

Minutes of the Appleshaw Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014 in the Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present : Cllr Mrs A Cowlin - Acting Chairman  
Cllr Mrs J Weeks  
Cllr Mrs L Black  
Cllr Mr D Green  
Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis  
Cllr Mr J Clement  
Cllr Mrs J Hopkins - Arrived at 7.30pm  
Cllr Mr B Parker  
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk  
Members of the Public - 11

### **WELCOME**

Cllr Mrs A Cowlin welcomed everyone to the meeting, called at the request of two Parish Councillors, Mr D Bloom-Davis and Mr J Clement.

### **FORMAL ADOPTION OF BRUCE PARKER AS COUNCILLOR.**

Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis proposed that Mr Bruce Parker be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the vacancy. This was seconded by Cllr Mr J Clement. Cllrs Bloom-Davis, Cowlin, Weeks, Clement and Green (5) voted to Co-opt Mr Bruce Parker on to the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs L Black (1) voted against the motion.

Mr Bruce Parker signed the Declaration of Office. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mr Bruce Parker back on to the Parish Council.

### **LETTER RECEIVED FROM CLLR MRS J HOPKINS**

Cllr Mrs A Cowlin reported that after the May meeting, Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis had emailed the Parish Council to inform them that following his appointment as a judge he would be standing down as PC Chairman with immediate effect.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins hand-delivered a letter to Cllr Mrs A Cowlin in her capacity as Acting Chairman. The letter was also hand delivered to Cllrs Weeks, Clement, Green and Black. The Clerk and Mr Bruce Parker were not included in the distribution.

Cllr Mrs A Cowlin read out the letter.

Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis stated that the letter contained explicit criticism of his ability as Chairman of the last meeting. Mr Bloom-Davis believed that he had acted correctly and had spoken to each Councillor prior to the May meeting about his intentions to secure the co-option of Bruce Parker and a fee increase for the Parish Clerk under 'Any other Business'. The only councillor to raise any concerns about this procedure was Cllr Mrs L Black.

At the meeting, the two items were voted upon under 'Any Other Business', all Councillors with the exception of Cllr Mrs L Black voting in favour of the proposals. Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis stated that if this was wrong he apologised and took full responsibility.

Cllr Mrs A Cowlin wished to draw a line under this matter and suggested that all Councillors concentrated on serving the village and working together. Cllr Mr Parker also urged that for the good of the village, all councillors should be working together. He agreed wholeheartedly with the views expressed by Cllr Mr D Green.

### **CLLR MR D BLOOM-DAVIS'S RESIGNATION AS CHAIRMAN.**

Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis tendered his resignation as Chairman owing to his judicial appointment. Mr Bloom-Davis intends to remain on the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs A Cowlin accepted his resignation and congratulated Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis on his appointment.

## **FORMAL RE-STATEMENT OF INCREASE IN THE CLERKS WAGES**

Cllr D Bloom-Davis proposed that the Clerk's wages are increased by £20 a month, dated from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Cowlin. The Parish Council voted by a show of hands. Cllrs Bloom-Davis, Cowlin, Weeks, Green, Clement and Parker voted in favour of the increase (6). Cllr Mrs L Black voted against (1). The Clerk's pay increase was adopted.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Mrs A Cowlin proposed Cllr Mr B Parker as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs J Weeks. There were no other nominations. A vote with a show of hands was held. Cllrs Cowlin, Bloom-Davis, Weeks, Green and Clement (5) voted for the proposal. Cllr Mrs L Black (1) voted against. Cllr Mr B Parker was elected Chairman and signed the declaration of Office. Cllr Mrs A Cowlin welcomed Cllr Mr B Parker back as Chairman. Cllr Mr B Parker chaired the remainder of the meeting.

## **FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Correspondence, whether written or emailed, will be available, if required, to be read out at council meetings . Any Other Business will also be added to the agenda.

## **CLLR MRS J HOPKINS JOINED THE MEETING AT 7.30PM**

Cllr Hopkins apologised for her late arrival owing to a mistake in her diary. Cllr Bloom-Davis asked why she considered it appropriate to criticise his handling of the previous meeting, in respect of Bruce Parker's co-option and the proposed increase in the clerk's fees, when she had agreed to the procedure in a previous telephone conversation. Mrs Hopkins confirmed that she was perfectly happy to accept his suggestion on both matters in question but her letter, which she had not intended to be made public, was an attempt to rectify the processes the council was going through. She did not believe there should be public discussion on the merits of candidates for co-option.

Mr Bloom Davis had also asked Mrs Hopkins why, following her telephone agreement, she had additionally voted in favour of the co-option and fee increase at the May meeting and had raised not a single objection to the procedure at the time.

The Chairman asked Mrs Hopkins what the logic of her letter was when she called for openness and transparency but wanted to discuss matters 'in camera'. He wondered what the huge amount of work was 'piling up for the Parish Council' and mentioned in her letter. He thought that the Parish Council had managed to tackle most of the jobs over the last three years. Cllr Mrs J Hopkins stated that she was not prepared to discuss this issue in an open meeting and would speak to the Chairman privately.

## **CHANGE OF THE DATE FOR THE JULY MEETING**

(The July meeting was re-scheduled and subsequently arranged for 1800 on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.)

## **GRASS CUTTING**

Cllr Mr D Green reported that Chris Wilkins has taken over all the Parish Council grass cutting in the village and is doing a good job. Cllr D Green suggested that we see what the final bill will be for the Grass Cutting this year and discuss it when looking at the next year's precept.

## **PLAY AREA BINS**

Cllr Mr D Green reported that stronger bags will be used in the Play Area bins and that he had spoken to Eric Carr and the situation will be monitored. Dog bins will be added to the July meeting Agenda.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mr H McCall said the village was lucky to have people like Desmond Bloom-Davis, Anne Cowlin and Bruce Parker who are prepared to give their time as Parish Councillors. He suggested it might be better if Councillors Black and Hopkins worked with the other Councillors rather than against them

Mr T Burden asked if there was any news on the repairs to the kerbs. The Chairman said he would be seeking a meeting with the Hampshire Highways representatives to get the road repairs sorted out..

**CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.