

APPLEFORD-ON-THAMES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Appleford on Tuesday 29th April 2008.

Present: Cllrs D Alcorn, P. Horton, A Sharp and G. Duffield, Judy Beck (Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr G. Manning had sent apologies. Cllr Duffield agreed to chair the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2007 were approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Mr Lewington reported that the map for the Millennium Common was not yet completed but was expected to be produced in the near future.

4. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Sharp read the report submitted by Cllr Manning.

The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors for all the work they do on behalf of the Parish. He then gave a summary of the various issues which have been dealt with by the Parish Council during the year and, in particular, the refurbishment of the village hall. The full text of this report is on file.

The council then received reports from parish organisations and committees, the full text of which are on file, namely

- Allotment Association
- Church of St Peter and St Paul
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Womens Institute
- Liaison Committees
- Appleford United Charity
- Parish Action Plan
- Pressings newsletter

Mrs Helby read the report from the Church.

Mr Lewington reported on the Millennium Common.

It was requested that the Appleford Parish Trust provide its report and accounts at the annual parish meeting.

5. Open Forum

Traffic through the village is still causing concern. Mr Fisher reported that the Road Safety Committee had not met for two years but would be happy to work with the Parish Council again.

The proposed Energy from Waste facility will require the council's close attention during the coming year.

Other issues brought to the attention of the council included

- Hanson gravel extraction
- Ameys site development
- Thames Water proposed reservoir
- Abingdon Integrated Traffic System.

There being no further business Cllr Duffield declared the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed Date

(Chairman)

Appleford Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 29th April 2008

Chairman's Report to the Village.

Unfortunately I cannot be with this evening as I have another commitment. This year we have again had a few changes on the PC with resignations and a new member joining and also a member resign and again rejoin. As ever the councillors need to cover a number of areas ranging from the millennium common, the Didcot Power station, 13 Parishes meetings and various other meetings. So a big thanks to my fellow councillors for all their hard efforts, especially as I have been extremely busy myself and cannot afford the time to attend these meetings some of which take place during the day.

This last year has seen changes in our village with the key change being the refurbishment of the Village Hall. This has I know been a time of some upset and controversy, however I truly believe that the PC has done what it feels best for the village given the timescales and available funding. As most of you are aware there was a time limit on the funding available from Wren which the village was awarded the previous year. After discussions with Wren we were able to put this funding towards refurbishing the hall, along with other funding which was applied for. I must thank Donald Alcorn my fellow Councillor for all his efforts in this area and for getting the refurbishment underway. During Donald's absence Councillor Paul Horton stepped up to the mark and saw the works through to completion and for this we are truly grateful. I'm sure all those who attended the re-opening will agree that the refurbishment is a great improvement on what was the old village hall. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking both Donald and Paul for a job well done. The design for the hall has been done in such a way that it could be easily converted into a full time sports pavilion in the future as and when the requirements and funding for a new hall are met. This brings me on to the village hall committee – now that the hall is completed (well besides a few touch-ups and tarring of the pathway) we need to look at how the hall is managed. The village hall committee is a registered charity and there are certain posts that are mandatory and over the past years people have been carrying out dual roles. To ensure the interests of all parties and individuals are catered for and that we make the most out of the hall, the Management committee should be made up of representatives from those organisations that regularly use the facility and others in the village. I feel that one of the first duties of the committee is to set up a sound and fair pricing structure taking into account the new facilities and the possibility of using the smaller room for small group meetings. There are costs associated with the running of such a facility that need to be covered, and I urge members of the Parish to come forward to serve on this management committee and help in maintaining a fine asset to our village.

The playground is still very popular and we still have regular use of the football field by St Edmunds' FC. With the new change rooms now available I'm sure that we will attract even more interest in our facilities by sports clubs.

It is great to have the facilities used in this way and does bring a new life to the village over the weekends, not to mention revenue towards the upkeep of the recreation ground.

I am still very concerned about the speed of drivers travelling through our village, especially now that we seem to have more children coming to the recreation ground.

The new signage at the top of Abingdon road as you come from Didcot seems to have reduced the frequency of heavy vehicles travelling through our village, although I have had occasion to stop a few and enquire as to why they are ignoring the signage. If any resident observes large vehicles travelling through our village they are encouraged to report this activity to the clerk, however the vehicle registration and company name should be taken so that it makes it easier in addressing the issue.

On the broader front the issue of new housing around our area is still ongoing. I'm sure that Gervase has more to cover on this subject in his report back to the village.

Building has now started on the Amey site. There will inevitably be an impact on the traffic at the T-junction going over the bridge, and back towards Appleford. This, linked with the Gravel extraction which should start some time in the not too distant future will definitely cause some problems.

Finally the proposed incinerator at Sutton Courtenay could also prove to have an effect on our way of life and I ask that you make yourselves fully aware of the implications.

Thank You.

Gordon Manning
Chair Appleford Parish Council

29th April 2008.

APPLEFORD ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

The association was formed on 4th October 1973 in order to retain the allotment for the village following the proposed sale of the land for development by the owners Edmund Bradstock's Charity. Alan Sharp has the honour of being the only original member of the association still working his allotment. The association has a copy of the rules for regulating the allotments issued by Bradstock's Charity dating back to October 1893.

Allotment association members have worked the allotments continuously by for the past 35 years, although membership numbers have fluctuated over the years. Our records show that in the past we have had as many as 41 members working all 51 plots, last year numbers were 14 members working 29 plots. The association is always happy to welcome new members who will find help encouragement and advice is always freely on offer from existing members.

Appleford Allotment Association is affiliated to The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd., this gives us access to the full range of services including legal advice and assistance, insurance schemes and discounted seeds, both vegetable and flower.

Last year the owners Edmund Bradstock's Charity expressed concern that in today's litigation culture they could find themselves open to compensation if somebody was injured on the allotments, either a member of the Association or the public. Appleford Allotment Association has now arranged Public Liability Insurance.

The association is run on a non-profit basis for the mutual benefit of our members.

Martin Stanmore. Secretary
Appleford Allotment Association

Church of St Peter and St Paul, Appleford

Report for the Parish Meeting

The number on the Church's Electoral Roll is 14, the average Sunday congregation 11 and congregation for special services between 30 and 40. The Street Nativity has become very popular with, this year, 72 people following Chocolate the donkey down Church Street, booing the inn-keepers and singing carols in the stalls with the horses and cows. Half the collection from this service was donated to the Donkey Sanctuary. The Posada –the overnight stay of the Crib figures at the houses of Appleford children - has become a tradition and a lovely way to anticipate the joy of Christmas.

In July there was a weekend retreat at Lee Abbey which was attended by several members of Appleford Church. The retreat was a very rewarding experience and is due to be repeated in 2009.

Without an organist we rely on CDs complemented by the kindly donated services of Pat and John Napper for special services. We have recently bought new hymn CDs and several villagers have sponsored some of the related hymn books which will be dedicated at our Patronal Festival in June.

2007 started with the inside of the Church being decorated – the flaky, marked walls made smooth and pristine by the trusty paint brushes of Llyn Thomas, Paul Horton, Chris Martin and Chris Owen. We are all very grateful for their generosity and hard work. Ken Hounslow suggested that we apply for a grant from The Gladiator Trust, a local charity with which he is associated. Their donation was beyond our hopes and nearly covered the cost of the paint etc.

In February the Church was visited by Bishop Stephen of Reading who arrived in time for an early pre-service breakfast and a chat with villagers. This was a real occasion as there are not many times that a church as small as ours gets to entertain a Bishop - mitre and all. During the service the Bishop blessed the now regularly used kneelers that had been produced by Appleford ladies who sew.

Also in February 2007 we held a Race Evening, the first fund –raising event of the year. Wooden horses sporting different coloured balloons, local jockeys, a fish and chip supper a la newspaper style and lively betting produced a healthy pot for the funds.

In June we took part in the DAMASCUS Group History Weekend when local displays were compiled and exhibited in all five churches. Our Church was open for three days to provide ample time for villagers to view the articles, photos and textiles connected with the history of Appleford. Thanks to everyone who allowed their possessions to be displayed. The weekend finished with a 'Songs of Praise' Patronal Festival followed by wine, strawberries and cream. The takings from all the displays were combined and divided equally between the five churches.

The biannual Barn Dance was also held in June – thanks to the Gales for the authentic setting. There was a record turn out with everyone dosey-doeing on command and in time to the music and then eating the excellent home-made food provided by the Finch, Holcombe and Martin families – many thanks again to all those who organised this big event.

In September we celebrated Harvest Supper in the Pub as the Village Hall was still being renovated. Sharon and Steve made us very welcome and provided a hearty casserole and apple pie meal for everyone.

The Hundred Club has been revitalised, 102 members a record. The public draw takes place at the Coffee Mornings and the winners are published in The Pressings so we all know who should be buying the drinks in the pub. This level of membership provides about £600 of prizes and £600 for the funds. The Coffee Mornings started by Chris and Marion Owen are now a valued monthly social event as well as bringing in regular and gratefully received funds - an essential part of our financial planning. Thanks to all those who now host the mornings and allow their homes to be taken over with the aroma of coffee and the threat to the waistline attached to the cakes galore which appear and just as quickly disappear.

We support a new charity every year and in 2007 we donated money to The Porch. The proceeds as well as food donated from the Harvest Service and the Carol Singing around the village were given to the Porch.

Apart from the large sum required to pay the Deanery Share which covers costs such as our contribution towards Helen's salary and I am sure we all agree that she is worth every penny, money is needed for the running and maintenance of the Church building. The bells are no longer safe to ring and the cost of their repair is way beyond our means. The Quinquennial Inspection did not find any other major concerns and the matters that did arise will have to be dealt with when we can manage. We are grateful to the Parish Council for their contribution to the grass cutting costs and to Mr Field and Chris Owen for their constant care of the churchyard.

The Church is open nearly every day during daylight hours and all villagers are welcome to join in our services or come to the church and just sit and feel at peace.

Sue Helby

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL RE RWE Npower LOCAL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND THE WASTE RECYCLING GROUP LIAISON MEETINGS

RWE Npower

I have attended all the meetings held in the last year and by far the greatest topic of conversation throughout this period has been the subject of the proposed ash disposal at Radley lakes. In February 2007, OCC granted Npower final planning permission to dispose of surplus ash from Didcot A Power Station in the former gravel pit, Thrupp Lake or Lake E, near Radley.

The Save Radley Lakes Campaign Group[immediately filed an application for Village Green Status for Thrupp lake and an independent inquiry was called to assess the facts and make recommendations to OCC.

In January 2008 the OCC Planning & Regulation Committee ratified the independent Inspector's recommendation that Thrupp Lake should not be registered as a Village Green. Since planning permission had previously been granted the way was open for Npower to commence ash disposal work at Radley.

However, due to lower generation requirements at Didcot A and greater use of ash by the construction industry development of the Thrupp Lake has been suspended for the foreseeable future. Despite this change in circumstances the Radley Group are still active and have requested a Judicial Review.

Didcot A is due to close by 2015 and now has less than 20,000 hours of generation time left. From April 2008 Npower intends to cease power generation at the Didcot a Station at weekends, the turbines will be shut down on Friday evenings and powered up again on Monday mornings.

RWE Npower are to be commended for the sponsorship work within the local community, this year alone they have sponsored 17 community projects. They also have educational activities known as Enthuse events where they visit local schools in order to increase pupil interest in engineering, science and technology.

I am pleased to announce that as from February 2008 we have a second Appleford representative on the Liaison Committee, Mr Chris Martin.

Waste Recycling Group

During the last year I have attended all but one of the meetings. The landfill operation continues unabated, trains continue to roll in carrying waste from London and the local waste continues to be delivered by road. Complaints from local residents are investigated promptly and action is taken to resolve issues without delay. The landfill operation is, as you know, set to continue for many years.

However, current proposal for the site are of much greater significance. Waste Recycling Group is submitting proposals to OCC in June 2008 for an Energy from Waste (EfW) incinerator with combined heat and power capabilities. There are two sites within Oxfordshire where this incinerator could be built, Sutton Courtenay/Appleford and Ardley. The building of incinerators for the burning of waste is part of an EU directive to cut landfill. If we do not alter the way in which we dispose of our waste then councils will be subjected to substantial fines.

The proposed incinerator will burn in the region of 300,000 tonnes of residual waste per year from households and businesses in Oxfordshire after recycling. All waste handling activities will be carried out inside a purpose-built structure

There will be a dramatic rise in the number of vehicles using and operating within the current site if the incinerator is built here. The operation will be 24/7, once the process has been started the incinerator has to be fed continuously. A working group has been set up by Sutton Courtenay PC and other PCs including Appleford have been encouraged to participate. It is essential that we work together to obtain the very best package possible for Appleford

Paul Horton.

APPLEFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH, 2007-2008

As I reported last year Appleford gives the appearance of being a relatively crime free location but this is only based on statistics from the police and the NW Office.

I suspect that there may be incidents which remain unreported and I urge any residents with information to support this surmise to get in touch with me or our own **NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICER** on 08458 505505

Some co-ordinators receive and distribute Ringmaster messages by e-mail although there are some recipients who prefer to have printed messages delivered..It would help if more villagers were to accept e-mails. Please let your individual coordinator know if you are willing (list of coordinators is published monthly in **Appleford Pressings**).

I still put all reports from the NW Office on the village noticeboard as well as delivering notes or sending e-mails to those within my own section of the village.

We still lack an overall coordinator for the village, hence this report from me.

My apologies for not being able to deliver this report in person.

Finally, many thanks to **Mrs Rachel Gibbs** for her work in producing the message slips for the other coordinators.

B. Seyer

Parish Action Plan Steering Committee

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 29 April 2008

The Parish Action Plan Steering Committee has been meeting since March 2007. The main purpose of the Committee was to come up with an appropriate questionnaire to be circulated round Appleford village which would identify the views of all householders regarding all aspects of life in Appleford. After much deliberation, the Committee came up with a questionnaire which satisfied both the Committee and the ORCC (Oxfordshire Rural Community Council) in terms of content and design. This was finally agreed all round just before Christmas 2007.

Copies of questionnaires were circulated to each household in February 2008 and final delivery or collection was completed just before Easter. 74% of questionnaires were returned. This represented 91 participating households out of a total of 123. Therefore, 32 households decided to opt out. The figure of 141, representing all properties in Appleford was paired down to 123 because of: (a) a few householders who chose not to take any questionnaires; (b) houses that were empty, up for sale; (c) householders who were on the point of selling and did not think it appropriate to participate; and finally, (d) some householders who were on holiday for a number of months. The final total of questionnaires, i.e. representing the 91 households came to 170, averaging out at almost 2 questionnaires per participating household.

All the data from the Yes/No questions has been analysed and the additional comments are now being collected for analysis. Once this last task is complete the Parish Action Plan Committee will meet to discuss all the results and move towards producing the Parish Action Plan document. This will be presented to the Parish Council towards the end of May or sometime in June at the latest.

Angela Greenwell (Chair)

Pressings report

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of all those who give their time to distribute the Pressings each month: Maureen Stanmore, Vera Robertson, Marga Beuth and Chris Owen. Further, I would like to thank WRG and Sue Davis, in particular, for their continued support in producing the Pressings as a service to our community. Last, but not least, I would like to thank those who support the Pressings through advertising and I hope they get the benefit they deserve.

The Pressings currently carries nearly 1 page of advertising (revenue £145.00) and has a circulation of around 150 copies. Overall, the Pressings appears to be appreciated by villagers and is seen as an asset to the community.

Mandy Klyne

APPLEFORD UNITED CHARITIES.

Report for Parish Meeting, April 2008.

The Appleford United Charities receive a small income each year which is the share for Appleford under the Will of Edmund Bradstock, and operated by the Bradstock Trustees. This amount can vary from year to year according to income received by the Bradstock Trustees.

The Ex-officio Trustee is always the Vicar of Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. Two further Trustees are appointed by the Appleford Parish Council but need not be a member of the Council.

The Secretary to this Charity is Mrs. Rosemary Allen, of Mill Lane, Sutton Courtenay.

The Trustees are responsible for annual distribution of the income and in 2008 eight residents received gifts according to the terms of the Will.

Audrey Sharp
Trustee

Appleford Women's Institute President's Report – Annual Parish Meeting April 29th 2008

This year 2007/2008 the pending/actual refurbishment of village hall has meant that we had to use members homes for our meetings. I wish to thank Vera, Mavis, Marion & Michelle for offering their homes, without which we would not have been able to continue meeting during the year. It has been another interesting year with a programme of talks, outings and events.

Several members attended the Spring Group Meeting, in Didcot Civic Hall. The speaker dressed a tailor's dummy with the changing fashions of the wives of King Henry IV.

We have travelled the world during our talks with slides. The year started with wonderful slides "On Safari in Zambia". Then came life in India with a talk entitled "The Mysterious East". Antarctica was next with a talk and slides of the penguins, birds and seals that live there. We also had an entertaining talk and slides of a 1960's Bride in the South African Bush.

We discussed the resolution for the National AGM in London, which was closure of Community Hospitals. It was also our Birthday meeting so in true Appleford fashion we enjoyed wine and cake.

The summer outing on a lovely warm sunny June evening with our husbands and friends was to Nuffield Place, the home of the late Lord & Lady Nuffield. The interesting evening was rounded off with an excellent buffet meal at the Crown Inn.

At the very successful Village History weekend held in the Church, we put together a very interesting display of Appleford W.I. items including the Banner, medals etc. Jill's recently finished 'History of Appleford W.I. 1921 to 1939' was also on display for the first time.

The Bring and Share Garden Supper was held in the beautiful garden and conservatory of Michael and Mavis. We were also celebrating the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Gordon and Barbara, which had taken place a couple of weeks earlier. It was also a very sad time as we had recently learned of the sudden death of Jill Ritchie, while on holiday in Spain. We provided flowers for her funeral in the Church and also helped out at the house afterwards.

We have learnt about the life cycle of the silk worm with a demonstration of spinning and weaving silk. At Marion and Michelle's house we were shown their beautiful model dolls houses complete with furniture, people, animals, trees and flowers. They then had us making a cut out cardboard mini dolls house. Several members attended the Autumn Group Meeting held in Harwell Village Hall, which was an interesting and entertaining talk on the Beauty of flower bulbs.

Members have also attended Oxfordshire's AGM in Oxford Town Hall with celebrity speakers; an evening of entertainment at the King's Centre, Oxford, with Ben Fogle and christmas songs, poems and playlets in Oxford Town Hall.

Thanks to a grant from the Parish Trust we now have a beautifully printed booklet of Jill's "History of Appleford W.I. from 1921 to 1939". This is a fitting and lasting memory to her. Mavis has also stitched, on our behalf, a beautiful Kneeler to go in the Church in Jill's memory. This year our membership is the smallest number we have ever had but we hope to be able to continue with a mix of talks, and social events that will interest everyone during the next year. It is very difficult with so few members but we will not give up as long as we have their support. After the refurbishment of the Village Hall perhaps the better facilities will encourage some more ladies to join us.

Ann Hounslow, President