

**Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Appleshaw Church at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr Mr B Parker – Chairman  
Cllr Mrs A Cowlin – Vice Chairman  
Cllr Mrs R Bass  
Cllr Mr J Clements  
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk  
County Councillor Mrs Z Brooks  
Borough Councillor Mrs P Mutton  
Members of the Public – 12

Apologies: Cllr Mrs J Hopkins, Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook and Mr D Bloom-Davis.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs A Cowlin, ARC, Flower Show and WI; Cllr Mrs R Bass, Flower Show and Appleshaw School.

**Cllr DESSIE GREEN**

Mr Green had informed the clerk that he wished to stand down from the Council. The Chairman wished to place on record the huge contribution Dessie Green had made to the village over many years and thanked him for his wise counsel and advice. He would be very much missed as a PC member.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chairman proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record, seconded by Cllr Mrs A Cowlin. Matters arising from those minutes:

SCHOOL PARKING – Cllr Mrs R Bass had raised this with the head Teacher and an article on responsible parking would appear in the school newsletter. The police may give a presentation at the school.

OVERHANGING IVY – Cllr Mrs A Cowlin reported that the property owner of Lavender Cottage (Mrs Kate Buchele) had had the ivy overhanging the lane into the village removed in October.

**PLANNING**

15/02070/FULLN – Land at Harrow Farm Cottages. Parish objected. No further update.

15/02207/FULLN – Laburnum Cottage. Extensions and other work. No objection from Parish. Permission.

15/02336/LBWN – Iron Pear Tree Cottage. No objection from Parish. Conservation officer has objected to the plans for re-rendering and to the proposal for a new double-glazed window.

15/02463/TREEN – Firbeck. Reduce 4 Leylandii by 50% and fell 1 pine. No objection from Parish. No further update.

15/02534/TREEN – 2 Privet Cottages, Redenham. Fell 1 Acer. No objection from Parish. No further update.

15/02583/TREEN – Firbeck. Reduce Ash tree by 50%. Comments needed from Parish.

## **POLICE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Mrs J Marshall warned of 'Courier Fraud' being on the increase – people were telephoned, supposedly by banks, and fraudulently asked for pin numbers or passwords and told that a courier would collect their cards.

The Community Speed Watch is being promoted by the police - PC to consider.

## **VILLAGE HALL**

Cllr Mrs R Bass reported that Tim Seymour is overseeing the heating project. The PC questioned hire charges and their lack of consistency with some village institutions charged and some not. Cllr Mrs R Bass will raise this at their next meeting.

## **DEFIBRILLATOR**

With grants from HCC, TVBC, the Fete Committee and the WI, the Parish Council have been able to purchase a defibrillator for the parish although £35 short of the required amount. Mr H McCall volunteered to fund this shortfall and was thanked for his generosity. Initially, the defibrillator was to be sited at the Walnut Tree Inn but this was now unlikely on Grade 2 listing grounds. It is hoped that it can be placed on the village hall. Cllr Mrs R Bass will contact the hall trustees. [Post meeting, the owners of the Walnut Tree, Admiral Taverns, have since given their outline permission for the defibrillator to be sited on the Walnut Tree.]

The Clerk explained how the defibrillator will operate. In the case of a suspected heart attack, after a 999 call the Ambulance Service will talk the caller through the procedure, ask for an address and postcode and provide an access code and further instructions.

The defibrillator itself is fully automatic and will instruct the user step by step how to proceed and give verbal assistance prior to the arrival of an ambulance.

## **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MRS P MUTTON.**

Cllr Mrs P Mutton read a statement from Cllr Mr P Lashbrook:

"It was most fitting that the Parish Council should meet in the church which, down the ages, had been the centre of the community. Never had it been more important that the vital role that our churches have to play was recognised.

"No matter which denomination or faith, the church stood as an integral part of the village and all that defines it.

"He had hoped to introduce the Community Emergency Resilience Team, Penton Bellinger, (CERT-PB), a pooling of local and Ward resources, energies and initiative. As cut-backs took an ever greater toll on our services, we had to become more self-resilient. Seven Ward Parishes had been invited to join CERT-PB and to have a parish representative acting as a liaison and to serve on the management team. The parish 'flood warden' would work alongside representatives from the other parishes, community volunteers and stakeholders, to provide a cohesive resilience service."

[Post meeting: Cllr Mrs R Bass will be the lead member for the PC.]

Cllr Mrs Mutton spoke about TVBC and HCC budget reductions and also warned that, in future, Parish Councils might be expected to take on more responsibilities for the maintenance of their villages.

## HIGHWAYS

The Chairman had met Richard Bastow from HCC Highways to discuss various issues:

DITCHES – The ditches, the responsibility of the Environment Agency, were now undergoing an autumn clean but in future this would probably be on a two-year basis rather than annually.

Cllr Mr J Clements had been in touch with farm managers about the ditches through Redenham and work was in progress.

ROADS – Greensey is on the list for repair.

WINTER GRITTING – The road through Appleshaw from the B342, in a loop past Randall Parker, is now classified Priority 1 and through Redenham is Priority 2.

ROAD SIGN – The uprooted 30mph sign by Mead House is to be reinstated by Highways.

BRIDGES – The bridges over the ditch need repair, largely cosmetic. Estimates will be sought to replace/repair loose brickwork.

SPEEDING – Cllr Mr J Clements had been asked by Mrs Judy Kaluza from Redenham for the 40mph speed limit to be extended along the Biddesden Bottom Road towards the county border. Agreed that the HCC will be contacted.

## FINANCE

### EXPENDITURE - October and November 2015

Richard Waterman	Wages – October	£160.00
Richard Waterman	Wages – November	£160.00
Richard Waterman	Wages adjustment	£ 40.00
Broker Network	Insurance	£578.27
BDO LLP	Audit Fee	£120.00
Mr B Pearce	Grass Cutting Redenham	£ 80.00
N J Futcher	Grass Verge/hedge Cutting Redenham	£250.00
Appleshaw Village Hall	Hire of Hall Sept 14 - Sept 15	£ 69.00
		<b>£1,457.27</b>

### INCOME

Allotments £20  
HCC – Cllr Z Brooks £500

### BANK BALANCE

After above movements have been deducted and added:- £9,242.00

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The grass on the Playing Field and the Village Green had become overgrown towards the end of the summer, largely owing to the contractor's holiday. Cover will be organised for next year.

Mrs J Marshall requested that a street sign be erected for the Drove. Ambulance crews had difficulty finding the road during a recent emergency. A request to TVBC will be submitted.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

WALNUT TREE – The Chairman reported that a fungus has been found at the bottom of one of the walnut trees which may be honey fungus. The chairman will research the problem further.

WEB SITE – A grant of £366 has been received through Cllr Mrs P Mutton towards the cost of setting up a new web site.

Councillors felt it was right for the village to have a quality site – plans to provide a better service encompassing all village organisations would proceed.

### **VENUE**

The Chairman said parish churches were likely to disappear if they were not used more for community functions. He thought the atmosphere for this PC meeting had been far better than the village hall and proposed that future meetings be held in the church. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Cowlin and agreed unanimously. Members of the public said acoustics in the church were excellent and a vote, called for by a parishioner, also ended in unanimous approval for further meetings to be held in the church.

### **DATES OF THE 2016 MEETINGS**

7<sup>th</sup> January

10<sup>th</sup> March

5<sup>th</sup> May

7<sup>th</sup> July

1<sup>st</sup> September

3<sup>rd</sup> November