

Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 28th July 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 J Clements
Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis
Cllr Mr D Green
County Councillor Mrs P West
Mr J Clarke - Hampshire Highways
PC Roger Kitson
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
Members of the Public - 33

Apologies : Borough Councillors Mr P Lashbrook and Mrs E Charnley.

WELCOME. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllr Mr B Parker declared an interest in the Planning Application for 1 Appleshaw Deane

Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis declared an interest in the Planning Application for 1 Appleshaw Deane.

Cllr J Weeks declared an interest in the Playing Field as she is a Trustee.

Cllr Mr D Green declared an interest in Randall Parker Foods.

MR JOHN CLARKE - HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS.

The Chairman introduced Mr John Clarke from Hampshire Highways who had been invited to talk about the Parish Roads.

Mr J Clarke works in Area West: this covers 4 areas including the old borough - the whole of Andover and North of the A303 from Bullington to Shipton Bellinger (not Longparish).

Hampshire Highways are based at the moment at Beech Hurst but will soon move to new offices elsewhere in Andover.

Mr Clarke reported that ownership of the wall running along the highway outside Hill House cannot be established. However, Hampshire Highways will take responsibility and re-build the wall including the head pillar. Three manhole covers have sunk and an order has been generated for lift and repair. An order has been placed for the repair of the road outside Rowan Cottages, a temporary repair order has also been placed and he hoped this would be done within four weeks from the date of this meeting.

The Chairman raised the issue of the loose kerbing installed by Hampshire Highways some years ago. Mr J Clarke stated that some of the kerbing stones need to be bedded in again and again an order for the work will be raised. Mr Clarke could give no time scale for this work to be completed and suggested that a barrier might have to be put in place for health and safety reasons.

Mr J Clarke indicated that the Parish Council might write to Mr Keith Thompson, manager of Highways, if there were further concerns. The Clerk was asked to do this.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL AND THE FLOOR

Q. There is a large hole on the edge of the road the Hampshire side of the County Boundary at Biddesden Bottom.

A. Mr Clarke stated this was noted at the site meeting with the Chairman and the Clerk and will be repaired.

Q. Why were the uneven surface and pot holes not repaired at the White House junction when the main road was surface dressed? Also why are most of the Wiltshire roads surface - dressed on a regular basis? Hampshire's roads are terrible by comparison.

A. Mr Clarke reported that a different team do the surface dressing. The main reason not all roads are surface dressed is down to cost. An order has been generated for repairs to the White House Junction.

Q. Why do the repairs to the pot holes not last very long?

A. Mr Clarke reported that Hampshire Highways are now using a new system of 'hot fill' to repair the pot holes, the repairs should last longer.

Q. Could something be done about the weeds on the pavement through Ragged Appleshaw to the School? The weeds are growing through the tarmac and lifting the pavement. This route is part of the Safer Route to School.

A. Mr Clarke said he would look at the pavement and see what could be done to remedy the problem.

Q. Mr Clarke was asked is something could be done to stop HGV's going down Fyfield Lane after following Satellite Navigation instructions to get to Lenham Storage? HGV's reach the Low Bridge and have to reverse back up to the main road, causing major problems for residents and road users. The kerbs are also being damaged.

A. Mr Clarke stated that he will pass this on to Highways. Sat Nav data, he said, can be altered and this may have to be looked into.

The Chairman stated that Hampshire Highways have a pot hole reporting telephone number

0845 603 5633 and urged members of the public to report any pot holes they come across.

The Chairman thanked Mr J Clarke for coming and stated that the Parish Council will be keeping a close eye on the promised repairs to our roads.

PC ROGER KITSON.

PC Roger Kitson said that he was pleased to tell the meeting that reported crimes in Appleshaw are very low. Stockbridge Police Station has now taken delivery of a Radar Speed Gun which has been used in the Village on several occasions but, so far, there were no offenders.

Members of the Public stated that the speeding problem is more apparent between the hours of 5am-9am and after 5pm, the working times of Randall

Parker and school drop-off time. PC Kitson noted these times and would try to carry out relevant speed checks, but it depended on his shift times. It was noted that Randall Parker regularly warn their staff not to speed through the village. The suggestion that the speed limit be extended up towards Whitey House was discussed. Cllr Mrs P west suggested that the Parish Council assess the speed limit extents and put forward any suggestions to Hampshire Highways. Although this has been tried in the past, the suggestions at the time did not meet the necessary criteria.

PC Roger Kitson reported that thefts of scrap metal and lead are on the increase and residents should be vigilant. Althea Shapiro reported that lead had been stolen from Vine Cottage.

PLANNING.

11/01412/FULLN – Ecosse Hospital Products, Dauntsey Drove, Weyhill, Andover, Hampshire SP11 0GJ - Partial demolition of existing B1 commercial buildings, erection of 21 dwellings and associated infrastructure, installation of sewage treatment plant.

The Parish Council OBJECTED to this Planning Application

Although the subject property lies within Amport Parish, the Appleshaw boundary goes straight down the east side of Dauntsey Drove and our parishioners are affected.

1. We are surprised that there is no independent assessment of the impact of this proposal on the Whitey House crossroads (A342). The site had been derelict and not used for some years, so the increase in traffic with such a comparatively large development is more likely to be 20%-25% rather than the 'small increase' which is claimed. We believe this will be the preferred route i.e. the north end of Dauntsey Drove, for entry and exit rather than the very constricted southern end.

1. The traffic survey was done in late January 2011. At that time of year there would be far less traffic than at other times of year, so it could be an unrepresentative value.

1. No traffic accidents were reported in the vicinity during the period 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2010 BUT there have been 2 significant ones since then on that crossroads – one on 27th April 2011 and the other only a couple of weeks ago on 30th June.

1. The route into the north end of Dauntsey Drove is a tight bend with no visibility around it. If there are more than 2 cars waiting to turn into the lane, other cars can back up on the A342. Correct use of the 'shadow' lanes at the crossroads is not always observed and many of us have had near-misses.

1. The route into the south end of Dauntsey Drove is a restricted width of 6' 6" and again is a very tight blind corner.

1. Dauntsey Drove is subject to the national speed limit. The 30 mph sign appears only at the south end.

1. It is suggested that the residents of the new development will be cycling or using the bus to get to work in Andover and/or Ludgershall. The present infrastructure indicates that this might not be possible because buses are not regular enough and the A342 is very dangerous for cyclists west of Weyhill

where the dedicated cycle lane ends. The experience of this village is that generally people choose to drive to work for these reasons.

11/01078/FULLN - 1 Appleshaw Deane, Ragged Appleshaw.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that there were some discrepancies on the Plans and the Planning Officer has requested a new set of plans.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1st April 2011 - 28th JULY 2011

CHEQUES ISSUED IN MAY 2011

Anton Printers	News letter	£24.00
Mr B Pearce	Grass Cutting Redenham	£80.00
Hampshire County Council	Street Lighting	£245.22
Test Valley borough Council	Dog Bin Emptying	£243.43
P Reynolds	Internal Audit	£150.00
R.N. Waterman	Wages (Standing Order)	£139.00
National Society of Allotments	Subscription	£66.10

JUNE 2011

R.N. Waterman	Wages (Standing Order)	£139.00
---------------	------------------------	---------

CHEQUES ISSUED IN JULY 2011

AON	Tractor Insurance	£257.58
Broker Network Ltd	PC Insurance	£610.61
R.N. Waterman	Wages (Standing order)	£139.00

CHEQUES TO BE ISSUED 28th JULY 2011

Glasden UK Ltd	New Bins Play Area	£196.56
Mr B Pearce	Grass Cutting Redenham	£40.00
Mr C Wilkins	Field grass cutting, ditch clearing, diesel	£330.35
Mr B Pearce	Grass Cutting Redenham	£40.00
Mr B Pearce	Refurbish of one Telephone Box	£260.00
R.N. Waterman	Expenses	£21.70

BANK BALANCE

After above cheques have been deducted :-
£2923.03

MONEY DUE IN.

Vat refund - £117.79
Second Half of Precept (September) - £4,000
Grant from Cllr Mrs P West - £500

ALLOTMENTS.

Cllr Mrs L Black reported that the two vacant plots were advertised on the village notice boards and in ARC. As a result of these advertisements, 3 applications were received, 1 from an existing plot holder. The two remaining plots were let to new applicants.

The Parish Council have become members of the NSALG (National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens) in order to access their expertise in a number of

ways, including the updating of tenancy agreements. This would also be an opportunity to improve tenant contact details.

The rents will stay the same for the foreseeable future and, in the event of any increase, the Parish Council would always give tenants 12 months notice. It was suggested and agreed that rent monies will be ring-fenced to pay for improvements and upkeep of the allotment site.

A grant of £500 has been awarded from Cllr Mrs West to provide extra water storage facilities with secure lids for the site. Individual plot holders will be approached to remove unsuitable items/structures. The possibility of hiring a skip for this was discussed and approved in principle. Mowing of the communal areas are to be completed by the Parish Council. A thank-you to Cllr Mr D Green for cutting the grass to the south of the allotments was recorded.

The parish Council were asked if there was anything they could do about the pigeons on the allotments? The Parish Council did not have a solution but Cllr Mrs L Black said she would enquire at the NSALG.

GRASS CUTTING

Cllr Mr D Green spoke about the grass cutting :-

1. Playing Field and Village Green - All going well where Mr C Wilkins is doing a fine job. Mr J Thomas is also doing a good job and a meeting with Mr J Thomas would be arranged to confirm his precise responsibilities.
2. Play Park - The frequency of the cuts needs to be agreed.
3. Dauntsey Drove - The edges are very overgrown - responsibility is with Highways and Landowners.
4. Redenham Pump - Mr B Pearce is doing a good job.
5. Cemetery - The Parish Council trim the cemetery on a regular basis but further work is needed to keep on top of the brambles etc. Cllr Mr D Green offered to organise a regular working party.

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

It was reported that the weekend of the 2nd June 2012 has been set aside for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. It was suggested that an open meeting is held to discuss the Parish celebrations and what to do. It was agreed to discuss this further at the September Meeting.

BEAR BIN.

The removal of the bear bin from the Play Area and the installation of a new bin has caused a poster campaign to find the bear bin and bring it back. There was some ill-feeling expressed over the way this issue has been handled and it was pointed out that the removal of the bear bin had not been discussed in an open Parish Council meeting. A lengthy discussion followed with members of the public putting their views across and Cllr Mrs J Hopkins stating the reasons for the bin's Removal.

Cllr Mr D Bloom-Davis suggested that the members of the public discuss and agree where they would like to re-site the bin and come to the September Parish Council meeting to put forward proposals. The Chairman confirmed that the bin has not been sold to another Parish Council and is in safe keeping within the village. The issue would be put on the Agenda for the September Meeting.

HELICOPTERS

It was reported that the Helicopters are still flying low over the village especially late in the evening. The Clerk was asked to chase this up.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

1st September 2011 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm