

**Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th
January 2017 in the Appleshaw Village Hall, Appleshaw at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr Mrs A Cowlin – Chairman
Cllr Mrs J Hopkins
Cllr Mr D Green
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
Member of the Public – Mr Tim Seymour

Apologies: Cllr Mr J Clements – Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs R Bass, County Councillor Mrs Z Brooks and Borough Councillors Mr P Lashbrook and Mrs P Mutton.

MRS JEAN WEEKS

The Chairman reported the sad passing of Mrs Jean Weeks. The Parish Council wished to acknowledge the huge contribution to Appleshaw that Jean had made during her time on the Parish Council, serving for over 40 years. The Chairman has sent the condolences of the Parish Council to his family.

Cllr Mr D Green suggested that the Parish Council place a bench on the Green opposite the old shop in Jean's memory. The Parish Council thought this a lovely idea. Cllr Mr D Green will get quotes for the next meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs A Cowlin, ARC, Flower Show and WI; Cllr Mrs J Hopkins, Village Hall.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins asked for an alteration to the minutes regarding the hire of the Village Hall, the sentence should read:

The VHMC have reviewed the hire charge for the village hall and have agreed to waive the hire charge for Community Groups from September 2016, this will be reviewed every year.

The Chairman then signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Mr D Green and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Hopkins.

Matters arising:

GANG MOWER – The Chairman reported that she had submitted an application to the Fête Committee for a contribution towards a gang mower and was pleased to report that the Fête Committee have given a grant of £750.

A budget of up to £2000 was set to purchase a second-hand gang mower. Cllr Mr D Green will start looking for a set of gang mowers suitable for the size of the tractor.

PLAYING FIELD

The Chairman read out the following report she had received from Mr R Caddy.

“Statement regarding the John Ward Playing Field Trustees

In 1987 The Hampshire Playing Field Association, being the Holding Trustees appointed Rev: Cannon Ian Tomlinson, Mrs Jean Weeks and myself as the Administration Trustees

While it was expected that the administration of the playing field would be raised at some time I was saddened to hear that it was raised within 3 days of Ian passing away.

Due to both Ian's and Jean's illnesses they had both verbally intermitted, that they wished to step down as Trustees. Due to all they had both contributed as Trustees and the village over the years, I did not feel comfortable with the idea therefore we discussed and agreed that I contact Hampshire Playing Fields Association with the proposal to appoint two additional trustees, (as opposed to replace them) following which I contacted HPFA to explain the situation and our proposals.

As with all charity amendments there is a process which must be followed and the changes were under discussing with the HPFA Legal officers and Executive Board when sadly both Ian and Jean sadly passed away. Following their deaths on notifying HPFA I was subsequently advised that the Executive Board will appoint 2 of the executive members as interim trustees, prior to two new Administration Trustees being appointed by the main executive. Also, regarding the Trustees banks account which requires two signatures, The General secretary of HPFA, Mr John Coney would act as an interim second signatory.

Finally, I would ask that it is recorded in the Parish records the appreciation of the whole community for all both Jean and Ian did, not only as Playing Field Trustees but for all they did for the village and various organisations."

Mr Tim Seymour stated that he has spoken to Mr John Coney from HPFA about the Playing Field Trust. Mr John Coney confirmed the situation and gave the impression that the Fields in Trust who now govern the Playing Field wish to simplify the operation of the Appleshaw Playing Field.

HIGHWAYS – The 30mph repeater sign near opposite the Barncroft junction is still in the hedge.

PLANNING

There were no new planning applications to discuss.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that there are plans lodged with TVBC for alterations to the Church. The Clerk had not yet received them.

CERT UP-DATE

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins had nothing to report on CERT. The Environment Agency have cut the ditch through the village right up to the Horns at Redenham. There is still a further stretch of ditch that needs cutting back and it is hoped that this will be done by the Lengthsman in due course.

FINANCE.

EXPENDITURE – December 2016 and January 2017

Richard Waterman	Wages - December 2016	£180.00
Richard Waterman	Wages – January 2017	£180.00

BANK BALANCE

After above movements, have been deducted and added: - £9,068.80

BANK ACCOUNTS

Allotments Account	=	£1,004.09
Current Account	=	£9,068.80
	=	<u>£10,072.89</u>

PRECEPT 2017/2018

The Clerk produced a balance sheet showing the Estimated Results for the year 2016/2017 and the Budget for the year 2017/2018. Each item was discussed.

The Parish Council agreed that the Precept would remain at the current level of £9,500.00 for the year 2017/2018. Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Mr D Green. Everyone agreed.

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that the Village Hall Management Committee are looking at some further projects including the Kitchen, Toilets and Lighting.

FOOTPATHS

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that she had met with HCC Rights of Way regarding the height of the stiles in the fields belonging to Mr Hillary McCall. Mr McCall has agreed to allow the Ramblers Association, at their expense, to lower the height of the stiles and reline one of the stiles to make an easier route across his land.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that although not in the Appleshaw Parish but in Penton Grafton, the footpath going past Harrow Farm has been churned up in the last couple of days as a digger has been taken in through the temporary fence from the field to level out the gardens in the new houses. Quite a few people have voiced their concern. Cllr Mrs Hopkins will try to make sure the path is reinstated in due course.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that now the digger has done its work, the line of the fence encroaches some way into the footpath, or where the footpath was before the fence was moved to do this job. Now there is a curve in the path which wasn't there before and it isn't on the plans, which is beneficial to the second house as it gives it more Garden.

There was also discussion concerning the missing footpath across the field in line with Barncroft.

BROADBAND

The Chairman stated that enquiries into the improvement of Broadband are on-going.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

2nd March 2017