



**Minutes of the Meeting on 2nd October 2017 at 19.30 hrs
Appledore Village Hall**

Present

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

In Attendance: County Cllr Mike Hill, Borough Cllr Mike Burgess and the Clerk Mary Philo.

Members of the Public: 9

1. Formalities

I) The council was quorate.

LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12/28/45

II) Apologies had been received from Cllr. Colledge.

LGA Act 1972 sch12, 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 meeting held on 4th September 2017 as a true

record. Proposed Cllr. Wilkinson and seconded Cllr. Winter.

LGA Act 1972 sch12,19.1

The meeting was adjourned at 17.35 hrs.

Report by County Cllr. Hill

Parsons Green Tube Line Bomb Explosion - On the 15th, 16th and 17th September the security level had been raised from severe to critical until the bomb maker, a young man, had been arrested in Dover.

County Council Free School Bus Policy – Although the County Council Free School Bus Policy had always been to provide a service to “the nearest appropriate school”, it had only recently noted that the nearest school to Appledore was Woodchurch Primary School/Brenzett School and not Wittersham C. of E. Primary School, to which the bus service had been running for many years. Parents had not been suitably notified in a timely fashion, by the county council of its intention to correct the position, resulting in several families with new school entrants to Wittersham School having to take the new pupil to school whilst a sibling could take the service. Cllr. Hill had been supporting parents making appeals and had requested that the cabinet member in charge reconsider. All present believed that a slower change with families with pupils at Wittersham being allowed to receive the service for siblings to Wittersham and families with a first child attending school being offered the service to Woodchurch or Brenzett schools. It was considered that there would be no increased cost to the county council as it was currently having to pay for empty seats on the Wittersham Bus and individual taxi service for those pupils whose appeal had been rejected. Cllr. Hill would continue to assist parents and advise all parties of the cabinet member’s imminent decision. It is believed that Wittersham had been the designated school for approx. 30 years.

Report by Borough Cllr. Burgess

Community Rail Partnership – Cllr. Burgess would be meeting its representative on the 23rd October at Ore Station along with Network Rail and invited Cllr. Hennig to attend if available.

Business Rate Relief – Ashford Borough Council would consider any business for this scheme. Information could be found on the Ashford Borough Website or from Cllr. Mick Burgess.

Annual Rural Meeting 3rd October Aldington – Cllr. Burgess would be attending along with Cllr. Wilkinson.

Public Questions

Residential Enabled Car Park for Court Lodge Road – Following query, it was advised that the planning application may be considered by the full planning committee rather than be delegated to a planning officer.

Court Lodge Development Hedges and Verges – As requested at the last parish council meeting, Cllr. Burgess had contacted the planning enforcement officer regarding the completion of planned screening for the development and the restoration of the hedges and verges opposite.

The meeting was reconvened at 20.00 hrs.

3. Matters arising from the previous ordinary meeting (not already covered under another item and not for decision at this meeting) None.

4. Finances

I) Bank Accounts: as at 30th September 2017 funds stood at £54,677.39

II) External Audit: Annual return " is in accordance with proper practices and no other matters giving cause for concern"

III) Income received:

£ 44.41 Public donations from the toilets

£ 0.17 Bank Interest

£ 438.52 EDF: Solar panel Fit 3rd quarter payment

£13,000.00 Ashford Borough Council: 50% precept payment

£525.00 Ashford Borough Council: 50% Concurrent Grant

£169.32 Ashford Borough Council: 50% Council Tax Support Grant

IV) Cheques raised since the last meeting:

£ 821.50 August salaries

£ 74.00 HMRC paye

V) It was resolved to agree to draw the following:

£ 220.80 Plumblin plumbing and heating Ltd (vat refund £36.80) new ladies toilet cistern

£ 66.12 M Philo: Administration Costs: room £30, car £33.80, £1 file (vat return 16p), £1.32 stamps

£ 58.50 TP Jones & Co LLP: July – September payroll services (vat refund £9.75)

£ 240.00 PKF Littlejohn LLP: 2016 – 2017 external audit fee (vat refund £40)

£ 650.00 Michael Ray: repair and decorate external toilet doors and shelving in cupboard

£ 13.38 Kent County Service (KCS): toilet requisites (vat refund £2.23)

£ 30.00 B Gray: refund for key cutting (vat refund £5.00)

Salaries to be paid at the end of the month following receipt of time sheets

5. Planning

Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 sch1/2010

I) Ashford Borough Decisions Advised:

a) 17/01149/AS Saxon House, 34 The Street: Erection of a greenhouse – permitted.

b) 17/00244/AS Land to the rear and north of the Old Surgery: Single dwelling – Permitted.

II) New applications for A.P.C. to consider and vote on:

a) **17/01420/AS Land adjacent to Prospect House, School Road: Proposed new dwelling with new access. It was resolved to support the application.** Proposed Cllr. Winter and seconded Cllr. Jenkins.

6. **It was resolved to continue the contract with Laser to supply electricity for a further year to 30th September 2018.** The Clerk recommended that as a result of the poor service from Laser and the outstanding payment problems that the council seek another supplier in the summer of 2018. Proposed Cllr. Hennig and seconded Cllr. Vane. 1972 LGA s111
7. County Council policy on Free School Bus Service: no further comment to those at the public session.
8. **Highways and Byways**
- I) **Resident's letter regarding the congestion around the main thoroughfare** – (The chairman opened the item for public comment) It was noted that there were several reasons for the mainly daytime congestion which included employees for local businesses parking on the road and not making use of the hall car park; customers for businesses insisting on parking as close as possible to the point of parking on verges making the road dangerous (the addition of posts along the verge had had deterred some from parking there); tradesmen attending resident's homes needing close access to equipment and tools in their vans and little off road parking for most residents' homes. Cllrs working on the issue did not believe that the congestion could not be resolved by targeting the individual causes and suggested a more holistic approach. It was also commented that although the congestion was a problem it did help to reduce the speed of drivers in the area. The report on the recent route study by Kent County Council Highways Department might be helpful. Parish Cllrs commented that Highways Officers came across as being blinkered to the various issues. Providing more parking spaces by reducing the depth of the verge would be unlikely to be approved by highways and planning authorities, as the area was a conservation area. If more spaces were approved this may only encourage more people to park. Furthermore, enforcement of parking was unlikely to be carried out by Police as it would not be considered a high priority.
- II) **Village Gateways** – Cllr. Hennig suggested that the parish council should look into these as there was evidence that marking the entrance to villages with these including as speed limit sign did remind drivers to slow down.
- IV) **Necked Lights** – The lights on both these replaced lampposts were now working. It was believed that these would not be painted as galvanised steel was low maintenance.
- V) **Parking at Methodist Church** - Cllrs looking into this issue suggested a general notice in the parish magazine along with a small sign outside the chapel to keep clear on Tuesday and Sunday mornings could be part of a holistic approach to encourage resident to park more considerately.
- VI) **Route Study** – This had been completed and a report awaited. Court Lodge Road and Kenardington Road had not been included. A further request had been made for this to be reconsidered.
- VII) **Village Car Park Sign** – Highways had been contacted about getting altering the signs.
- VIII) **Footpaths** – Weed spraying in Appledore were scheduled for 2nd to 7th October. Siding works would be scheduled once weeds removed. After siding works highways would be writing to land owners about any overgrown vegetation. A works order had been raised for repair to the footpath and cutting back of bramble on School road and Tenterden Road.
- IX) **Deer and Wild Boar** – These had been seen In Kenardington Road and reported to highways.
9. **Public Conveniences**
- Donations** - £24.68 received making a total £955.72
- Railings and fencing** – The parish council had paid for the railings and fencing to be repaired over the years and would expect to continue to be responsible for these.
- Graffiti** – There had been some recent graffiti and the Community Warden would be regularly checking on the facility.
- Open Times Sign** – The Clerk asked for guidance. A quote was being sought.
- External Doors** – The door locks were still not working well but the contractor would be returning.
- Cleaner Holiday** – Cover had been sourced.

10. Recreation Ground

Play Area Bark – The recreation ground committee were looking at alternative safety matting. The grass could not be pulled up at present as the weed matting below would be further damaged and allow more grass to grow. Concern was expressed regarding the delay in resolving the issue. Ball stop netting would shortly be installed along the play area

ROSPA Play Area Inspection – The committee employ ROSPA to carry out the annual inspection.

11. Village Hall

Committee Members – The new committee Chairman was Vicki Self and the hall booking clerk Linda Hiskey.

Events Planned – 12th November Antiques Sale, 9th December Over 60's Lunch

Maintenance – The committee were working on designated parking spaces and new signage out front.

12. Information for Councillors

Restoration of Waste Bin Outside Village Hall – One contractor had turned down the job but two others should be looking at quoting.

Kent Highways Seminar 1st November Kent Invicta Chamber 13.00 to 17.00 – Cllrs Wilkinson and Hennig to attend.

Ashford Area Committee Dates for next year – now available

Christmas Refuse Collection Dates – The clerk had been advised of the schedule and would be putting these up on the noticeboard.

13. Date of Next Meeting

6th November 2017, 19.30hrs in the village hall.