



6th February 2023
Minutes of the Meeting
7.30 pm Village Hall

Present

Roger Hiskey (Chairman), Gary Kinsley, Chester Lusk, Paula Thornton and Charles Wilkinson.
In attendance: District Councillor Mick Burgess, County Councillor Mike Hill and the clerk Mary Philo
Members of the Public: 6

1. Formalities

I) Quorum

The council was quorate.

II) Apologies

Councillors Davis and Winter.

(LGA 1972 schedule 12, 12)

III) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

(Code of Conduct)

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 9th January 2023 as a true record.

Proposed by Councillor Thornton and seconded Councillor Kinsley. (LGA Act 1972 schedule 12, 19.1)

Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

Report from County Councillor Mike Hill

The county council will be approving the budget for next year at the 8th February meeting. All services will see reduced expenditure including adult social care, children services and roads. Soft or non-statutory services will have to give a robust performance. All counties are in similar financial positions. The cold snap followed by rain has resulted in five times the number of potholes being reported. The A28 around Tenterden is undergoing improvement works at night. It is planned to plant a tree for every resident by 2050 as part of climate change plans to improve tree coverage.

Report from Borough Councillor Mick Burgess

Residents were asked to be patient during the planning clearance week, during which officers will not be contactable.

With the closure of Action in Rural Communities Kent, work is ongoing relocating its community schemes.

Biffa who currently has the waste contract, is experiencing a dispute between its staff and unions.

Public Questions 7.35pm

Appledore Local History Society

Following the parish council's request since the last meeting, the society had not contacted the recreation ground committee as attempts at previous efforts to work with local groups not been as fruit full as hoped. The society believed that the land was securely in the council's hands and preferred to remain an independent body. They provided single figure costs for 4 options to house a heritage centre. They are considering a self-contained facility. The society believed that no further action could be usefully taken without the agreement in principle of the parish council.

The meeting reconvened at 7.50 pm

3. Planning

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

3.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

I) PA/2022/3006: Park House, Tenterden: Proposed replacement two-storey outbuilding including annex and solar panels to north elevation. Approved.

3.2 Planning Applications Considered

I) **PA/2022/3166 Mill House, Heath Road:** Proposed part single and part two-storey rear extension. Alteration to fenestrations to the front and rear. **It was resolved to support.** Proposed by Councillor Kinsley and seconded by Councillor Thornton.

II) **PA/2022/0026 Oak Tree Cottage, School Road:** Proposed new dormer window to front elevation. **It was resolved to support.** Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Davis.

III) **PA/2022/0106 Willow Green Cottage, Heath Road:** Removal and replacement of rear extension, internal alterations to dwelling and provision of tradition timber frame car barn/garage and workshop. **It was resolved to support.** Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Kinsley.

4. Residential Enabled Car Park Court Lodge Road

With the dismissal of the appeal on the bungalow application for the land below the car park, the council solicitor had asked Court Developments Ltd to include the footpath to The Royal Military Canal in the freehold. Court Developments had agreed to this but concessions had been made by the council in that the car park is accepted as is. There are a few minor points for completion such as fencing.

Item 13 was brought forward

It was resolved to agree to sign the transfer documents and letter. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Lusk. Documents were signed then and there.

The directional signage for the car park and yellow lines were progressing but the process is long. No date for completion is available as yet. The chairman thanked Councillor Wilkinson for bringing this to completion after almost 10 years.

5. Highways and Byways

The repairs to the pavement opposite Miss Mollets is now completed.

The road markings to complete the new Gateways will be painted in April with the better weather. Highways have confirmed that they will re-inspect the Kenardington Road surface and hopefully

remedial action will be take.

The flooding on Becket Road and a missing mph sign have also been reported.

Gusbourne had advised that it would be clearing the feral trees around the Mill Hill mound, to maintain the view from the mound.

6. Recreation Ground Facilities Improvements Advisory Group – Active Appledore

Various ideas had been looked into for the MUGA/Tennis Court including removing the inner fencing and equipment to allow for two tennis courts and 5 a side football. As the actual shape and size does not increase as a result of these actions, no benefit is gained. A specification for refurbishment is now being drawn up to obtain costings.

The landing area beneath the two swing sets has now been replaced with a base covered with wet pour. This new surfacing has been scuffed by residents using the swings before the surface was dry in spite of the area being closed off. It is not repairable. The surface cost £3,500.

7. Community Engagement

7.1 Resilience Planning

Following the articles in the parish magazine a few more residents have been in touch.

7.2 Speed watch

Roadside training went ahead on the 13th January and further sessions have been booked. A hundred cars had been clocked travelling in northerly direction (pub to recreation ground) on the 13th January. Two had been travelling over the speed limit.

7.3 Litter

Advice had been received that for the parish council to run a register, the parish council would have to ensure that volunteers were covered under the council insurance and ensure that volunteers working in safety and with suitable equipment with one off events being the preferred option.

An advert was out for a temporary litter picker.

8. Finances

8.1 Bank Account

As at 31st December 2022 stood at £101,045.72 (this includes £62,343.01 ring fenced for capital projects and £11,343.69 ring fenced for highways). Remaining funds £27,359.02 including £13,000 reserve. Third Quarter Financial Report can be found at the end of the minutes.

8.2 December Receipts

£59.86	Bank Interest
£15.61	Public donations from the Public Conveniences
£1,260.82	Solar panels fit payments from July to December 2022

8.3 December Payments

£252.00	Appledore Village Hall room hire from 1st April to 31 st December 2022 (no vat)
£40.00	Appledore Parish Magazine: resilience survey printing (no vat)
£43.34	Iden PC: share of two black with one set of colour inks (no vat)
£49.54	Refund M Philo admin costs: envelopes for resilience survey, toilet requisites, stamps and paper (vat 7.38)
£29.58	Pett PC: Share of Clerks mobile July to December (no vat)
£71.91	J Mclaughlin: Over 60s Xmas lunch donation (1972 LGA s 137)
£30.00	Refund R Hiskey: Chairman's thank you gift to those who erected the village Xmas tree
£550.00	Refund G Kinsley for ABC grant and APC grant towards the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in Appledore and Beacon Lighting.

£252.00	Appledore Village Hall: Room hire April to December inclusive
£121.65	Business Stream: Toilets waste water July to November
£16.98	Refund L Hiskey: Over 60's Xmas Lunch donation(1972 Act section 137)
£2,430.69	December Salaries and HMRC 3 rd Quarter

8.4 Additional January Payments

£460.71	Zurich Municipal: Council Annual Insurance
£1,311.64	January Salaries

8.5 It was resolved to make the following payments

£52.98	Refund L Hiskey: Over 60's Xmas Lunch donation	(1972 act section 137)
£102.00	Refund M Philo: Emergency Plumber for leak at the Public Conveniences	
£13.20	Refund R Hiskey: Materials to check that pipe blockage is not the cause of the leak	
£220.00	Appledore Parish Magazine: Annual fee for articles in the magazine	

Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Thornton

8.6. Clerk Professional Society Subscription

To agree to fund a share of the clerk's subscription to the Society for Local Council Clerk's £121.26.
Refund to the Clerk. Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor Lusk.

(LGA 1972 s 143)

8.7 Internal Audit

This item was deferred to obtain costings.

8.8 Grass Cutting

It was resolved to contract Nigel Gibbs and Sons to cut the land owned by the parish council around the public conveniences. Not the verge in front of the recreation ground. Proposed by Councillor Kinsley and seconded by Councillor Lusk.

9. Coronation Festivities

It was resolved that the parish council will support any groups, within the council's legal powers and limited finances, who wish to organise festivities but the parish council will not take responsibility for organising an event. Proposed by Councillor Kinsley and seconded by Councillor Lusk.

10. General Power of Competence

It was resolved that the Clerk can take the Certificate of Local Council Clerks Qualification which is an approved qualification that the Clerk must hold as part of the criteria for the council to use the General Power of Competence. (Localism Act 2011)

11. Information for Councillors

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday 16th March in the village hall at 7.30pm. All local groups are invited to attend and give a brief report. Residents are welcome to attend and raise any concerns they may have.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6th March 2023, 7.30pm, Appledore Village Hall

13. Court Lodge Car Park Transfer

Item not needed.

APC Third Quarter Financial Report 2022-2023

Third Quarter Receipts

Total receipts for the period were £1,443.82, comprising of £1,260.82 for the solar panels £141.86 bank interest and £41.14 public donations from the loos

Third Quarter Payments

Total Net of vat payments came to £7,067.26.

The remainder is regular running costs: staff salaries £5,004.12, administration cost £115.08, chairman's allowance £68.26, room hire £252.00, media communications £40. Toilets running cost were supplies £35.98, £121.65 for waste water, £51.72 for electricity and £45.76 sanitary waste. The £200 to remove the broken unused salt bin by the canal bridge was allocated to the Other Assets Budget. Donations totaled £418.14, being £212.65 to the History Society and £205.49 for the over 60's Xmas lunch. Otherwise, £715.00 from the contingency fund was spent on £550 Jubilee Celebrations, £135 on Xmas Tree and £30 on car park at village hall.

As at the 31st December 2022 stood at £101,045.72 (this includes £62,343.01 ring fenced for capital projects and £11,343.69 ring fenced for highways).

If you remove these sums the council holds £27,359.02 if you subtract the reserve the council must hold of £13,000 and the anticipated outstanding costs for the fourth quarter estimated at £9,358 the council may have about £5,000 for cash flow.

Should the council spend the estimated amount over the 4th Quarter the council will have exceeded its budget slightly by about £400. This will be the first year that the council has exceeded its budget since 2015.

It is these small amounts not spent each year that leaves the council with a small surplus above its reserve. It is advisable to have some ready cash to allow for the unexpected. £13,000 does not go very far these days.

If the council had not had money in the bank in 2001 it would not have been able to buy the council field. An opportunity they were able to take advantage off. It was a very far-sighted decision. You will not know when the next 'field for sale' will come along.