

Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th of September 2023 in Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs S Smith – Chairman.
Cllr Mr B Hodgson – Vice Chairman
Cllr Mr T Burden
Cllr Mr M Watts
Cllr Mrs D Hodgson
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
Emma Moss – HR Manager. Pilgrim's UK, Tilley Down.
Members of the Public – 20

Apologies: County Councillor Mr C Donnelly and Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook.

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

The Chairman stated that members of the public have an opportunity to address the Parish Council as an item on each agenda. The Chairman understood that not everyone is comfortable talking in public, with this in mind there will now be paper and pencils available at each meeting and a sealed posting box so that issues can be raised.

The Parish Council will try to address any issues they receive, and if not will pass onto the relevant authorities.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

The Chairman declared an interest in the village hall.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY.

The Chairman proposed Mrs Denise Hodgson be co-opted onto the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Mr M Watts. All agreed. Mrs Denise Hodgson was co-opted onto the Parish Council and signed the 'Declaration of Office'.

PILGRIM'S UK.

The Chairman welcomed Emma Moss the HR Manager at Pilgrim's Foods, Tilley Down.

Emma Moss reported that:

- Pilgrim's UK are still working on the proposals to cut the plant light pollution. The car park lights are proving a problem as the power supply also feeds the CCTV, but she was sure a solution could be found.
- Emma was pleased to report that Pilgrim's UK have donated £1,000 towards the cost of the new grass cutter.
- Pilgrim's UK were pleased to help with the refurbishment of the play area by giving a day's free labour of their handyman/gardener who helped with the painting of the fence.
- Pilgrim's UK were also pleased to make donations towards the fete and will making further contributions to the 'Santa Dash' later in the year.
- Emma stated that Pilgrim's UK would be happy to attend a future Parish Council

meeting to give a presentation on their company. The Chairman stated that she was sure that this offer would be taken up.

The Chairman thanked Emma Moss and Pilgrim's UK for their continued support.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes of the July meeting were signed as a true record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

- CANGO BUS SERVICE – The Chairman and Vice-Chairman have been working with County Councillor Mr C Donnelly and Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook following the announcement that the CANGO Bus service would be withdrawn. Many concerns were raised by members of the public.
The Chairman was pleased to report that an alternative has been agreed and details will be posted on the notice boards, social media, Appleshaw website and in ARC.
- CAROLINE NOKES MP - Appleshaw received a visit from Caroline Nokes MP. A reception was held at the Walnut Tree Inn and village organisations were represented. The MP for Romsey and Southampton North said she liked the feel of the village and felt there was a good community spirit.
- APPLESRAW CHURCH – The Chairman welcomed the Rev Sarah Sharland. Ms Sharland spoke about the current benefice arrangements. The church is open every day so that anyone can enter for private prayer or just for a reflective or solitary moment. Differing Sunday services are held every week. She welcomed any ideas from parishioners on how to improve the use of the church and support the community. There is a food bank deposit Box in the church Porch.

ALLOTMENTS.

Cllr Mr M Watts reported that one animal trough has been donated to the allotments by a parishioner. There was no other news to report.

PLANNING.

There were no new planning applications to discuss.

FINANCE.

Financial Statement 13th September 2023
August and September 2023.

INCOME.

Allotment Rents	£ 20.00
½ Precept	£ 6,500.00
Pilgrims Grant	£ 1,000.00
VAT Refund	£ 1,997.45
	<u>£ 9,517.45</u>

EXPENDITURE.

R. N Waterman	Admin – Aug + Sept	= £ 600.00
K Baynes	Grass Cutting	= £ 632.94
M. Watts	Expenses Refund	= £ 200.00
T. Burden	Fuel for mowing	= £ 82.13
B. Hodgson	Expenses	= £ 67.22

Brian Pearce	Grass Redenham	= £ 135.00
P. Childs	Grass Cutting	= £ 70.00
Petal Boutique	Flowers	= £ 35.00
		<u>£1,822.29</u>

Summary of Accounts 2023/2024

Opening Balance	1 st April 2023	= £ 1,346.45
Plus Income – April and May		£ 7,195.18
	June and July	£ 30.00
	August and September	£ 9,517.45
		= <u>£18,089.08</u>

Less Expenditure

April and May	= £1,722.75
June and July	= £5,747.42
Aug and Sept	= £1,822.29
= <u>£9,292.46</u>	

= £8,796.62

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Allotments	= £ 524.00
Parish Council	= £8,272.62
= <u>£8,796.62</u>	

ROAD SAFETY IN APPLESHAW AND REDENHAM.

- The Road Safety Traffic Group have finalised the consultation held in the village and are focusing on pedestrian safety.
- RSTG had a stand at the village fete and received much constructive feedback. A map was available so that people could identify dangerous areas.
- The information gathered will be collated and a report put together that will be available for the village to view – the aim is to produce a traffic plan for Appleshaw and Redenham.
- The RSTG will continue to lobby Test Valley and Hampshire County Council.

VILLAGE HALL.

Dr G Legg reported that the new charity trustees are settling in and starting to make progress. Repairs to the fence post by the entrance gates have been carried out. The village hall committee has discussed increasing fees for hiring next year to help with the increase in energy costs etc. A campaign to try encouraging the village to use the hall more for parties etc. is planned.

WALNUT TREE COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE.

Mr Simon reported that the Walnut Tree community events committee has had a busy year, each event has been well supported and a thank you must go out to the village. The WTCE have a positive financial balance to carry forward to finance the next event. Events over the past year have included:

- Several Pub Quiz Nights.
- Hog Roast.
- Easter Egg Hunt.
- The King's Coronation Party

The next event to be held would be the 'Scarecrow Trail'. There had been 17 entries so far. There was a trail map and the village would be able to cast their votes for the best

scarecrow.

The Santa Dash is planned for December 3rd with the lighting of the Walnut Tree Christmas tree the week before.

FETE.

Alice Maloney and Claire Graham from the Village Fete Committee reported on the 2023 Fete. There was a large crowd, lots of stalls, plenty of entertainment, much food on offer and the weather was excellent. A very good, enjoyable day. The final profit has not been finalised but it will be over £7,000.

A big thank you to the many donations received and also to the team which helped set up and dismantle, the grass cutters who prepared the field, the many stall helpers and everyone who attended.

It was the village itself which had made it such a successful Fete. There is a fund available for start-up organisations in the village; any group requiring funding should not hesitate to apply to the fete committee.

PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.

CLLR MR B HODGSON reported that painting of the play area fencing was nearly complete. Work is ongoing on repairs and the refurbishment of the play area.

Cllr Mr B Hodgson reported that with the Chairman he had attended a rural community workshop and they plan to attend a further two meetings.

CLLR MR T BURDEN reported that the replacement of the walnut trees had been put on hold until next year. It has been suggested that the trees are planted in conjunction with the VE Day celebrations.

Cllr Burden said he was happy to carry on cutting the grass on the playing field for the rest of this year's cutting season. Mr Burden reported that a 'local lad' has expressed an interest in taking on the grass cutting of the field as he plays in the football team. Mr Burden would discuss with him. The Clerk was asked to check any insurance implications.

Cllr Burden said dog fouling is a major problem on the field and throughout the village. The Village Hall committee discussed this issue at a recent meeting and banning dogs from the field may be a consideration for the future.

Cllr Mr T Burden reported that a resident of Primrose Lane is continually parking on the village green. A 'NO PARKING ON THE GREEN' sign has been erected and it is being ignored. The Parish Council will be sending a letter to the resident concerned asking them not to park on the village green. The Parish Council intends to erect wooden bollards to stop unauthorised parking.

CLLR MRS S SMITH reported that she has been working with Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook and County Councillor Mr C Donnelly regarding making the road safer for pedestrians from the White House to the village now the evenings are getting darker, and the clocks will be changing soon. Cllr Mrs S Smith was pleased to report that HCC Highways are looking at suitable signage to warn motorists that there are pedestrians walking in the road.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Issues raised included:

- It was suggested that a ruling that dogs must be on a lead may help with the problem of dog fouling on the playing field. This was noted.
- The Rev Sarah Sharland suggested CCTV on the playing field. Mr T Seymour reported that there are issues with having CCTV as there are a great number of children using the field.
- The cricket club intends to put in an all-weather cricket pitch and explained the benefit. The school would also be able to use the pitch without the necessary maintenance involved for a grass pitch. The cricket pitch would not be fenced in and would be available for everyone to use. The Parish Council thought this a good project and gave its support. It was noted that the Village Hall committee also supports the project.
- A date for the net village litter-pick needs to be agreed and circulated.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

8th of November 2023