

## **Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 in Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllr Mrs S Smith – Chairman.  
Cllr Mr B Hodgson – Vice Chairman  
Cllr L Prince  
Cllr T Burden  
Cllr Mrs C Wotton  
Cllr Mrs D Hodgson  
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk  
County Councillor Mr C Donnelly  
Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook – Mr and Mrs Lashbrook also attended in their roles as Mayor and Mayoress.  
Members of the Public – 10

Apologies: Emma Moss, HR Manager, Pilgrims UK.

### **WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to introduce the Mayor and Mayoress.

### **AGM MEETING.**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS.**

The Parish Councillors introduced themselves.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY.**

The Parish Clerk reported that Cllr Mr M Watts had resigned from the Parish Council owing for medical reasons. His colleagues were sorry to learn this and wished to thank him for all the work he has done during his time as a member of the Parish Council. The Clerk would inform TVBC of the vacancy.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.**

**Chairman** – Cllr B Hodgson proposed Cllr S Smith as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr C Wotton. There were no other nominations: Cllr S Smith was elected.

**Vice Chairman** – The Chairman proposed Cllr B Hodgson as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr L Prince. There were no other nominations: Cllr B Hodgson was elected.

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

Cllr Mr C Donnelly reported that Hampshire County Council has a new Leader, Cllr Nick Adams-King. Neighbourhood Police Officers are to be returned to the rural beat. The results of the recent consultation on Hampshire Services will be published by the end of June 2024. Cllr Donnelly thanked the Parish Council on behalf of Hampshire County Council for all the work they do for the Parish.  
The Chairman thanked Cllr Mr C Donnelly for his continued support.

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

Cllr Mr P Lashbrook congratulated the Parish Council for a very successful year and the positive way they are tackling problems as they arise. The flooding due to the high groundwater levels and an enormous amount of rain have been challenging for the village.

Andover now has the full complement of Police Officers. Cllr Mr P Lashbrook reported that he has had a good meeting with Hayley O'Grady, the Test Valley Borough Commander, who is adopting a very positive way forward for policing.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Lashbrook for his continued support and guidance.

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

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council has had a very busy year including the following:

*Flooding and Ground Water* – Cllr B Hodgson has been working with the Flood Warden, Mrs J Hopkins, to try to ease the water flowing through the village by maintaining and digging out ditches etc.

*Grass Cutting* – The Parish Council is determined to bring down the annual cost of maintaining the village, grass cutting being the largest drain on parish resources. Mr Chris Wilkins has agreed to return to the village to cut the grass and this would be enhanced by several volunteers who have stepped forward to help.

*Thank You's* – The Chairman thanked the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk for their continued support and thanked numerous villagers for their time and labour for many jobs undertaken around the village.

*Website* – The Chairman thanked Mr Justin Holder for his continued support in providing the village website and also Katie Miller, the webmaster.

*Community Events* – The Parish Council give a grant of £500 a year to the Events Committee to put on free events for the residents of Appleshaw. Each event has been successful and well attended. 'D-Day' celebrations were planned for the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 with a picnic and entertainment on the Village Green.

*COMMUNITY YOUTH AWARDS* – The Parish Council have this year started a Community Youth Award (with support from Test Valley Borough Council) for youngsters in the parish who have given time, commitment and enthusiasm to a project in the village. This first year, the recipients have been nominated by the Parish Council. In future, nominations will be submitted by parishioners.

The Chairman was pleased to announce that this year's recipients are Isabella and Jonah Williams. The Mayor and Mayoress presented Isabella and Jonah with a certificate and a gift-voucher. Photographs were taken for the Local Press.

### **END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT.**

APPLESHAW PARISH COUNCIL  
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024

RECEIPTS	£
Precept	13,000.00
Allotment Rents	160.00
V.A.T. Refund	1,997.45
Wayleave payment	90.36
Grant for Kings Coronation Celebrations	500.00
Grant from Pilgrims for new mower	1,000.00
	<u>16,747.81</u>

PAYMENTS	
General Administration	4,501.83
Insurance	1,081.27
Dog Bin Emptying	1,063.10
Allotments	165.27
Street Lighting	414.21
Village Maintenance	650.32
Grass Cutting + Ditch Clearing	5,589.05
Flashing Speed Sign Maintenance – 2 Years	587.16

Community Events for KC & Christmas	1,055.47
Signage	162.00

V.A.T. on Payments	550.81
	<u>15,820.49</u>

#### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Balance brought forward 1/4/2023	1,346.45
Add : Receipts	16,747.81
	<u>18,094.26</u>

Less: Payments	15,820.49
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Carried forward to 2024/2025	2,273.77
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The Clerk explained each item. The Parish Council agreed to adopt the end of year financial report as a true record. Proposed by Cllr S Smith and seconded by Cllr B Hodgson.

#### CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION – AGAR 2023/2024

The Parish Council agreed to submit a Certificate of Exemption as the turnover was below £25,000. Proposed by Cllr S Smith and seconded by Cllr B Hodgson. All agreed.

#### ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/2024

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024 ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statement.

The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Smith and seconded by Cllr T Burden. All Agreed.

## **ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2023/2024**

The Annual Accounting Statement 2023/2024 was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Smith and seconded by Cllr T Burden. All agreed.

### **ENVIRONMENT REPORT.**

Mrs J Hopkins gave the following report:

Individual parishioners have been in touch directly with Southern Water when the level of their foul systems is high, and there has been a generally helpful response although the promised regular jetting through of the pipeline hasn't been without prompting. The jetting process makes a huge difference in some areas. Communication with the water company has been extra difficult this time, mainly owing to the brilliant and customer friendly local engineer who covered this area so well for 30-odd years being moved on to another post last year.

The SW work on the Pillhill Brook has resulted in no over-pumping into the Pillhill chalk stream since 2021/22 and the last tanker leaving the 8 villages on 29th April, despite the very high levels of groundwater. We have now been able to fix a meeting with Southern Water to arrange for our own sewer pipeline to be lined similarly. The secretary of the Pillhill Pan Parish Forum has given us valuable advice and contacts which we will be taking up. 2. For interest, recorded rainfall here on 18th April was absolutely off the scale at 53mm and could contribute to a further rise in groundwater levels if we get a lot more in the next few days. The level is going down but is still high at 90.311 today.

The groundwater hasn't quite hit the highest level recorded since 1986 although at 92 metres a month ago it is only .62 metres off the mark. 3. Once again, my thanks to parishioners for their forbearance and general good humour, especially those who are at the sharp end of the sewer system, and to the Parish Council for all the work going on behind the scenes to arrange the alleviation of the misery of the flooded roads and inundated ditches in Redenham.

### **SAFETY GROUP REPORT.**

Mr A Smith addressed the meeting and gave an update and re-cap from the Road Safety Group:

- A survey was sent out with eight questions for the parish to consider.
- There was a 22% return, with 93% concerned about speeding, 68% reporting they'd seen near misses. 72% are concerned with safety walking up and back to the B342 Junction. 90% support having a 20mph speed limit in the village.
- The Safety Group are ready to put recommendations forward to Hampshire Highways.

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

Points raised included:

- The flooding of the road in Redenham. This has been reported to the local authorities and landowners will be encouraged to keep their ditches clear.
- Re-designing the junction with the B342 to make it safer.
- Concerns that 4,000 additional homes are to be built on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border at Ludgershall/Faberstown.
- The state of the Village roads due to the large number of tankers that have been

over-pumping. Southern Water will be working with Hampshire Highways to repair the roads once over-pumping has stopped.

### **CLOSE OF THE AGM**

The Chairman closed the AGM.

## **PARISH COUNCIL MAY MEETING.**

### **WELCOME.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to a short Parish Council Meeting.

### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST.**

The Chairman declared an interest in the Village Hall.

### **MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING.**

The Chairman signed the minutes of the March Meeting as a true record.

### **PLANNING.**

There were no new planning applications to discuss.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT.**

Financial Statement 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024

#### **April and May 2024**

#### **INCOME.**

TVBC – ½ Precept = £7,500.00

#### **EXPENDITURE.**

R. N Waterman Admin – April & May = £ 600.00

SBPC – Storage = £ 20.00

Mr B Pearce Grass Cutting = £ 45.00

TVBC Dog Bin Emptying = £ 1,339.51

HCC Street Lighting = £ 182.18

Petal Boutique Flowers = £ 80.00

**£ 2,266.69**

#### **Summary of Accounts 2024/2025**

Opening Balance 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 = £2,273.77

Plus Income – April and May = £7,500.00

**= £9,773.77**

Less Expenditure

April and May = £2,266.69

**= £2,266.69**

**= £7,507.08**

#### **FUNDS AVAILABLE**

Allotments = £ 398.00

Parish Council = £7,109.08

**= £7,507.08**

**CLOSE OF THE MEETING**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

10th of July 2024