

Appleton with Eaton
Neighbourhood Plan Launch Meeting and
Annual Parish Meeting

Saturday, 18st May 2019 at 10:00am
Appleton C of E Primary School

DRAFT Minutes (to be signed at the Annual Parish Meeting 2021)

Present from the Parish Council: Mark Richards (Chairman), Liz Gilkes (Vice Chairman), Nicki Clarke, Stephen Day, Allison Leigh (Clerk)

Present from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Claire Salmon (Chairman), Annewen Rowe, Anna Yalci, Liz Gilkes, Mark Richards, Jane Dymock Allison Leigh (Secretary)

1 Welcome: Dr Richards, Chairman of the Parish Council:

MR gave a brief welcome and housekeeping notes and invited Claire Salmon to speak about the Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Launch: Claire Salmon gave the following report on the Neighbourhood Plan. The NP for Appleton with Eaton launched in April 2016 and since that time has been developed both by the Steering Group on behalf of the PC, through consultation with the whole parish and also with outside agencies including Community First Oxfordshire and Jeremy Flawn of Bluestone Planning on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council.

A NP enables us to influence planning in Appleton with Eaton and develop a vision for the future of our villages, dovetailing into the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031. When adopted, the NP will sit alongside the Vale of White Horse Local Plan and any decisions on planning applications will be made using both the Local Plan and our NP.

We are now at a more formal stage of pre-submission consultation Reg 14 which will take 6 weeks, with statutory bodies, businesses and organisations within the parish, neighbouring parish councils. Lastly and most importantly everyone within Appleton and Eaton.

To make sure everyone has the opportunity to comment, copies of the plan were delivered to all households on May Bank Holiday (6th May 2019) along with a letter of explanation and a questionnaire for you to complete.

This is your plan for your village so please take time to read the plan document and comment. The supporting documents that underpin the NP are:

The Village Character Assessment

Green Spaces Assessment

Village Facilities

Community Connectivity

Recent Development

which you are available to read in the community shop or online via the village website.

You can complete your paper questionnaire and leave it in the box in the shop or complete it online.

After the closing date of 21st June, all responses will be carefully looked at and we will use them to ensure that the plan represents the views of the parish. The plan will then move through to consultation and on to the Inspector. Once everyone's happy, it will go to referendum.

I would like to thank everyone on the Steering Group, those involved in the character assessment, survey teams, deliverers and everyone else who has volunteered their time to help us reach this stage in the NP development.

My final thanks have to go to Susan Blomerus for her time and tremendous amount of work as NP secretary and more recently to Allison Leigh who took over the role in December. Allison has grabbed the bull by the horns so to speak and given the Steering Group new focus and drive to get this plan made.

2 Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting: The minutes of the 31st May 2018 Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

3 Reports from the Parish Council:

Chairman's speech: Mark Richards: Mark Richards gave the following report on the Parish Council.

I will quote from my namesake: Friends, Romans, Appletonians (and Eatonians), lend me your ears.

Good morning everyone, I want to say thank you for giving up your Saturday morning to be here for the Annual Parish Meeting.

This meeting is less to do with the Parish Council than to be a celebration of the village organisations that are the product of the hard work and initiative of the residents of the parish and are a proud reflection of the strong community spirit present here in Appleton with Eaton.

Again, the format we have chosen is to have exhibition tables from those organisations that are able to. Please take some time to chat and get to know what the groups are up to and if you feel inspired you may want to sign up.

Now on to the Parish Council. We have just gone through the cycle of Parish Council elections and have a change in personnel.

We say goodbye to Anna Yalci, Tony Sibthorp and Darren Vinton, who have made huge contributions to the Parish Council during their tenure. They will be missed and I'd like to thank each of them for their commitment of time and effort.

We welcome 2 new Councillors, Nicki Clarke and Stephen Day. Thank you both for offering up your time to join us, I will make sure you have plenty of jobs to keep you busy.

We also said goodbye to Susan Blomerus who was the Parish Clerk to December 2018. Susan was invaluable as a clerk during her time and a colossal thank you should go to her for everything that she did for the Parish Council and the community. Susan made the transition of our new Parish clerk go very smoothly and we welcome Allison Leigh of Eaton village as our new Parish Clerk. Allison has leapt onto the role with both feet and continues Susan's great work of enabling the Parish council to work effectively, and to make my role much less bother than it could do!

Currently we have 6 councillors but need 7 to be quorate, so we are looking to co-opt an additional councillor. If anyone is interested in filling the spot, please write to the parish clerk with a short, written statement about how you think you would be a suitable candidate and your motivations for considering joining the council. We need to find someone soon, so would warmly welcome any interest as soon as possible.

I will now relay a few of the bigger issues things that have occupied the Parish Council over the last 12 months.

First of all, the Neighbourhood plan. Thank you to Claire for her words earlier. The Neighbourhood plan has been a long process but finally we are in the end stages and are currently in the consultation phase.

Any questions you have please direct to the members of the steering group and I urge you to make sure that any feedback you have is returned by the 21st of June so that we can make the neighbourhood plan as good as it can be and truly reflect your vision of a future Appleton with Eaton.

I'd like to thank the steering group for all their efforts over the last couple of years in creating this document with huge gratitude to Claire Salmon who as chairperson has really driven the NP to completion and also Allison who has worked tirelessly to help Claire achieve this.

The other big issue that is still ongoing is the planning application for the Plough garden. The Parish Council set up a pub working group headed by Mary Carey to focus on challenging the application on behalf of the parish, as the consensus of people believe that the pub garden is an asset to not only the pub but the village and the pub working group has spent a great deal of time and effort in evidence gathering to object to the application.

Currently the latest application is still being considered and it is thanks to the pub working groups forensic analysis of the application that the planners at the vale of white horse still haven't come to a decision. We will continue to challenge the application to prevent the total loss of the garden. For more details on the work of the pub working group see Mary Carey about signing up to the friends of the plough mailing list. I'd like to thank Mary, John McDonnell, Sue Staunton, Simon Jeffreys and the other members of the pub working group for their commitment to this and hope for a positive outcome for the village.

Access to the Thames path has been an important aspect of life in Appleton with Eaton for many across the generations and the lack of access within the village has been an issue that has been more prominent in recent times.

The Parish Council has been working with the Thames access group in attempts to establish a permanent access to Northmoor lock and the Thames path. The Thames access group was set up by residents and they have developed a portfolio of evidence to provide a footpath to Northmoor lock from green lane near Appleton landing.

The Parish Council have supported this group as a reflection of the strong favour for a permanent access to the Thames path from Appleton residents. So far it has been established that the public can use Northmoor lock to cross the Thames and there has been a DMMO to re-establish a footpath from Appleton landing to Northmoor lock. This process has been made possible by the contributions of Appleton residents providing evidence for the historic use of the footpath and this is being submitted to the authorities for official recognition. I'd like us to show gratitude to Alice Parker and colleagues who have been driving this forward and has been encouraging the Parish Council to help when appropriate.

The PC will continue to try to maintain the public footpath access that is so important in a rural community such as ours.

With the increased development along the A420, especially at Kingston and soon to be Tubney, the volume of traffic along the A420 will become an increasing concern as will the volume of traffic through Appleton as a route to avoid the A420.

The Parish Council have been taking an increased interest in this and we will be working to reduce speeding and traffic volume through the village for the safety of residents, especially the children walking to school or bus stops during rush hour.

In addition, there is a real risk of the proposed Oxford-Cambridge expressway also impacting on traffic in the vicinity of Appleton, and the Parish Council is committed to opposing any proposals that lead to this.

We will be engaging with our new district councillor Jerry Avery to discuss these issues and there is a meeting setup with our MP Layla Moran to voice our concerns on this and hopefully other local issues.

A more positive note is that the comet bus service is still operating to help provide transport to and from the village, particularly for the elderly cohort of the parish. Thanks to Mary Carey who is running this service in collaboration with neighbouring villages. This is an essential service as we no longer have a bus route through the village.

L&R

The PC have invested in pitch preparation and moves to improve drainage to encourage more use by football teams to bring in more much needed revenue to support the ongoing costs of running the sportsfield.

We have had an increase in the number of football teams using the sportsfield, which is positive for income. These include several Cumnor minors kids teams, a new Appleton U13s team. We hope this will encourage participation of local children, fostering youth sport for the village.

The PC would like to thank the Appleton Cricket Club for their hard work in pitch preparations, particularly Roger Gilkes and thanks to the ACC captain Hjalmar Blomerus for continuing the proud tradition of village cricket.

Ongoing tasks include pavilion improvements. We have had quotes for new windows, and are looking to install new french doors in the first instance.

Thanks are extended to the Pricketts for generously giving up their time to paint the window frames, freshening up the pavilion and to Hjalmar Blomerus for jet washing the pavilion roof prior to re-painting. We will be looking to improve the interior, funds permitting, as soon as is possible.

All are moves to increase the appeal to use the pavilion for other events other than sports to bring in extra revenue.

Also thanks to Stuart Weatherall for working towards improving the car park surface, which was well-overdue.

Jubilee park

Thanks to friends for their tireless work in keeping Jubilee Park in great working order for the enjoyment of the children of the village.

This involves doing weekly safety checks and general maintenance such as topping up bark and sand and keeping the playground in tidy order.

The friends have also been involved in hugely appreciated fundraisers, including the quizzes at The Plough, May Day music and more, all of which have been very successful in raising money towards the maintenance of Jubilee Park.

The friends have consistently reached their target of £1000, often exceeding this in recent years, contributing to the running costs of Jubilee Park which is around £3500.

The PC can't understate the gratitude expressed for the efforts the friends of Jubilee Park over the recent years and are continuing to provide.

Thanks also go out to the Surtees and Bradbrooks for looking after the table tennis table and equipment, a very popular piece of the playground for all ages.

We look forward to an even more positive year ahead and that we continue to address village issues on behalf of all the residents. We also look forward to completing ongoing projects and initiating more for the enjoyment of village life in Appleton with Eaton.

Thank you for your patience in listening to me, please enjoy the rest of the meeting by mingling and chatting!

4 Report form Appleton Volunteer Transport Service (AVTS): Penny Morely gave the following report about AVTS. This Transport Scheme was set up in 2011 through a Village Charity to provide assistance for Villagers in Appleton and Eaton with no means of personal transport to get to health service appointments at times when the local bus service did not run or did not cover the destination for the appointment.

Initially the 10 drivers also covered the holding of the phone and we used the Advertiser to publish the scheme. Very soon we enlisted the help of the County Council Community support team which provides help for rural communities in Oxfordshire by linking various transport groups and providing information on hospital parking, insurance, advising on charges and maintaining a volunteer system.

In the first year we had 11 calls to the service and this had trebled by 2015. The gradual increase in calls was probably due to the decision, at the suggestion of the Community council to widen the catchment area, so we included Fyfield, Tubney, Besselsleigh and Eaton. This also encouraged others to volunteer as drivers which by then was essential since several drivers in Appleton had either moved away or ceased to drive. It became obvious that we had a number of very regular users of the scheme, mostly those living on their own, with no family locally or neighbours they wished to ask for a lift. Some residents would require a one-way trip either to or from their appointments, making their own arrangements or catching the Oxford bus.

The removal of the village bus service to Oxford, which had provided some independence for elderly or moderately disabled people, was quite a blow. In 2016 we took patients 85 times to appointments and in 2017 77 times and in 2018 83 times.

2019 has seen a surprising and significant change with reduction in the use of the scheme, possibly due to two factors:

The Comet Minibus Service has made appointments in Abingdon on a Monday possible as never before to the GP services now that the Surgery is no longer held in the Village Hall. The service to Oxford on a Wednesday has been quite a help as it allows people to transfer to a hospital bus service in the town centre.

Secondly, sadly many of the regular users have come off the list due to death or moving away through being unable to continue living in their own home. Initially it was thought that the loss of the surgery, the increase of volunteer commitments in other areas of need and the increase of illness amongst the drivers themselves might combine to increase the burden on the transport scheme. However, this has not proved to be the case up to now. In the first 5 months of 2019 there were 16 calls.

The scheme will continue for as long as it is thought to be worthwhile and we are grateful for the advert in the monthly Appleton Advertiser.

Displays of organisations that were present at the meeting:

- Appleton 250 Club
- Appleton Community Shop
- Appleton Tennis Club
- Appleton with Eaton Cricket Club
- Appleton with Eaton Gardening Club
- Appleton with Eaton History Group
- Appleton Women's Institute
- Besselsleigh Wood Group
- Friends of Jubilee Park
- OX13 Youth Organisation
- Police Community Service Officer
- Rainbows/Beavers
- St Laurence Church, Appleton
-

Reports received from organisations:

APPLETON 250 CLUB

The club's officers are:

Chairman - Barbara Kimsey
Secretary - Betty Griffiths
Treasurer - Susan Johnson

Additional Committee members:

Diana Lawrence
Adrian Cox
Maureen Alner

Maureen Alner replaced former committee member Jo Golding who stepped down this year after several years of loyal service to the club.

Appleton 250 Club has been operating since 1970 and has a maximum membership of 250 each member paying an annual subscription, currently £4, collected at the start of the financial year in June.

The club was set up solely for the benefit of the village enabling small donations to local organisations or groups in need of financial assistance on request to the committee. In addition, fixed annual payments of £200 each are made to the Parish Council towards the upkeep of Appleton Sports field and to the Village Hall. An annual contribution of £20 is made to the Appleton Advertiser.

The Committee meets 4 times a year at 3 monthly intervals for the purpose of drawing the winning members numbers and to consider any requests received. For some considerable time, the quarterly prize amounts have been: 2 prizes of £25 and 5 prizes of £10 - a total annual payment in prize money of £400.

Starting in the new financial year (beginning of June 2019) the value and number of prizes awarded in the Draw are to change. There will be fewer prizes, 4 instead of 7, made up of 1 at £50, 2 at £20, and 1 at £10 - total £100.

Any monies left after the fixed payments and prizes is available for donating to village organisations on request.

During the past year awards have been granted to:

Evergreen Club £75

Appleton Scouts £75

OX 13 Youth Club £75

As in previous years vacancies in membership have been created by people moving away, discontinuation of membership and other circumstances and we would welcome new members.

APPLETON COMMUNITY SHOP

The Village Shop continues to provide a valued service for the Village. Whilst it may be tempting fate to report that all is 'going well' that is indeed the case right now. In last year's report I set the challenge that 2019 should be the highest turnover ever and am delighted to report that the challenge has been met and turnover for the year just ended (30th April) is indeed a record.

Maybe more importantly for the village the broad stock range fulfils most of our customers' requirements and those who work there, both employees and volunteers, appear to enjoy what they do and be happy to be part of what is truly a community activity.

Open for 69 hours a week and with almost a hundred volunteers our Community Shop remains the envy of many a village, both within the County and beyond and I would like to thank the Directors, the Management and the many many volunteers who put time, thought and effort into ensuring that the village is provided with as good a convenience store as is practicable whilst keeping prices reasonable and the products many and varied.

There have been no major innovations since I last reported but the coffee machine- and home-made cakes continue to attract increasing numbers of passers-by, drivers, cyclists and walkers, and there has been a marked increase in villagers dashing in with a 'I haven't got anything for supper'.

We are very happy to try to accommodate additional requests for products to be stocked and would encourage all villagers to put their requests and ideas into the suggestion box. In the meantime, I must once again thank all our volunteers for the more than 4000 hours a year they generously give to making Appleton Community Shop the success that it undoubtedly is.

If you're not already a volunteer and would like to be, please drop by the Shop and let us know. You'd be very welcome!

THANK YOU TO EVERYBODY

Jane Cranston
Chairman

APPLETON TENNIS CLUB

Development Activities

The members of the club continue to make this a friendly and welcoming club to people of all ages and abilities.

To support this, we have started Sunday family sessions every first Sunday of the month from 10-11am for kids aged 5-10 with their families. These are run by our professional coach Craig and are open to members and non-members at a cost of £2.50 each or £5.00 for a family of four. All abilities are welcome, just turn up and play, all tennis equipment is available free of charge.

We have introduced the LTA's clubspark this year which offers many ways of improving members experience. The first thing that we have implemented is on line court bookings, this has been successful and is easy to use.

We have also introduced one of clubsparks other facilities, paying membership electronically. The intention is to use this for coaching payments in future.

The club's website is now hosted on the LTA clubspark site:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AppletonwithEatonTennisClub>

We have appointed Alison Jackson as the safeguarding representative and improved our policy and procedures. This is to safeguard kids and vulnerable adults at the club.

Maintenance

Clubhouse externals have been re-sealed, clubhouse was built 8 years ago.

Due to the level of wear on the courts and a puddle starting to appear on court 1 the next major expenditure is planned to be court resurfacing which we plan to do early 2020. This will keep our courts at the high standard that we have come to expect. The club has the cash in its account to pay for this.

Membership

Our membership numbers remain strong at very similar levels to last year

Adult 75

Family 67 people from 17 family memberships

Junior 11 and under 53

Junior 12 and over 7

Honorary 4

Accompanying Adult 1

Coaching

Coaching continues to be well supported thanks to Craig Amieson Smith, Rob Scriven and the volunteers that support these sessions. Its good to see Ted Danson now as an assistant on these sessions after starting on them 5 years ago. The floodlights have allowed for a longer coaching season which as we hoped has increased retention from one season to the next and adds to the number of sessions that we have through the year for both juniors and adults.

Where we had approximately 70 juniors regularly attending.

Adult coaching started 29th April for 6 weeks initially then will continue through the summer after that if there is demand.

Club sessions

All sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday once a month for the new family sessions continue to be well attended.

Thanks to the session organisers who help make this a friendly inclusive atmosphere that encompasses our clubs ethos and makes the club the success that it is. If anyone has not played for a while and would like to come along feel free to try one of our sessions.

APPLETON WITH EATON CRICKET CLUB

It was a busy summer in 2018 at the sportsfield; this was well used by the cricket club.

Appleton Cricket Club continues to flourish; most of the players either live in the village, used to live in it, or have a strong association with it.

The club played around thirty friendly matches last year, with around eighteen taking place at home on the sportsfield. Most of these are 40-over matches and take place on Sundays; a few 20-over matches are played on Wednesdays evenings.

Appleton Cricket Club members are grateful for the use of such a good facility. The cricket ground is prepared for matches by volunteers. It also brings in some income to the Parish Council when it is let to other clubs.

The club owns three old mowers and a roller for maintaining the square; these are kept in the metal shed; it also owns a gang mower, a toppler and a sixty year old tractor for extra cuts of the outfield; the tractor currently is out of action and needs a major overhaul of its engine.

The field & pavilion were also hired by other cricket teams (e.g. Cumnor C.C.) on around ten occasions in 2018.

The roof of the pavilion has been jet washed, partly by cricket club volunteers, and looks good.

Our thanks are due to Sanchia and Richard Prickett, who also painted and filled the pavilion's exterior woodwork; however, some of it still needs attention quite urgently, especially the french windows.

Roger Gilkes - ACC Chairman

APPLETON WITH EATON GARDENING CLUB

The Appleton & Eaton Gardening Club has had a satisfactory year.

At the start of our year, last May, we held our fifth annual Plant Sale in the Village Hall, and through the generosity of our members and other donors we raised a sum sufficient to cover the cost of our winter programme of speakers for 2018-19.

The Appleton Village Show, organised by the Garden Club, took place as ever on the first Sunday in September, also in the Village Hall. Fears that the exceptionally hot summer, which had made vegetable growing more difficult, would impact on the Show were largely unfounded. Entries in the horticultural classes were only marginally down, other classes were well supported, and the Show was considered to be a success. Sales of produce went well, and enabled the Show to make a small surplus.

The winter season of speaker meetings went well. We had a number of exceptionally good speakers, covering a range of subjects from the Painswick Rococo Gardens to the essential activities of dung beetles.

The Garden Club, like many other organisations, suffers from an aging (and hence falling) membership. However, our full programme for the next 12 months is already in place, beginning with our Plant Sale on 25th May 2019. The Club has elected a new Chairman, Robert Longstaff, and he and his Committee will carry the Club forward into 2020.

APPLETON WITH EATON HISTORY GROUP

The club has had another quietly productive year. We have met on nine occasions to discuss topics of interest, to listen to presentations from members and to plan for events. We generally meet on the first Thursday of each month.

The club was asked to mount a display for Remembrance Day in the Village Hall. The centrepieces for this were enlarged pages taken from Alison Strugnell's booklet about the Appleton War Memorial. These were complimented by some personal documentation loaned for the occasion.

We staged for the third year running the annual round-up presented by the leadership of the AAARP. This was again well supported by some 60 visitors who were both informed and challenged by the interesting contributions of the four speakers. We continue to enjoy and benefit from our close association with the Project leaders and are grateful for their inclusive approach towards the village and its residents.

Our self-imposed challenge of producing at least one publication per year was met in December with the launch of 'Awesome Histories' volume 6. Monica Price is to be congratulated for this achievement. More recently, short articles have once again been submitted to the 'Appleton Advertiser' covering an eclectic range of topics. Our substantial publications continue to sell steadily through the Village Shop. We are grateful to the Shop Managers for this facility.

'Field trips' have been fewer in number this year. Three members visited the National Archives in Kew in February. This was followed with a visit by a larger group of members to St. John's College archives where maps and documents of specific local interest were examined. This was partially in connection with an initiative Dr Jane Harrison had suggested we might undertake. Two sub groups have been formed: one with the task of researching local place names and the other with comparative studies of historical local mapping with a view to observing recorded changes across the last 250 years.

We look forward to another interesting year.

John S B Page Chairman

APPLETON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

It's been a normal year of meetings, outings and events at Appleton WI. We continue to meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Village Hall as we have since 1926.

This year, 2019, is the Centenary of the Oxfordshire Federation of Women's Institutes and their annual meeting was held in the Kassam conference centre, a much larger venue than usual. Several of our members attended as did our National chairman, the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, two visiting speakers and about six hundred fellow members.

Our own Oxfordshire chairman gave a very comprehensive overview of the progress of the WI in Oxfordshire throughout those years and there was a parade of banners from most WIs. Our own new banner, completed for the millennium, was carried by Barbara Kimsey, a long-standing member of Appleton WI, who had helped to create it.

(When our Institute was formed, we were in Berkshire but were absorbed into Oxfordshire with the boundary changes in the 1970s)

This year the main resolution, or item for debate at the National Annual Meeting is the decline in bus services in rural areas. This was overwhelmingly voted for in our meeting. Although members living along a major route in to Oxford are well served, those living in Appleton are not so fortunate and loss of a regular and reliable bus service impacts on their lives. We are very good at car sharing but that doesn't compensate for the independence that a bus service provides.

Attracting new members is an ongoing concern, not confined to the WI, but is a problem for most traditional organisations.

We aim to provide speakers with a wide range of topics, to welcome visitors and make our meetings a friendly and worthwhile experience.

Sally Lawton (President of Appleton WI 2018 - 2019)

BESSELSLEIGH WOOD GROUP

The Besselsleigh Wood Group has for some years carried out the maintenance of the wood on behalf of the owner, the Vale of White Horse District Council.

As a small group of volunteers dealing with several acres of woodland, and some thousands of mature and semi-mature trees, the amount which we can do is limited to the more important things.

Over the past 12 months we have

- dealt with some considerable wind-damaged trees which have seen branches fall across footpaths,
- kept footpaths clear of encroaching bramble and bracken,
- maintained as an open area of grass the 'Woodfest' site to the north-east of the wood,
- re-planted deer-damaged hedging to the eastern boundary,
- cleared a stand of sycamore prior to replanting with birch and Douglas fir in the autumn,
- sold some logs to help to finance the Group's activities.

There is a fortnightly on-site Thursday evening meeting through the summer to attend to essential jobs, particularly Himalayan balsam pulling, and all are welcome.

Details are available from John Page on 864 808.

FRIENDS OF THE JUBILEE PARK

The Friends of Jubilee Park continue to carry out weekly safety checks on the park equipment and infrastructure as well as raising funds towards the annual cost of £3,000 that is required for the upkeep of the park. Our contribution this year (2018-19) of £1,000 was raised through two quiz nights, held at the Plough, and a very successful May Day event in the Park when Nick Cope entertained a large crowd of children (and adults).

The Friends also hold occasional maintenance days which are open to everyone. No special skills are required, just enthusiasm!

We try and maintain the number of Friends at twelve (one for each month of the year) but some couples share positions. We would like to express our thanks to Kerrie Gaughan and Tina Mould who have left the Friends during this year and welcome Jess/Mark and Juliet/Colin as their replacements. New members are always welcome.

We would also like to record our particular thanks to Rosie Page for the magnificent work she does in keeping the beds, trees and hedgerows in the park looking so wonderful. Thanks are also due to Rick Hopgood, Stuart Wetherall and Nick Hester for their contributions to the safety of Jubilee Park.

Nick Withers May 2019

OX13 YOUTH ORGANISATION

OX13 committee and members wish to thank the Parish Council and Appleton for their continued support; your financial contribution to the club and your financial support of the Children's Christmas party run by OX13 for the young.

OX13 Appleton Youth Club runs for Year 8 to 18 years old. An average of around 15 young people attend every other Thursday evening in term time.

This year we organised a fundraising event 'Farmyard Race Night' which was a very good evening's entertainment in the barn at 'South Lawn' and well supported by the village. Proceeds were shared between OX13 and Oxfordshire Youth.

Members also enjoyed supporting and helping out at other village events including the Ceilidh, St Laurence Parish Drinks and the Harvest party.

We continue as a full partner of Oxfordshire Youth, and this year we have had our Ambition Quality kitemark renewed. This is given in recognition of good quality, safe youth provision.

As always, along with regular club nights, we host a variety of guest providers who run activities for us. Last summer's 'Bubble Football' was highly entertaining and we hosted a highly successful and informative workshop 'Good Food for your Mood'.

'Table tennis challenge night' drew the biggest crowd. Members from Appleton Senior table tennis club and OX13 formed pairs and it was a highly active evening and great fun.

Tennis night courtesy of the tennis club is also a popular and energetic evening along with our annual 'Grand prix' when we give our club built Go-Kart a run thanks to the Careys.

Cookery remains a firm favourite with members. Pizza night with Tony Sibthorp is a big success, but members continue to surprise us with some exotic concoctions all produced within an hour and a half under Sue's guidance on regular club nights.

Many thanks again for your invaluable support.

Adrian Carey, Lisa Fogden, Howard Thomas, Julie Hester, Alison Jeffreys, Sue Sternberg and Adrian Willett.

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

I have been asked to put together some information for you. The topics are as follows: scams (including cold callers), parking, and purse thefts.

Scams

I will briefly advise you on scams that you should be aware of, but I have booklets that are more detailed if you would prefer one of those. Please get in contact with me and I can bring one to you.

At the moment, scams seem to be more prominent over the phone. Usually, you will receive a call from someone pretending to be your internet provider, phone provider or bank. They may ask you to give your bank details to make your account or money 'safe'. NEVER give your bank details over the phone. Hang up the phone, and ring them back on their official number, or go into your bank directly. NEVER allow someone access to your computer.

If someone phones you to try and sell you something, hang up the phone and block the number. There are methods of filtering out scammers and cold callers. If you ring your phone provider, they can put a system in place whereby the caller must declare who they are before they get put through to you. You then get to decide if you answer their call or not.

Parking

School parking is something that I hear about quite often. Myself and my crew mate, PCSO Adi Wright, regularly patrol the schools in our areas to keep the parking tidy and legal. Unfortunately, we are not able to reduce the number of cars, but we can help to keep them neat. We also cannot do this routinely, but will react where necessary. If someone's parking is breaking the law, we will deal with it accordingly. We have regular contact with the schools and are working with them to try to combat the parking issues. Please know that the schools are doing everything they can.

Purse thefts

Please be aware of how much cash you carry whilst shopping in town. Many people are taking out large quantities of money, including their pensions, and going into town to do their shopping. Avoid this where possible as it makes you a target for purse thefts. We have been doing a lot of work for this, which includes increased patrols, advice, and purse bells etc, but you should remain vigilant. Open bags and purses have been the main problem for this as it is easily taken without you being aware. Make sure all money is properly secured and kept on you at all times. Avoid leaving your handbag out of sight.

Selene Moquet, PCSO

RAINBOWS/BEAVERS

Most of the beavers achieved their chief scout bronze award this year (highest award for their age group). We had a successful camp last September, which helped. We have done lots of outside activities when weather has permitted and several went to sing along Santa last year and had enjoyable afternoon.

Rainbows are getting to grips with our new programme and are looking forward to being able to get out of the hall more.

Both groups joined the international jamboree on the trail and earned their badge, which goes towards their hiker badge and other badges.

Numbers in both sections are low at present although beavers is gently picking up and hopefully rainbows will follow suit.

ST LAURENCE CHURCH

For several years now, the strap-line of our Church has been: Worshipping, Sharing, Caring – in the Name and Love of God. Over the past year, we have sought as a Christian community to be true to this aspiration, by meeting together for worship, study and mutual encouragement on Sundays and in our Midweek groups, and also by seeking to connect with the wider parish through various events and activities. Indeed, I have just returned (stuffed full of scones and cake) from the very well-attended and much-appreciated “Bluebell Teas” in the church building.

In addition to our (relatively) contemporary service at 10 am each Sunday, we have maintained the regular pattern of more traditional services too: Communion services (using the 17th Century Book of Common Prayer) take place at 8 am on the first Sunday of every month, and Evensong is held on the first and third Sundays at 6 pm. This being the case, I continue to be grateful for the support of several younger preachers (mostly from my old church in Oxford), who have in turn welcomed the opportunity to cut their teeth in the pulpit. Will Harwood, our placement student from Wycliffe Hall last September, also benefitted greatly from his five-week stint in the parish; and his preaching and pastoral ministry was, so far as I could tell, much appreciated by those who heard and met him. Please look out for and welcome Steve Short to Appleton and Eaton, when he joins us for a ministry placement in June.

After a disappointing downturn in interest for the Christianity Explored course in 2018, a new course recently got under way, with all the participants finding it to be a thought-provoking and valuable hour in their week; why not give it a try next time around?!

A more comprehensive review of the past year can be found in our Annual Report on the Church website. To read it, please go to the St Laurence Homepage and click the APCM button; or (if you have the time!) type the following into your browser: <http://www.stlaurenceappleton.org/apcm/4594513407>

Finally, if you have any questions at all about St Laurence Church - or indeed, more broadly, about the Christian faith - please don't hesitate to get in touch: kencampbell@stlaurencechurchappleton.org or 01865 655737.

The event ended at 11am.