



1st February 2021
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting
7.30 pm

Present

James Perkins (Chair), Roger Hiskey, Helen Hennig, Lyndsey Jenkins, Charles Wilkinson and Chris Vane.
In Attendance: County Councillor Mike Hill, Borough Councillor Mick Burgess and the Clerk Mary Philo.
Members of the Public: 6.

1. Formalities

- I) The council was quorate. (LGA Act 1972 schedule12, 12/28/45)
- II) Apologies had been received from Councillor Winter. (LGA 1972 schedule12, 12)
- III) Declarations of interest and dispensations: Councillor Wilkinson had a prejudicial interest in Gusbourne planning application 21/00013/AS and 21/00088/AS (Code of Conduct)

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 4th January 2021 as a true record.
Proposed by Councillor Hiskey and seconded Councillor Vane. (LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

The meeting was adjourned at 7.40 pm

No 1 The Street- RX Architects – Deteriorated Exterior Brickwork Treatment

The architect advised that historically the mill building had once been surrounded by a white warehouse on two sides excluding the front. Various methods had been tried, including sand blasting, to remove the current paint on the exterior brick walls with little success and in some parts causing further damage to the brickwork. Following discussions, the Ashford Conservation Officer had concluded that painting the walls is the best solution to preserving the bricks. The architect offered to meet any residents on site to show them the size and level of deterioration. A resident expressed their opinion that the least amount of painting possible in order to keep as much of the brick exposed, is preferable. A further resident is unhappy with the height of the new homes behind the mill, although the height complied with the plans as confirmed by the planning enforcement officer. Thus the council is unable to assist on this matter.

Report from County Councillor Mike Hill

The county council main preoccupation continues to be responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and end of transition Brexit issues.

It continues to support the NHS by expanding the number of symptom free testing centres available across the county, by working with the local Tracing Partnership and by establishing a temporary mortuary in Aylesford to relieve pressure on NHS facilities.

The county council is also supporting businesses and the voluntary sector experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic. The Community Warden service is providing assistance to vulnerable residents and is very busy.

Building based services are operating at a restricted level. Libraries are click and collect only and births

and deaths registrations can only be made by phone. Adult education is being provided online. Outdoor services are working as usual, dealing with increased usage of public parks and footpaths. Waste disposal centres are open with timed slots.

Activity around the Port of Dover has now settled down after Christmas but traffic volumes are still lower than normal. There is likely to be disruption to traffic and goods when traffic returns to normal levels while the new procedure(s) bed down.

The county council proposes to increase its share of council tax by 2%, plus ring fenced 3% for adult social care. This represents an increase of £67.50 in the annual Band D charge.

Report from Borough Councillor Mick Burgess

From the 15th to 19th February 2021, The Street between “the narrows” will be closed while UK Power Network lay cables. The borough council is still operating a basic service. Staff isolating or away due to Covid meant a reduced level of staffing. The borough council is trying to recruit more staff for the Sevington Site, whilst the Stour Centre revamp work is ahead of schedule, as the centre is closed to the public. The borough councillor advised that the Arts Council is offering grants to cultural organisations should the parish council be aware of any local groups. Finally, a posy had been laid at the Anne Frank Memorial in Victoria Park for Holocaust Memorial Day.

Public Questions.

Councillors Absences

The Clerk advised on the rules pertaining to councillors attendance. Holidays or absence due to family birthdays, serious health issues and technological difficulties are not by law considered acceptable reason(s) for not attending a council meeting. Should a councillor be absent for more than 6 meetings/months then they are automatically removed from office. However, a council can agree the reason for a councillors absence to override the removal. The council vote can either be made at the first absence or at any point in the period. The law is very vague and the pandemic has highlighted this issue. As a result, it has now been generally accepted that a councillor’s attendance at any kind of council meeting counts and not just public ordinary or extraordinary meetings.

Allotment Funding Through Section 106 from the Council Field Residential Development

In response to a query the money will only become available later in the build period.

Financial Report

The clerk was advised of a typo in the report.

The meeting reconvened at 8.20 pm

3. Planning

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

3.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council:

None.

3.2 Planning Applications Considered

a) **21/00013/AS Gusbourne Estate Vineyard, Kenardington Road: Siting of two canopies on wooden decking (canopies sited from 1st March to 31st October in any year) and two composting toilets for visitors to the vineyard. It was resolved to support the application.**

Proposed by Councillor Vane and seconded by Councillor Hiskey.

b) **21/00088/AS Gusbourne Estate Vineyard, Kenardington Road: Erection of no.1 non-illuminated wooden entrance sign. It was resolved to support the application.** Proposed by Councillor Jenkins and Councillor Hiskey. One abstention.

4. Policies

Following review, **it was resolved to agree the updated Grievance Policy and to reconfirm Standing Orders as per 2020.**

5. Highways Update

Appledore Village Sign on Tenterden Road

It has been confirmed that the sign had slipped down the pole and will be raised in due course.

Road Surface 40mph Roundel near Mannering Corner

Highways have inspected it and advised that it cannot be burnt off as the fumes from the red surfacing are toxic and that hydro blasting is expensive. A previously suggested solution of covering with grey asphalt has been decided against, since Highways has declared that the surface has deteriorated so much that resurfacing is required. This will be at their own expense. Work cannot commence there while the Beacon Oak Road roundabout is being built as the diversion route is not possible. Should the surface deteriorate enough to be considered dangerous, Councillor Hennig was advised that action would be taken in two weeks. Councillor Hennig will enquire if the works can be done at the same time as UK Power Network closure of 'the narrows' in The Street.

Pedestrian Crossing

In order to have a more significant crossing, a footfall survey is required and has been costed at £1,000. However, it is possible for volunteers to complete the survey which would run from 8am to 5pm, which would reduce costs. Highways has suggested that it would be useful to have a traffic survey completed. The charge is £250. They recommend leaving the survey until schools go back to obtain a truer picture.

Highways Improvement Plan

This will be completed to include the 7 roundels and gateways.

40 mph Signs at Fourwents

These are confirmed as being the same distance from the junction as the previous signs. PCSO Richardson is keen to have more repeater signs on the Kenardington Road.

Footpath Steps at Canal Bridge – Old Way Footpath

Mr. Ramsden advised that someone had slipped on the steps at the bridge. He suggested that like the bridge itself, a handrail should be installed. Councillor Hennig met the footpath warden on site. The area is very muddy and dangerous. Hardcore on the steps and a rail to the steps was again put forward. Councillor Hennig is to contact Public Rights of Way and the land owner.

6. Public Conveniences

The work is complete and snagging is under way. The new windows, which are in addition to the original plan, are due to be installed shortly.

7. Finances

7.1 Bank Account: as at 31st December 2020 £39,331.69

Appledore Parish Council Third Quarter Financial Report (October, November, December) 2020-2021

Taking into consideration unrepresented payments but not unrepresented invoices, as at the 31st December 2020 the bank account stood at £39,331.69. The Covid-19 pandemic continues. Meetings have been successfully held via zoom and look set to continue this way for some time.

Total Income (receipts) for the period £151.61.

The only receipts being £30.66 wayleave payment, £120.42 donations from the public conveniences and 53p in bank interest. This highlights the fact that the council is totally dependent on the money raised through council tax. No one sum or indeed all the other small amounts together that the council receives, would be able to cover the costs of running the toilets. The toilets are economically run and cost the parish far less than those anywhere else.

Total Expenditure (payments) for the period £4,762.19

Expenditure was mainly staffing costs.

With the return to lock down for the third time, the buddy system has continued, ably overseen by Councillor Jenkins in an independent capacity. Thanks again to all those who helped out and continue to do so.

The progress of the planning application for a residential development on the ex-council field was finally made with Ashford Borough Council approving the development subject to signing off the section 106 terms. These set the terms for the affordable housing and the funds that the developer will contribute to various infrastructure improvements locally and in the wider area. The developer is not contesting any of these but the paperwork delivery, from Ashford Borough Council solicitors has been very slow. There has been no further expenditure on Highways Improvements Scheme so the ring-fenced amount remains at £19,238. Outstanding works from Phase I have been almost all been completed. The planning application for the council field allows for crossing assistance in front of the sports pavilion on the recreation ground. It has now been definitely confirmed that a survey demonstrating sufficient footfall will be required for a more significant styled crossing to be put there. We await enquiries as to whether there is a way to reduce the cost of the survey and will ascertain the price to install the now agreed dropped kerb and lines. The council will also move onwards with discussions with Highways on Phase II of the Highways Scheme/ Highways Improvement Plan.

Work on refurbishing the public toilets began in November and following a delivery delay on the cubicles, these will not now be finished until mid-January. The new windows are due to arrive after the toilet refurbishment work completes at the end of January.

7.2 December Receipts

£0.18	December Bank Interest
£20.00	Public Conveniences Donations
£30.66	UK Power Network Wayleave

7.3 January Payments

£58.50	TP Jones & Co LLP September to December Payroll (vat £9.75)
£453.56	Zurich Municipal – Council Annual insurance
£30.24	Pett PC - Share of Clerk's Mobile Phone September to December 2020
£19.88	Business Stream – Waste Water for Public Conveniences
£1,210.61	January Salaries

7.4 Grass Cutting at Public Convenience

It was resolved to contract Gibbs and Sons to cut the grass around the public conveniences for this calendar year. Proposed by Councillor Hiskey and seconded by Councillor Vane.

8 High Speed Broadband

BT Openreach has provided several quotes for different coverage areas. £600,000 to cover everyone who expressed an interest. Mike Rivers is looking into these. Openreach have advised that Kent County Council top up grant will not be available by the time the application is completed.

9. Residential Enabling Car Park Court Lodge Car

Ecological and archeological works have continued on the site. Work has commenced on the footpath to the Royal Military Canal from the car park exiting by the telephone exchange. Court Developments is discussing drainage plans for the car park and residential site with the planning department. It was noted that the contractors working on the footpath were a driving hazard and the soil had been left along the road edge and in gutters but had been cleared before the weekend. Councillors Wilkinson and Hennig had both spoken to them on this issue.

10. Information for Councillors

Annual Parish Virtual Meeting – Monday 15th March. The Chairman, County and District Councillors will provide annual reviews. An article will be placed in the March parish magazine.

11. Date of Next Meeting - Virtual

Monday 1st March 7.30pm 2021.