

Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th July 2012 in the Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mr B Parker - Chairman
Cllr Mrs J Hopkins - Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs J Weeks
Cllr Mrs A Cowlin
Cllr Mr D Green
Cllr Mr J Clements
Cllr Mr D Bloom Davis
Cllr Mrs L Black
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
PCSO David Trowbridge
Members of the Public - 24

Apologies: Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook and County Councillor Mrs P West.

WELCOME. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Jubilee Celebrations Team for an excellent event.

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Appleshaw Parish Council has received a formal complaint from a member of the public directed against a member of the council. The council had decided unanimously, by email, prior to this council meeting, to ask for an independent and official investigation by the Monitoring Officer at Test Valley Borough Council. The result of this will be made public in due course. It would not be appropriate for the council to engage in any public discussion about the allegations.

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 and ARC.
Cllr Mr D Green declared an interest in Randall Parker Foods.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record.
Matters arising from those minutes:-

HIGHWAYS - The Chairman reported that he was not happy with the length of time it is taking for Highways to do the outstanding repairs in the parish. The Chairman wrote to the head of Highways to complain, as a result Highways are coming into the village to carry out the outstanding repairs and a road closure notice has been issued so that repairs to the manhole covers can be done.

ALLOTMENTS - Cllr Mrs L Black confirmed that the water butts are on order. Astor Properties have confirmed to the Clerk that a works order has been placed to replace the allotment gate post.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE - Cllr Mr J Clements reported that the Jubilee Celebrations cost just under £1,250. Cllr Mrs P West had obtained a grant of £250 for the parish. Jubilee Mugs for the children are on order at a cost of £460.

Cllr Mr Clements thanked Mr John Brewer for his generosity in supplying bunting, table cloths etc and to Carl Ross for the Jubilee Plaque which he had kindly donated to the village. Mr Clements stated that an article was in preparation for ARC with lots of pictures.

DITCHES - The Clerk reported that Mr C Wilkins is working his way through clearing the village ditch and has produced a quote to clear the ditches in Redenham. This would be sent to Lady Clarke.

VILLAGE GRASS CUTTING

Cllr Mr D Bloom Davis felt it was a shame that the grass cuttings are being left on the Playing Field and the Village Green: they look untidy and should really be picked up.

The Chairman stated that we have had a few problems with the tractor this season and the weather has not helped. The Chairman has met with Jamie Thomas and the grass cuttings in the Play Area and the Cemetery are now being picked up. A meeting with the grass cutters is planned to formulate a work schedule.

Cllr Mrs L Black spoke about the various areas in the village that are cut by Hampshire Highways, Astor Properties or Test valley Borough Council and wondered if they could be co-ordinated so they are all cut at the same time. This was noted and will be looked into.

WEEPING BEECH TREE

The Weeping Beech Tree in front of the church is very overgrown and out of shape. Discussions on how to tackle this tree have taken place over several weeks. A decision was taken to have work carried out to bring it back to a manageable and pleasing shape. An estimate of £200 + VAT had been obtained from Tree Technique Ltd to reduce the crown by approximately 50%, thereby regaining a weeping, balanced canopy. The Parish Council all agreed to have the work done.

FINANCIAL REPORT

5th July 2012

EXPENDITURE

June and July

Queen's Diamond Jubilee		£500.00
Mr B Pearce	Repairs to the Telephone Box	£64.00
HCC	Street Lighting	£248.92
Allianz Insurance	Tractor insurance	£283.02
N.S.A.L.G.S.	Allotments Subscription	£66.00
Mr C Wilkins	Grass and Ditch Cutting – Petrol	£513.32
Mr B Pearce	Grass Cutting – NB Repair	£100.00
R.N. Waterman	Petrol for mower and Stamps	£52.15
TVAPC	Subscription	£10.00
Bulpit Printers	Printing costs VDS	£138.00
R.N. Waterman	Wages (June)	£139.00
R.N. Waterman	Wages (July)	£139.00

INCOME. HCC Grant for Jubilee £500.00

BANK BALANCE

After above payments have been deducted: £3763.41

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEES – The Revd Ian Tomlinson reported that the field has been used over the year by three football teams, the Cricket Club and a Fitness Group. Mr Tomlinson thanked the Parish Council for their continued support with the grass cutting. Thanks also go to Tony Burden, Owen Mills and Eric Carr.

Mr Tomlinson reported that there has a small expenditure during the last financial year. Income was £340 and Expenditure £18.79. The closing balance at the end of the year was £1851.96.

CHURCH - Rev Ian Tomlinson thanked the Parish Council for keeping the cemetery and graveyard grass cut. Owing to a water leak in the cemetery, the water supply has now been turned off. The refurbishment of the church will be re-addressed in September. Feedback from visitors has been very good and the support from the community is wonderful. The Church electoral role will be reviewed in 2013.

ARC - From Mrs Michele Day - Since taking over as Editor last year, her team had worked tirelessly to increase the quality of advertising available in ARC and because of this had attracted a whole new type of advertiser, many ads coming from large well established businesses. ARC now has a professional-looking, full-colour cover and she was pleased to report that the advertising space on it could have been sold more than once. This has given an increased earning potential from advertising on which they rely completely for the running costs of ARC and to enable subscription costs to be kept down. The bank balance is looking very healthy because of this and ARC is in the position of being able to give a copy of this month's Jubilee edition to each household in ARCadia! Mrs Day thanked the many advertisers for their financial support, and the residents of ARCadia for their moral support.

APPLESHAW PRIMARY SCHOOL - Mrs Sally Smith reported that the school has had an extremely busy successful year with 90 pupils are on the roll, of which 22 are in the catchment area. From September there will be 95 pupils with 8 on the waiting list.

The highs of the year included sports events, the netball team winning the schools' league, the Queens Diamond Jubilee and, with six other schools, a programme of events held to celebrate the Olympics. The Governors had given permission for the children to finish early on Wednesday 11th July to watch the Olympic Torch en route to Ludgershall. The new canopy has allowed for many activities to be held outside despite the wet weather.

In February, the school had a Church inspection and a resulting good report. Year 5 have gone on a residential adventure week. Mrs Smith wished to thank the community of Appleshaw who provide a lot of support to the school. Parking is still an ongoing problem.

FLOWER SHOW - Althea Shapiro reported that the Flower Show had another successful event with 83 exhibitors and 450 exhibits. Fruit and Vegetable categories are on the increase. The scarecrow competition was very popular. A profit of £281 was made. The spring plant sale was also a great success and made a profit of £440. This year's scarecrow competition has a 'royal' theme.

Several hundred 'Engleheart' daffodils had been planted in Appleshaw and Redenham with children from the school helping to plant them. The Flower Show Committee would like to thank the village for its support.

PIPPINS PLAYGROUPO - Trudy Tobutt reported that Pippins Play Group have 44 Children and is open 5 days a week. In September the 21 children will go to the primary school, 99% of the children in the village attend the preschool before going to the primary school. Pippins is fully booked for the next two years and has 6 paid staff and 1 volunteer. Pippins has had an Ofsted inspection and received an outstanding grade.

W.I. - Mrs Thelma White - The W.I. has had a very interesting year, helping out where they can locally at the Plant Sale and the Fete. Mrs White went as a delegate to the AGM at Liverpool, seeing thousands of W.I ladies descending on the Echo Arena was a sight to behold!

October was a very special evening with 40 guests. The speaker was Michael Bowyer the renowned national and international demonstrator and judge who gave magnificent displays. During the year, topics for W.I. speakers had included Scottish gardens, crop circles, silver clay jewellery, keep fit and ancient woodland. The Hampshire Federation adviser wrote to Mrs White after one meeting and said "you need not be a big W.I. to be a good W.I."

FETE - Mr Fin Hughes could not make the meeting but plans were reported to be going well for the 2012 Fete.

VILLAGE HALL - Mr Angus Burnett spoke about the project to replace the Village Hall heating. Although the grant requirements set out by Test Valley Borough Council would normally require the Parish Council to meet a percentage of the funding, the Hall Committee were meeting that proportion of the grant. The Parish Council will have no financial liability for the project. However, the Parish Council's support in principle was required for the grant application. It was noted that the cost of the heating is in the region of £20,000.

The Chairman asked the Parish Council if they agreed to support the grant application for the new Village Hall heating, the voting being 6 for and 2 against. The Clerk was asked to write to Test Valley Borough Council registering the Parish Council's support for the project.

POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT - PCSO David Trowbridge reported that he works with PC Roger Kitson based at the Stockbridge Fire Station where the Police are now based. Crime figures for Appleshaw are very low and it is a safe place to live.

Neighbourhood Watch Report – Mr Bob Caddy

There are now 18 NHW contacts around the village who pass around any relevant information. Another contact was needed for the Eastville / Tillydown area.

An indication of how well NHW schemes work was evident when one member had noticed someone changing vehicle number plates in a Lane in Weyhill. An alert resulted in a number of police vehicles being deployed to stop the car in Andover and three people were arrested and charged with several offences. Appleshaw village had been fairly quiet compared with many villages. During the period January to June, there were 18 reported incidents ranging from anti-social behaviour to burglary and theft. These figures did not include phone calls reporting suspicious persons or vehicles where no further action was necessary.

PLANNING

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that since May 2011, the PC have commented on 16 applications made for Appleshaw parish, 1 in Kimpton and 2 (Dauntsey Drove) in Amport parish. The full details are circulated to all Councillors to give them the chance to make their own comments before a formal response is sent in.

Appleshaw: Four still awaiting decision by TVBC, one withdrawn and the rest were granted permission.

Kimpton: Andover Lane Farm - behind the petrol garage on the A342 - was refused permission to convert farm buildings into a work unit and some tourist accommodation.

Amport: (Dauntsey Drove). Two applications are associated with this property, one being withdrawn. The developer applied for permission for 21 dwellings on the former Ecosse Hospital Products site in Dauntsey Drove. Our parishioners are more affected by this development than Amport's. The Council objected, along with our Borough Councillor, that there were no plans to improve the access at both ends of Dauntsey Drove for so many extra vehicle movements. The application went to the Northern Area Planning Committee on 21st June and was refused, mainly on the basis of overdevelopment in the countryside. Cllr Mrs Hopkins thanked the Chairman for his recent work on the helping to get this application thrown out by the Planners.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Master Sam Mills addressed the meeting and asked if the Parish Council would consider putting in a Skateboard Ramp on the Playing Field. There was equipment for the younger children but nothing for the older ones.

The Revd Ian Tomlinson stated that he was in favour of providing additional equipment for the older children of the village, but this would need to be discussed with his fellow Playing Field Trustees. The Chairman thanked Sam Mills and stated that the Parish Council would look into the matter.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

6th September 2012 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.