

Minutes of the Annual Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 in the Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present : Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis - Chairman  
Cllr Mrs A Cowlin - Vice Chairman  
Cllr Mrs J Hopkins  
Cllr Mrs J Weeks  
Cllr Mrs L Black  
Cllr Mr J Clements  
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk  
County Councillor Mrs P West  
Members of the Public - 11

Apologies : Cllr Mr D Green and Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook.

**WELCOME.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

Cllr Mrs J Weeks declared an interest in the Playing Field as she is a Trustee.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins declared an interest in the Village Hall.

Cllr Mrs A Cowlin declared an interest in ARC and the WI.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

CHAIRMAN - Cllr Mrs J Hopkins proposed Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Weeks. There were no other nominations. All agreed and Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis was elected Chairman.

VICE CHAIRMAN - Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis proposed Cllr Mrs A Cowlin as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Mr J Clements. There were no other nominations. All agreed and Cllr Mrs A Cowlin was elected Vice Chairman.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman spoke about the dreadful winter weather we have experienced and the many problems this has brought to Appleshaw and Redenham. The Parish Council are working with the various Agencies, unfortunately we have experienced the result of financial cut backs in getting some of the outstanding highways issues repaired. The Chairman has written to Cllr Mrs P West with his concerns regarding the repairs.

The high water table has hampered the clear up and repairs after the flooding. Southern water have an ongoing problem with the pumping station, finding a solution is taking time and it was noted that they are back in the village pumping after the last heavy rainfall.

The Chairman has contacted the Environment Agency about clearing the ditch annually, assurance that this will be done has now been received in writing. The EA will either do the work themselves or pass it onto the riparian owners, the debris will be removed from the ditch.

The Chairman stated that he was sure that further lessons have been learnt this winter and the village will be keeping an eye on the issues throughout the coming months so we are prepared if this happens again.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk produced a balance sheet showing the figures for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and explained the expenditure. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council adopt the accounts as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Cowlin. All agreed.

### EXPENDITURE - April and May 2014

Richard Waterman	Wages - April	£160.00
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Richard Waterman	Office Allowance and Expenses	£57.50
D.A. Cook	Service of Mower	£291.90
Mr B Pearce	Grass Cutting Redenham	£40.00
TVBC	Dog Bin Emptying	£305.28
Mr Owen Mills	Play Area Repairs	<u>£265.25</u>
		<u>£1,279.93</u>

### INCOME

Allotment Rents	= £240.00
SSE Consent	= £37.99
1/2 Precept	= £4,500.00
VAT Refund	<u>= £297.30</u>
	<u>£5,075.29</u>

### MONEY DUE IN

HPFA Grant = £250

### BANK BALANCE

After above movements have been deducted and added £7,409.14

### BANK ACCOUNTS

Allotments Account	= £754.09
Current Account	<u>= £6,655.05</u>
	<u>£7,409.14</u>

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr R Caddy reported on the Appleshaw Neighbourhood Watch. The "Door Knockers" are back in the area and thefts from outbuildings are on the increase. The Chairman reported that Landrover defender bonnets are now being stolen, there had been 4 incidents in a 48 hours period. Residents are advised to be aware and take extra precautions.

### MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING.

The Chairman stated that at the September 2013 meeting the issue of the Village Hall heating was discussed and subsequently minuted. He wished it to be clear that the Parish Council were not critical of any member of the Village Hall Committee.

### MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record.

Matters arising from those minutes :-

FLOODING - Southern Water are still working in the village trying to sort out the sewage system. Southern Water are in the process of fitting water metres to all the properties in Appleshaw. They have the authority to do this due to the problems that have been experienced in Appleshaw. It was felt that the Southern Water need to sort out the sewage system in Appleshaw, the village cannot have these problems every winter.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins spoke about the water in the ditches and the high ground water level, she suggested that the ditches be widened at the pinch points to help the water flow and felt that the ditch needs to be walked and the pinch points noted along its length.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins felt that the Village needed to be pro-active in preparing for future flooding, with the amount of work the various agencies have to undertake in the area a bit of self-help is needed. The Parish Council agreed and over the summer a plan of action with contact numbers will be formulated.

PLAY AREA - Cllr Mrs L Black reported that the Play Area is looking good and that Chris Wilkins is doing a good job with the grass cutting. The repairs previously discussed have been carried out and a working party still needs to be organised to carry out the minor repairs highlighted in the inspections carried out by John Coney from HPFA. The Parish Council will pay for the clear varnish to treat the fencing, it was noted that a new latch needs to be fitted to the second gate.

The Chairman asked Cllr Mrs L Black to email the Councillors with a couple of dates for a working party.

The Clerk confirmed that Playsafety Limited will be carrying out the annual inspection in late May early June.

Cllr Mrs L Black raised the issue of weeds around the base of the equipment, strimming has damaged the base of the posts allowing water to penetrate the wood and there is a problem of rot. This was discussed and a solution will be looked at to keep the weeds at bay and away from the equipment.

Cllr Mrs L Black reported that the stake for the Jubilee Tree is loose. Cllr Mr J Clement said he would sort out the stake. Mr E Carr reported that the bin in the Play Area is being used for dog waste and there have been incidents of dogs being taken into the Play Area. This was discussed at length and it was agreed to add the emptying of the bin in the Play Area to the TVBC list.

ALLOTMENTS - Cllr Mrs J Weeks reported that builders are using the allotments to access the back of properties whose gardens back onto the allotments. The situation has got out of hand and feelings are running high as the allotment gate is often left open and contractors' vehicles parked in such a way as to block access for allotment holders.

Mr R Caddy, at the request of Cllr Mrs J Weeks, had produced a report on the problems, this had been distributed to the Parish Councillors prior to the meeting. The access to the allotments and other issues were discussed at length. Points raised included:-

- Residents whose properties back onto the allotments are taking unreasonable advantage, many putting in access gates.
- There have been incidents with contractors not being civil to allotment holders.
- Concerns about children playing in the allotments were raised. Children are welcome with their parents if they are supervised; cycling around the plots is not welcomed due to safety issues.
- The fencing around the allotments will be surveyed and quotes for repairs obtained. It was noted that Aster are responsible for some of the fencing. It was reported that Aster have plans for the Play Area in West park, this may have impact on the fencing issue. A meeting is to be held to discuss this issue, it was suggested that the Parish Council ask to attend.
- Security on the allotments is of concern, this is not helped by the gate combination being distributed to contractors etc.

- Cllr Mrs J weeks and the Clerk will draft an agreement for residents who request access through the allotments to their properties. A time limit will be enforced and possibly a fee levied. A system will be devised to let the allotment holders know when permission has been granted. This will be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting.

SPEED WATCH - It was agreed that Mr Ray Alborough will be contacted to ask if he could carry out another speed survey in the Parish. The speed vehicles travel through the village is still of concern. It was reported that Charlton parish Council are considering hiring out their speed watch equipment, it was thought this may be the way forward for Appleshaw and contact with Charlton Parish Council will be made for details.

VILLAGE HALL HEATING - Cllr Mrs J Hopkins had no further news to report.

## **PLANNING**

14/00312/TPON - Tree works - Glen House, Redenham - Part concern/part refusal.

14/00602/TREEN - Tree works - Laburnums, Appleshaw - No Objections  
14/00604/TREEN

14/00254/FULLN - 1 Appleshaw Dene, Ragged Appleshaw - Permission  
14/00269/FULLN

14/00441/FULLN - Rosedene, Ragged Appleshaw - Permission

14/00510/FULLN - To replace section of damaged walling with close boarded timber fencing Hammers, Biddesden Bottom Road, Appleshaw.  
The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application.  
Cllr Mrs J Hopkins had declared an interest in this planning application.

14/00851/FULLN - Erection of three detached dwellings (1x3 bed and 2x4 bed), associated site works and bin/cycle store - Land between Harrow Farm Cottage and South View/Rose Cottage, Ragged Appleshaw.  
The Parish Council have yet to make comment.

The parish Council briefly discussed the new development in Dauntsey Drove and voiced concerns that further houses could be built in the future on the surrounding field.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT - Mrs Pat Wood has informed the Parish Council that she is still waiting for comments from TVBC.

## **CLLR MRS P WEST'S REPORT**

Cllr Mrs P West thanked Appleshaw Parish Council for the way they handled the recent flooding issue, working together as a team and liaising with the various agencies has limited the damage caused. A special thanks to Cllr Mrs J Hopkins who has worked tirelessly as the Village Flood Warden, setting out a model for other neighbouring Parishes to follow.

The Flood Water Management Act recently passed through Government sets out the clear responsibilities for ditches with riparian owners. It is not the County Council's responsibility to clear out ditches. Cllr Mrs P West suggested that the village ditches are mapped showing who is responsible.

Cllr Mrs P West reported that Government has given Hampshire County Council a further £11 Million to repair roads in the county damaged by flooding.

## **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

CLLR MRS J WEEKS - Reported that the cemetery is very over grown and needs attention. The Parish Council noted this and will look into finding a new contractor as Mr J Thomas has given up the job.

## **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr M Saunders raised the issue of the unsightly overgrown ditch outside Hill House and asked who is responsible for cutting it? The Chairman stated that it was Highways and that this has been reported on several occasions. The suggestion of a working party was discussed and was quickly dropped when Cllr Mrs P West stated that the PC do not have the necessary Public Liability Insurance.

Mr S Caddy reported that one of the problems highlighted during the flooding was the amount of garden waste that had been dumped in the ditch causing a blockage at the Old School. This was noted.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all the work he does supporting the Parish Council, since taking over the Chair he has realised how much the Clerk does in the background to keep the Parish Council running smoothly. The Chairman proposed that the Clerks wages are increased by £20 a month from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Cowlin. A vote was held 5 in favour 1 abstained.

The Parish Clerk thanked the Parish Council for their generous pay increase.

The Chairman reported that he had asked Mr Bruce Parker if he would consider re-joining the Parish Council to fill the vacancy. Mr Parker agreed to this request.

The Chairman proposed that Mr B Parked be co-opted onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Weeks. A vote was held 5 in favour 1 abstained.

Mr Bruce Parker will be formally co-opted on to the Parish Council at the July Meeting.

## **CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

## **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm