

APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL



8th April 2024 Minutes of the Meeting 19.30 Village Hall

Present

Cllr Roger Hiskey (Chairman), Cllr Gary Kinsley, Cllr Paula Thornton, Cllr Kevin Nicol, Cllr Roger Kimber, Cllr Sharon Marsh, Cllr Chester Lusk, Steve McIntyre (Clerk), Aniko Szocs (RFO)

In Attendance: Cllr Johnny Shilton (Borough Councillor)

7 Members of the Public were in attendance.

1. Formalities

1.1) Quorum

The council was quorate.

1.2) Apologies and Reasons for Absence

No absence (LGA 1972 schedule 12, 12)

1.3) Declarations of Interest and Dispensations (Code of Conduct)

Cllr Sharon Marsh declared an interest in item 5.2 (iv) NOT/2024/0474 The Quillet 23 Court Lodge Road.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

It was resolved to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2024 as a true record of proceedings. Proposed by Cllr Kimber, seconded by Cllr Nicol- agreed unanimously.

(LGA Act 1972 schedule 12, 19.1)

3. Confirm Appointments of the Clerk and the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Cllr Hiskey introduced Steve McIntyre (Clerk) and Aniko Szocs (RFO).

4) Adjournment of Meeting for Reports and Public Questions

Borough Cllr Shilton provided an update on the new waste collection service, including the issues experienced by some borough residents waiting 2 weeks for collection, and the removal of dog bins that should have remained.

A member of the public asked when will the dog bins be replaced? Another member of the public explained they had made enquiries and told will have new bins by end of April beginning of May.

Borough Cllr Shilton explained the concerted effort he was making to rectify the “bin” situation and will continue to seek a positive outcome.

Cllr Kimber asked for date of next Rural Prosperity Grant. Borough Cllr Shilton explained it will be soon.

Borough Cllr Shilton concluded by advertising his 1st Appledore “Surgery” at the village hall on 13th April 2024 and was looking forward to meeting residents.

The meeting reconvened at 19.45.

5 Planning

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

5.1 Planning Decisions by Ashford Borough Council

No comments.

5.2 Planning Applications Considered

Clerk informed Cllrs that the following PA/2024/0067 66 The Street, excavation of wildlife pond, has since been approved. The remaining applications although recorded by ABC as under consultation are now beyond local / Parish Council consultation stage and are awaiting ABC decision; PA/2024/0224, PA/2024/0254, PA/2024/0356, PA/2024/0340, NOT/2024/0474, NOT/2024/0407.

No further comments.

5.3 Other Planning Matters

Reference new Appeal reference AP90645 Hornes Place Oast, retrospective alterations to consented fence.

No representations made.

6. Finances

Balances at 25th February 2024

Current £11,530

Deposit £82,300

RFO explained that awaiting copy statements and invoices to enable reconciliation of accounts beyond June 2023. Work in progress to redeem this situation. Update will be provided at next meeting.

7. Management of Parish Council Owned House (RH)

Town and Country Housing Association have opted not to manage the house. Further approaches made to Phillips and Stubbs and Martin and Co. Phillips and Stubbs have expressed an interest.

8. Heathside Book Exchange (KN)

Cllr Nicol provided the following update:

The estates manager had no problem with installation of a phone box for book exchange project – it may however need planning permission and a certificate of lawfulness.

The “adopt a phone box for a £1” initiative only applies if the box is already “in situ”. A standard phone box would cost in the region of £1750 + VAT. A fully refurbished phone box £2900 + VAT. There is also the cost of a defib machine and electricity connection to consider. To note - The British Heart Foundation will be inviting funding applications for defibs in September 2024.

A cheaper option is to purchase and install a shed. Either way, both the phone box and shed options require planning considerations plus electricity for the defib.

Cllr Marsh suggested the option of buying a phone box from ebay.

Cllr Hiskey asked Cllr Nicols to provide a proposal for next meeting. All Cllrs agreed.

9. Webb Domain (GK)

Cllr Kinsley provided the following update in relation to Appledore Parish Council (APC) procuring a more secure email provider for APC use. The issue currently that APC do not have control over continued use of apc@gmail.com accounts when users leave the Council.

There is the option to set up a dedicated domain with DMS management + email – initial cost £450 with onward yearly total cost of £333 per year (based on 9 email users).

Theres an option of changing from “Wix” to “Wordpress”. This is a revamped website which is much easier to update. **Action** S McIntyre to find out cost of “Wix”.

Cllrs discussed security risks on current apc@ gmail.com usage, specifically where the generic address enquiries.apc@gmail.com is passed from for example a retired to newly appointed Clerk. **Action** S McIntyre (Clerk) to contact previous Clerks to identify any risks and mitigate by for example password changes. Also discussed was the gov.uk email option.

Cllr Hiskey requested Cllr Kinsley to provide a firm proposal with costs for next meeting. Agreed by all.

10. Information for Councillors

Station Antiques – Advertising Barrow in Unsafe Position

S McIntyre (Clerk) informed Cllrs of a drafted complaint dated 08/04/2024 to APOCA who are responsible for the Appledore Station car park at which the advertising barrow is located. Letter to be sent 09/04/2024 and wait a response.

Appledore Sign on Road from Gusbourne (RK) - No update.

School Rd Hedges and Pavements

Discussion had regarding overgrown hedges on School Road and the obstruction they may cause to pavement users. Considered next best option to report to Kent County Council. Cllr Hiskey suggested agreeing action at next meeting. All agreed.

Notice Boards (RK)

Cllr Hiskey presented quotes obtained for proposed new notice board at Heathside to replace existing (excludes fitting price):

Fitzpatric Woolmer - £2251+VAT

Greenbarnes - £2008 +VAT

Ariensigns - £1159+VAT (does not include carriage)

The Acorn Workshop - £1190+VAT

Cllr Nicol said the existing posts were sound and just needed re-fitting. Cllr Hiskey recommended revised quotes without posts and obtain new quotes from traders to refit existing posts and fit new board. **Action:** S McIntyre (Clerk) to get revised quotes and source a trades person.

Car Park / Spring Tidy Up (RK)

Cllr Kimber thanked Cllr Marsh and her husband Simon for their quick response in facilitating the removal of a fallen tree. Cllr Kimber explained that APC does not have a contract for cleaning of the car park areas and suggested volunteer APC councillors and residents get together soon for another clean up. Cllr Huskey proposed, Cllr Marsh seconded.

Court Lodge Road Car Park Signs (RK)

Cllr Kimber confirmed the erection of a new sign on the T Junction for Rye Road. He has since received a complaint from a resident that the sign is too big i.e. it protrudes into the road and is jammed against the wall of a domestic property. This has been reported to Highways. Cllr Kimber is also taking forward an enquiry concerning a related boundary issue.

Court Lodge Rd Car Park Electricity Supply and EV Charging (RK)

Cllr Kimber explained an on-going issue with the electricity supplier concerning a meter that was installed into the Court Lodge car park at start of the development. When the development was completed, and the car park handed over to APC, the meter became the responsibility of APC. The supplier initially charged APC £708. This has since been waived, but APC are now required to pay a daily standing charge, currently £1 per day (not contracted). Cllr Kimber has received a 1 year contract offer from E.on for 0.56 per day.

Proposal from Cllr Kimber: to carry on paying standing charge, but not to purchase a contract. This gives time to decide on EV options. To review this decision at next meeting after further enquiries made. Cllr Hiskey proposed, Cllr Kinsley seconded. All agreed.

11. Training – S McIntyre to present clerk training options at next meeting.

12. Defib Box Replacement – Cllr Thornton clarified that damage to box is minimal and does not affect the integrity of the defib. All agreed, NFA.

13. Correspondence – None.

14. Future Agenda Items – EV Charger / Heathside update (Box and Notice Board) / Highways T-Junction / Signage / Systems Security / School Rd Hedges update / Barrow update / Parish Council House update / Clerk Training

15. Date of Next Meeting

AGM Monday 13th May 2024