

Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013 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 Mr D Bloom-Davis  
Cllr Mr D Green  
Cllr Mrs A Cowlin  
Cllr Mr J Clements  
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk  
County Councillor Mrs P West  
Mrs P Wood  
Members of the Public - 3

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

**WELCOME.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins declared an interest in the Village Hall and ARC.  
Cllr Mrs A Cowlin declared an interest in the Flower Show and ARC

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

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

ALLOTMENTS - The Chairman reported that all the 2013 rents have been collected and banked. Southern Water have supplied water butts for all the allotment holders who ordered them at no charge.

It was noted that the allotment main gate has been left open on several occasions over recent weeks. It was thought this may be an oversight by the contractors carrying out work on one of the cottages.

The Chairman asked Cllr Mrs P West if the £500 grant she gave last year for water butts could be spent on something else, now that Southern Water have supplied the water butts. Cllr Mrs West was happy with this and stated that the only condition attached to the grant was that it was spent on the allotments.

PLAY AREA - Cllr Mrs L Black reported that Hampshire Playing Fields have given a grant of £250 towards the repair of play area equipment.

A quote of £880 has been received for the repair of the panel on the tall climbing frame: this will be in HDPE ultra violet protected plastic. The Parish Council will require three quotes for this as it is over the £500 expenditure threshold which requires competitive quotes.

The ramps can be replaced with decking as long as the bolts are counter sunk with, again, relevant quotes obtained.

The swing bearings will possibly need replacing at a cost of £460, this will be confirmed

after the Play Area inspection by Mr John Covey from Hampshire Playing Fields. The Parish Council agreed to the expenditure if there replacement was required.

The fence around the Play Area needs a coat of clear preservative. The Clerk will ask Mr Brian Pearce to do this.

Cllr Mrs L Black reported that she has spoken to the Insurance Company and reported that the insurance figure for replacement is £9,000 whereas the cost to replace the equipment at today's prices would be at least £38,000. To increase the insurance cover would add an additional £300 to £400 on the premium. The initial thoughts of the Parish Council was that the insurance cover must be increased.

The Clerk stated that the £9,000 quoted was not correct, but did not have the necessary paperwork with him to check the figures. The Clerk will confirm the insurance details and what is covered.

SOUTHERN WATER - The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllr Mr J Clements and the Clerk attended the Southern Water site meeting to view the repair work to the Appleshaw Sewage System.

The Chairman reported that the event was very informative, the contractor explained each stage and showed how the sewers are repaired. Some good contacts with key personnel from Highways, Southern Water and the Environment Agency were made. Sir George Young and the Chairman of St Mary Bourne Parish Council were also present.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins mentioned the culverts under the road from the White House and the importance of keeping them clear to assist the flow of water in the ditch.

REPLACEMENT WALNUT TREE - The Chairman reported that he had taken advice from Mrs Joanna Ferguson (Chairman of Quarley Parish Council), a qualified landscape gardener, on the planting of the replacement walnut tree. Mr James Hillier of Hilliers has now been asked by the Flower Show Committee to advise on the provision of a walnut tree for planting in late October or early November. The tree will be about 12 feet high and will be planted by Charlie Weeks.

Althea Shapiro reported that a plaque will be put in position to mark the occasion in the Queen's Coronation anniversary year. The Chairman thanked Mrs Shapiro for all the assistance in this project.

## **PLANNING**

13/01729/LBWN - Repairs and refurbishment following fire damage - Mead House, Appleshaw.

The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application.

13/01470/TREEN - Fell to ground level and remove 1 x Wild Cherry and 1 x Pine - 1 Derby Cottages, Biddesden Bottom Road, Appleshaw. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application.

13/01833/FULLN - Erection of two storey rear extension to provide 2 bedrooms and en-suites, and erection of double garage with store - Fields End, Weyhill, Andover. The Parish Council have yet to comment.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins spoke about the new doors at Manor Barn. There had been numerous amendments to the plans and it appears that the Parish Council have not always been informed of the amendments. It was thought that the original doors are still in situ and have been preserved.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT - Mrs Pat Wood reported that the Village Design Statement is out for consultation in the village until the 23/24<sup>th</sup> September. The Clerk has hard-copied the VDS for distribution to those who do not have access to a computer. The VDS will then be sent to TVBC for consideration. The Chairman thanked Mrs Wood and her team for all the hard work that has gone into the VDS.

## **FINANCE**

### **EXPENDITURE August and September 2013**

Richard Waterman	Wages – August	£139.00
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Richard Waterman	Adjustment Wages	£42.00
Mr Brian Pearce	Grass Cutting Redenham	£120.00
BDO LLP	Audit	£120.00
N J Futcher	Grass Verge Redenham	£200.00
Mr J Thomas	Grass Cutting 2013	£1000.00
Richard Waterman	½ Year OA and Expenses	£71.25
Appleshaw Village Hall	Hire of Hall for meetings	£70.00

### **MONEY DUE IN - £4,867.86 Second payment of Precept**

### **BANK BALANCE**

After above movements have been deducted and added:- £2,573.73

### **ALLOTMENTS**

Allotment Money £245

Water Butts £500

The Clerk reported that The Audit of the accounts has been completed and no issues have been raised by the Auditor.

### **CLLR MRS P WEST'S REPORT**

Cllr Mrs P West was pleased to report that the Appleshaw roads are now in good condition and well looked after. Hampshire County Council are concentrating on getting the rural roads repaired and are working their way around the villages. Cllr Mrs P West spoke about her recent trip to the depot at Totton to look at the new gritting equipment - the visit was very interesting and informative!

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Steve Spender about extending the gritting route in Appleshaw and that the route has now been changed. Gritting lorries will no longer turn around at the school but will continue round in a loop through the village. Althea Shapiro was assured the road past the Court Yard toward Clanville is on a gritting route.

Cllr Mrs P West reported that Hampshire County Council are to review their Flooding Policy and are working closely with Amey, HCC's highways contractor, to ensure that repairs are carried out correctly. Cllr Mrs West suggested that the Parish Council keep an eye on their grit bins to make sure they are filled before the start of winter.

### **VILLAGE HALL HEATING**

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins reported that the Village Hall Committee have had to re-start the tender process because the preferred supplier Green Heat had not been able to deliver on an agreement.

The Village Hall Committee are looking at other heating options and may now not go with solar panels. The scaffolding put up by the contractor for the solar panels project was used

to repair some of the roof tiles. This was planned maintenance and cost £600. The cost of the scaffolding (£400) is under discussion with Green Heat.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins was questioned on the tendering process and why the contract for the work had collapsed. The Parish Council also asked if this would affect the allocation of the grant promised from Test Valley BC. Cllr Mrs Hopkins hoped it would not. Cllr Mr D Bloom Davis wondered why expert opinion had not been sought for the solar panel project in the first place. Cllr Mrs Hopkins objected to the criticism saying that the hall committee was only a group of volunteers doing their best. Cllr Mr Bloom-Davis reminded Cllr Mrs Hopkins that if the parish council could not ask questions about costly projects, there was little point in having a parish council at all.

The Chairman was concerned that the Village Hall Trustees might not be aware of some of the onerous responsibilities and liabilities that go with being trustees. Cllr Mrs Hopkins argued that members of the Village Hall committee were not trustees as such but volunteer committee members. The Chairman wondered if the Charity Commission website was, therefore, wrong to list the appointment of 'Trustees'. Cllr Mrs Hopkins reported that she had already checked the appointment procedure that morning and admitted that it might need to be altered to conform with Charity Commission procedures. She gave the Village Hall Charity Number, 1049974, to enable Councillors to check on the Charity Commission web site for themselves.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The Parish Council were asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the village benches as some are in need of attention. The Parish Council will maintain the benches on the Village Green and thought that in the past the Playing Field Trustees organised the maintenance of the Playing Field Benches. He would check and will ask Mr Brian Pearce to look at the benches on the Village Green.

#### **DITCHES**

The Clerk asked if the parish Council wanted Chris Wilkins to trim the ditches once he has stopped grass cutting. The Parish Council discussed this and agreed that cutting the ditches last year played a large part in ensuring the surface water did not flood the village. The Clerk was asked to instruct Chris Wilkins to trim the ditch from before Cleaver Cottages right through to the County Boundary.

#### **CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

#### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.30pm.