

Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th September 2012 in the Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present : Cllr Mr B Parker - Chairman
Cllr Mrs J Hopkins - Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs A Cowlin
Cllr Mr D Green
Cllr Mr J Clements
Cllr Mrs L Black
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
PCSO David Trowbridge
Members of the Public - 9

Apologies : Cllr Mrs J Weeks, Cllr Mr D Bloom Davis, Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook and County Councillor Mrs P West.

WELCOME. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Jubilee Celebrations Team for an excellent event.

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

An allegation of 'failure to comply with Parish Council Members' Code of Conduct' had been referred to the TVBC Monitoring Officer, Susan Tovey. She had ruled that the alleged incident had occurred some time ago and, following new legislation and the abolition of a previous regime, it could not now be considered. Although nothing formal could be undertaken, the Monitoring Officer suggested the parties involved should 'draw a line under the issue and move on'.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins declared an interest in the Village Hall and ARC.
Cllr Mr D Green declared an interest in Randall Parker Foods.

THE NEW CODE OF CONDUCT.

The Parish Council discussed the New Code of Conduct. Cllr Mrs J Hopkins asked if the Clerk had 'a statutory role'. (AFTER NOTE: The TVBC Monitoring Officer has confirmed that the Clerk does not hold a statutory role.)

The Parish Council formally adopted the New Code of Conduct as recommended by the Borough Solicitor, Ms S Tovey.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record. Matters arising from those minutes :-

HIGHWAYS - The Chairman was pleased to report that Highways are to repair many of the roads in Appleshaw and Redenham. Road closure notices have been posted and work is due to start soon.

It was reported that there is a large pot hole in Greensey where residents have placed

a concrete block in the hole to stop damage to vehicle wheels. The Chairman promised to report this to Highways.

Cllr Mr D Green suggested that a drain needs to be installed or a culvert dug to take away standing rain water on the road up to the White House. The Chairman suggested that a site meeting is held with Paul Walsh from Highways. Cllr Mr D Green can then put forward his suggestion.

ALLOTMENTS - Cllr Mrs L Black reported that there some allotments were not being cultivated. A letter has been sent to the allotment holders concerned reminding them of their commitments. Mrs Black stated that where allotments were not being tended due to circumstances such as illness, holders would be encouraged to contact a Parish Council member who would try to help remedy the situation.

VILLAGE GRASS CUTTING - The Chairman and the Clerk met with Mr Jamie Thomas and Mr Chris Wilkins to discuss the grass cutting in the village. It was agreed that Mr Wilkins will be responsible for all the grass cutting on the Playing Field through to the Walnut Tree Inn and the Village Green. Mr Jamie Thomas will be responsible for the ditch from the Walnut Tree Inn through to the Old School House, the churchyard and the cemetery.

Mr Thomas and Mr Wilkins, as a one-off task, had strimmed and cleared the churchyard. Mr Thomas had been tasked, as part of his contract, to keep the grass at a reasonable length both in front of and behind the church building.

WEEPING BEECH TREE - Planning permission had been granted and the work was due to start on pruning the tree.

Cllr Mr J Clements reported that he had received comments from residents about the fruit tree on the Redenham Green – its growth appeared to need pruning. Cllr Mr Clements asked if the tree surgeon working on the weeping beech could assess the fruit tree and the Parish Council agreed.

SPEEDING - The Clerk reported that Ray Alborough, the TVBC Highways Engineer, has agreed to install a set of speed-measuring equipment in the parish. The data the equipment produces will ascertain the extent of any speeding problem in the village. Mr Alborough has asked where the Parish Council would like the equipment placed. After some discussion it was agreed that the most useful data would come from equipment placed either side of the speed limit sign on the road from the White House junction.

DITCH CLEARING - Mr C Wilkins has cleared all the ditches through Appleshaw and is ready to start clearing the Redenham ditches when Lady Clarke gives the go-ahead. The Clerk has sent the estimate for the ditch clearing to Lady Clarke.

Cllr Mr J Clements reported that he has spoken to Lady Clarke's secretary who was unaware of any suggestion that Lady Clarke has accepted responsibility for the clearing of the ditch. Cllr Mrs J Hopkins would contact to Mr John Marshall for his

advice.

VILLAGE HALL HEATING GRANT - The Chairman reported that TVBC were asking the Parish Council to provide financial assistance although the Chairman had previously sought and received from the Hall treasurer an assurance that no such public funding would be required. In the meantime, TVBC are withholding the grant. An appeal is to be lodged by the village hall committee.

SKATEBOARD RAMP - The Chairman reported that the Playing Field Trustees are looking into the request made by Sam Mills at the Parish Council AGM for the provision of a skateboard ramp. The Trustees have contacted Aster Communities to make enquiries about having a mobile ramp but it is unavailable. The Trustees have suggested that a basketball ring might be installed on the playing field and will be asking interested youngsters whether they would welcome this particular facility.

PLANNING

12/01487/CLN - Certificate of Existing lawful Use - Residential use separate from main

House - Lavender Cottage Annex, Biddesden Bottom Road, Appleshaw.

The Parish Council had NO OBJECTION to this planning application.

12/01602/TPON - 2 Oak, 6 Ash - Raise crown by 5-6m, thin and balance by 20-30%, remove deadwood and cut ivy growth at base of trunk. Extra work to make safe after storm damage - Bramley, Ragged Appleshaw. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application.

12/00388/LBWN - Provision of double glazed windows - Manor barn Cottage, Biddesden

Bottom Road, Appleshaw. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application.

12/01744/FULLN - Erection of detached dwelling, provision of oil tank and construction of

access - 51 Greensey, Ragged Appleshaw. The Parish Council OBJECTED to this planning application, mainly on the grounds of over-development of the site and not in keeping with

neighbouring properties. Full details on request.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Mrs Pat Wood gave an up-date on the progress of the Village Design Statement. There had been 68 responses to the recent questionnaire. The results were analysed and this information has been transferred to graphs and illustrations. This will be displayed on the village notice boards and an Open Meeting is planned for the 8th October 2012 in the Village Hall at 7pm. Mrs P Wood stated that she hopes to email the key recommendations for the Village Design Statement to the Parish Council before the open meeting for their approval.

Mrs Wood will invite the County and Borough Councillors to the Open Meeting. The

Chairman thanked Mrs P Wood and her team for all the hard work they are doing on the Village Design Statement.

FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENDITURE - August and September

Mr B Pearce	Grass Cutting – Redenham	£ 80.00
R.N. Waterman	Office Allowance and Expenses	£125.00
Mr J Thomas	Grass Cutting	
£1000.00		
Mr D Yates	Storage Fee for 2011 and 2012	£100.00
R. N Waterman	Wages (August)	
£139.00		
R.N. Waterman	Wages (September)	£139.00
BANK BALANCE - After above payments have been deducted :- £1505.41		

ALLOTMENTS - (not included in above figures)

Allotment Money £215

Water Butts £500

NOTE. - Second half of precept due £4,500

The Clerk reported that District Audit have returned the signed off Year End Accounts. There were no issues raised.

POLICE REPORT

PCSO David Trowbridge reported that the Police are still carrying out speed checks in the village and have been covering a useful cross-section of the parish including both Appleshaw and Redenham.

Thefts from outbuildings are on the increase and he urged residents to be on their guard. Over the last 90 days there have been 7 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village.

PCSO Trowbridge spoke about the Community Speed Watch scheme. Seven volunteers are required to run such a scheme at a cost of approximately £2000. In other areas, several parishes had joined together to share the equipment.

The Parish Council would like more information on the scheme and on the possibility of council partners to share the costs.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

It was reported that there are three ash trees on the verge just past the Horns in Redenham that need attention, with low branches growing out over the verge. Left unpruned, they will start to encroach on the highway. These trees were planted by the Parish Council some years ago before Redenham joined Appleshaw. The Chairman said that the Parish Council will investigate.

The Parish Council were asked if there was any development on the village web sites and that it seemed ridiculous that there are three separate web sites for one small village. Cllr Mrs A Cowlin reported that she has been looking into the matter and will

look further at costings.

Mrs P Wood reported that there is increasing aviation noise over Ragged Appleshaw from light aircraft from Thrupton Airfield. There is an increasing number of aeroplanes flying over her property. The Chairman reported that he had contacted Thrupton Airfield who had confirmed that the flight path has not changed. The Chairman will contact Thrupton Airfield again on this matter and ask the Chairman of Thrupton Parish Council, Cllr Mr Charles Milner-Williams, to help clarify the situation.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

8th November 2012 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.