



1st August 2022
Minutes of the Meeting
7.30 pm Village Hall

Present

Roger Hiskey (Chairman), Toby Davis, Chester Lusk, Charles Wilkinson and Derek Winter. Paula Thornton joined the council following her co-option.

In attendance: District Councillor Mick Burgess and Clerk Mary Philo.

Members of the Public: 6

1. Formalities

I) Quorum

The council was quorate.

II) Apologies

County Councillor Mike Hill. Steve Burton chairman of the recreation ground

(LGA 1972 schedule12, 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 4th July 2022 as a true record.

Proposed by Councillor Davis and seconded Councillor Winter.

(LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

3. Co-option of New Councillor

It was resolved to co-opt Paula Thornton as councillor till the elections in 2023. Paula Thornton signed the Acceptance of Office and took her seat on the council.

Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

Report from District Councillor Mick Burgess

Problems continued with the new computer system for planning. It appeared that no one could access any planning applications. Once running, only the parish clerk would need to create an account and councillors would have the same access as members of the public.

Public Questions 7.41pm

History Society

The group had recently received notice to vacate the Methodist Chapel by this autumn and was initially seeking temporary storage. It is believed that the Chapel will be sold at auction. A request was made that the group be involved should a room for the History Society become part of the plans for the recreation ground pavilion.

Recreation Ground Facilities Improvement Plan/ Public Works Loan

A member of the public enquired how the cost would be covered. In response there were various pots of money available, income for the affordable house and a loan from the Public Works Loan Board is another possibility. It was highlighted that the issue was to focus on getting together a working group to look at providing fit for purpose facilities and how this might be achieved. The public would be involved and consulted. A resident suggested that a footpath in front of Griffin Cottages would be more beneficial. In response it was highlighted that the footpath scheme was, in the recent past, on the point of going forward when Highways appeared to change their policy and dropped the scheme.

Litter Picking

In response to query, it was advised that in the absence of the regular litter picker, the council would organise temporary coverage.

Planters for the Village

In response to query, the issue of upkeep of planting and watering had to be covered before considering any planters. The Community Engagement item on the agenda is aiming to deal this issue.

Blackmore Farm

The applicant advised that the application was submitted following the last council meeting but had been delayed with the website problems.

The meeting reconvened at 7.57 pm

4. Councillor Responsibilities

It was resolved that the following councillors would lead in the following areas:

Resilience Planning Councillor Thornton Proposed by Councillor Hiskey and seconded Councillor Lusk

Resilience Planning – Councillor Lusk Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Hiskey

Highways - Councillor Hiskey Proposed by Councillor David and seconded by Councillor Winter

Litter - Councillor Thornton Proposed by Councillor David and seconded by Councillor Winter

The chairman would approach councillors about other areas following the meeting.

4. Planning

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

4.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

None advised as the new planning system and website is not fully operating as yet.

4.2 Planning Applications Considered

This item was deferred as the new planning system and website is not fully operating as yet and councillors were not able to view the plans.

5 Residential Enabling Car Park

The number one priority is the transfer of ownership of the car park by Court Developments to Appledore Parish Council (APC). APC has appointed Wellers Hedley Solicitors to act on their behalf. APC will press for completion.

The parish council are fully aware of the list of issues below. These will be dealt with either by our solicitors or once the car park is in the ownership of APC:

- a. The erection of the Appledore Parish Council and Tourist Map notice boards.
- b. Missing fencing, lack of disabled car park signs, spacing of car slots, tidying/gardening maintenance including, central planter, rubbish bins.

The fee for the cost of the traffic regulation order (TRO) to enable yellow lining at the entrance to the car park and on the corner of Court Lodge Road and The Street still has not been paid by the developer. This is due to waiting for the details of car park signs to have been agreed with KCC Kent Highways.

APC are doing all possible to resolve this impasse. Until the fee is remitted the TRO process cannot begin. Any unresolved signage issues can follow later.

Despite the lack of directional signs to the car park, it is being used: 10 cars on Sunday afternoon - 31st July.

An untaxed vehicle in the car park was reported to the DVLA and has since been removed

6. Community Engagement

The objective of a leaflet through the door to every household is to make residents aware of the many ideas and schemes for the village and to recruit people to help with them. The leaflet mentions a varied range of schemes: planters, community litter purge, canal bridge re-paint, traffic monitoring, resilience plan and footpaths. Concern over opening the council to risk was mentioned but **it was resolved to move forward with the leaflet and see what came of it.** Estimated cost £40. Proposed by Councillor Hiskey and seconded by Councillor Lusk.

7. Highways and Byways

A resident had reported that ivy was obscuring the road narrow sign located in the 'narrows' and must be thanked for then taking it upon themselves to clear the ivy away.

A tall bush on the canal has been reported as blocking visibility along the B2080 after the bridge for cars turning right into lane to the turkey farm. **It was resolved to have the branches cut back.** Proposed Councillor Hiskey and seconded Councillor Winter.

The flooding near Gusbourne has been resolved with a temporary channel. Once a permanent drain with filter is installed the parish council will press for a new road surface there. A member of the public reported that a wet patch had been noted in the centre of the road suggesting that a pipe underneath may have broken.

A recent spate of parking on the verge in The Street had been resolved and the removed verge post has been cemented in.

Following congestion outside the shop due to the delivery lorry not being able to find a space outside the shop, Councillor Wilkinson suggested a white line might be appropriate. Installing a white line may just move the parking issue further along the road. Councillor Lusk would talk to the shop and get feedback.

Some more verge posts are required to replace some rotten ones and this will be an item for the next agenda.

8. Grant and Donation Policy

Following a lengthy discussion of the risks involved with funding running costs, the clerk was asked to make an enquiry to the legal adviser at Kent Association of Local Councils on this issue. Councillor Davis offered to assist the Clerk. A loan was suggested as an alternative for those asking for funds towards running costs.

9. Car Park at the Village Hall

Following on from joy riding in the area, upon inspection it was decided to have the car park raked. A bill for £20 had been submitted and would be paid.

10. Recreation Ground Facilities Improvement Plan/ Public Works Loan

The chairman advised that the idea is to bring together a few people to investigate how to improve the facilities on the recreation ground with the aim of providing new activities of all ages, abilities and gender as well as other leisure activities that would increase usage, as a working party reporting to the

council. Considering funding would be part of this. Various sums of money are available: £16,000 for the MUGA/tennis courts and £2,000 for the play area. Both sums from the sale of the council field. Also £15,000 for play area equipment and £23,000 for the MUGA/tennis courts from infrastructure payments to be made in the future during the residential building works on the former council field. Additionally, around £8,000 in rental income from the affordable house that the council will take on to be built on the former council field. A further source could be a public works loan. The size of which would depend on the number of projects deemed reasonable. It might be £250,000. Councillors Davis and Lusk offered to be involved. The recreation ground committee involvement would be intrinsic to the group as well as a few members of the public. Terms of reference for the group would be agreed at the next meeting.

11. Finances

11.1 Bank Account

As at 30th June 2022 stood at £99,186.54 (this includes £62,343.01 ring fenced for capital projects and £11,343.69 ring fenced for highways). First Quarter Financial report 2022-2023 available at the end of the minutes

11.2 June Receipts

£13.71	Public Donations from the conveniences
£684.85	EDF solar panels Feed in Tariff Payment
£16.99	Idea PC refund mini jumbo toilet roll
£4.56	Public Donations from the conveniences
£15.88	Public Donations from the conveniences
£7.47	Bank Interest

11.3 June Payments

£11.88	Refund M Philo Admin costs (vat £1.98)
£49.64	Idea PC share of two sets of ink cartridges
£612.00	W Tolletts repaint of K6 telephone box (vat £102.00)
£238.00	Refund M Philo 2 x defibrillator pad (vat £39.67)
£386.88	Kent Association of Local Councils annual subscription (vat £64.48)
£8,541.31	Kent County Council Gateways
£578.15	HMRC first quarter PAY and National Insurance
£1,249.70	June Salaries

11.4 Additional July Payments

£1,258.03	July Salaries
£133.65	Business Stream Toilets waste water March to July

11.5 It was resolved to make the following payments

£60.98	Refund M Philo Set of batteries for defibrillator £35.95 (vat £5.99), stamps £2.04, £22.99 Baby changing unit repair
£20.00	P Caro: car park at village hall rake.

Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Davis

11.6 Appledore Flower Festival

It was resolved to donate £100 to Appledore Flower Festival costs. 1972 LGA s 145

12. Information for Councillors

Defibrillator at the public conveniences – new batteries were installed.
Public toilets baby changing unit has been repaired.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 5th September 2022, 7.30pm, Appledore Village Hall

APC First Quarter Financial Report 2022-2023

First Quarter Receipts

Total receipts for the period were £13,795.95.

This is primarily made up of the precept being £13,000 the first of two equal payments across the year. Now that the solar panels are back up and running a feed in tariff payment of £684.85 has been received. The rest is made up: public donations from the toilets £72.34, £21.77 bank interest and £16.99 recharge of loo roll to Iden Parish Council.

First Quarter Payments

Total Net of vat payments came to £14,297.97.

£8541.31 for the village gateways has reduced highways restricted funds to £11,343.69.

The remainder is regular running costs: staff salaries £4,339.76, administration cost £89.49, Internal audit £353.60, Parish Meeting £75.67, Kent Association of Local Council annual subscription £322.40. Toilets running cost were £283.77 for fresh water and £45.76 sanitary waste plus supplies £48.48. Otherwise, £198.33 from the contingency fund was spent on new defibrillator pads. The repaint of the K6 telephone box was completed and cost £510.00. This work was agreed in the previous financial year and does not figure in the budget for the current financial year

As at the 30th June 2022 the bank balances stood at £99,186.54 (this includes £62,343.01 ring fenced for capital projects, £11,343.69 ring fenced for highways and a general reserve of £13,000). There is one final sign from the signage scheme to be installed plus about £1200 in vat to reclaim.