

Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 16th January 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 Weeks
Cllr Mrs J Hopkins
Cllr Mr D Green
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mrs P West
Members of the Public - 4

Apologies : Cllr Mrs L Black, Cllr Mr J Clement and Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook.

WELCOME. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It was no surprise when the results of the election on 5th May 2011 for the Parish Council were announced to find that Bruce Parker had received the most votes by some way with 209 votes. It was also not surprising when the first business of the newly elected Parish Council on 13th May 2011 was to elect Bruce as its Chairman.

From that moment to 11th November 2013 Bruce was the most outstanding Chairman of the Parish Council. Not only did he rightly command the respect and confidence of the parish but he ensured that the business of the Parish Council was carried out for the benefit of all parishioners. By virtue of his determination, negotiating skills and persuasiveness he was able to get things done. It is thanks to Bruce that the village road has been resurfaced from the county border at Biddesden to the A342 including the road through Ragged Appleshaw. He has been able to get Southern Water, at last, to carry out the necessary remedial works to the drains so as to avoid excessive leakages within the system. Time will tell whether this work has been successful. When the telephone lines went down in Redenham during the autumn 2013 storm causing residents to be without a land line, it was Bruce who telephoned the Chairman of BT to persuade him to get his engineers to fix the problem. Within a matter of hours engineers were on site rectifying the problems.

It was with sadness that the Parish Council was informed on 8th November 2013 that the tree planting ceremony after the Service of Remembrance on 10th November 2013 would be the last act that Bruce would undertake as Chairman and Councillor.

During his short but highly productive time as Chairman and Councillor the parish has seen considerable improvements in the highways, the general appearance of the village has improved and the status of the village within the County has been greatly enhanced.

Bruce will be a very hard act to follow. I do not know how Bruce managed to combine his work as Chairman with all of his many other interests, hobbies and positions of responsibility but he did. I hope that with the support of my Vice-Chairman, Anne Cowlin, the whole Council and the parish that I will be able to act as Chairman in a way that builds on the significant legacy left by my predecessor for the benefit of all concerned.

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 Mr D Green declared an interest in Randall Parker Foods.

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

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council have followed procedure and have been informed by Test Valley Borough Council that the Parish Council can co-opt to fill the vacancy.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Clerk read out a report from Mr R Caddy - Appleshaw NHW Co-ordinator.

Mr R Caddy was pleased to report that Appleshaw has not suffered with as many incidents as others in the beat area, the main issues effecting Appleshaw have been:

In December the door to door sales groups were in the village, it was reported and Police attended but unfortunately they had moved on, if they return and say that they are Ex Offenders or war Veterans with no ID, residents are asked to notify the Police immediately.

On 13th/14th January, fuel oil and tools were stolen from a property in Appleshaw. Horse owners should also be aware of both attempted and actual thefts in the area, recent ones at Weyhill, Thruxton and Cholderton.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the minutes of the November 2013 Parish Council meeting and the minutes of the November 2013 Extra Ordinary meeting as a true record. Matters arising from those minutes:-

PLAY AREA - Cllr Mrs L Black has obtained quotes for the repairs to the Play Area:

Action Play	£2,326.80 including VAT
Fawns	£1,104 including VAT
Vita Play	£744 including VAT

All quotes are for replacing the laminate wood using HDPE material and refitting the hand and foot holds which are in good condition.

The climbing ramps on both the small and large climbing frames need replacing, because the laminate wood used has disintegrated. (Unfortunately the ramps and climbing wall cannot be replaced by the installing company because they are now out of business). Cllr Mrs L Black has checked with the insurance company and ROSPA and we are able to replace the ramp wood only with good quality decking board. This repair can be made locally, Owen Mills has quoted for this work. It will be £265.25 (no VAT). This cost also includes replacing 2 bench uprights, which have rotted, on the thin bench near the trees. All these repairs were identified in the quarterly inspection in October. Sadly the wet weather of late has accelerated the rot and the affected areas have been roped off.

The Parish Council discussed the repairs to the Play Area at length. The Chairman proposed that Vita Play are contracted to carry out the repairs to the Climbing Frame and Mr Owen Mills contracted to carry out the repairs to the ramps and the bench. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Cowlin. Everyone agreed.

ALLOTMENTS - The Chairman stated that Cllr Mrs J Weeks has agreed to take on the Allotments with the assistance of the Clerk.

GRASS CUTTING - The Parish Council were happy with the work Mr C Wilkins did last year and agreed that they would like him to continue. However there was some uncertainty if Jamie would continue, the churchyard needs to be cut on a Friday so it is looking its best for the weekend, Jamie was not keen to work on a Friday as he had other commitments. The Clerk will contact Jamie to ascertain his intentions so this can be discussed further at the March Meeting.

HIGHWAYS - The Chairman reported that he had contacted Paul Walsh about the problems with the Redenham Drove. Paul Walsh has confirmed that Redenham Drove is already on the inspection list rota although the annual inspection may not have taken place. Paul Walsh kindly said that he will carry out his own inspection to ascertain whether any steps need to be taken. He suggested that additional drainage ditches may be required on Redenham Drove, this will be investigated and the Parish Council kept informed of progress.

The Parish Council discussed the large puddle that is now forming by the Bus Shelter at the White House. Councillors stated that this is a recent occurrence, it was thought that there was no drain so it was a bit of a puzzle as to why the puddle forms. [After Note – there is a drain, presumably silted up] This will be reported to highways.

It was noted that Highways have not yet removed the vegetation against the wall adjacent to the stream on Biddesden Bottom Road. The Chairman will contact Paul Walsh.

VILLAGE HALL HEATING - Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that a further quote has been obtained for the Village Hall Heating. The Village Hall Management Committee are due to meet in February and she will report further at the March Parish Council meeting.

PLANNING

13/02617/LBWN - Addition of wc/shower to bedroom 4 on first floor and en-suite to bedroom 6 on second floor, blocking up of bedroom 5 doors to two-way wardrobe, small enclosure in family room on ground floor for new soil and vent pipe and associated drainage - Mead House, Appleshaw.

The parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS. Permission has been granted.

SPEED RESTRICTIONS

The speed through vehicles drive through the village was discussed, there have been increasing requests for a 20MPH speed limit for parts of the village. The Chairman felt that the main problem is enforcing the speed limit, if drivers would lower their speed to the current limit of 30MPH there would not be a problem. This was discussed at length.

Cllr Mrs P West spoke about the Community Speed Watch Scheme that is operating in Charlton and suggested that the Parish Council consider this scheme. The equipment is portable and can be unused in several sites around the village. Cllr Mrs P West stated that the School must have a 'Green Travel Plan' but thought that they already have adopted one. Investigation into the Community Speed watch will be made and this will be put on the agenda for the March meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenditure December 2013 and January 2014

Richard Waterman	Wages – December	£160.00
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Mr C Wilkins	Fuel for Mower	£124.26
		<u>£444.26</u>

BANK BALANCE

After above movements have been deducted and added:- £3,851.45.

PRECEPT

The Clerk produced a balance sheet showing the Estimated results for the Year 2013/2014 and the Budget for the Year 2014/2015. Each item was explained. The Precept was discussed at length.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins raised the issue of funding for the Play Area Maintenance. The Chairman has written to the Village Hall Management Committee asking if they would consider making

a contribution of £350 to the Play Area maintenance as it is used by Pippins Play Group, their major hirer. It was noted that the Play Area is one of the facilities Pippins advertise on their Web Site. A lengthy discussion followed on this issue.

The Parish Council agreed that the precept for 2014/2015 would remain at £9,000. In the Budget for 2014/2015 £500 will be for the provision of Play Area maintenance, although this will not be ring-fenced.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS P WEST

Cllr Mrs P West reported that Cllr Mr P Lashbrook is busy monitoring the water levels and flooding in the area, he has suggested that the ditches in Appleshaw are dug out once the dry weather comes, this was noted.

Cllr Mrs P West reported that Highways are preparing for the bad weather that is forecast for early February, the salt bins should now have been filled and HCC have large supplies of salt for the roads.

Cllr Mrs P West spoke about hedge cutting and the time scale for farmers to get their hedges cut. No cutting is allowed after 22nd February because of birds' nesting. Hampshire County Council are busy discussing their budget for the next financial year. The Government settlement will be lower again this year and cuts in some areas will be inevitable. However HCC plan no increase on the Council Tax Bill.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

6th March 2014 in the Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.30pm