

APPLEFORD-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, Appleford on
Tuesday 22nd April 2008.

Present: Cllrs G Manning (Chair), A Sharp, P Horton, G Duffield, D Alcorn
In attendance: Judy Beck (Clerk) and four members of the public.

08/35 Apologies for Absence

None.

08/36 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Cllr Alcorn completed the written declaration of acceptance of office and the clerk countersigned.

08/37 Public Participation

Mrs Sharp expressed gratitude to Cllr Horton for picking up the refurbishment of the village hall at short notice and progressing the project. Concerns about the status of the new building were raised, and the council was asked to clarify for the village its future plans for this building and a new village hall.

08/38 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2008

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting and the Chairman signed accordingly. Regarding item 08/21, Cllr Sharp inquired how the decision to move the WRG presentation from the village hall to WRG offices was made, and asked that such decisions should be made at parish council meetings whenever possible.

08/39 Matters Arising

a) Energy from Waste – Incinerator

- Sutton Courtenay Working Group. Cllr Duffield is attending meetings as District Councillor. The parish council agreed to participate fully in the working group. A meeting is being held on 28th April, and another public meeting on the 12th May in Sutton Courtenay village hall is open to the public. All councillors agreed to attend the meeting on the 12th May.
- WRG A reference site visit for councillors has been arranged by WRG to an incinerator facility in Maidstone, on 7th May.

b) Fields in Trust

Cllr Sharp reported that a draft Deed of Declaration had been received from Fields in Trust, and that the council now needs to determine if any additional codicils are required. Proof of ownership of the land must be evidenced. The council agreed unanimously to proceed.

c) Green Lane

Cllr Sharp had already informed councillors that he was unable to draw up the agreement for use of Green Lane as he worked an allotment and had a personal interest in the matter. Cllr Manning agreed to draw up the agreement and the action was carried over to the next meeting. The matter of additional cost to the builder during refurbishment of the village hall was raised, and it was agreed that it was not in the best interests of the council to pursue reimbursement for this cost.

d) Playground Inspections

Cllr Sharp informed the council that he inspects the playground weekly and records the visit in a report book. He has contacted RoSPA to ascertain legal requirements. It was agreed that there will be an annual safety inspection by RoSPA, at which one of the councillors should always be present. It was also agreed that a monthly check could be carried out by the village handyman – the clerk to make arrangements with RoSPA and handyman.

e) Bookings for Recreation Ground

Cllr Alcorn reported that he is expecting to receive the schedule of fixtures for St. Edmunds Football Club for last year, and that the Treasurer of the Village Hall Management Committee will then invoice the club. It was agreed that St Edmunds FC will continue to be given preference for bookings, and that the clerk could refer inquirers for new bookings for the field to Cllr Alcorn. It was noted that members of the public were keen that use of the recreation field remain free to most users and that casual, non-affiliated football matches should not be subject to a fee for hire.

08/40 County and District Councillors Reports

Cllr Lamont reported on

- the proposed incinerator at Sutton Courtenay or Ardley, requesting that villagers make their views known to the County Council.
- the recent annual assessment of OCC by the Audit Commission had awarded the council 3 stars in contrast to last year's award of 4 stars. This change was mainly due to issues identified in the Children, Young People and Families directorate.

Cllr Duffield reported on a number of issues including:

- Hanson planning application for gravel extraction
- Grenoble Road development
- Greater flexibility in plans for siting of housing in the Vale.

08/41 Liaison Meetings

a) Power Station

Cllr Horton had attended a meeting on 21st April. Topics included Didcot A working hours and weekend closures, and Radley Lakes – ash is being recycled into commercial use.

b) Didcot Community Forum

Cllr Sharp will attend 6th May.

c) Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr Sharp attended a meeting on 10th April, but there were not many other attendees. The group had requested more involvement from the district and county councils.

08/42 Correspondence

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

08/43 Planning

Ref: JOD/TP/8.4/5294/1

Locaton:

Land at Bridge Farm, Sutton Courtenay, Oxon

Description:

Details pursuant to conditions 7, 18, 24, 25, 27, 30 and 38 of Planning Permission APF/SUT/18215-CM. Details submitted for comments. Informal consultation to identify any potential problems with the proposed details. Permission not yet granted for the development – main permission will not be granted until a legal agreement is signed.

08/44 Finance

a) The following payments were authorised.

Cheque	Payee	Detail	VAT	Total
832	S Forward	Website expenses	9.44	£63.38
833	J Beck	Clerks's salary and expenses		£206.60
834	Buildwright	Village Hall refurbishment		£16,682.54

b) The appointment of Mr Symes as Internal Auditor and BDO Stoy Hayward as External Auditor for the year ended 31th March 2008 was agreed.

08/45 Village Hall

a) Refurbishment

Cllr Horton reported that the work is nearing completion with the final bill expected to be within budget, but refrigerators for the kitchen and the re-seeding of grass around the hall was still outstanding. Cllr Manning expressed the council's thanks to Cllrs Horton and Alcorn for their hard work. Cllr Manning to write an article for the Pressings.

b) Grand Opening 26th April 2008

Refreshments will be provided by the Appleford Parish Trust. Cllr Sharp questioned whether this was appropriate and the meeting agreed that this did not present a problem.

c) Review of charges for Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Cllr Alcorn reported that he had looked at a list of charges for village halls from the ORCC and proposed that the charge for Appleford should be the average figure charged. Mrs Gotch expressed some concern that this schedule of fees was too high. It was decided that the Village Hall Management Committee will meet and agree these charges and scale of fees for deposits.

08/46 Parish Action Plan (PAP)

Cllr Sharp informed the meeting that the results from the questionnaires had been collated into a spreadsheet, and that now significant effort was required to analyse the results. A meeting of the PAP group will then take place.

08/47 Appleford Community Project (ACP)

Cllr Sharp had prepared the draft mandate for the ACP but reported that in its current form the mandate was unrealistic and needed redrafting. Cllr Sharp agreed to distribute a reworded draft mandate to the councillors

08/48 Any other Business

- a) Stiles along Right of Way to Long Wittenham
The clerk had received a request that the stiles be repaired. This is the responsibility of the landowner, and Cllr Alcorn agreed to discuss directly with them.
- b) Appleford Village Website
The meeting agreed that the website was a useful facility for the village and that the parish council should continue to support and maintain it. It was agreed to review options at the next meeting.

08/49 Date and Venue of next meeting

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 29th April 2008 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

08/50 Close of Meeting

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.42pm