

Appledore Virtual Village Meeting
Draft Meeting Minutes
19th May 2022, 7.30pm

Present

R Hiskey (Parish Council Chairman), S. Honnor, F. Smith, D. Stephens, H. Parkin, T. Blaney, D. Gray, J. Killick, T. Morgan, C. Wilkinson, D. Wilkinson, R. Smith, M. Ray, G. Kinsley, D. Winter, J. Weeks, F. Weeks, N. Comber, J. Caulkhead

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone. Apologies had been sent by County Councillor Hill.

Minutes of the last Parish Meeting

The minutes of the 15th March 2021 were agreed. Proposed by D. Winter and seconded by D. Stephens.

Report from the Chairman of Appledore Parish Council – Roger Hiskey

There have been various important applications in the last year.

As a result of the sale of the council field, the public conveniences and the village hall have been refurbished and the hall car park has been upgraded.

The construction of the new 41 space car park on Court Lodge Road is almost complete however, the traffic management scheme for signage indicating the car park is outstanding. The developer who also built the 5 houses that form part of the scheme, has now appealed the refusal decision on their application for a bungalow beside the footpath from the car park to the narrows. A decision from planning is awaited on the same developer's application for a 6th house on the wooded area along Court Lodge Road.

The four new houses at No 1 The Street are complete and sold.

There is no further news on Ashford's application for a 4 one-bedroom flat for the green space in Heathside. There has been opposition to the idea because the lack of parking spaces for the current residents.

The funds from the sale of the council field will be used to make improvements to the MUGA/tennis and play area on the recreation ground.

On the highways front, phase 1 of speed reduction in the parish was completed with the 30mph and 40mph being pushed further out. Phase II is the rationalisation of signage and the introduction of gateways to remind drivers of the changed speed limit areas. The road surface issues caused by flooding on Kenardington Road have now been dealt with.

Gary Kinsley was thanked for organising the successful Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village. Chris Vane was thanked for the new village signage which are now all in place.

Friends of Appledore Station – Terry Blaney

Friends of Appledore Station is a Local Community Group, Established, (on 6th March 2018), to 'Improve the Image of Appledore Station by Providing a More Attractive, User-Friendly Facility and thereby Encourage an Increase in the Usage of the Marshlink Rail Service'.

Marshlink Rail Service

Still Recovering from the Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic Network Rail and the Train Operating Companies, (TOC's), are Actively Campaigning to Attract Passengers to Return to Using the Railways.

Appledore Station Building

Restoration was Funded by The Railway Heritage Fund. The Intentions of GTR, (the TOC for the Marshlink Line), are Still Unclear It is Most Likely that a Commercial Occupancy will be the Outcome. The First Floor Access has Limitations, Parking will be an Issue, a Tenant will Need to Install Toilet Facilities

Car Park

Less of a Capacity Issue at Present, as a Result of Coronavirus Pandemic & Working from Home, (WFH) The Persistent Flooding Issued was Addressed as Part of the Restoration Project.

Trackside Clearance

After 4 Years of Persistent Effort, Network Rail have Finally Undertaken Clearance of All Discarded Rails, Sleepers, etc.

Projects Completed Since Last Parish Meeting

- Additional Seating on Platform 2
- Repainting of the Handrail Leading to Platform 2
- Additional Bicycle Storage
- Electronic Information Screen by Automatic Ticket Machine
- Replacement Solid Doors on Old Public Toilet Block
- Defibrillator Supply and Installation
- Motion Sensitive Lighting Over the Carpark

Projects Pending for FoAS Volunteers

- Spring/Summer Planting
- Vegetation Management Adjacent to Pathway to Platform 2 – Funded by ABC Members Grant

Projects for Consideration/Approval by GTR

- CCTV on the Platforms and in the Car Park
- Decoration of the Canopied Area on Platform 1

Directional Signage

Previously Reported that APC/Cllr Hennig, Negotiated with KCC-Highways for Installation of Strategically Located Directional Signage from Appledore Village to the Station and from the Station to Appledore Village and to The Romney Marsh Villages Timing is Yet to be Determined.

11B Bus Service

Stagecoach Persistently Ignored Requests for Definitive Signage to be Installed to Identify Bus Stops, Either Side of the Road and Reinstallation of a Bus Timetable as KCC Subsidise this Bus Service, they May be Able to Influence Stagecoach Tourist Map Funded by GTR, a Copy of the Appledore.

Tourist Map

Gifted by APC, is to be Installed in a Prominent Position at Appledore Station Next Week.

Community Warden - Jo Vos

The community warden's role is to help the vulnerable in the community: be that assisting with organising hot meal deliveries or assisting with social services referrals. Jo can assist with most community issues such as reporting fly tipping or redirects to the right authority. Jo attends various groups from Carm, the youth café to the children's centre for parents and toddler group.

The Garden Society - Heather Parker

We are pleased to be given the opportunity of providing an insight into the newly named Appledore Garden Society. The reason behind the change was due to concern that by remaining as the Gardeners' Society we were portrayed as a group of avid gardeners with little time for much else. This could not be further from the truth as we, like so many other clubs and societies, emerge from the confines that the pandemic bestowed upon us, and now look forward to enjoying the various activities we have greatly missed.

We currently have a good membership of 36, but we should not leave this fact without sadly remembering the loss of so many of our long-term members who passed away over the last two years.

Primarily we operate as a typical village Horticultural Society which has become as much social as it is technical. We invite professional speakers during the winter months, generally on the last Wednesday of the month. This has been at various venues within the village, but with the refurbishment of the Village Hall now completed we look forward to holding the October and November meetings there, with a view to continuing this booking for 2023.

Our AGM is normally held in January, but with Covid still around this year we delayed until February. In accordance with the constitution, our Chairman, Paul Ripley, stepped down having fulfilled the permitted period of three years, although we are eternally grateful to Paul who saw us through a further two years of the pandemic, keeping us together with his much anticipated 'No-News' Letters to members once a month. We now welcome Heather Parker as she takes on this role, and as well as four new members joining this year, we are looking strong.

March should have been our famous 'Quiz Night', but unfortunately with an hour to go, we were alerted to the fact that the quizmaster was unwell. Our Chairman and one other member rallied round to set up a 'local and British Isle' geographical garden quiz, and along with the cheese and biscuits and informal chatter a good night was had by all! Again due to Covid we have declined from venturing further afield in our 2022 programme, but nonetheless have already enjoyed a trip to the bluebells at Hole Park, a visit to Old Place Farm, High Halden (highly recommended if they open again) and this month we are at Belmont House, Nr. Faversham for the house and gardens.

Our annual plant sale is a little later this year, and will be held on the Recreation Ground on Thursday 2nd June at the Village's Queen's Jubilee Celebrations. We run this along with the Horticultural Section of the Rare Breeds Charity Trust at Woodchurch, thereby giving them the opportunity of selling the plants that the residents have nurtured, and also boosting their much-needed funds.

We also have a booking for Delphinium fortnight at Godington House, an evening at the Himalayan Garden at Riverhill, The Orangery at Chartham, and a return to the fabulous Great Dixter. This will be followed by a senior gardener from Great Dixter giving us a talk in October. November sees us being educated in the field of Chilstone Cast Stone when the speaker will give a talk on the statues, planters, fountains etc., and the amazing places they have installed these beautiful show pieces. He will also give us an insight into the trivia, facts and figures of the Chelsea Flower Show.

The year will end with our Christmas Lunch at The Bull Inn, Rolvenden.

Membership is £10 p.a., and all interested villagers are most welcome to join, however small their plot of land. All you need is to like gardens, like gardeners, and like meeting people in a social setting whilst enjoying numerous cream teas and sumptuous cakes. The Society has a committee of seven members, who take on board at the AGM, the suggestions of the members for the forthcoming year, and from there compile the Events Diary.

An excellent way for new residents to become acquainted, so if you are interested in joining then please see me afterwards, or contact the Secretary whose details are in the 'Who To Ask' section of the Parish Magazine.

Village Hall Committee – Marilyn Ray

The website and parish magazine carry the contact details for booking the hall. The hall can be booked for parties, weddings and wakes. There are 3 exercise classes: Yoga, Pilates and Aerobics plus clubs that use the hall. Seasonal activities planned for the year include quiz night, Irish Dance, Harvest Supper and Over 60s Xmas Lunch. The hall has a licence for 9 events per year. Residents were asked to bear with the committee as everyone get used to opening up after covid.

Friends of St. Mary and St. Peter – Frances Smith and Reverend Janet Kent

Reverend Tricia Fogden has now retired and the church will be led by a team lead by Reverend Jeanette Caulkhead, who will cover the 9 churches in the diocese which is looking to strengthen the church's links with young and families.

Friends raise funds selling produce in the porch and from cake sales. Residents were thanked for their support.

The Church Warden election by the community will take place on the 29th May.

Art Club – Denise Stephen

The club has been running for 7 years as a small group meeting at the hall. The group now has a waiting list. As well as classes providing opportunities to try other mediums and live models, they include outings to galleries and outdoor painting. It is an informal atmosphere with tea and cake always on offer.

Parish Magazine – Dr. Ruth Smith

The magazine has been run for a long time by volunteers. The retiring Editor Maureen was congratulated on the improvements made to the magazine during her time. Articles must be sent in by midnight of the 20th of the month and will be included if there is room but the editor will have the final decision.

Village Show – Dr. Ruth Smith

The village show has been running since the 1980's and the first was opened by Michael Merton. There will be no show this year due to lack of volunteer to organise it however it is hope that it will return next year in its full glory with classes in fruit, vegetable, handicrafts and children's classes.

Highways – Helen Hennig

Byways has evolved from actions on highways pre covid. Since then, footpaths have gained a higher profile with residents taking a more active role with mapping, monitoring and clearing footpaths. Kent County Council Public Rights of Way has little funds and so the parish council has offered some financial help. A long-term goal is to produce a footpath leaflet of local walks.

Friends of Appledore Footpaths – Tracy Morgan

What is it:

Voluntary, informal group made up of 2 Councillors, Footpath Warden and a handful of Parishioners.

Scope:

There are 33 footpath references (all start with AT.) in and around Appledore. Since an initial meeting when some Parishioners with views on certain footpaths met at Helen Hennig's house with Paul Ripley, the Footpath Warden (a voluntary role), various works both light and heavy have been done. KCC's help is required in some instances. Little luck in receiving help/interest so far.

Progress reporting:

Paul's own report was embellished to include FAF actions. Almost all of the 33 footpaths (4 remaining to be completed) have been walked and reported on in a separate report (with photos). These reports feed into Paul's spreadsheet showing status and works outstanding and whether this is for FAF or KCC.

Achieved so far;

Light vegetation clearance,
signage updating,
way markers replaced/added,
constant flooding cleared on Kenardington Road

Yet to achieve:

Some finger post, stile and gate repairs,

Some major vegetation (including fallen trees) clearance to reclaim footpath routes,
Some bridge enhancements, steps to be added,
Fly tipping clearance,
Negotiation with landowners/land users where paths have been blocked (intentionally or not),
Replacement of some stiles with kissing gates,
Legal action where footpaths have been built over and not satisfactorily re-routed,
where footpaths are being used as driveways etc.
Review of all footpaths due;
Now that Spring is with us, the next round of footpath reviews will be in the Autumn,
when any excess vegetation, stile repairs etc can be cleared again and reports can be updated/finished.

History Society – Terry Blaney

The Aims, Objectives and Obligations of the Appledore Historical Society are to:

- Provide a Focal Point for the Regular Gathering of Local Residents Interested in the History of the Village and Surrounding Areas
- Facilitate the Collection, Collation and Sharing of Information and Artefacts and to Provide a Repository for the Benefit of Future Generations
- Build an Extensive Archive that Might be Developed into a Permanent Appledore Heritage Centre
- Welcome and Inform New Appledore Residents of the History of the Village and Surrounding Areas
- Provide Visitors to Appledore some Basic Facts that Will Enhance their Knowledge of the Village
- Establish Heritage Trails that will Enrich the Enjoyment of Tourists to the Village

Source of Funds

- Fundraising Events - Past
- Community Chest Demonstration at the Village Hall (2019)
- 'Weird War Two' Talk (2019)
- 'Battalion of Pals' Talk (2019)
- Quiz Night at the Village Hall (2020)
- 'Appledore Station' Talk (2020)
- Heritage Centre Open Day (October 2021)
- Heritage Centre Open Day (March 2022)
- Ongoing Sales of 'A Walk Down The Street'
- Fundraising Events - Planned
- Jubilee Exhibition (June 2022)
- Heritage Centre Open Day (August 2022 - Coincide with Flower Festival)
- Quiz Night (October 2022)
- Grant Funding (KCC)
- Membership Fees and Donations • Residents, Visitors and Councillors

Donations Depletion of Funds 2020 – 2022 (Covid Impact)

- Ongoing Running Costs e.g., Rent, Utilities, Web Site Hosting

Application of Funds

- Establishment of ALHS Heritage Centre
- Currently Located at the Methodist Chapel (Uncertainty Over Future)
- Permanent Site Needed (Centrally Located in Village)

Activities Since Last Parish Meeting

- Completion of The Beacon Project (Plaques Donated by Beverley Gray)
- Second Closed Cemetery Vegetation Management Works Party
- Mapping of New Graveyard
- Placement of Poppy Wreath at The Beacon (Remembrance Day)
- Re-Installation of PLUTO Pipeline Sign
- Public Enquiries Received and Responded (x36)
- Property Research
- Family Research
- Digitising Photographs, Documents and Artefacts
- Expansion of Community Chest Database
- Updating of ALHS Web Site (www.appledorehistory.org.uk)
- Creation of a New Slide Show
- Networking with Other Local History Societies

Key Issues for Ongoing Activity of ALHS

- Re-Establishing a Regular and Healthy Financial Base to Fund Projects
- Establishing a Permanent Heritage Centre
- Expanding Membership

Learning from History – The Dark Ages

- Technology (iPhones, iPads, Laptops, etc), whilst of Tremendous Benefit, Could Result in a Loss of Local History, Unless Stored in a Readily Accessible Format
- The ALHS 'Community Chest' Database is Constantly being Updated with Loaned and Donated Items, (Photographs, Records etc), to Ensure that Future Generations will have a Source of Information on Village History.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – Gary Kinsley

The 2nd of June will see the recreation ground transformed into a street party with stall holders providing drinks and food along with live performances on the stage. The village hall will be showing coronation footage and memorabilia along with teas and coffee. Residents were asked to spread the word and a request for, stewards, a few more helpers to set up and clearing away was made.

Public Questions

Simon Honnor reported on the new development for Court Lodge Road. He had requested Planning enforcement officers to review the drive way already put in for the

6th House in the wooded area between the road itself and house number 5. He was disappointed that Officer had ranked the breach as priority 3 which is the lowest ranking. He would continue to fight against the proposed bungalow by Court Developments and had been in contact with the green party. He would continue to apply pressure. He will be standing in the borough elections for the Isle of Oxney.

A request was made for clarification that no additional houses would be built on the former council field.

It was suggested that the recreation ground representative should be asked to the meeting.

Meeting Closed

9.30pm

DRAFT