

APPLEFORD-ON-THAMES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall, Appleford on Tuesday 27th April 2009.

Present: Cllrs Gervase Duffield (Chair) Alan Sharp and Chris Martin, Judy Beck (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr Donald Alcorn had sent apologies.

2. Minutes of the Parish Meeting 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2008 were approved and signed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council

The chairman thanked the previous chairman, Gordon Manning, and Paul Horton for his work on completing the Village Hall refurbishment, and all fellow Councillors for all the work they do on behalf of the Parish. Thanks also to Mavis Gotch and the Village Hall Committee, and Angela Greenwell for the enormous amount of work on the Parish Action Plan.

The chairman then gave a summary of the various issues ahead:

- i. Forthcoming elections in June for County Councillor
- ii. Thames Water Reservoir
- iii. Incinerator
- iv. Didcot expansion
- v. Grenoble Road and Ameys Site housing plans
- vi. Vale and South Oxfordshire District Councils partnership.

The council received reports of the past year from parish organisations and committees, namely

- Church of St Peter and St Paul
- Appleford Parish Trust Report and Accounts
- Womens Institute
- Appleford United Charity
- Appleford Village Hall Management Committee.

Mrs Hancock gave a report for the Appleford Community Project.

Mr Fisher gave a presentation on traffic issues for the village.

4. Open Forum

The council was asked to consider whether it was financially viable to maintain the new Village Hall premises.

The proposed Energy from Waste facility will require the council's close attention during the coming year. The continued sponsorship of the Pressings by WRG was considered in light of this and the council agreed to continue with the current arrangements.

Other issues brought to the attention of the council included

- Smells from the composter at Sutton Courtenay. Villagers were encouraged to report instances on the Hotline.
- Access to the Village Hall across the recreation ground. This is still under consideration by the council.

There being no further business, Cllr Duffield declared the meeting closed at 8.47 p.m.

SignedDate

(Chairman)

SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL, APPLEFORD

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (May 2008 –April 2009)

Helen Kendrick, the Priest- in- charge, completed five years at Sutton Courtenay and Appleford and we are delighted that she wanted, and has been allowed by the Bishop to continue her ministry with us for another five years.

In 2008-9 Sue Helby and William Finch served as Churchwardens with Becky Fisher as the Abingdon Deanery Synod Representative. The PCC met six times in the year, its elected members being Ian Cook, Elisabeth Duffield and Daisy Webb. There are 14 members on the Church's Electoral Roll and the average weekly congregation is 11- this figure does not include the major festivals when congregations are between 30 and 60

Chris Owen retired from his role as Hon. Treasurer and handed over to Ian Cook in October. We are very grateful to Chris and would again like to publicly thank him, not only for all the hard work he so generously did when he was treasurer but also for the time and care he still gives in looking after the churchyard and opening the Church daily so anyone can find a place of peace and calm in a busy world.

We should also publicly like to thank William Finch for his six years as Churchwarden which ended on 24th April this year. Over the years we are very conscious that he has constantly juggled a busy work and personal life to fit in the necessary time and effort to perform the duties of a Churchwarden and we are very grateful to him. Fortunately he has agreed to become a member of the PCC so he can't put his feet up yet!

A pattern of services has now been established: Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays; Family Service on the second; Evening Prayer on the fourth; Morning Prayer read most Thursdays and the occasional fifth Sunday service being shared within the Damascus Group. The Patronal and Harvest Festivals and the Mothering Sunday celebration take the form of a Songs of

Praise followed by refreshments.

The constant need to raise funds and our wish to be a positive part of village life involved several events being arranged for the year:

- 11 Coffee Mornings many thanks to all those who open their homes to host these and provide delicious refreshments;
- a Treasure Hunt to tie in with the Christian Aid tea party;
- the bi-annual autumn tea party held at Manor Farm in September for which we are very grateful to Christine and Patrick Gale and thanks to all those who help make it a success; the Harvest Supper held in November in the newly refurbished Village Hall – a fun evening with food, quiz and a beetle drive;
- the Pasada again circulated through the village in the build up to Christmas-the crib figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey travelling the length of the village, staying each night at a different house and ending up at the Church for the Carol Service;
- the donkey played its regular part in the annual street nativity;
- carol singers serenaded the village in December and the money was raised was donated to charity –this year it is Water Aid;
- a Christingle was celebrated in January- the symbolic decorated oranges being made during the service and the extra ones given to some of Appleford's older or unwell villagers;
- a race evening was held in the Village Hall in April-the Vicar and co-owner Pippa Smith's horse winning the final race;
- Jane McCoubrey visited the village with her Greenhouse clothes and kindly donated all the profit to the Church;
- the Hundred Club now has 113 members and £54 of prizes are given out each month.

We are grateful to the Parish council for its financial contribution to the grass cutting of the Churchyard. There is very little space for graves in the churchyard at the moment and we are in the process of having adjacent land, kindly offered by Paddy Gale, monitored for water table suitability and then legally transferred to the Church for use as an extension to the Churchyard.

The generosity of Appleford villagers towards the Church is always amazing and we are genuinely thankful for all the support we receive.

Sue Helby

April 2009 **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 December 2008 five residents received gifts according to the terms of the Will.

Audrey Sharp
Trustee

April 2009

Village Hall Management Committee

We are pleased to be able to announce that we have appointed a new administrator, Terry O'Neill. Terry is very enthusiastic and brings a number of skills with him. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

We are awaiting an agreed grant of £1000 from the Vale of White Horse D C towards our new furniture and are also awaiting a response from the Power Station which we hope will enable us to complete the purchase of the new chairs and tables for the hall.

Further grant funds are available and we will be applying for them, in particular to build a patio and to landscape the grounds around the hall and eventually to extend and enlarge the car park and create an additional entrance to allow better and safer entry and exit.

Following the prompt from the Parish Action Plan, the Committee has decided to initiate and promote a village event on August Bank Holiday Monday. It will take the form of a Village Fete/Car Boot Sale/Craft and Horticultural events/ Cake Competition with refreshments and Cream Teas. A sub committee has been formed and additional organisational help would be greatly appreciated.

We are planning to restart the Youth Club and are taking advice from Gary Hibbins, the DAMASCUS Group youth leader. Again, any assistance or ideas would be appreciated.

Donald Alcorn
April 2009

Appleford Women's Institute President's Report – March 2009

At the start of our year we were still unable to use the Village Hall due to the on going refurbishment. The Annual Meeting with a Fish & Chip Supper in March 2008 was held at Mavis' house. In April we learnt about the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution which took place in Anne's house. In May were able to resume our meetings in the newly refurbished Village Hall. At this meeting we held a "Taste & Tell" using Delia Smiths Cheats Recipes, which had us using the new kitchen facilities. We all appreciated the hard work that went into making the refurbishment project such a success

Several members attended the Group Meeting, at Long Wittenham Village Hall. The speaker gave a very interesting & humorous talk on her life as the first Lady Toast Master.

During the rest of the year we have travelled again with talks and slides across Canada to the Niagara Falls. Also. along England's Waterways, the canals, locks and boats. Intriguing Oxford showed us a side of Oxford the tourists do not usually see. We learnt about the history of the famous tea clipper the Cutty Sark, before and after the recent fire. The speaker was the great grandson of the first Captain of the Cutty Sark.

We discussed the resolutions to be put before the National AGM to be held in London. We voted yes for 1) The Inappropriate Imprisonment of the severely mentally ill and yes for 2) A Ban on Bottom Trawling in the Fishing Industry.

The summer outing on a cool but dry June evening with our husbands & friends, was to a lovely garden in North Morton. The evening was rounded off with an excellent buffet meal at the Bear Inn.

June was also the month that Michelle one of our members from Didcot married Ian on a lovely warm sunny Saturday. Gift Vouchers were given to them as a Wedding Present.

In July Mavis & Michael Invited us to join them for a garden party at their home, to celebrate their 80th birthdays, which had taken place earlier. Unfortunately due to the weather it took place in the Village Hall. They had taken great trouble decorating the hall with suitable party items and in providing good food and wine. Members presented them with Garden and Supermarket (wine) Gift tokens. It was a great 80th Birthday Party enjoyed by all of us.

Thanks go to Michelle and Ian who ran a very successful "Bric a Brac" stall at the Church Autumn Tea Party this raised a total of £50 for us out of which 10% was given to the Church Funds.

Some members also have attended a wide variety of talks and events organised by the county this year.

Sadly, Cynthia Loney and Mary Bloxwhich have died this year, both were long standing members who had given a great deal of time and effort in supporting our W.I. They had moved away from Appleford in recent years due to ill health.

This year again our membership is very small with only 12 members but we hope to be able to continue with a mix of talks, & 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. We hope that the better facilities in the Village Hall will encourage some more ladies to join us.

Anne Hounslow
President