



6th September 2021
Minutes of the Meeting
7.30 pm St. Peter and St. Paul

Present

James Perkins (Chair), Gary Kinsley, Charles Wilkinson and Derek Winter.

In attendance: County Councillor Mike Hill, Borough Councillor Mick Burgess and the Clerk Mary Philo.

Members of the Public: 3

1. Formalities

I) Quorum

The council was quorate.

II) Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Hennig, Hiskey and Vane. (LGA 1972 schedule12, 12)

III) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations and Dispensations

None (Code of Conduct)

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 2nd August 2021 as a true record.

Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded Councillor Kinsley.

(LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

The meeting was adjourned at 7.33pm.

Report from Borough Councillor Mick Burgess

The Chief Executive Officer for Ashford Borough Council Tracey Kerly invited the chairmen of Kenardington, Appledore, Ebony, Wittersham and Stone Parish Councils to accompany her and Mick Burgess on a 'ward walk'. The visit including the main sites of interest for each village which included in Appledore, Court Lodge Car Park, local needs housing and social housing, Appledore Station, village hall and council residential site. At the end there was an opportunity for them to discuss projects and issues over tea and cake at Stone pavilion.

Report from County Councillor Mike Hill

The county council were meeting mainly face to face but were considering hybrid meetings. Although virtual meetings saved mileage, petrol and time they lacked interconnection with people. All county services are back to normal with libraries being the last to reopen in August. There was a rush to book weddings with reopening but it is expected that it will be over by October. Budget discussions were difficult as it is hard to predict what the new normal would be and make plans for it. As the pandemic is still with us the county council is being cautious. Balancing the budget for next year will depend on central government's spending review and the additional funding offered to county councils. It is expected that some savings/cuts may be needed but not as much as other years. The number of asylum seekers in Kent has fallen as most have now been reallocated across the country.

Currently, thirty Afghanistan refugee families were being housed in hotels at central government's cost. The borough council was finding accommodation for the many more to come,

Public Questions

Footpath for Griffin Cottages

It was suggested that some of the funds allocated for the recreation ground pavilion should be used to fund a footpath. It was pointed out that without all the relevant property owners in agreement to give up the necessary land for the footpath, no further progress could be made.

The meeting reconvened at 7.44 pm

3. Planning

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

3.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

21/00876/AS Little Meadows, Woodchurch Road: Erection of agricultural machinery store – permitted.

3.2 Planning Applications Considered

1) **21/01405/AS The Old Bakery, Court Lodge Road: Installation of two rear roof lights. It was resolved to unanimously support the application.** Proposed by Councillor Perkins and seconded Councillor Winter.

4. Finances

4.1 Bank Account

As at 31st July 2021 £ 112,347.38 (this includes £70,000 ring fenced for capital projects and £20,000 ring fenced for highways).

4.2 July Receipts

£0.75	July Bank Interest
£12.35	Public Conveniences' Public Donations
£20.37	Public Conveniences' Public Donations

4.3 July Payments

£1,121.25	July Salaries
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4.4 Agreement of payments

It was resolved to make the following payments

£95.85	Refund M Philo Administration Costs: stamps £6.87, 3-year domain name (appledore.co.uk) renewal £65.95 (vat £10.99), toilet requisites £23.03 (vat £3.84)
£52.80	V R Sani Co: Toilet sanitary collection August to November (vat £8.80)
£1,919.20	Ashford Borough Council: 6 th May 2021 Bye Election Recharge Fee (no vat)
£480.00	PKF Littlejohn LLP: External Audit 2020-2021 Fee (vat £80) The Council moved into the above £100,000 annual turnover fee charging range.
£10.00	Iden Parish Council: Share of ink
£15.60	Kent County Council : Toilet Requisites (vat £2.60)
£36.61	Castle Water: Following the fitting of a new meter and readings being taken the back log of payments due against overpayments made following the accidental cancellation of the account in 2019, meant outstanding billing had been reviewed and that the payments are now up to date (vat £6.10). A form has to be completed to remove the vat
£59.75	Business Stream Waste Water for toilets. All credits now used

4.5 External Audit

The external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP has returned the Annual Governance and Annual Return without any queries.

5. Heathside Parking Update

Councillor Kinsley had met with Ashford Housing Officer at Heathside and looked at the mainly unused garages which were blocked in by overgrown weeds. The officer would raise an order to have the weeds cut back to make more parking available. Photos were taken of various areas that could provide additional parking: green space by the shelter and the cul de sac. The officer suggested that the garage area might be repurposed as a free covered parking area however it is well known that people like to park outside their properties. Councillor Kinsley will check on progress.

The plans for the proposed 4 one-bedroom flats suggested one parking space each but not exactly where. It did appear that the plans would compound the parking problem.

The consultation had been discussed by some residents on social media and Councillor Kinsley had encouraged home owners in Heathside to respond.

6. Highways and byways

The road closure at the narrows to allow for water connection to the 4 new houses at 1 The Street had caused upset and complaints from businesses and residents. The extended time and poor signage had affected local farmers (preventing combine harvesters passing) and local businesses saw significant footfall reduction.

South East Water had obtained permission (licence) to close the road from the 16th - 20th August and contracted Clancy Docwra to carry out the work. Clancy Docwra had in turn sub-contracted the erection and removal of road closure signage to Amber RTM. Due to an error in the work the licence was extended to the 27th August. The correction work was completed within a couple of days but it was only with persistence and constant communication with the parties involved that the signage was moved in time for the Flower Festival opening. It was the foreman's common-sense action, though not legal, to move the last barriers that allowed traffic through. Councillor Hennig was thanked for her hard work to achieve this.

Councillor Wilkinson had contacted South East Water to ascertain the reason for the delay and what action had been taken so that this kind of operative failure would not happen again. An unsatisfactory reply had been received. It is difficult to pin point who is responsible and it appears that no one can be held accountable. Councillor Wilkinson suggested that a letter of complaint should be sent. Councillors were supportive of this idea. County Councillor Hill advised that the letter should be sent to Highways as they are the parish council contact point and it is their role to speak with the various parties.

7. Recreation Ground

At the first meeting of the new committee, Steve Burton was elected as Chairman and David Ball was re-elected as Treasurer. The Position of Secretary remained vacant. A new contact email address was being set up and would be available on the parish council website. The new committee is keen to encourage the village to use the ground more and will be holding a BBQ on the 11th of September. Junior football posts (75% funded by the FA), will be installed.

8. Appledore Signage

A written report had been circulated by Councillor Hiskey. Quotes from three sign manufacturers were obtained for the council's specification however, two manufacturers proposed aluminium as a longer lasting material for the scheme. **It was resolved, by a majority, to agree to contract Arien Designs Limited to manufacture the four signs (not including the sign for Appledore Station nor events sign/board for the village hall) and delivery.** Estimated cost £5,125 plus vat. Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Perkins. Councillor Kinsley objected.

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

There had been interest and support from local organisations and businesses. Councillor Kinsley had signed up with the pageant master. Plans included converting the ground into a street with a street party and stalls, set in 1952.

10. Information for Councillors

Court Lodge Road Car Park

Councillor Wilkinson has spoken to the contractors about keeping to the required working hours to keep noise levels down. He also advised a resident that it was a planning condition that the car park had to be completed and in use prior to 75% of the houses being occupied.

Friends of Appledore Footpaths

The group was thanked for the efforts that had been put into reviewing all the footpaths. Once Public Rights of Way officers had advised what work the group could undertake, the parish council would consider funding some work. Clerk to email thanks to the group.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 4th October 2021, 7.30pm, St. Peter and St. Paul. The meeting closed at 8.10 hrs.