

Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on **Thursday 6th March 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
Cllr Mr J Clement
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mrs P West
Members of the Public - 10

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

WELCOME. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH.

Mr R Caddy sends out regular Neighbourhood Reports. It was noted that the theft of horses and tack is on the increase, this is especially relevant to Appleshaw as there are a large number of horses kept in and around the village.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the minutes of the January 2014 Parish Council meeting as a true record. Matters arising from those minutes:-

PLAY AREA - Cllr Mrs L Black provided the following report (which was summarised by the Chairman) :-

Since the last Parish Council meeting:

Junior swings - Playdale replaced the last swing bearing set on this frame (free of charge) making them smooth running again and completing an action point from the Inspection.

Climbing frame ramps and junior climbing wall: I put plastic mesh on this equipment to ensure the damaged part of these frames could not be used whilst unsafe. Owen Mills kindly gave the length of mesh to complete this. Repairs have now been completed by Owen Mills to the ramps and bench and he has undertaken an excellent job. VitaPlay have installed a new climbing wall and done a very tidy job. I enquired if VitaPlay could also provide us with some offcuts of rubber matting they may have free of charge to soften the base of the roundabout. Very kindly they added these mats themselves when mending the

climbing wall, which is marvellous of them.

Finances for repair: I have the invoice from Vita Play, but I am unsure if an invoice has been sent in by Owen Mills to the office? (Please Councillors to recall we have a grant of £250 towards these repairs and a sum of money remaining from the initial fundraising for the play area).

There are various small tasks to complete in the play area which have been identified by the quarterly inspection report, and the combined efforts of a working party could achieve this. Please could a couple of dates be chosen at tonight's meeting in order to facilitate this? (2 dates in case the first is rained off!)

Weekly checks: I am making weekly checks at the moment and liaising with Trudi Tobutt about sharing this task in the future.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mrs Black for her report and her important work in respect of the play area.

ALLOTMENTS - The bills for the 2014 Allotment Fees are ready to be dispatched.

HIGHWAYS - The Chairman reported that Highways are busy dealing with flooding problems in the County. Repairs to the roads will have to be dealt with when the weather improves.

The Chairman stated that the recent flooding and road closure has also put the speed survey on hold. This issue will be pursued once the road has re-opened and the water has dispersed.

VILLAGE HALL HEATING - Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that the Village Hall Management Committee have agreed to go for a Bio Mass heating system. The system takes advantage of a renewable heat source, the boiler is fuelled by wooden pellets and feeds radiators. The cost will be in the region of £26,000 + VAT. The VHMC are looking into costs and the grants that may be available.

PLANNING

14/00264/FULLN – 1 Appleshaw Dene – erect 2-storey side and rear extension. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application.

14/00269/FULLN – 1 Appleshaw Dene – erect single-storey detached building for home Office. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS but made comment that the building would be better at the back of the house and may constitute over development of the site.

14/00278/FULLN – 21 Greensey, Appleshaw - demolish outhouse and erect single-storey Extension. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application.

The Parish Council had not made comment on the following three planning applications on the date of the meeting.

14/00441/FULLN – Rosedene, Appleshaw – single storey extension.

14/00448/TREEN – Hill House, Appleshaw – fell 5 trees.

14/00472/TREEN – Laburnums, Appleshaw – fell 2 trees and trim 1.

Redenham

14/00312/TPON – Glen House, Redenham - prune 2 beech trees.

The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application.

FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE

February and March 2014

Richard Waterman	Wages - February	£160.00
Richard Waterman	Wages - March	£160.00
Richard Waterman	Expenses	£25.70
Vita Play	Repairs to the Play Equipment	£744.00
Mrs L Black	Expenses	£14.93
		<u>£1,104.63</u>

BANK BALANCE

After above movements have been deducted and added :- £2,746.82

FLOODING

A lengthy discussion on the issue of flooding took place. Points raised included :-

- The Chairman spoke about the effects the high water table has had on parts of the village. Ground water flooding has been a major issue along with sewerage problems despite the work carried out by Southern water in the summer of 2013.
- The Chairman wished to thank, among others, Tony Burden for his help in obtaining sand bags and Cllr Mrs Jenny Hopkins for the provision and dissemination of information and for getting her Wellington Boots on and mucking in.
- The Chairman stated that the exceptional rainfall is proving a perennial problem resulting in high ground water levels and flooding. Water management is of utmost importance.
- Sewerage has been a major problem and in particular has affected Cleaver Cottages and Rowan Cottages. Ground water entering the system has not helped. Southern Water have been using tankers for weeks. The costs have been high and they have now stopped and SW are now over pumping directly into the ditch. Initially SW commenced over pumping into the ditch running along Ramridge Track. This proved an affective method of over pumping as the speed of the water at that point is fast flowing. A problem with the pipe has

now meant that SW are now over pumping through the culvert under the road into the ditch opposite Cleaver Cottages which is backing up into the field. This is far from ideal as the water flow at that part of the ditch is much slower than the water flow rate in the ditch adjacent to the Ramridge Track. The Chairman will contact Southern Water as the Parish Council stated that they did not want over pumping to take place into the field.

- It is essential that the ditches are cleared and maintained; the possibility of the ditches being deepened to increase flow should be raised with the relevant body.
- The kerbs bordering the ditch through the village should be raised to at least 9". This would ensure that water is kept in the ditches and avoids the current problem the village is facing whereby water from the ditches is flowing onto the road and into the sewerage system. This water invasion is adding to the problems faced by SW. Problems with HGV's knocking the kerb due to narrow width of the road were raised.
- Riparian responsibilities of landowners need to be re-enforced. Some Landowners have not maintained their stretch of the ditch causing water to back up.
- An action plan with deadlines must be set for those jobs which the village can deal with such as the clearing of ditches (including rubbish and growth) during spring and summer
- The Chairman expressed his thanks to Lady Clark at the Redenham Estate for allowing her ground staff to clear the ditches bordering the Estate at the end of the summer 2013 which has certainly helped with the flow of water.
- The tunnels under the road by the Redenham Track should be kept clear and the time has come when it must be investigated whether they can be enlarged. This is one of the most important features of the current problem which cannot be avoided any longer.
- Southern Water cleared Simon Prior-Palmer's ditch through Ramridge Park and it was noticed that the flooding of the road at that point disappeared within two hours.
- There will be a lot of tidying up after the water has gone, highways will need to carry out some repairs to the Highway and the kerbs.

CLLR MRS P WEST

Cllr Mrs P West reported that Hampshire County Council have the authority to write to landowners who are not maintaining their ditches to remind them of their riparian responsibilities. If the Landowner fails to fulfil his / her responsibilities and fails to carry out the work, HCC will perform the work and charge the relevant landowner.

Cllr Mrs P West suggested that Appleshaw work with Penton Grafton, Penton Mewsey and Charlton Parish Councils to put forward a united front on the issue of flooding as they all suffer with flooding from the same water course.

It may not be realised that the county of Hampshire has suffered higher rainfall than Somerset and though the second largest county in England has the lowest budget.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following points were raised:-

- Mr S Caddy wished to thank Cllr Mrs J Hopkins for the help she gave when his car got stuck in the flood. Mr T Burden wished to thank Cllr Mrs J Hopkins on behalf of residents for the work she has done during the flooding.
- It was suggested that the reluctance of Mr Simon Prior-Palmer to clear and maintain his ditch through Ramridge Park caused the flooding of the road. It was evident that once SW had cleared the ditch the water drained away within hours.
- Mr T Burden reported that vehicles driving too fast through the flooding by the Playing Field are causing the edge of the Playing Field to be washed away and several of the fence post foundations are now exposed.
- It was noted that large lorries turning by the Village Green are damaging the Green.
- Mr Fin Hughes asked that the Parish Council please keep the issue of flooding on the agenda as he felt that during the Summer months the issue lost momentum.
- Mr Bruce Parker stated he was Chairman last Summer and that the Parish Council had not lost momentum on the issue of flooding. Regular contact with HCC and the Environment Agency took place; unfortunately the Parish Council are powerless to set timetables for these organisations.

WAY FORWARD

The Chairman recapped on the discussion :-

- The Chairman will write to Southern Water, Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency detailing the problems that have affected Appleshaw. Sir George Young will be copied in on the letter.
- An open letter will be sent to ARC and the local media to keep residents informed

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that the Village Hall have been approached about having a bottle bank in the car park. The Village Hall Management Committee are not keen due the noise this may create and the possible disturbance to nearby residents. Cllr Mrs J Hopkins asked the Parish Council for their views. This was discussed and an alternative site was mentioned in Ragged Appleshaw, the general feeling of the meeting was that a bottle bank was not for Appleshaw, the mess that is left at other bottle banks in the area was the main concern raised.

REV IAN TOMLINSON

Rev Ian Tomlinson informed the village that he was celebrating his 35th anniversary of coming to the Parish and spoke about the changes he has seen in the village.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

AGM - 1st May 2014 in the Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.30pm.