

## **Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2024 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 C Wootton  
Cllr Mrs D Hodgson  
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk  
County Councillor Mr C Donnelly  
Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook  
Members of the Public – 6

Apologies: Emma Moss, HR Manager, Pilgrims UK.

### **WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

The Chairman reminded members of the public that they have an opportunity to address the Parish Council as an item on each agenda. The Chairman understood that not everyone is comfortable about talking in public so, 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 but, failing that, will pass onto the relevant authorities.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

The Chairman declared an interest in the village hall.

### **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY.**

The Parish Council still has one vacancy.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

- **ENVIRONMENT** – The Chairman welcomed Cllr Mr P Lashbrook to the meeting. Mr Lashbrook reported on the high ground water levels and the volume of the ground water in the ditches through the village. He thanked Jenny Hopkins the Appleshaw Flood Warden for her knowledge and actions in keeping the village informed. He also thanked the Parish Council for their part in keeping ditches and gullies clear.  
Mr Lashbrook also passed on a 'thank you' message from Test Valley Borough Council for the work the Appleshaw community had taken on during the recent winter storms and high rainfall. He feared more heavy rain was forecast in the coming weeks with more storms passing over the country. Test Valley had a

plentiful supply of sandbags which could be delivered if needed – please contact Mr Lashbrook where sandbags are needed.

Mr Lashbrook had also been made aware that the winterbourne in Redenham had burst its banks and the road was now flooded. He planned to visit Redenham after the meeting. The Chairman thanked Mr Lashbrook for his report.

- The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Mr B Hodgson for the continued work he is doing making sure that the road gullies and ditches remain clear.
- HIGHWAYS – Continued correspondence with Hampshire Highways to improve signage on the road from the the A342 bus stop down to the village had not been successful. The Chairman had asked for help from County Councillor Mr C Donnelly. Alternatives are being explored by the Parish Council.
- WALNUT TREES – Mr A Burgess and the Chairman reported that one walnut tree had come down in the recent storms and one has been taken down. Concerns for the safety of the remaining trees has been raised. The poor soil on a bed of gravel was not deemed suitable for the walnut trees.

A community project to remove all the remaining walnut trees and a programme of mixed-tree planting is being considered. It was not certain whether the trees had preservation orders on them and this would be investigated.

## **ALLOTMENTS.**

Cllr Mr M Watts had no news to report.

## **PLANNING.**

23/03102/FULLN – Installation of all weather astro cricket wicket with a concrete base on the existing cricket pitch – Appleshaw Village Hall – NO OBJECTION.

## **FINANCE.**

### **December 2023 and January 2024**

#### **INCOME.**

Nil

#### **EXPENDITURE.**

R. N Waterman Admin – Dec + Jan	= £ 600.00
Walnut Tree Community Committee	= £ 500.00
HCC Street Lighting	= £ 163.20
Administration Expenses	= £ 91.70
Chairmans Expenses- Printing	= £ 15.49
SBPC – Storage	= £ 20.00
	<b><u>£ 1,390.39</u></b>

### **Summary of Accounts 2023/2024**

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

#### Less Expenditure

April and May	=	£1,722.75
June and July	=	£5,747.42
Aug and Sept	=	£1,822.29
Oct and Nov	=	£3,809.70
Dec and Jan	=	£1,390.39
	=	<b><u>£14,492.55</u></b>

= **£3,596.53**

#### FUNDS AVAILABLE

Allotments	=	£ 398.00
Parish Council	=	£3,198.53
	=	<b><u>£3,596.53</u></b>

#### 2024/2025 PRECEPT.

The Parish Clerk reported that the Parish Council had assessed the budget for 2024/2025. The increase in costs of street lighting, insurance, grass-cutting and maintenance of the equipment has resulted in the difficult decision to increase the precept by £2,000 to £15,000 for the 2024/2025 financial year.

Grass-cutting and tractor maintenance had cost the Parish Council over £6,000 in the current financial year. The Parish Council plans to bring the annual cost down to a maximum of £4,000.

Cllr Mrs S Smith proposed that the 2024/2025 precept be set at £15,000. This was seconded by Cllr Mr T Burden. All agreed. The Appleshaw precept for the year 2024/2025 was set at £15,000.

#### VILLAGE HALL.

Mr T Seymour reported that due to ill health Dr G Legg had stood down as treasurer of the Appleshaw Village Hall. A replacement treasurer was urgently needed if the Village Hall is to remain open.

#### WALNUT TREE COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE.

The Chairman confirmed that the £500 grant the Parish Council gives each year to the Walnut Tree Community Events Committee is to provide two free events for the residents of Appleshaw. Other events that raise money for local charities are self-funded.

Free events for 2024 will be a Scarecrow Trail and a Big Lunch to celebrate the D-Day Landings and will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.

#### ROAD SAFETY – Report from Mr Andrew Smith.

##### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

- Safe refuge area for pedestrians between the Andover/Ludgershall Road and the village
- Lobby to reduce speed limit between Andover/Ludgershall Road and the village.
- Lobby for 20mph in areas identified as high risk and with no pavements.
- Long term improvements to the junction with the Andover/Ludgershall Road.
- Influencing behaviour of drivers from high density village organisations (Pilgrims and St Peters School) at start and finish times.
- Improving frequency of hedge trimming.

- Seek funding for a 'smiley' traffic calming camera for rotational use at high-risk spots in the village.
- The Parish Council will continue to liaise with TVBC and HCC.
- Consider a Road Safety event in 2024.

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR C DONNELLY.**

Cllr Mr C Donnelley reported:

- The primary schools admission request is now open.
- The fee for DIY materials at the county's Re-Cycling Centres has been scrapped.
- Parish Councils will be able to apply for a 20MPH speed limits as from the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. This is the result of a change of policy at HCC.
- Hampshire County Council have refused the request for additional signage to alert drivers of children at the school bus drop-off site. Cllr Mrs C Wootton suggested that the drop-off site be moved to the playing field which would provide a safer exit place for the children. This was noted.

### **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR P LASHBROOK.**

Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook reported that there is a full TVBC meeting next week to agree the draft borough Plan. The proposed borough plan will be put out for consultation. Mr Lashbrook spoke about the community resilience project that has been running since 2016. Test Valley Borough Council continue to give their support.

### **PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.**

CLLR MRS S SMITH reported that high visibility clothing has been placed in the telephone box for people to use when walking up to the bus stop on the A342.

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

Issues raised included:

- A village Litter Pick – in hand.
- The state of the road by the Old School house. This road had received surface dressing three times but was again falling apart. Cllr Donnelley noted this and would speak to HCC highways department.
- The safety of road users negotiating the tanker by the Old Forge was highlighted as the bend in the road made it difficult to see oncoming traffic. Traffic lights would be a good idea. (Since installed.)
- The number of tankers pumping out water in the area was raised. Mr Lashbrook reported that Southern Water was also working in Kimpton, Thruxton and Fyfield as well as Appleshaw; the tankers pumping out ground water that is entering the sewer system.

Mrs Caroline Tomlinson spoke about the cemetery and the PCC's request for volunteers to help with its maintenance.

### **CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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

13<sup>th</sup> March 2024.