

Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present : Cllr Mr B Parker - Chairman  
Cllr Mrs A Cowlin - Vice Chairman  
Cllr Mrs J Hopkins  
Cllr Mrs J Weeks  
Cllr Mr D Green  
Cllr Mr J Clements  
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk  
Members of the Public - 5

### **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Mrs J Weeks, Trustee, in the Playing Field, Cllr Mrs J Hopkins, Trustee, in the Village Hall, Cllr Mrs A Cowlin in ARC, the Flower Show and the WI.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins objected to the minutes containing a statement, by Cllr D Bloom Davis (AOB January), which she said was untrue. The Chairman reminded Mrs Hopkins that the minutes were a record of what was actually said and in this particular case the minutes were correct in what they recorded, no matter what Mrs Hopkins' opinion was on the truth of the particular statement. Accordingly, the Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

### **PLANNING**

15/00201/TREEN - Tree Works - Firbeck, Biddesden Bottom Road - PERMISSION

15/002455/FULLN - Demolition of existing single storey side and rear extension and erection of two storey side extension and new garden room/office outbuilding to rear following demolition of existing outbuilding - Laburnum Cottage, Biddesden Bottom Road, Appleshaw - NO OBJECTIONS

15/00308/FULLN - Conversion of existing carport to gymnasium - Vine House, Biddesden Bottom Road, Appleshaw - The Parish Council have yet to comment.

14/02828/FULLN - Erection of three detached dwellings - Harrow Farm.  
The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had objected to this planning application and in support of its objection the following paragraph had been included in its submission:

*“COM1 of the Revised Plan states ‘developments should include a mix of housing to meet choice and needs of the community’. There is a huge local need for good smaller houses and starter homes, i.e. 2-bed, to enable local families to move within their village”.*

The Chairman said this paragraph should be deleted as there was no documentary evidence to support ‘a huge local need for good smaller houses and starter homes’, whether there was one or not. No reliable or credible surveys had ever been carried out in the villages. Cllr Mrs J Hopkins disagreed - talking to residents, she said, she had identified a need. She could have carried out her own housing need survey to prove the point, had she been asked.

The Chairman stated that any Housing Need survey would need to be carried out officially and in an acceptably controlled form. It was not a case of talking to a few people in the street and forming a meaningful opinion.

On that basis, the Chairman proposed that the paragraph be removed from the Parish Council submission, seconded by Cllr Mrs A Cowlin. The vote was 4 in favour of removal, 1 against and 1 abstention.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### **EXPENDITURE - February and March 2015**

Richard Waterman	Wages – February	£160.00
Richard Waterman	Wages – March	£160.00
Richard Waterman	Wages adjustment	£40.00
Richard Waterman	End of Year Expenses	£72.99
	McAfee Protection	£31.15
	Stamps and Stationery	£104.14
		<u>£464.14</u>

#### **BANK BALANCE**

After above movements have been deducted and added:  
£4,626.42

#### **BANK ACCOUNTS**

Allotments Account =	£587.09
Current Account =	£4,039.33
	<u>£4,626.42</u>

VAT to be claimed £350.40

#### **VILLAGE HALL REPORT**

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins said the Village Hall was progressing with its oil heating project. The Chairman reported that he had stood aside from membership of the Hall Committee.

#### **COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

There were no issues raised by the Parish Councillors.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Mrs S Clements stated that members of the public were tired of the constant bickering at Parish Council meetings from certain quarters and asked for this to cease. It was counter-productive and wrongly gave the impression that there was a great deal of disunity in the village as a whole.

Mr John Brewer questioned why other organisations in the parish were not contributing towards the cost of the village grass-cutting, in particular the playing field. The Parish Council had set aside £4,000 of the precept for grass-cutting throughout the Parish while other organisations made no contribution, despite receiving payment for the use of their facilities.

Mr Brewer wished it to be clear that he had no criticism of the appearance of the village but thought it unfair that parishioners pay for this through their Council Tax when there is no financial contribution from other quarters.

This was discussed at some length. The Chairman said it had already been suggested to the Village Hall Committee and the Playing Field Trustees that they might see their way to making some contribution to the increasing costs of keeping the playing field in trim. None had so far been forthcoming.

### **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

The Chairman thanked each Councillor for their contributions over the last four years mentioning Cllr Mrs A Cowlin's support as Vice Chairman and the wealth of local knowledge and understanding of Cllr Mrs J Weeks. He thanked Cllr Mr J Clements for looking after the 'constituency' of Redenham and highlighted the parish work of Cllr Mr D Green and overseeing grounds maintenance. He also thanked Cllr Mrs J Hopkins for her resolve, come what may, in what she believes.

Cllr Mrs J weeks stated that she would not be standing at the forthcoming elections and would be retiring after 30 years on the Parish Council. The Chairman hoped she would remain in the wings for many years to come as an *éminence grise*.

### **CLOSE OF THE MEETING.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

14<sup>th</sup> May 2015