

Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 7th March 2013 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 Mr D Green
Cllr Mrs A Cowlin
Cllr Mr J Clements
Cllr Mrs L Black
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook
County Councillor Mrs P West
Members of the Public - 11

Apologies: Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis

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 and ARC.

PLANNING - Cllr Mr D Green asked if there was any up-date on the proposals put forward for Harrow Farm by Mr Graham North. Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that Mr North had submitted the proposals for pre-planning but TVBC had expressed reservations on the style of the proposed buildings. Under the current Local Plan, only the front dwelling would be allowed. However, this may change when the new Local Plan is eventually adopted.

HIGHWAYS - The Chairman reported that HCC Highways had carried out further repairs to the village roads and felt that Appleshaw has been well served by the department.

Cllr Mr J Clements felt that when the recent repairs were undertaken on the road to the White House, there were no relevant diversion signs. He reported this to Hampshire County Council. There are also some large pot holes needing repair in Redenham towards the county border with Wiltshire.

Cllr Mrs L Black stated that she had had problems reporting pot holes on the Highways website. County Councillor Mrs P West stated that she would look into this and advised the Parish Council that the contractor does the repairs according to his work schedule supplied by Highways. This might not include all the pot holes as the list is governed by the reporting sequence.

Highways have installed the promised posts on Redenham Green. It was suggested that now these have been installed the grass could be reinstated. The Clerk agreed to ask Brian Pearce to look at this. Cllr Mr J Clements stated that feelings among residents on the size of the new posts are mixed.

ALLOTMENTS - The Chairman stated that invoices for the allotment rents will be sent out shortly.

FLOODING - Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that she has been passing on regular reports on groundwater flooding to affected residents. The water in the ditch is increasing in volume. The main sewer pipe had backed-up as far as the church but pumping out by Southern Water had alleviated the problem. A small pump outside Vine House was pushing excess groundwater through the pinch point in the sewer pipeline more quickly.

Cllr Mr P Lashbrook spoke about problems in the area with sewage and the need for continuous pumping. The Chairman reported that he has been in contact with Southern Water and read out the following statement:-

I have today had a long conversation with the Network Quality Performance Manager of Southern Water. First of all, he apologises to anyone who has experienced problems and says Southern Water understands how desperate people feel when there are sewage problems affecting properties.

There are the main points he made to me:

1. Normally the sewage network in the Appleshaw catchment area copes perfectly well. The present problem has arisen, as we all know, because of record levels of groundwater all over the country.
2. Contrary to the opinion of some, it is not SW's job to deal with groundwater and how it gets away from inhabited areas such as Appleshaw. SW think that inadequate maintenance of the ditch in the area of Cleaver Cottages may be an added difficulty even if not the cause of the problem. They are talking to TVBC and HCC about this.
3. Eighteen months ago, SW was asked by the government to take over responsibility for 'private' sewage pipes – pipes leading from the boundaries of properties to the public sewer pipes. Since then they have begun inspecting these pipes, in Appleshaw and elsewhere, to see where inflows of floodwater are likely to cause a problem. In drought periods, this is difficult – perversely, it may seem, it's also difficult when the system is flooded. However, they are pressing on with this work and will be seen in Appleshaw over the coming months.
4. SW is keen not to implement over-pumping but it may become necessary. However, a level of between 3 mm-5mm of ammonia is permissible. The water being pumped in Appleshaw at the moment is 0.25mm. They would NOT exceed acceptable ammonia levels in any pumping operation.

WEB SITE - Cllr Mrs A Cowlin reported that the website is now under her control and has been updated. The website can be up-dated but its current format limits its expansion. The task of building a new village web site will need to be undertaken to take it forward for the future.

SKATEBOARDING - The Chairman reported that the request for a skateboard ramp on the Playing Field was passed to the Playing Field trustees who have dealt with the request and have written to Sam Mills and his parents. The Chairman emphasised that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction over the Playing Field. However it has been suggested that the Parish Clerk attends one or two of the Playing Field Trustees meetings a year to improve communication with the two bodies.

FLASHING SPEED SIGNS - The Clerk gave a report on the Flashing Speed signs. (Report attached to these minutes.)

PLANNING.

13/00316/TREEN - Remove one Leylandii 'Castlewellan Gold' - The Walnuts, Biddesden Bottom Road, Appleshaw

13/00190/LBWN - Replacement front door and frame - Ivy Cottage, Biddesden Bottom Lane, Redenham. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application. Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that the planners have insisted that the door is repaired and not replaced.

13/00335/FULLN - Partial demolition of existing rear extension and replace with two storey Extension, new porch, minor internal alterations and extended cellar - Yonder Dene, Ragged Appleshaw. Cllr Mr P Lashbrook reported that he had already called this application to the Northern Area Planning Committee.

13/00401/TREEN - Tree work at Craven Cottage, Redenham

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that Mr Paul Jackson, the Head of Planning at TVBC has agreed to come and talk to the Parish Council about Planning and give a brief training session on a date to be confirmed.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT - Mrs P Wood reported that the Village Design Statement is now at the final draft state. 95% of the text has been approved or amended by the planners. The Chairman thanked the VDS Team for an excellent job and all agreed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE February and March 2013

Richard Waterman	Wages – February	£139.00
Richard Waterman	Wages – March	£139.00
Mr B Parker	Expenses - Clock Winding Payment	£20.00
Action Play and Leisure Ltd	Repairs to the Play Equipment	£876.00

INCOME

Play Area Account =	£742.63
---------------------	---------

MONEY OWED TO THE COUNCIL

Testway Housing -	Allotment Gate -	£92.54
Insurance Claim for Play Area repair		
SEB -	Back payment of Wayleave -	£184.56

BANK BALANCE

After above payments have been deducted:-	£1,733.79
---	-----------

ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Money	£21.00
Water Butts	£500.00

BUS SHELTER.

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk have been working towards improving and repairing the bus shelter at the White House. Cllr Mrs P West has given a grant from HCC funds of £462 towards the repairs.

The Clerk reported that Mr Brian Pearce had looked at the bus shelter and reported that it was structurally sound. He has quoted £140 to replace the missing roof slats and to give it a coat of preservative. The placing of a metal bike rack will cost an additional £148. The Chairman suggested that additional windows are made in the bus shelter to allow better vision of the road and oncoming buses. Cllr Mrs J Hopkins offered a piece of acrylic glass for any new window. The Chairman proposed that these repairs and the bike rack go ahead. All agreed.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

It was reported that all of Redenham is covered. Unfortunately not all parts of Appleshaw and Ragged Appleshaw are covered by co-ordinations and, therefore, Neighbourhood Watch information is not reaching all the residents. Reports and updates could be placed on the village notice boards, the web site and ARC.

Cllr Mr J Clements reported that insurance companies give discounts to residents in Neighbourhood Watch areas.

The Chairman wondered if a push should be made to get more co-ordinators to fill the missing gaps in the village. Cllr Mrs L Black suggested that the areas needing coverage should be placed on the village notice boards.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MRS PAT WEST'S REPORT

Cllr Mrs Pat West reported that she is standing again for County Councillor in the May Elections and that she is now in purdah prior to the elections. Mrs West stated that she has enjoyed working with the Parish Council and that she was pleased that she had been able to help projects financially through her devolved budget. She was pleased to report that Hampshire County Council will not be increasing the precept and an additional engineer has been added to the TVCB Highways Department. Mrs West would forward information to the Parish Council on the 'Cold Front' scheme, looking after OAPs and making sure that they receive the correct level of benefits during the winter months.

COUNCILLOR MR PHIL LASHBROOK'S REPORT

Cllr Mr Lashbrook was pleased to report that Mr Ray Alborough is making a speedy recovery following his heart attack and hopes to return to work during April.

TVBC are to increase the Council Tax by 4.1% which will amount to a rise of 50p on a Band D Property per month. The Council had a shortfall of £6 Million as a result of cuts in government funding - to keep the services at the same level an increase was agreed.

PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

CLLR MR D GREEN - reported that the tractor cutter has seized up and has been taken to Derek Cook for repair.

CLLR MR J CLEMENTS - reported that Mr Steve Amy has taken over as the Chairman of the Fete Committee. A public meeting to discuss the way forward for the Fete has been arranged for the 17th April 2013, details to be provided in ARC.

CLLR MRS L BLACK - reported that it was good to see the Play Area being used on the first fine late evening of the year - spring was on the way! Mrs Black reported that there is a problem with a piece of equipment, a defect in manufacture allowing water to penetrate and causing the wood to rot. Mrs Black had spoken to Hampshire Playing Fields Association for advice. They are unable to grant funds for repair but can help if

the equipment needs to be replaced. Mrs Black will keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Rhonda Smith introduced herself and stated that she has taken over as Editor of ARC. A recent on-line survey produced some valuable comments on how the readers would like to see the publication move forward. Rhonda Smith hoped to introduce more photographs. The ARC team is looking to produce an additional issue just before the fete.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Owing to the forthcoming elections, the Parish Council Meeting has been moved to the 1st May 2013.

An 'In Camera' meeting followed to discuss the Allotment Fencing, the results of which, after a proposed site meeting, will be discussed at the next meeting.