



Minutes of the Meeting 4th November 2019 at 7.30 pm Appledore Village Hall

Present

Councillors: James Perkins (Chair), Helen Hennig, Roger Hiskey, Lyndsey Jenkins, Charles Wilkinson, Chris Vane and Derek Winter.

In Attendance: Clerk Mary Philo.

Members of the Public: 8

1. Formalities

I) The council was quorate (LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12/28/45)

II) Apologies had been received from County Councillor Hill and Borough Councillor Burgess. (LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12).

III) Declarations of interest and dispensations: None (Code of Conduct).

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

Following amendment, it was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2019 as a true record. Proposed Councillor Hiskey and seconded Councillor Winter (LGA Act 1972 sch12,19.1).

The meeting was adjourned at 7.35 pm

Public Questions

Parish Budget

A resident reminded the council of their request that the council maintains its budget level even though there will be no public works loan, annual cost of around £12,000, for the grant to the village hall.

Friends of Appledore Station

The planned alteration to the current planters to provide for the opportunity for commercial sponsorship of the planters, would cost £350 for the wooden frame and £175 for signage. There are 7 planters. A request for some funding from the parish council to be formally made at the next monthly meeting.

Report from PCSO Kate Richardson

The new Crime Prevention PCSO Laura Langridge was introduced. She is currently in training. The role is yet to be defined. Records since May only show a call from the public about the pavilion break in and from the clerk regarding the vandalism of the ladies' toilets. No reports of antisocial behavior are recorded during that time whilst there have been a few burglaries and some property damage. That said Appledore is a low crime area. Incidents should be reported to the Police. The Police do not monitor Facebook or other social media. The PCSO had attended various events over the last month and visited groups educating them about scams. Currently, there is a spate of catalytic converter thefts. It was suggested that they attended the Wednesday coffee morning in the village hall. The PCSO had no knowledge of the Borough Council Community Safety Officer.

The meeting was reconvened at 7.55 pm.

3. Item 8 Brought Forward – Antisocial Behaviour Issues in the Parish

Following the report made at the last monthly meeting, the council drafted a letter for residents in Hawthorn, opposite the recreation ground and south of the ground to leave with residents after a personal call from a councillor. Councillors Hennig and Jenkins had called on all the houses and had been fortunate to speak to 80% of the home owners. Apart from 2 residents the remainder appeared to be unconcerned about antisocial issues on the ground and had felt no need to call the police. PCSO Richards advised they had been checking the ground more regularly and found no cars parked at the rear of the access track. It was suggested that the best way forward would be get all the different bodies to communicate with each other.

4. Item 12 Brought Forward - Recreation Ground Report

A professional tennis coach has expressed an interest in setting up a tennis club. Further research into the history of the footpath across the ground has revealed more correspondence and the Clerk was asked to search the council minutes in 1981 and 1969. No funding for the previously suggested barrier/gate for the recreation ground was confirmed. Ashford Community Safety Department required a funding request to come from the parish council. Councillor Hill and Councillor Burgess may also be able to help organise funding. During doorstep discussions, residents raised concerns about the negative effect of a gate, that of the ground no longer appearing to be part of the community and parking for daytime park users. As Ashford Borough Council would require evidence of antisocial behaviour and proof of residents' support for a gate, the council will deliver another letter about the issue advising residents to contact the police when necessary and a copy of the Community Safety Officer's form for residents to make a record themselves. Cllr Hennig to draft. A piece to be included in the parish magazine. The chairman thanked councillors Hennig and Jenkins. One resident raised the issue that the gate way to the play area on the access road funnelled children leaving towards the road only 3 metres away. Possible solutions included a gate or reversing the dog leg turn in the gate way. The weeds on the tennis court would be dealt with in the spring.

5. Finances

I) As at 30th September 2019 the bank balances totalled £50,218.50
Councillors were requested to put forward requests for budgeting as the first draft budget would be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk suggested including the budget process in the monthly parish magazine.

II) Income received:

£ 13,000 from ABC: Precept 2nd instalment received October 21st
£ 525.00 from ABC: Concurrent grant received October 21st
£ 426.50 from ABC: Council Tax grant received October 21st
£ 3.54 September Bank Interest
£ 54.75 October Public donations from the toilets

II) Cheques raised since the last meeting:

£ 959.18 for October salaries
£ 7,691.79 for Kent Highways Speed reduction scheme

II) It was resolved to draw the following:

£ 17.22 for Laser (N Power) 1-30 September 2019 (vat refund 82p)
£ 5,097.50 for Public Loan Board: Hall Grant penultimate repayment
£ 10.92 for KCS: Replacement toilet roll holder for the toilets following vandalism (vat 1.82)

£ 4.87 for M Philo Admin Costs: Stamps£1.83, Cleaning products for toilets £3.04 (vat 51p)
Note – Castle Water erroneously closed the council's account for the toilets so as a result Business Stream have also done this. We now have to wait for the accounts to be reinstated to receive future bills

6. Item 4 - Planning (Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 sch1/2010)

I) Ashford Borough Decisions Advised:

- a) 19/01178/AS – 6 The Street: Change of use of existing outbuilding from domestic workshop to create independent building – Permitted.
- b) 19/01352/AS Fairwinds, Station Road: Pool house and tennis court – Would be permitted development.

II) Appledore Parish Council considered the following applications:

- a) **19/013636/AS 86 The Street: Erection of part single storey/part two storey rear extension, first floor windows to side elevation, rooflights and front porch. It was resolved to make no comment as the plans had not been recently available from the Ashford website.** Proposed Councillor Winter and seconded Councillor Vane.

7. Item 5 - Kent Association of Local Councils Proposed Subscription Increase

It was resolved to renew the annual subscription for Kent Association of Local Council which will see an increase in charge, for the next two years, as a result of hiring a part time assistant to the Legal Adviser. For the first year, an average increase of £89.69 per annum based on the number band D properties per parish (351 band D properties In Appledore) and thus Councillors Hennig and Hiskey to support the subscription scale vote at the KALC AGM – “ 66p per equivalent band D property subject to a maximum of £1,450 plus a standing charge of £65, all subject to VAT, and that all Councils should pay at least the NALC subscription plus 2p per equivalent band D property’. Last year’s fee was £337.07 including. vat £56.03. Proposed Councillor Vane and seconded by Councillor Hiskey.

8. Item 6 – Council Communication with Residents

In response to the suggestion that the attendance of a councillor, at the weekly Wednesday coffee morning, be formalised and advertised in the parish magazine, it was noted that as a councillor is usually there a rota is not required but that this should be included in the council update in the magazine. Councillor Hennig also suggested an open day with information on parish issues including highways.

9. Item 7 – Ex-council Field – Planning Application Update

Planning Officers been sent the revised plans/paperwork and responses 5 weeks ago. The delegated planning officer was away on extended sick(?) leave and the department head was also on holiday. As a result, the application is still to go out for further consultation, delaying progress.

10. Item 9 – External Affairs

Tenterden Forum 22nd October 2019

Paul Carter, former leader has retired and Roger Gough had taken on the role. Mike Hill continues as Cabinet Member for Community Services. Many Kent officers had been seconded to deal with Brexit. The county council was consulting on the budget and therefore the council tax for next year. Savings of £1 million were achieved through changes to libraries opening hours. Three libraries were opened unmanned outside of normal hours: Deal, Higham and Paddock Wood. White lines on High Halden

roads had proved successful in preserving the edge of the road. Tenterden neighbourhood plan is ongoing. Tenterden Town council are improving the play equipment provision for teenagers by refurbishing the Youth Hub and tennis courts and providing skateboard facilities in town.

11. Item10 - Highways and Byways

Highways Speed Reduction Scheme.

The fee had been paid and the order was being placed. With regard to obtaining clarification of billing Kent Highways has responded that they were unable to provide a breakdown of costs as it was commercially sensitive.

Residential Enabling Car Park, Court Lodge.

The Council had written to the crown estate agent Savills requesting more concrete assurances regarding the traffic management plan and future ownership of the car park by means of alterations to the contract or a side letter. A written reply was awaited but the verbal advice was that the Crown's lawyer was averse to the idea. It was suggested that the Crown estate be approached directly or ask for a further meeting with Savills. The council would wait for a written response before replying.

Transport Conference 26th Conference.

Councillors Hennig and Wilkinson confirmed that attendance was worthwhile. Heavy goods vehicle movements are a national problem and is a greater issue in Kent with 85% of freight crossing the county. Lorry Watch had been found to be ineffective as haulage companies took no action. Trying to work with the large number of satellite navigation companies is a problem. It is recommended to photograph inappropriate use of the roads on Country Eye App. Social change would be required to embrace electric cars as well as increasing the number of charging points. Everyone has a right to clean air: air pollution below 40mg. Parishes can request an Air Quality Management Area Test from Ashford Council. Kent Fire and Rescue Service run monthly safety campaigns on different issues to improve driving standards. Speed Watch was promoted to help re-educate drivers. Kent Rights of Way had established an Assets Management/Improvement plan to maintain the 8000 styles working with landowners. Creation by Orders or Creation Agreements are the legal instruments to create a new path. Section 106 funds can be approached for paths. Kent Community Rail Partnership works on improving passenger experience of rail travel whilst Campaign for the Protection of Rural England is promoting active and healthy travelling by bike.

Highways Seminar on the 13th November.

Councillors were asked if they had any particular new issues that they wished to address.

Councillor Hiskey gave his apologies as he had to leave the meeting.

12. Item 11 Council Website

The current website hosting is paid for by Kent County Council. A revamped Kent County Council Commercial Services Company, was offering to continue the service to include full compliance with the recently updated accessibility requirements with a three-year contract with a first-year charge of £995 and £700 odd thereafter. Their offer did not specify which platform they would use. Councillor Vane advised that Appledore website was already W3C compliant and would need little alteration so the charge was excessive when considering that the service experience was poor. It was suggested that it would be in the long term cheaper to move the site to a national host such as Wix. This would take some effort but the clerk could be employed to do most of the transfer. Other offers will be investigated.

13. Village Hall Report

The Harvest Festival continued to be a successful village event provided by the hall. Derek Winter had joined as a new trustee. However, the hall committee still need helpers for events and a hall committee secretary. A new aerobics class is proving popular. In December the hall will host the over 60's lunch.

14. Information for Councillors

Kent County Council launched their annual budget consultation.

It gives Parish Councils, residents, businesses and other organisations an opportunity to have their say on KCC's spending priorities and Council Tax proposals for 2020/2021. The consultation runs until 25 November and all of the consultation information, including the link to an online questionnaire, can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/budget.

Banking –item for next agenda.

Christmas Tree

The pub is willing to fund 50% of the cost of the tree and to power the lights. Another resident has offered a tree as well. The lights needed to be checked. St. Michael's tree is organised by a community group who hold fund raising events to cover the costs.

Planter for the Village – Ongoing.

Date of Next Meeting

2nd December 2019, 19.30hrs in the village hall. The meeting closed at 21.10 hours.