

Minutes of the Annual Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12th May 2011 in the Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present : Cllr Mr B Parker - Chairman
Cllr Mrs J Hopkins - Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs L Black
Cllr Mrs A Cowlin
Cllr Mrs J Weeks
Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis
Cllr Mr D Green
County Councillor Mrs P West
Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook
PC Roger Kitson and Sgt Dave Phillips
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
Members of the Public - 20

Apologies : Cllr Mr J Clements and Borough Councillor Mrs E Charnley.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Parish Council.

DECLARATION OF OFFICE.

The Parish Councillors signed the Declaration of Office and the Financial Interest forms.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.

CHAIRMAN - Cllr Mrs J Weeks proposed Cllr Mr B Parker as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Hopkins. There were no other nominations for Chairman and Cllr Mr B Parker was elected.

VICE CHAIRMAN - Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis proposed Cllr Mrs J Hopkins as Vice Chairman, seconded by Cllr Mr D Green. There were no other nominations and Cllr Mrs J Hopkins was elected.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman wished to thank the previous Parish Council for their hard work and for handing over the reins in good order and this was endorsed by the Parish Council as a whole.

The Chairman especially wished to thank publicly Mr Robert Caddy for the 27 years he served on Appleshaw Parish Council. He had a remarkable record of public service. The Chairman also thanked those who had put forward to become Parish Councillors but were not elected.

This was the first time for many years that the Parish Council had been elected and it, therefore, now had a greater legitimacy. It also had a greater responsibility. In passing, the Chairman felt that the Parish Council and ARC should not, on occasion, have been at loggerheads. Having two separate village publications did not make sense - he hoped that in future ARC would take over the separate 'village news' and ARC made free to every household in the Parish.

Mrs J Marshall stated that she was not aware of any animosity between Arc and the Parish Council and she wished to talk to the Chairman in private on this matter.

The Chairman felt that it might no longer be appropriate for Mrs Hopkins to remain as an editor of ARC now that she is a Parish Councillor and vice-chairman. Cllr Mrs J Hopkins stated that she will talk to her fellow editors before making a statement at the next Parish Council Meeting.

POLICE REPORT.

PC Roger Kitson and Sgt Dave Phillips addressed the meeting. PC Roger Kitson gave a brief history of his background in the Police Force: he knows the area well as he grew up in Kimpton. PC Kitson looks after 10 parishes on his beat. The Police are working with Testway Housing on several issues associated with West Park and Pippin Grove.

The Police hope to attend the annual fete but with a reduction in manpower the officers may not be available. PC Kitson was pleased to announce that he has been trained in using speed monitoring equipment and will be in the village carrying out spot checks in the near future.

PC Kitson spoke about the reported crime figures for Appleshaw and thanked the Appleshaw Neighbourhood Watch team for doing an excellent job. Sgt Phillips asked that residents be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Thefts of heating oil and scrap metal are on the increase in the area.

Police contact details 08450 45 45 45 or 101.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Parish Clerk produced a financial report showing the Results for the year 1st April 2010 - 31st March 2011 and the Budget for the Year 1st April 2011 - 31st March 2012. Each item was explained.

The Clerk explained that the clock at the Old Vicarage belongs to the Parish and was bought/donated to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. The fee for clock winding is £40 per annum.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR P LASHBROOK'S REPORT

Cllr Mr P Lashbrook congratulated the Parish Council on their election and stated that he was pleased to have been elected for another term of office and looked forward to working with the Parish Council.

Cllr Mr P Lashbrook reported that there is to be a Consultation exercise on proposals for the new bus station in Andover, this is part of a £2.4 Million regeneration scheme for Andover. The Consultation would take place on the 16th May 2011. During the bad winter weather of 2010/2011, Test Valley managed to keep the rubbish collection going, thanks to the hard work of their staff. The regeneration of the Walworth Industrial Estate is moving forward and the Co-Op have now taken over their distribution centre from the developer. Test Valley Borough Council have not raised the Car Parking charges and have won a four star rating in 'Clean Britain' along with being voted Best Middle Council in a Times poll.

REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

ARC - Mrs J Marshall

ARC is financially secure and kept afloat by the advertisers. New residents receive 3 free copies of ARC in the hope that they will subscribe to the publication.

APPLESHAW SCHOOL - Mrs Sally Smith

1. The School currently have 94 pupils with only 25 coming from the catchment area.
2. Transportation costs are a major concern for village schools.
3. The School has strong links with the Church.
4. A residential trip for the older children was a great success and another is planned for this year.
5. Recent events at the School have included a 'Book Week for Uganda' that was a great success and 'How do we do that - Maths?' There are several events planned for the summer.
6. The school has been unfortunate to have been the victim of crime - the lead from the roof was stolen but has now been replaced with a lead substitute.
7. Building works at the school are ongoing. Mrs Smith thanked the Parish Council for their support with Planning Applications.
8. Mrs Smith wished to thank Hampshire Highways for repainting the lines outside the School, the help the school received from Parents, Residents and Randall Parker Foods Ltd during the bad weather of 2010/2011 and the excellent Board of School Governors.

PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEES - Rev Ian Tomlinson.

Report Attached.

APPLESHAW CHURCH - Rev Ian Tomlinson.

Rev Ian Tomlinson reported that through the generosity of the parishioners, work on repairing the fabric of the church has made it sound and secure. The continued support from the Parish Council with the grass cutting of the cemetery is much appreciated. The church graveyard is now closed but the continued support from the Parish Council means there is no financial drain to keep this area looking its best. Mr Cullen, the stonemason is looking at the headstones to ensure they are safe.

W.I. - Thelma White

Mrs White reported that the Appleshaw W.I have had a wonderful and varied year and spoke about events held. Mrs White reported that she is attending the Liverpool National Conference this year to represent Appleshaw.

VILLAGE HALL - Mrs J Hopkins

The Village Hall has had a good year and has a healthy bank balance. The Village Hall Committee is looking again at the entertainment programme - plays not

attracting reasonable audiences are not viable. A recent 'Elvis' event was a great success. The main financial contributor is Pippins Play Group, who have confirmed that they will be staying at the Hall after an uncertain period when they thought they may have to relocate. Future projects include new heating and up-grading the hall lighting.

Mrs Hopkins wished to thank the management committee and Mr and Mrs Carr for running an excellent booking system.

FLOWER SHOW - Althea Shapiro

Mrs Shapiro reported that she took over from Sara Walker last October. Exhibitors at the last Flower Show had increased from the year before (394 in 2009 and 514 in 2010). It is the Flower Show's 80th Anniversary this year and it is planned to increase the photographic and children's sections of the show. A scarecrow competition is also being planned.

The Easter Plant Sale has in the past raised funds for a new church gate lamp which has now been installed. Future funds will go towards the refurbishment of the gate itself.

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the death of the Rev. George Engelheart, who lived at Rosehill and who propagated a number of daffodil varieties, it is planned to plant 300 Beersheba daffodil bulbs with the relevant permissions from owners of the green adjacent to Looking Glass Meadow. The Beersheba daffodil is named after a WWI battle with special connections with Australia. It is hoped the Australia High Commission might be approached for some flower show input.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mrs J Marshall asked if the New Parish Council would now be pursuing a Village Design Statement. The Chairman stated that this will be an issue that the new council would discuss. With the Localism Bill now going through parliament, promising to give Parish Councils more power, all avenues would be explored.

Mr H McCall stated that the new Parish Council is a breath of fresh air and he was sure that the villages would give them their full backing.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council Meeting has been changed to the 21st July 2011 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm