

# APPLEDORE PARISH COUNCIL



## 1st July 2024 Draft Minutes of the Meeting 19:30 Appledore Village Hall (SMV3)

**Present at the meeting:** Cllr Roger Hiskey (Chair), Cllr Gary Kinsley, Cllr Paula Thornton, Cllr Roger Kimber, Cllr Sharon Marsh, Cllr Chester Lusk, Steve McIntyre (Clerk).

11 members of the public in attendance.

### 1. Formalities

**i) Establish Quorum** (LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12/28/45)

The council was quorate.

**ii) Apologies and Reasons for Absence** (LGA Act 1972 sch12, 12)

County Cllr Mike Hill, Borough Cllr Johnny Shilton, and RFO Aniko Szocs – other priority commitments. Cllr Kevin Nicol - personal commitment.

**iii (a) Declarations of Interest** (Code of Conduct)

None declared.

**iii (b) Requests for dispensations**

None requested.

### 2. Approval of Draft Minutes

**To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2024, (already circulated to councillors) as a true recorded** available on <http://www.appledorekent.org>

Cllr Hiskey proposed approval of 3rd June minutes, seconded by Cllr Thornton, unanimously agreed.

**Meeting adjourned for the public session** (LGA Act 1972 sch12,19.1)

**County and District Councillors Reports** - Nothing reported.

### Public Session

This session will last for 15 minutes. Members of the public will have 3 minutes to ask one question or make a statement on an item on the agenda except for the minutes. Should you wish to address other issues please contact the clerk or chairman afterwards. The public are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting but are reminded that they cannot take part.

The applicants for planning application reference **PA/2024/1050 (see below: 3.2 Planning)**, explained the purpose of the proposed new dwelling is for their family occupation. Cllr Kinsley asked about impact of this development to the public footpath. The applicants explained that the footpath will not be affected by the build, that the footpath reaches as far as an existing 12-foot brick wall and that anyone can use the footpath.

A member of the public provided the background as to why the footpath ends at the brick wall. Another asked: what is happening with other footpaths in the area whom others are trying to get reinstated? The applicants said that if there are footpaths on their land, they are happy for anyone to walk on them.

Members of the public raised issues with proposals referenced in this Agenda as **Item 6 Linear Park** and **Item 10 (iv) The Narrows Traffic Calming**. In summary: regarding Linear Park tree lining project, concerns expressed in relation to the type and number of trees, the need to avoid tall trees that block out light and avoid those that cause maintenance and safety issues. These issues also apply to any tree planting plans at Court Lodge Car Park. Regarding speed reduction initiatives, a concern was raised as to why APC are focusing on The Narrows with the suggestion that other locations such as Station Rd and Woodchurch Rd should also be considered. Other suggestions for slowing traffic at The Narrows included change to curbing to cause one way traffic, adding chevrons and speed ramps.

A member of the public raised the matter of councilor's Declarations of Interest and Other Interests relating to APC's vote on allocation of Martello funds to the Recreation Ground Pavilion at the June 2024 Parish meeting, and suggestion of favoritism in terms of allocation. This matter raised at **Item 16 Correspondence (see below)**.

Members of the public from Heathside raised the issue of not having a fibre connection for broadband, and the issue of trees overhanging The Street from farmland opposite Heathside. Cllr Kinsley explained that there's fibre up to Tenterden Rd and Court Lodge Rd and that anyone who does not have a direct fibre connection should have an indirect connection via copper lines.

**Action: S McIntyre to make enquiries of Open Reach as to timelines for Heathside direct fibre connection.**

**Action: S McIntyre to contact owner of Mill Farm to seek their agreement to cut back Crack Willow trees overhanging the The Street opposite Heathside.**

The meeting reconvened at circa 20:00 hours

### **3. Planning (Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and as amended)**

#### **3.1 Planning decisions by Ashford Borough Council**

Nothing of relevance to discuss.

#### **3.2 Planning applications to consider**

(i) PA/2024/1050 Ancillary Building South of Lanes End Cottage, Tenterden Road, Appledore, TN26 2AL, change of use, conversion, and alterations to existing ancillary outbuilding to provide a standalone dwellinghouse with residential garden area.

Cllr Hiskey supported this planning application, seconded by Cllr Kinsley, unanimously supported. **Action: S McIntyre to record APC support on the Ashford Borough Council planning portal.**

### **3.3 Other relevant planning applications for public interest**

(i) PA/2024/1058 Land at the End of Court Lodge, Court Lodge Road, Appledore, Kent. TN26 2DD, Application for Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed installation of I-electrical vehicle charging point station.

No comments made

## **4. Finances (SMc)**

### **4.1 Balances**

Current A/C opening balance 01/05/2024 £30,948.07, closing balance 31/5/2024 £28,455.14

#### Allocated funds included in Current A/C

£880.6 (capital – Railway Hotel 106) for Allotment Project from original fund of £1,880.60  
£4710.99 (capital – Railway Hotel 106) for Play Park project from original fund of £4710.99

Reserve A/C, opening balance 01/05/2024 = £82,499.82, closing 31/05/2024 = £82,601,42

#### Allocated funds included in Reserve A/C

£62,343.01 (Martello fund) for Pavilion project remaining from original fund of £62,343.01

### **4.2 Deposits and payments**

Current A/C income – Nil. Payments - £2,492.93

Reserve A/C income - £101.6 interest. Payments - Nil

### **4.3 NatWest A/C issues**

Cllr Hiskey explained the difficulty of making financial transactions via cheque as opposed to on-line. This came to a head with 2 recent cheques being refused due to a NatWest bank error. The bank has apologised and offered to pay the transaction fees and compensation of £100. Decision made unanimously to apply for on-line functionality. **Action: Cllr Hiskey to set up on-line banking.**

## **5. Management of council owned house (SMc)**

S McIntyre has sought a request for a meeting with Phillips and Stubbs Letting Manager to discuss rental. **Action: S McIntyre to confirm a meeting date with Cllr Hiskey, Phillips & Stubbs and Martello representatives.**

## **6. Linear Park (GK, RH)**

Cllr Kinsley explained he shared the view from the last previous public that the public do not want planting of wild flowers. He said that planting of a few rather than many trees would likely improve the look of the surrounding area. Cllr Kinsley said he would consider the “tree grant” documents provided by S McIntyre. He explained that finishing the Pavilion refurbishment was his priority after which he would focus on Linear Park.

## **7. Heathside update book exchange and defib (KN)**

No update.

## **8. Web domain update (GK) plus latest Wix costs (SMc)**

Cllr Kinsley awaiting quotes from suppliers.

## **9. KALC update (RH)**

Cllr Hiskey attended a recent KALC meeting. There was a useful update on resilience planning. Peter Barker was voted as the new Chairman. Cllr Hiskey will be invited to public meetings to discuss the Local Plan due to be completed early 2027. A ministerial order has been issued requiring the illegally dumped rubbish at Hoads Wood to be cleared up. Numerous complaints have been received regarding the new waste disposal contractor Suez with engagement ongoing to try and improve the service.

## **10. HIP (RK / SMc)**

**(i) Court Lodge car park sign** – Highways confirmed that the sign will be moved.

**(ii) Replacement gate sign** – Highways have received approval to fit a new gate sign.

**(iii) The Narrows traffic calming** – Cllr Kimber proposed councillors observe traffic flows at The Narrows, seconded by Cllr Marsh, unanimous – see action below.

**(iv) Heathside to The Narrows traffic calming** – see action below ref: warning sign.

**Action: Cllr Kimber to organise date for observation of traffic at The Narrows.**

**Action: S McIntyre to chase progress on Highways installation of a sign that warns motorists of children's play area by the Recreation Ground.**

## **11. Green Initiatives**

**(i) EV update (RK)** – Cllr Kimber has submitted a planning application (PA/2024/1058), for installation of 2 x EV points. Awaiting Ashford Borough Council EV Grant to reopen.

**(ii) VH solar panels (PT)** – Cllr Thornton explained the Village Hall (VH) committee entered into an agreement for APC to take ownership of the hall roof solar panels for a temporary period during VH refurbishment work. Now refurbishment is complete, rather than take over ownership of the panels as previously agreed, the VH committee would prefer APC to retain solar panel ownership but to pass on "net metering" credit payments to the VH. This is because if the VH takeback ownership they will be forced to take out a new contract with less favorable terms. VH committee requesting payments backdated to Oct 2023. **Action: S McIntyre to liaise with KALC legal to identify a legal pathway to achieve the best rate of return for the benefit of Appledore residents.**

## **12. Recreation ground update (GK)**

Cllr Kinsley reported he was hoping the Pavilion refurbishment work will be completed by the 21<sup>st</sup> June 24, the date of the Classic Car Rally. The windows, doors, cladding, and roof need to be completed. There are more classic car registrations than last year. The football team are now paying for use of the facilities. Cllr Hiskey thanked Cllr Kinsley for the progress he has made.

## **13. Public toilets (RH)**

Cllr Hiskey reported that recent vandalism to the public toilets had incurred a high financial outlay to fix but are now up and running.

## **14. Policy review update (SMc)**

Cllr Hiskey reported he'd completed his review of the financial policy / regulations and will revisit when guidance is received in relation to the VH solar panel decision. Cllrs Marsh and Thornton are making progress on reviewing the personnel related policies and will report back at the next meeting.

## **15. Other matters**

**(i) Station antiques: update from APCOA / GOVIA (SMc)** – S McIntyre reported he'd not received an update from APCOA and so has written to Highways (ref 816415).

**(ii) Cycle path between Appledore and Station (SM)** – Cllr Marsh reported she'd attended a meeting with stakeholders including representatives from Kent and Sussex Greenways and the ABC Open Space and Landscape team to discuss what improvements could be made to improve an overgrown right of way to accommodate cyclists between Appledore and Appledore station. An action plan has been formulated, the first stage to approach owners of the land.

**(iii) Car parks clean up progress report (RH)** – Cllr Hiskey thanked Duncan Gray for cleaning up the Village Hall car park, and a thankyou to Cllrs Kimber and Thornton for cleaning up Court Lodge car park. It was noted and appreciated that on a later occasion Cllr Marsh and Simon Marsh cleared up clippings.

**(iv) Tree planting initiatives between Martello and Recreation Ground, and tree grants**  
S McIntyre had identified 2 sources of tree grants which were passed on to Cllr Kinsley for consideration as part of the Linear Park project.

**(v) Station Rd traffic issues caused in part by water mains leak whilst erecting telegraph poles**

S McIntyre reported that a complaint had been received from a resident affected by significant road traffic issues caused by recent installation of telegraph poles at Station Rd. The issues have since been resolved. Action: S McIntyre to include a paragraph in the Parish Magazine with information on who to call if there are similar occurrences.

## **16. Correspondence (SMc)**

S McIntyre read out an email dated 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 from a local resident requesting answers as to how the Recreation Ground Charity had received Martello funding of £60k plus section 106 allocated funding when the Allotment Charity only received £1,800. S McIntyre reported that he'd examined prior meeting minutes which included regular updates of Recreation Ground related funding with nothing obvious in terms of objections to how funds allocated. No issues sighted regarding declarations of interests. Cllr Kinsley stated the details of the complaint are inaccurate and that it was totally inappropriate for the details to be published on Facebook before raising formally with APC. **Action: R Hiskey to provide a formal response to the complainant. Action: S McIntyre to add Allotment charity funding to next meeting agenda.**

**17. Future agenda items** – Cycle path update, Request for allotment funding

**18. Date of next meeting** - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024, 7.30pm, Appledore Village Hall

**Meeting concluded circa 21:30**

**Cllr Hiskey thanked Simon Honor and Colin Hobdell for the refurbishment of Appledore Parish Notice Boards.**