**Minutes of the Appleton with Eaton Parish Council meeting**

**at the Village Hall, Monday 13th February 2017 at 7.15pm**.

Susan Blomerus – Parish Clerk – 27.02.17

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mrs Susan Blomerus (Parish Clerk),Mrs Mary Carey, Mrs Liz Gilkes, Mr James Mansfield, Dr Mark Richards, Mr Tony Sibthorp, Mrs Anna Yalci

**Also present:** Cllr Tilley, Cllr Fitzgerald

1. **Apologies for absence:** Mr John Adams, Cllr Anthony Hayward
2. **Declarations of interest:** Dr Mark Richards declared an interest in agenda item 16/226: Trees in Doctors Lane as his property backs onto the bridleway.
3. **Public questions and statements:**

16/222: Footpaths: Mr Ben Connolly informed the parish council that Mr and Mrs Jefferys has no objection with the parish council laying down bark chippings in the holes in the footpath near the kissing gate at Long Close subject to the approval of Oxfordshire County Council.

16/229: Damage to tarmac and verges in Park Lane:

Mrs Margaret Hankey informed the parish council that some of the verges have been destroyed in Park Lane and she would appreciate if the verges could be restored to their original condition. Mrs Hankey said that this would restore the equilibrium to the Park Lane residents’ lives.

Mr Graham Rose informed the parish council that Park Lane is a single carriageway lane without a turning point at the end. The lane terminates at the Manor tradesman’s entrance or the Swainston’s yard. Thus most heavy vehicles reverse down Park Lane, the most difficult piece being the slight bend in the lane opposite to Thistledown House. Vehicles have found it so difficult to round this slight bend that they have gone over the edge. With the building of Number 10 Park Lane, the grassy bank opposite the new house has been beaten down by lorries and 4-wheel drive vehicles parking on what used to be the bank. Whilst Mr McGuire has been diligent about warning householders when deliveries would be blocking the lane, there have been so many vehicles delivering from different companies and with drivers with varying skills, that not only have the banks been badly damaged, but in one spot, the edge of the tarmac road has collapsed. Mr Rose is also concerned about the Gigaclear fibre cable which is laid and buried along this bank but not very deeply.

Mr Rose would like the council to consider:

A: When planning applications are made to try and persuade those who are building to allow enough entrance space so that all vehicles can use space off the road and beside their new property and not clog up the public highway.

B: For photographs to be taken before and after the development proceeds and an agreement that the developer returns the environment to its original condition.

C: To establish if Park Lane residents could fund and arrange for potholes to be repaired.

D: Ask all residents who are developing their properties to respect the environment wherever they live in Appleton and Eaton.

Ms Monica Price mentioned that some properties have very little parking space so it’s very important to have free space for parking for visitors. Builders have been parking on the left hand side of the lane making it difficult for visitors to find parking in the lane.

1. **Reports from District and County Councillors:** Cllr Tilley reported that the Oxfordshire County Council will be having a budget meeting and there are cuts that need to be made to social care, adult services and road services. Cllr Tilley mentioned that it is important that residents comment on the One Oxfordshire Consultation.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the 9th January 2017 parish council meeting and the 23rd January 2017 planning meeting were signed as a true record.
3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting and not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:**

Chain link ferry at Bablockhythe: The clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency to inform them that the parish council are interested in being part of any future meetings.

1. **Clerks report:** None
2. **Footpaths:**  The clerk emailed the Field Officer to ask if it would be acceptable to lay bark chippings in the holes along the path leading to the Besselsleigh Woods. The Field officer’s response was that bark chippings will soon rot down creating an extra layer of mud and making it into detritus which is difficult for people to walk through. His suggestion would be to add some stone to create a firm base for people to walk across. The clerk was asked to forward this email to Mr Connolly for Mr and Mrs Jeffreys to consider.
3. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Mrs Blomerus and Mr Mansfield had a meeting with Community First Oxfordshire (CFO) and CFO confirmed that Appleton and Eaton can’t allocate housing sites in the Neighbourhood Plan as all of the green space in both villages is in the Greenbelt. The Vale of White Horse District Council grant has been successful.
4. **Comet bus service:** For information only:TheWednesday Comet bus service is very popular. The Monday Comet bus service is not as popular. Unfortunately Comet can’t offer a Friday service. Mrs Carey has not been successful in applying for a grant as yet but is still pursuing this. There will be an AGM soon to launch the formation of The Bus User Group.
5. **Assets of community value:** Eight Bells Pub: Cllr Hayward received a response from Vale of White Horse District Council regarding the delisting of the Eight Bells Pub outlining that one of the factors for the removal of the pub from the list was that all the equipment had been stripped. The review is carried out by a different head of service who considers all the legal tests and in this case the decision was to remove the pub from the list. It was resolved that the clerk will email the Policy and Partnerships Manager and also ask the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils if this has happened to other communities and if so, can they give us any advice?

Appleton Community Shop: It was resolved that the parish council can’t list the community shop as an asset of community value as the shop is part of a residential property and residential properties can’t be listed.

1. **Trees in Doctors Lane:** The advice received from the Field Officer, Oxfordshire County Council, was that his department is only responsible for the vegetation growing directly from the surface of the bridleway and boundary trees are the responsibility of the landowner. If the parish council maintain the trees in Doctors lane then they will be accepting liability and will need to maintain the trees in the future. It was resolved that the parish council can’t pursue this matter any further at this time.
2. **Annual Parish meeting:** The parish council agreed that only certain organisations will be required to present a report for the Annual Parish Meeting. The clerk will email the remaining organisations informing them that submitting a report will be optional.
3. **Request for donation towards equipment to maintain pond in Netherton Road:** The parish council agreed to donate £30 towards pond maintenance equipment.
4. **Damage to tarmac and verges in Park Lane:** The parish council received a report that there has been damage to the verges in Park Lane due to contractors parking along the side of the lane and heavy vehicles delivering goods during the building of 10 Park Lane, which is now complete. The parish council are aware that Mr McGuire has offered to do remedial work and it was resolved that the clerk will write to Mr McGuire and thank him for the offer of reinstating the verge in Park Lane.

The parish council suggested that it might be helpful for the residents of Park Lane to have a meeting and come to an agreement with regards to managing large vehicles driving down the lane. It was also recommended that any potholes or damage be reported on the website [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com).

1. **Approve grass cutting quote for playground:** The parish council considered the quote to cut the grass and hedge at the playground. It was resolved to accept the quote and the parish clerk will inform the contractor.
2. **Response to correspondence from Cathie Little:** It was resolved that the December minutes be amended to more accurately reflect that the discussion of flood evacuation plans was in reference to potential large numbers of cars using Badswell Lane and creating bow waves in the event of a flash flood, if the campsite was open.
3. **Planning:**

**Permitted development:**

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| **(i)** | **P17/V0144/PDH** | 96 Netherton Road Appleton OX13 5LA | Two separate single storey rear extensions: Westernmost extension - Depth 8m Height 3.5m Height to eaves 2.36m Westernmost extension - Depth 6m Height 3.5m Height to eaves 2.36m |

**Amendments:**

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| **(i)** | **P16/V2892/HH** | 7 Town Furlong Appleton Abingdon Oxfordshire | The amendment is for: Additional parking plan submitted 31 January 2017. |

1. **Finance**

**Signing of internet access documents:** The documents were signed to allow the parish clerk to have view only online access to the parish council bank account.

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| **Invoices previously approved:** | | | |
| **368** | **AWBS Ltd:** 4 x bulk bags of sand for playground | | £358.42 |
| **Invoices** | | | |
| **369** | **Clerks Salary and expenses (January)** | See attachment  **Approved** | |
| **370** | **Ady Podbery:** verti-draining the football pitch at the sportsfield | £250.00  **Approved** | |
| **371** | **The Play Inspection Company:** Annual inspection of the playground and sportsfield | £96.00  **Approved** | |
| **372** | **Appleton Community Shop:** stationary | £6.60  **Approved** | |
| **Income received:** | |  | |
| **Lloyds Bank:** Refund of 6 months of bank charges | | £69.18 | |

1. **Publications and correspondence**

* Email thanking the parish council for their donation from the Citizen Advice Bureau
* Email from Cathie Little regarding minutes from the December parish council meeting
* Letter from Lloyds Bank regarding the security of the account

1. **Matters for report:**

* The Lock Road Group now has an email address: [lockroad17@gmail.com](mailto:lockroad17@gmail.com)
* The parish council received a report from a resident regarding the increase of air traffic over Appleton.

1. **Date of the next meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Monday 13th March 2017 at 7:15 in the village Hall.

*Meeting ended at 9.27pm*