

APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL



10th January 2022 Minutes of the Meeting 7.30 pm St. Peter and St. Paul

Present

Roger Hiskey (Chairman), Helen Hennig, Gary Kinsley, Charles Wilkinson, Chris Vane and Derek Winter.
In attendance: County Councillor Mike Hill and the Clerk Mary Philo.
Members of the Public: 3

1. Formalities

I) Quorum

The council was quorate.

II) Apologies

Borough Councillor Mick Burgess and Councillor Perkins (LGA 1972 schedule12, 12)

III) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Councillor Vane advised that, although he had no interest, he would abstain from voting on the item regarding Appledore signage. (Code of Conduct)

2. Election of Vice-chairman

It was proposed and agreed to defer electing a Vice-Chairman till necessary. Proposed Councillor Winter and seconded Councillor Vane.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 6th December 2021 as a true record.

Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded Councillor Kinsley. One abstention.
(LGA Act 1972 schedule12,19.1)

Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

The meeting was adjourned at 7.34pm.

Report from County Councillor Mike Hill

The county council is experiencing manpower issues as a result of staff shortages due to covid and sickness. The budget would be voted on in February. Savings had been made in sensitive areas. It was also probable that following the positive public consultation that the booking system for waste disposal centres will continue.

Public Questions 7.38pm

Village Hall Refurbishment

A member of the public expressed their opinion that alterations made to the scope of works such as changes to the car park surface, external wall insulation and finish of the wall buttresses have resulted in substantial cost savings for the contractor which have not been reimbursed to the village. In reply it was reiterated that the scope of works has not changed. The car park surface was altered as it had to be water permeable and the buttresses are finished in render because of damage discovered when the pebbledash surface was removed. The change in wall insulation from external to internal has not made a significant difference. The cost and delivery time of building materials has increased substantially due to market disruption caused by Covid, Martello have absorbed these costs and the project is nearing completion on schedule.

The meeting reconvened at 7.49 pm

4. Planning

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

4.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

None.

4.2 Planning Applications Considered

I) 21/02151/AS Prospect House, School Road: Proposed new dwelling and outbuilding (revision to planning permission 18/00889/AS). **It was resolved to support the application.** Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded by Councillor Wilkinson.

5. Highways and Byways

Cllr Henning undertook to provide a full written Highways Report for the February Parish Council Meeting. Briefly the main points follow. It has been clarified that road surface speed limit roundels, like those on posts on verges are not permitted on roads with street lights. Highway Officers had apologised for leading the council to believe they were. The dragon teeth that form part of the gateway schemes may have to be maintained by the parish council. The number of gateways is still under discussion. Councillor Hennig had also been in touch with the maintenance side of Highways regarding the flooding on Appledore Road, towards Kenardington.

Another accident had occurred recently at Fourwents crossroads. Highways had promised a yellow back luminous warning crossroad sign to help prevent these accidents but Highways appeared to have gone back on this decision.

6. Finances

6.1 Bank Account

As at 30th November 2021 balances stood at £116,096.74 (£70,000 ring fenced for capital projects and £19,985 for highways projects)

6.2 November Receipts

£0.80	November Bank Interest
£21.80	Public Conveniences: Public Donations
£8.42	Public Conveniences; Public Donations

6.3 November Payments

£1,306.91	November Salaries
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6.4 Additional December Payments

£73.32	Business Stream: Public Toilets waste water August to September 2021
£2,000.00	H Cann: Tourist Map design and illustration
£192.00	Nigel Gibbs and Son: 2021 grass cutting for the toilets and recreation ground frontage (vat £32.00)

£146.04 Refund J Perkins: Posts for footpath group (vat £ 24.34)
£49.95 Refund J Perkins: Black Lion
£1,796.75 December salaries and quarter's PAYE

6.5 Agreement of payments

None.

6.6 Clerk's Membership of Society for Local Council Clerks

It was resolved to fund the Clerk's Membership. Total cost £208, Appledore's share £83.20.

Proposed Councillor Vane and seconded Councillor Winter

6.6 Set budget for 2022-2023 financial year

It was resolve to set the budget at £26,000 per annum for the 2022-2023 financial year. Band D household annual charge will be £71.43 a drop from £77.15 for the current year. Proposed Councillor Vane and seconded Councillor Kinsley.

6.7 Internal Auditor

It was resolved to instruct Mike Cuerden to complete an appropriate internal audit for the 2020-2021 year. Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded Councillor Vane.

6.8 Council Insurance

It was resolved to instruct Zurich Insurance to insure the parish council from the 26th January 2022. Annual premium £457.08. Proposed by Councillor Winter and seconded Councillor Wilkinson.

7. Village Hall Refurbishment Update

Exterior

The bricks to finish to retaining wall and steps to the front entrance have been delivered and work to complete this area is proceeding. Once the brickwork is complete the increased width pavement at the front of the hall will be tarmaced.

The front and rear entrance canopies will be completed during the next month.

New guttering and drain pipes are in the process of being fitted.

The exterior screeding and cladding of the building are largely complete, measurements can now be taken by the window manufacturers to fabricate the window ledges. This will take up to 6-8 weeks and is likely to be the last item to be completed on the project.

Interior

Second fix is underway for the plumbing and electrical work. All fittings to finish the project have been delivered with the exception of the range cooker.

Over the next month the floor in the main hall will be sanded and re-sealed.

Building control will inspect the building late January/early February.

In addition, the hall committee would obtain a new internet hub but Martello would fit it.

8. Delegation to the Clerk

The cabinet minister for local government had just written to the National Association of Local Councils advising that virtual meetings will not be considered by the government for local councils. **It was resolved to extend the delegation to the clerk should a lockdown be called by central government, till the end of June 2022.** Proposed by Councillor Kinsley and seconded by Councillor Vane. One abstention.

9. Appledore Signage Update and Installation

The map illustration was approved by the History Society and councillors and artwork commissioned in early December.

The outstanding item was the sign for Appledore Railway Station, this was being managed by FOAS.

The GTR-Southern approved poster frames are a different format and size to our map illustration and cannot not accept our artwork.

However, GTR like the map illustration and after discussion offered to fund the manufacture and installation of the map using the same manufacturer and materials as we are using for the maps within the village. To help with the funding they asked FOAS to amend a grant application which had already submitted.

Confirmation of funding is expected by the end of next week.

The signage is currently being manufactured with delivery due late January/early February.

The report is attached below.

It was resolved, by a majority, to instruct W Tolletts Ltd (£919.00 plus vat) to install the signage.

Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson and Councillor Hennig.

10. Information for councillors

A resident has suggested that the public toilets need some larger signs indicating the direction towards the men's and ladies' toilets. As only a few comments had been received, the council will keep this under review.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 7th February 2022, 7.30pm, St. Peter and St. Paul Church. The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.