbs in the street continues. Mr and Mrs Ward have to be thanked for paying for half the cost of refurbishing the Appledore Invicta road sign at the canal bridge.

Success with inconsiderate parking has been mixed. Thanks to Steve Aldam of Kenardington Road for moving his cars that were parked on the roadside.

There has been some improvement with parking on the Methodist Chapel forecourt. The Community Warden helped with the removal of the French car that had taken up residency in the village hall car park.

Unfortunately, as a resident's letter highlighted, there are still considerable parking and speeding issues between the village hall and the Black Lion. The results of the route study, carried out in September, are eagerly

awaited as it is hoped that they may provide some solutions. The parish has also benefited from dropped curbs at Heathside and new road name signs.

Helen Hennig has set up the Friends of Appledore Train Station which aims to enhance the experience of travellers using it. Borough Cllr Mick Burgess has provided some financial support, so no doubt we will soon see some improvements.

During the year, the council as a whole has continued to comment on behalf of the parish on planning applications. Although there have not been as many as last year, we have seen some bigger developments going through.

After several applications, approval was given to build on the land next to Prospect House. Court Lodge Road continued its rocky path to completion, the houses are now built and new residents added to the village.

In the background to of all these applications the Local Plan 2030 has moved into its last stage with the plan going to the Secretary of State's Inspector in December. The council's field along with that of the Dr. Julian Colledge have gone forward as an approved site for residential development. It is expected that the plan will be formalised by the autumn of this year. However, the council believe that developing the field sooner rather than later will ensure that we have a greater chance of providing a development that provides what Appledore needs, with more affordable and starter homes.

Following consultation with the public, in March, the council voted to sell the field to Hasting Redevelopment Limited subject to contract. Money from the sale of the council field has to be spent on capital projects. Discussions are already underway on how and what to do with it. This includes considering the acquisition of a heritage centre which is part of the current no. 1 the Street planning application and/or the creation of a community centre. "Thanks" must

be expressed to Chris Vane for the work he has put in to get the council to this point. Unfortunately for him he will have to continue for some time more as the council has yet to sign on the dotted line.

Dereck Winter took on being as council representative on the recreation ground committee and he will be kept busy liaising with them regarding projects to be funded from the proceeds of the sale of the council field.

Lyndsey Jenkins is working in exactly the same way with the village hall. Additionally, she has progressed the resilience plan with a parish magazine article outlining how residents can help themselves and others in an emergency.

Last September, we had a young councillor, Jasmin Keller, who unfortunately from our point of view, moved away and was no longer able to continue. We have to thank Dr. Julian Colledge for filling the vacancy. It was a great shame that he was unable to continue due to unforeseen circumstances. Roger Hiskey stepped into the breach in January, and is coping admirably with being thrown in at the deep end.

Last but not least, the toilets had been maintained whilst awaiting an opportunity to refurbish the facility. This may happen sooner than originally thought. The toilets continue to be well kept by Beverley Gray with her husband Duncan carrying out small jobs inside. Having said that, it now has to be said that the conveniences are only as good as they are as a result of all the effort that has been put into them by Helen Hennig. With that we would like thank her with a little presentation.

Just to thank the councillors for all their hard work, and the public, for their continued support at the meetings, throughout the year.

## **Annual Report from Mick Burgess, Ashford Borough Councillor for Isle of Oxney Ward for Appledore Annual Village Meeting 2018.**

As usual there has been two main aspects being the elected councillor for the Isle of Oxney Ward of Ashford Borough Council. One representing the four villages of the ward when dealing with local matters and then there is the requirement to assist with the administration of the Borough Council.

The two main items of interest by local residents are Social Housing and Planning.

### **Social Housing**

There has not been any new Local Needs Housing built in the Isle of Oxney Ward during the past year, in fact May 2015 saw the latest Housing Association houses open and these were at Kenardington. Many Parish Councils are looking to interest Associations to build more, but the current price of exception land usually rises well above agricultural rates and this makes it impossible to build houses at an acceptable rent.

### **Local Plan 2018 — 2030.**

The much-debated Local Plan is currently with the Inspectors, after two public consultations. These inspectors will decide what will remain in the plan and what is missing from the plan from a strategic planning aspect when considered from a NPPF and National government point of view. Housing have been the main source of concern, especially with the requirement to meet the numbers calculated by Central Government that are required over the next five years; a number that has revised from time to time by the Minister for Housing. It is also understood that the Local Plan will need to be further revised in the next five years, therefore there is a possibility of a further call for sites though out the Borough. Currently there are two sites in the local plan for development, one each in Wittersham and Appledore; the public feeling on development being entirely different in each case.

**Council tax** has risen totally and you will have noticed that the Borough Council share has risen slightly, but still remains the lowest in Kent.

**Planning.** At the time of writing, between 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018, according to my search, there have been a total of 42 applications made and validated in the Parish of Appledore. Of these 25 were permitted, 4 were granted consent; 4 were withdrawn; 9 are pending a decision; none were refused outright, usually because consultations came to a successful conclusion.

The administration of the Borough Council is based on the Cabinet system, similar to Central Government. This means there are Committees and Task Groups which process and support the Cabinet, which reports to full council.

I am on the following committees: -

Joint Transport Board: this works in conjunction with KCC mainly on local highways and bus routes etc.

Overview and Scrutiny committee: this committee does as its name implies in over-viewing the decisions of the Cabinet and scrutinising the services supplied to the Borough by the council.

Selection and constitutional review board: this board checks on the functions Terms of Reference and attendies of committees by members i.e. numbers of members on the committee and of course the political balance, also allowances for special duties etc.

Planning Committee: I imagine everyone knows the function of the planning committee, basically to apply the National and Local Councils planning policies to the planning applications presented. The committee usually determines on the large and/or controversial applications, also any presented by the Borough Council and any called in by council members. The remaining applications are determined by delegation to the Officers. I am the chairman of this committee. All Council members and members of the public have the opportunity to overview all applications, which are validated, by using the planning portal on the ABC website.

Deputy Portfolio holder for Planning, Enforcement and Development. Assisting the Portfolio holder, who is a cabinet member, with the very wide range of subjects that the title of this posts suggests. Also representing the portfolio holder when he is not available.

Whilst representing the four villages in the Isle of Oxney ward at the Borough Council, I also represent the Council on the following outside bodies, which are mainly Romney Marsh orientated as I am the Lead Member for the Romney Marsh as 10 villages in the Borough have land within the Marsh, including of course Appledore. These organisations are as follows:

Rural Kent (Action for Communities in Rural Kent)

Romney Marsh Partnership (ABC, SDC, RDC)

Kent Downs & Marshes Leader, Rural Development Programme for England  
Marsh Million Approval Board

Marshlink Steering Group — Sussex Community Rail Partnership, which Appledore now has a link with.

Site Stakeholder Group for Dungeness A & B

UK Power Network Critical Friends Panel  
River Stour Internal Drainage Board and  
Romney Marsh Area Internal Drainage Board  
5<sup>th</sup> Continent Project Board (KWT)

### Appledore Village Hall

The Village Hall exists to 'advance education and provide facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreational and leisure time activities with the object of improving the life for the inhabitants'.

In the past the community have made good use of the building and improvements and developments were made that were appropriate at the time.

However, in common with many Village Halls its use began to fall away with changing interests and with easier transport to places further afield. The Village Hall was in danger of becoming a rather large and expensive white elephant.

This began to be addressed last year with the successful Events Week — which provided taster sessions of possible uses and from that possible ways forward.

What did we do?

- We developed the management structure
- We changed the name to reflect what it is — The Village Hall. The metal sign for The Parish Hall, will not be updated by ABC as it would be too expensive!
- We have updated the Trustee documents to reflect the changing use.
- We made the hall more welcoming by improving the heating controls — and yes you can now come into a warm hall without the need for someone to come out to set them. Unfortunately, this doesn't include Air conditioning for when it is hot!
- We improved the communication from the Village Hall by installing broadband and Wi-Fi. Many people/firms were discouraged from booking the hall by the lack of these. It will be turned off for quizzes
- To enable us to fulfil our objectives, we have started a café with free Wi-Fi once a week. As advertised, this enables you to come in for real coffee and a snack, to use the Wi-Fi and if necessary get support with using it
- We formed several small working groups led by the management committee to carry out the day to day tasks and encouraged members of the community to

participate in them. As use of the hall develops, we would like to extend this so do let us know

- Several classes and clubs were encouraged to start— we now have a much fitter community thanks to Tai Chi, Pilates and Yoga! The Art Club continues to go from strength to strength and a group have started up PIPS again
- We have developed an ongoing programme of monthly events — some privately booked and some run by the VHC
- The Film Club will be starting soon —we have the screen and are in the process of purchasing the projector
- We realised the importance of advertising and now produce our own monthly leaflet that is delivered with the Parish Magazine and the Secretary has responsibility for ensuring advertising in other local magazines etc

All of this has been self-funded — mainly through the increased use of the Hall

Our plan is for the people of the Village to develop ideas and hire the hall. We will always try to support new initiatives in the hope that they will become self-supporting e.g. the Antiques Show

What about plans for the future?

Well to start with, at the heart is greater involvement and use by all elements of the community. If you have suggestions — that's great — but be prepared to get involved!

People who come into the Hall — either for an event or to hire — always comment on what a lovely space it is and how well looked after. This is true, and it has been well looked after. However, over time things begin to wear out and we are looking to make improvements and updates— dependent on finance of course.

More major improvements would take time and planning but it would be an advantage to have 2 usable spaces. We have 2 at the present but they cannot be used at the same time due to lack of sound proofing. A smaller space would be advantageous for

- Smaller family gatherings
- Smaller clubs
- Meetings

There are groups of the community who rarely use the Hall and we will be trying to find a way to

- Attract the younger element of the community
- Disabled members of the community — improved accessibility

- o Smaller groups — family gatherings — a smaller hall would be an advantage and less financially demanding.
- o Weddings-Corporate functions

We aim to give the people of Appledore a Hall that will be the focus of all aspects of village life. A hub for the community that will be able to develop with their developing needs.

You can rest assured that the Trustees and the Management Committee will be doing everything they can to fulfil their responsibilities and to take the Village Hall forward.

### **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

Our aims are the collection, collation and sharing of information and artefacts and to keep these for future generations.

To research and record the history of the village and local area both past and present.

Provide visitors to Appledore with information that will enhance their knowledge of the village by means of walking trail guides and signs.

Build an archive that might be developed into a local Appledore Heritage Centre.

#### **What have we done and what are we doing.**

Last year members of the Society visited Winchelsea where we were given a guided tour of the Cellars and earlier this year, we visited Martello Tower No 24 at Dymchurch.

We have dealt with enquiries for information from people in this country as well as Australia and Canada. Some we have been able to help and others not so.

We have produced 2 signs detailing the background of PLUTO, Pipeline Underwater Transportation of Oil. These will shortly be placed adjacent to two locations in the village where the pipeline crosses waterways.

We continue to arrange talks of local historical interest. Last June we had a talk on Vikings and next month on the 10<sup>th</sup> May we have a talk on the Royal Military Canal. Tickets are still available and I have some with me if anyone is interested.

In the Old Graveyard at the Church is the Gravestone of the Johnson Family. It consists of a square base on which are the family names including that in memory of Harry Johnson who was killed in the Zulu War. The masonry cross which stood on this base has been lying on the ground for several years so the History Society, having sought the relevant permissions arranged for the cross to be reinstated.

We were involved in the development of a WW1 Heritage Trail in the village as part of a Screen South initiative called '100 Miles for 100 Years'. It was an interesting project for the Society, since we not only provided information for the Trail but also received information from Screen South that was new to us. In conjunction with the Trail, one of our members produced a Booklet giving details of all those named on the WW1 memorial in the Church for which we give our thanks to Keith Fazzani.

We have arranged the construction of a Beacon as part of the 'Battle's Over – A Nations Tribute – 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018' and it is anticipated that it will be erected during May. Our thanks to Mr & Mrs Massey for allowing this to be erected on their land near to Mill Hill. The Society has also been involved in arranging other items in connection with this event.

We have a computer and Community Chest bespoke software designed for historical organisations, onto which some of our members are loading copies of documents, artefacts, photographs etc. This will allow us to provide a lasting and readily retrievable record of the history of Appledore.

As part of this project we are seeking the loan or donation of any items relevant to Appledore and its residents, such as: documents, maps, letters, pictures, photos and even artefacts that could be photographed and copied onto the database or placed on display.

We have our own Appledore Local History Society web site. Members are collecting and researching local history and information which is uploaded onto it. It is well worth a visit and can be found at [www.appledorehistory.org.uk](http://www.appledorehistory.org.uk).

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

## **Appledore Church**

That fine old stone building at the Marsh end of the village is more than just an historic monument. The church and its worshipping community are a solid part of village life. It is there for our rites of passage, happy or sad, it is open every day for us and our many visitors. As one of your churchwardens I feel honoured to be able to invite you into it, we have coffee after every 10.30 service — details in our lovely magazine - and you are most welcome to join us. We pray for the village every week.

Like all old buildings it requires upkeep and expensive repairs are in hand to the loo annexe. As chairman of the Friends of Appledore Church I would love to invite you to join this association. It exists purely and only to maintain the fabric of the building, and is independent from the Parochial Church Council.

In both these roles I would like to thank this lovely village for all the support it gives our church, and look forward to welcoming you there.

## **APPLEDORE GARDENERS' SOCIETY**

Appledore Gardeners' Society operates as a typical Village Horticultural Society, and of course has become as much social as it is technical, and we are pleased to note that our current membership stands at 37.

We have professional speakers giving their expertise in varying, and sometimes diverse aspects of the gardening life, and these are held during the winter months, at the Methodist Chapel at 7.00 p.m., generally on the last Wednesday of the month. This year includes The Vegetable Garden, the Wild Flowers of Dungeness, and Gardening for Bees. February also saw the return of our infamous 'fun' quiz where those members with exceptional knowledge were able to give us lesser scholars a yearning to learn more! Last year we entered for the second year running the County Quiz at the Detling Flower Show, and came away as the overall winners — so well done again to those three members who put themselves forward on behalf of the Society.

During the summer months we enjoy visits to various gardens, whether they be privately owned, National Trust, or under the NGS scheme — but always ensuring that tea and cakes are included. We have an annual summer garden party, and a Christmas Party. We have also, more recently, enjoyed an overnight stay in areas further afield. This allows us to enjoy at length those gardens which might on a one-day trip be too far to take in, in a leisurely manner. Of course, there is also the added delights of numerous cream tea lunches and evening meals to keep us going. Last year we went to the Cuckmere Valley and this year we are visiting Wakehurst Place, High Beeches and Nymans.

The visits do not always include garden settings, as in our boat trip last year from Newenden Boat Yard to Bodiam, and visits to Great Comp for the Open-Air Theatre.

The annual subscription stands currently at £10, and together with fund raising allows sufficient funds to pay for the speakers. In May (and here comes an advertisement) we hold our main fund-raising event in the form of the Plant Sale. This year it is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30 a.m. where a vast array of beautifully nurtured plants at reasonable prices are available. We run this in conjunction with the Canterbury Oast Trust, i.e. Rare Breeds at Woodchurch, as this also provides all important funds for their worthwhile charity. There will be refreshments available to include savouries and mouth-watering cakes.

The Society has a committee of seven members, who take on board at the AGM, the suggestions of the members for the forthcoming year, and from there compile the Events Diary. This year includes Bluebells at Hole Park, Canterbury Cathedral Gardens, and Savill Garden at Windsor.

All interested villagers are most welcome to join, however small their plot of land. All you need is to like gardens, like gardeners, and like meeting people in a social setting. An excellent way for new residents to become acquainted, so if you are interested in joining then please see me afterwards, or contact details are in the 'Who To Ask' section of the Parish Magazine.