



**Minutes of the Meeting on 28th November 2016 at 19.30 hrs
Appledore Village Hall**

Present

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

In Attendance: Clerk Mary Philo.

Members of the Public: 7

1. Formalities

I) The Council was quorate.

LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12/28/45

II) None.

LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12

III) None.

Code of Conduct

2. Approval of Draft minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2016 as a true record.

LGA Act 1972 sch12,19.1

The meeting was adjourned.

A resident queried why a grant for running cost for the recreation ground was being considered when the council had a grants and donations policy which excluded these costs. It was advised that the grant policy voted on by the council would take effect from the 1st April 2017 and the application was being considered under the current policy which required accounts and cash flow information.

A member of the public commented that the recreation ground was an important public facility which also increased income for local businesses. As such the insurance coverage was a parish cost.

The Chairman of the committee advised that the ground was open to all the public whether from the parish or from further afield. Thus, the committee had no control of who accessed the ground. As a result of the litigious nature of today, the insurance cost had risen. Furthermore, the cost of much of the grass cutting was for areas that were not uniquely used by the recreation ground and therefore believed that this should be a cost to the parish. The Chairman advised that the committee managed the facility for the benefit of the parish but that the committee should not bear the additional costs. The committee believed that all the profits from the car rally should go on ground improvements.

The meeting was reconvened at 19.51hrs

- 3.** A proposed response was presented by the chair which put forward the idea that, in light of the risk to the committees' finances should the only fundraising event (the car rally) not run, that the ground committee should be looking to increase the number of fundraising activities. The parish council would, if requested, lend their support and help with the initial funding of events up to a total of £2,500 for the year. Furthermore, given recent practice, the council would pay the insurance cost and grass cutting fee requested but in future the council would only consider applications, from the recreation ground committee, for projects for improvement of the ground. Cllrs commented that the

committee had worked hard to produce a successful car rally and the improvements to the ground were considerable. However, Cllrs. had noted that many locals did not feel that it was a facility for the village and that efforts needed to be made to make the facility an essential part of the community and to engage more with the village. It was suggested that greater transparency and openness from the committee would be helpful.

The meeting was adjourned 20.01 hrs

A resident expressed concern that the meeting had not received enough advertisement. It was advised that it had been planned to address this issue at the ordinary meeting of the 5th December but the ground committee had asked for an earlier meeting as the insurance premium was overdue.

It was suggested that the council should be raising the money for the ground from the precept if necessary. The public were informed that the parish council's income had been reduced over the last few years due to the loss of recycling credit and street cleaning grant being no longer as well as concurrent functions grant and council tax support grant being reduced. It was expected that funding from Ashford Borough Council would continue to drop overtime. In addition, the precept for Appledore was one of the highest for the area due to the loan payments for the acquisition and refurbishment of the village hall. Also the council were looking for other sources of income and it was hoped that the development of the council field would provide an income for the parish council. However, this was still only in the pipeline.

It was noted that the committee and council had received differing legal advice as to what would happen to the facility should the ground committee declare the facility non-viable to the Charities Commission.

A committee representative advised that some of the most able fundraisers had left the village and that the committee were fully extended with the day to day running. Unfortunately, no one from the village had come forward and the current committee was unable to organise further fund raising activities. An event such as the car rally was generally considered the most effective way to raise funds. Information on other events on the ground were listed but these were considered by the council as being day to day activities.

A resident acknowledged the council's difficult position in the light of reduced income and suggested as a possible solution the bringing together of the hall and recreation facilities and management committees.

The meeting reconvened at 20.45pm

- 4. It was resolved to agree to grant Appledore Recreation Ground Management Committee £1,928.20 for insurance cover and £2,484 for 18 months charge for grass cutting.** Proposed by Cllr Winter and seconded by Cllr Vane (5 votes in favour and 2 abstentions). Cheque written and passed to committee. LGA 1976 (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act Sect.19
It was further unanimously resolved to agree the draft letter, without alteration, to be sent to Appledore Recreation Ground Committee.
- 5. Information for Councillors**
 - Court Lodge Road Condition** - Cllr Wilkinson would mention to highways engineer Lee Goodman, as he was meeting him on the 29th to discuss issues on The Street.
 - Necked Street Lights** - It seemed that the lights may be replaced but the council may have to take the running and costs of the amenity lights. Further advice from Ashford Borough Council was awaited.

Graffiti in the Public Conveniences – Various attempts had been made to remove it, to no avail.

6. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 5th December 2016, 19.15hrs in the village hall. Presentation from Romney Marsh Partnership