



Minutes of the Meeting on 4th December 2017 at 19.30 hrs Appledore Village Hall

Present

Cllrs: James Perkins (Chair), Julian Colledge, Lyndsey Jenkins, Helen Hennig, Charles Wilkinson, Chris Vane.

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

Members of the Public: 3

1. Formalities

I) The council was quorate.

LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12/28/45

II) Apologies had been received from Cllr. Winter.

LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12

III) Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Jenkins - planning application

Dispensations request received: None

Code of Conduct

2. Approval of Draft minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2017 as a true record. Proposed Cllr. Vane and seconded Cllr. Colledge.

LGA Act 1972 sch12,19.1

The meeting was adjourned at 17.35 hrs.

Report by County Cllr. Hill

KCC Free School Bus Policy – Kent County Council had agreed that due to the lack of notice free school bus places to Wittersham would be provided for this academic year. For the next academic year, parents would have to make their own arrangements: driving their children themselves or applying for a paid vacant seat on the bus being among the options.

Public Bus Services – The county council subsidise commercial bus companies to keep running some, particularly rural, routes. Kent County Council would be reviewing these subsidies and prior to any decision there would be a public consultation early in 2018. Some routes were subsidised by around £10 per person and the council was looking at alternative more cost-effective ways of providing transport.

Report by Borough Cllr. Burgess

Appledore Train Station – As part of the Sussex Community Rail Partnership (Hastings to Ashford Line) the Appledore Branch would now be responsible for the 4 flower tubs on the station. Cllr. Burgess advised that he may be able to provide some match funding for planting. Cllr. Burgess would be meeting the Partnership Secretary in January.

Public Questions

Appledore Good Neighbours Scheme – The Scheme's Treasurer was present and thanked the council for forwarding the information on the new grant funding available from Kent County Council. He advised that currently the scheme had no requirement for capital purchases such as a minibus as could be provided by the grant. Volunteer drivers usually provided their cars and time for free. Cllr. Hennig believed that there may be an opportunity to expand the service and possibly make it more resilient as the scheme was reliant on retired older residents. It was advised that the Good

Neighbours' constitution had been changed to allow for other services. The scheme's management would be open to discussions with the council.

The meeting was reconvened at 17.47 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 November 2017 the balance after unpresented cheques stood at £45,662.43

II) Income received:

£33.25 Public donations from the toilets

£63.20 Natwest Bank : refund on incorrect charges. (the clerk had not seen any incorrect charges on the bank account since September 2015 and advised that this may be a bank error)

II) Cheques raised since the last meeting:

£1,002.73 November salaries

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

£27.42 Kent County Council Commercial Services: toilet requisites (vat refund £4.57)

£180.00 Kent Association of Local Councils: Crime Prevention and Safety Conference x 2 and General Data Protection Regulations x 1 (vat refund £30)

£72.95 M Philo: Admin costs room £30, Car £23.40, stamp 56p, key cutting council field £6 (vat refund £1), yellow ink £12.99 (vat refund £2.16)

£35.00 M Philo: refund Data Handler registration with the Information Commissioner's Office

v) **It was resolved to contract Mike Cuerden as internal auditor for this financial year.** (Approx cost £400)

5. Planning

Town and Country Planning Acts 1990 sch1/2010

I) Ashford Borough Decisions Advised: None

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

Cllr. Jenkins left the room.

a) **17/01623/AS - Upton Tenterden Road: Change of use of land for stationing a wheeled shepherd's hut for ecotourism. Appledore Parish Council voted in support.** Proposed Cllr.

Colledge and seconded Cllr. Vane.

Cllr. Jenkins returned.

b) **17/01739/AS - 10 Court Lodge Road: Demolition and removal of the existing brick and concrete bridge and erection of replacement, widened bridge with new concrete structure supported on bored concrete piles and adjustment to bridge levels. Appledore Parish Council voted in support with one abstention.** Proposed Cllr. Perkins and seconded Cllr. Wilkinson.

II) Holiday Lets: No planning permission is required for a habitable dwelling to become a holiday let. Business rates would apply. Planning could look into queries about building works differing to planning applications. Issues with noise should be reported to Environmental Health Department of Ashford Borough Council.

6. Training.

7th December Crime and Prevention Conference would be attended by Cllrs. Hennig and Jenkins.

Kent Association of Local Council (KALC) Annual General Meeting – In addition to re-electing officers and voting on the budget, the association had voted in favour of the Wingham Council proposal that KALC take action to ensure that all rural villages and isolated communities have the right to impose 20 mph speed limits. During the debate the success of speed watch and freight watch was highlighted.

7. **K6 Telephone Box**

The Chairman and Cllr. Hennig met at the kiosk and discussed its condition as well as any internal modifications needed to accommodate any displays and the defibrillator. An initial quote was being sought to indicate costs for varying options.

8. **Highways and Byways**

I) **It was resolved to agree the installation of 3 wooden posts along the verge to the entrance to Old Way.** KCC Highways would install them for free and the parish council already has the posts. Since the verges on entrance to Old Way had been recently turfed the verges had been driven over at least twice. Proposed Cllr. Wilkinson and seconded Cllr. Perkins.

II) **Faults reported –**

- Heath Road adjacent to Mill Road - Damaged 40 mph sign with crooked pole.
- Junction of Court Lodge road and Ferry Road - Sign pointing in the wrong direction
- Heath Road – Street Light not working
- Opposite the village hall – Street light shade broken

III) **Old Way Street Name Plates –** Request to move sign to safer position is in hand but scheduled to be done when other works required in the area.

IV) **Heathside Dropped Curbs –** Kent County Council Highways have scheduled the work for February 2018.

V) **Route Study –** The report is expected by the end of January 2018.

VI) **Village Car Park Signage –** Work in progress. Land boundaries being investigated.

9. **Community Transport**

Many councillors were in support of the idea of providing further localised transport possibly through a minibus or taxi service as they had witnessed successful programs in other areas. It was noted that the deadline for the first application for funding was in January 2018, which is only about 3 months after its announcement. Cllr. Hill to look into a possible extension.

10. **It was NOT resolved to join the KALC Community Awards Scheme and define the criteria to be as follows:**

- a) Long and sustained service to the community or part of it**
- b) Achievements or actions of an inspiring nature to the local community**
- c) Such other activities which have reflected credit on or brought benefits to the village/town or its people**

Councillors voted against the proposal as the council preferred to provide its own acknowledgement of residents' commitments to the community in such a way that individual recipients would appreciate.

11. **Public Conveniences**

Donations received since the donations boxes were installed in the autumn last year had reached £1,002.00. Sandhurst Parish Council had given their public toilets a further year in order to review their options.

12. **Recreation Ground Report –** No report as there had been no meeting

13. **Village Hall Report.**

The "What's On" leaflet produced by the committee had been well received and further activities were planned. The committee was still working on the car park and signage.

14. **Information for Councillors**

Christmas Tree for the Village – Cllr. Hennig suggested that the council should provide a tree for the village like other councils. The tree could be put up so long as the council insurance was advised and a detailed risk assessment was carried out. The issue to be investigated.

Contingency Planning – A brief outline of the plan had been printed in the parish magazine. Volunteers had been allocated to areas to assist vulnerable residents during an emergency. In order to make sure that the plan was not dependant on a single person the council would be kept involved.

Financial Regulations Amendment – The Clerk suggested that the level of spending that required 3 quotes to be obtained to be increased as the current requirement of any costs over £100 was regularly being exceeded for any work and delayed action as contractors were not prepared to come out and quote for small works around £400. Item to be included on next agenda.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8th January 2018 19.30hrs in the village hall.