

## APPLEFORD-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Appleford on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**Present:** Cllrs G Manning (Chair), A Sharp, P Horton, G Duffield, D Alcorn (from item 08/20)

In attendance: Judy Beck (Clerk) and four members of the public.

### **08/17 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Lamont.

### **08/18 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

Cllr Horton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the hedge-cutting at the Recreation Ground.

### **08/19 Co-option**

A notice of vacancy had been advertised on the village noticeboard and in the Pressings and two letters of interest had been received. A secret ballot was held, by which the council elected to co-opt Mr Donald Alcorn to the vacancy. Mr Alcorn made a verbal Declaration of Acceptance of Office and completed the Register of Interests.

### **08/20 Public Participation**

Mrs and Miss Bray raised the issue of Green Lane and asked what plans the Council had. The council explained that it has no intention of seeking regular vehicular access but that emergency vehicles will obviously need access. As the item was on the agenda later, further discussion was postponed.

### **08/21 Waste Recycling for Oxfordshire**

Cllr Horton reported that a presentation had been given at a regular liaison meeting with WRG on 19 February 2008 on the subject of a possible incinerator at Sutton Courtenay and implications for the surrounding villages. There are two possible sites under consideration by Oxfordshire County Council - Sutton Courtenay and Ardley. Cllr Duffield has visited Ardley. The council has many concerns about the Sutton Courtenay option. It was agreed that the council should seek the views of the village before deciding on a course of action. Cllr Duffield will write about the issues in the village newsletter. It was agreed that any action to oppose the Sutton Courtenay site should be co-ordinated with other local councils and organisations. WRG are keen to present information and plans to the parish council and to the village. A presentation for the village has been agreed for the 26<sup>th</sup> April at the village hall, to coincide with the Village Hall Grand Opening [note: this presentation has since been moved to WRG offices].

### **08/22 Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting and the Chairman signed accordingly.

**08/23 Matters Arising**

## a) Fields in Trust

Cllr Sharp proposed, and Cllr Horton seconded, the dedication of the recreation ground to recreation use by means of a Deed of Declaration, together with Fields in Trust. Cllr Sharp will prepare the first draft for review.

## b) Green Lane

Cllr Sharp reported that both the Vale of White Horse District Council and the Land Registry have advised that setting up a caution on the land would be costly. The meeting considered that, since public access along the lane is evidenced since 1880 by documents held at the Oxfordshire Records Office, it is not necessary for the parish council to prove right of way.

Mrs Bray informed the meeting that:

- the Private Road sign had been put up around 35 years ago to prevent people fishing at the pits from parking cars at the top of the lane.
- The right to drive along the lane is an easement granted to the dwellings on either side
- The Brays had not prevented the builders, or anyone else, from using the lane
- Allotment holders were always able to drive vehicles up to the top of the lane

The chairman replied that, nonetheless, the builders had charged a significant sum to the village hall project in addition to the cost of the refurbishment because they had felt unable to use Green Lane.

It was resolved that no further action would be taken to register a caution against the land.

It was agreed that the matter should now be resolved amicably, and that an Agreement to grant access should be drawn up between all interested parties. Cllr Sharp will draft a letter to distribute to all parties for review.

## c) Bus shelter

Oxfordshire County Council has agreed to remove the Bus Stop markings from the road outside Mushroom Cottage and place a Bus Stop sign on the pole at the north end of the recreation ground. The application for a bus shelter is progressing.

## d) Playground Equipment

Cllr Sharp had checked with Mr Flinders and the RoSPA inspections had not been carried out since the summer. The zip wire needs checking and the equipment is probably now out of guarantee. Cllr Alcorn agreed to contact RoSPA to determine exact requirements for inspection.

**08/24 County and District Councillors Reports**

Mr Duffield reported on a number of issues including:

- Concerns about how the Vale of White Horse District Council decides major issues and pressures for the council to be more open
- Grenoble Road development
- Hill Farm - issues are being looked at by SODC enforcement

**08/25 Liaison Meetings**

## a) Power Station

Cllr Horton reported that he and Mr Martin had attended on 12<sup>th</sup> February. In addition to the waste recycling presentation mentioned earlier, topics included the Didcot B plant, Npower Greener Schools Campaign, and Hanson pits.

## b) South Oxfordshire District Council - Didcot Forum

Cllr Sharp attended for the first time on behalf of the parish council. It was agreed that it was useful to keep abreast of developments at Didcot and that Cllr Sharp would attend in future.

## c) Millennium Common

Cllr Duffield had attended, accompanied by Mr C Owen. It was agreed that Mr Owen would act as parish council representative, together with Mr Lewington.

**08/26 Correspondence**

This has been circulated on a regular basis since the last meeting and items are listed on file.

The meeting discussed a request from the Appleford Community Project to establish a community orchard on land adjacent to the railway crossing. It was agreed that although the council was supportive of the idea, it was not practical for the parish council to pursue.

**08/27 Planning**

Ref: JOD/TP/8.4/5193/9 - Sutton Courtenay Landfill, Appleford Sidings, Abingdon OX14 4PW. Installation of a landfill gas utilisation engine to supplement the existing landfill gas compound (permitted under planning consent nos SUT/616/44-CM 18 May 1998 and SUT/616/54-CM 23 December 2002 – retrospective application. PERMISSION IS NOW GRANTED.

**08/28 Finance**

a) The following payments had been made since the last meeting.

Cheque	Payee	Detail	VAT	Total
825	Buildwright	Invoice 487 re Village Hall		£25,000.00
826	Buildwright	Invoice 488 re Village Hall		£12,500.00
827	Buildwright	Invoice 489 re Village Hall		£12,500.00
828	Buildwright	Invoice 498 re Village Hall		£23,750.00

b) The following payments were authorised.

Cheque	Payee	Detail	VAT	Total
829	J Beck	Clerks's salary and expenses		£275.19
830	Challenor & Son	Invoice no. 8/0170 Green Lane investigations	105.00	£713.00
831	A. Large	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 08 Maintenance		£167.70

- c) Cllr Horton explained the recent mistake made by the bank in failing to transfer funds from the savings to the current account as requested to meet obligations. The councillors agreed to move all funds to the savings account in order to maximise interest earned, and arrange a daily check facility whereby funds would automatically be moved from the current to the savings account when a cheque was presented. The Clerk will write to the bank to request they waive the fee for this arrangement in light of the recent mistake.
- d) Hedge-trimming  
Cllr Horton left the room. The Clerk had obtained 4 quotes for trimming the hedge. The council decided to go ahead with the cheapest, which was from P. Horton. Cllr Horton re-entered the room.
- d) Grass-cutting contract  
It was agreed to continue the contract with ISIS Accord for 2008-2009, subject to being able to vary the number of cuts as weather conditions required.

### **08/29 Village Hall**

- a) Refurbishment  
Cllr Horton reported that the work is nearing completion. The grant of £50,000 have been received by WREN. The grants from Oxfordshire County Council and Vale of White Horse District Council can be called in once the work is complete. The final bill is expected to be within budget.
- b) Review of charges for Village Hall and Recreation Ground  
Mrs Gotch has requested that the Village Hall Management Committee review the scale of charges and arrangements for booking the village hall. It was agreed that the charges for use of both would be reviewed at the next meeting.
- c) Request for Additional Use  
The Clerk had received a request to use the recreation ground for football training on two evenings per week, and for a match on alternate Sundays, for a new under 14-s football team. This is expected to be officially called Appleford United. The council agreed this use of the field, with some concerns about parking arrangements, and that the new arrangements should not cause any conflict with the current team playing there.

**08/30 Appleford Community Project (ACP)**

The ACP has not been active as the committee is waiting on the Parish Action Plan.

**08/31 Parish Action Plan (PAP)**

Cllr Sharp reported that questionnaires had been distributed to all households and 70% had been returned. Processing of the replies was in progress but was a time-consuming task. The committee would need to consult the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils for advice on putting the complete Parish Action Plan together. The council wished to record its thanks to Mrs Greenwell for her hard work.

**08/32 Any other Business**

- a) The forward schedule of meetings for 2008-2009 was agreed.
- b) A tree on the recreation ground has been uprooted. Cllr Horton to inspect.

**08/33 Date and Venue of next meeting**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

**08/34 Close of Meeting**

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm