

## Appleton with Eaton Annual meeting of the Parish

Held on **Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm**

In Appleton Village Hall

# Minutes

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

**Also present:** Mrs Claire Salmon, Mr Andy Salmon, Mr Roger Gilkes, Mr Nick Withers, Mrs Betty Griffiths, Mr Richard Snow, Mr Tim Jack, Miss Jo Loots, Mrs Sue Hine, Mrs June Edgington, Mrs Trish Wagstaff

**Apologies:** Mrs Sara Murray (Village Hall Committee), Mr Andrew Eastgate (Tennis Club), Mrs Alison Jeffreys (OX13 and St Laurence Church), Mr Tony Sibthorp, Mr Kayhan Yalci (Website), Mr John Page (History Group) Mr Charles Moorley (Gardening Club), Mr Jerry Uren (Appleton Community Shop), Mrs Angi Levell-Collins (Parish Path Warden) Mrs Anabelle Brown (Appleton Primary School) Mr Jamie Moya-Flood (Police Community Support Officer)

**1 Welcome:** Mr Mansfield welcomed all those present to the Annual Parish Meeting

**2 Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting.**

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 was adopted and signed as a true record.

**3 Reports from the Parish Council**

**Chairman's report on the Parish Council's activities in the last year:**

Good evening everyone, it's great to see so many of you here. For those of you not acquainted with the way we work these meetings, following this and the Clerks notes each parish organisation has been given 3 minutes to tell us what they have been up to and there will be time available afterwards for questions. At the end of the evening we hope you will all join us in a drink and some nibbles.

In writing this I decided to look back at past chairman's reports, I noticed a couple of things, every one without fail mentioned that it had been a busy year for the parish council this either means that it gets busier every year or its consistently the same level of busyness ! So I won't mention that. They all said that they wouldn't mention all the things that the PC had been up to in the year and that one could look at the minutes if you really wanted to know. So I won't mention that either. Almost everyone mentioned dog poo, and I'm defiantly not going to mention that. So what's left is the things I can mention that future chairman won't be able to plagiarise.... The beginning of the year saw us working with Tim Davis from Appleton house to improve the hard standing at the top of Oaksmere, our thanks go to Tim and his family for their generous donation, I think you'll all agree that it's looks brilliant. One other notable triumph is the works to green lane down to the river which have made the lane a great place to walk and I hope will be further improved by having it ditched. Watch this space.

Enough from the archives, What I want talk about is the spirit of this vibrant community every person in this village hall today, a village hall built by the passion and hard work of the villagers, deserves to be commended, and many more who can't be here, every shift at the village shop, every helper at church, every fundraising event for the playground. All this and much more often done by tireless individuals for the community. However there is potential threat to this from Government, it comes, in my opinion, in the form of relentless housing development, villages around us have been expanded beyond recognition and whilst there is no immediate threat to the parish the Parish council has decided now is the time to

embark on a Neighbourhood plan, a neighbourhood plan will allow us, the villagers, to decide our fate on such things as affordable housing, retirement housing, infrastructure, green space and community areas and public access. We had our preliminary meeting a couple of weeks ago with great success and on Monday we start the hard work. I believe this project is the most important thing we can do to help shape and develop how we want the community to grow in the next 50 years. So with that in mind please come along and volunteer your help on Monday night.

Finally all I have to say is thank you, thank you to all my fellow councillors for their hard work and support in the past year, thank you to Suzan, our tireless Clarke for putting up with me and all her hard work and devotion, and finally thank you to all of you for your continued commitment to making Appleton and Eaton the dynamic and outstanding community it is today.

**Clerk's report on the financial records for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016:** Mrs Blomerus gave a summary of the financial position and transactions that occurred during the year. Report is attached to the end of the minutes.

#### **4 Thames Valley Police Report** by Jamie Moya-Flood

17 Crimes were reported in total from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. All of which occurred in Appleton, There were no crimes reported/occurred in Eaton between the same dates.

The crimes reported to the police were the following:

- 5 X Criminal damage
- 2 X Nuisance messaging
- 1 X Theft of vehicle
- 1 X Burglary other than a dwelling
- 1 X Assault
- 2 X Other thefts
- 5 X Other crimes

Appleton is still a very low crime area as is the surrounding area

#### **5 Reports from within the parish**

##### **Appleton C of E Primary School**

read by Sue Hine (School Governor) on behalf of Annabelle Brown

At present Appleton Primary School have 182 children on roll. This is a reduction since last year due to the relocation of several families. Children at Appleton School continue to achieve well against government measures. Last year's data shows both Key Stage One (7 year olds) and Key Stage 2 (11 year olds) to be performing above the national average.

The school have an enthusiastic and hardworking staff comprising of 8 class teachers, 12 teaching assistants and two office staff. Part time PE, French, Music and Drama Teachers are also employed by the school. The Staff run several after school clubs including a range of sports, drama, art and music. Afterschool Childcare Club is now available four days a week (an increase of one day from last year).

Appleton Primary School continues to provide a full and varied curriculum for our children and supplement this with a range of opportunities such as visits to the Story Museum, Chedworth Roman

Villa, Cotswold Wildlife Park and Science Museum (London). Visitors are also invited into school such as author Abi Elphinstone, Fire Service, School Nurse and Mr Mansfield's lambs.

Cycling Proficiency courses have been offered to two year groups this year. This should be sustainable now with the training of a Teaching Assistant and a parent.

The Forest School continues to thrive and is offered weekly to Foundation Stage with all other classes getting a six week block of sessions. This has impact on the confidence and team building skills within the children. We also have noticed an improvement in the language skills of some of our vulnerable learners.

Sport continues to have a high profile at Appleton School and we have taken part in several county finals (cross country, under 9 football and sports hall). Children have also been able to compete against partnership schools in badminton, tennis, athletics, football, High Fives (similar to Netball), cricket, cross country, swimming and tag rugby.

Appleton Primary School have been very lucky this year to have realised our ambition and replaced the old AstroTurf with a new and much larger surface. Not only is this providing a great outdoor surface for sport but it is allowing all the children to have outside play both at break and lunchtime whatever the weather (unless of course the rain is torrential). We are very grateful to the Friends of Appleton School for all their fundraising efforts which allowed this to happen. We have also re-turfed some of the original backfield making the whole space usable in the drier months.

Two Carol Services were held again this year; one in the morning for the younger children and their parents and one in the evening for the older children and their families, both incorporating music and drama performed by the children. The produce from our annual Harvest Festival was used partly to fill harvest parcels which were delivered to older members of the village by our children, with the residue being delivered to the food bank to help local families in need. We have raised money for the Embo Charity, Macmillan Cancer Support, Sports Relief and Children in Need. We sadly said goodbye to Revd Lyn on 21<sup>st</sup> with a whole school tea party. The children will miss her 'Naughty Nora' stories in Collective Worship.

Our Collaborative Partnership with Matthew Arnold School and the 5 primary schools which feed it (Cumnor, North Hinksey, West Oxford, Botley and St Swithuns) has been a very effective way for us to share good practice and also support each other through the huge number of Government initiatives which have been instigated this year.

Appleton is a wonderful village school. I have very much enjoyed being part of it for the last 23 years (the last 4 as Headteacher). I am sure it will go from strength to strength under the stewardship of Amy Carnell the new Headteacher.

### **Appleton Community Shop**

*read by Tim Jack on behalf of Jerry Uren*

This year is the 16<sup>th</sup> year that the shop has been running as a Community Shop.

The Shop has continued to meet its ethos of being a shop for the community run by the community and the Directors would like to thank the staff and the large number of the volunteers for their support in running it. Between them they do a whole range of different jobs and their contributions large or small are key to ensuring that we can meet the shop's ethos.

The Shop made a small accounting loss last year and the turnover has stayed static compared to previous years. There are a number of reasons for this including changes in the demographics of the

parish and the growth of Internet shopping. In order to help ensure the shop moves forward a questionnaire was developed last year by a small team and circulated around the parish last year. The results from it identified that the whilst the shop met many of the needs of the parish there were areas where it could be improved such as marketing and stock carried, which are being taken forward by the shop management committee. The questionnaire also highlighted the importance of the Post Office to the parish.

In helping to try and improve the use of the shop I would like to highlight the initiative by Rosie Page in keeping the shop open on a Saturday afternoon throughout the Summer as way of gaining custom from the campers and as it turned out, it was also well used by the local community.

The shop was inspected by the Food Standards Agency and I am pleased to report that it has maintained its 5 star food hygiene rating. This was due to the hard work of Claire Salmon supported by the other staff and volunteers in maintaining a high standard of hygiene.

The only structural change to the shop last year was the installation of a new air conditioning system which is paying dividends as the old system was costing a lot to keep running and was also inefficient resulting in the chillers and freezers having to work harder to stay cold and thus use more electricity.

Going forward, the Directors of the shop are looking at innovative ways to help ensure it continues to provide be a successful community enterprise and are being supported by individuals with significant retail experience.

Finally I would like to reiterate the thanks to both the staff and the volunteers for their support last year, and the previous 15 years, in helping to provide a wonderful asset for the community.

### **Appleton Village Hall Committee**

*Read by Mary Carey on behalf of Sara Murray*

There was a change in the management committee due to the resignation of the Chairman, Robert Munro. A big thank you to Mr Munro for steering the committee for his tenure. Special thanks are due to all the members of the committee for their commitment and hard work during the past twelve months. Our thanks also to Richard Clanfield for taking the bookings.

The Hall continues to be well used by a variety of village organisations and individuals, and bookings have remained steady during the year.

Our agreement with The Malthouse Surgery is working well and continues to benefit the village and is convenient to both parties.

The bar continues to provide an important service and remains an additional source of revenue. We wish to thank Richard Clanfield for his work in the bar.

### ***Maintenance***

The lights in the hall were replaced with new low energy fittings.

The windows in the committee room have been replaced with uPVC double glazed units.

After consultation with all regular users of the hall the committee recognize that there is an urgent need to increase the storage capacity within the hall. We are looking at utilizing the space under the stage which will require alteration of the stage support to accommodate new access into the area.

Considerable effort goes to maintaining the hall in good repair, and in this regard, our thanks should go to our hard-working handyman/cleaner, Jim Coleman.

### ***Future Projects / Events***

We have started our campaign to modernise and upgrade the village hall kitchen. Our aim is to install a commercial kitchen, which will be suitable to be used by professional caterers, making the hall more

attractive to hirers. The committee will be organizing fundraising events but will also look to submit applications for grant funding.

### ***Finances***

It is the policy of the charity to hold reserves that have not yet been committed or designated for any particular purpose. The Trustees have set aside these reserves in order to protect the future operations of the charity from the effects of any unforeseen variations in its income streams as part of a policy of good financial management practice. At 30 April 2015 the Village Hall Management Committee held its reserves of £11,544 in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund. At 19th April 2016 we hold £11,583 in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund and £20,057 in the Current Account.

### **St Laurence Church, Appleton**

*Read by James Mansfield on behalf of Alison Jeffreys*

St Laurence Church was full on Sunday 24th April to say farewell to Reverend Lyn and Phil and now we have begun the process of recruitment of our new Rector. Good news! All services will continue as usual and we have a number of interesting clergy coming to take them. We are permitted to replace Reverend Lyn and on Tuesday evening we consulted with a representative group of around 50 from the community to listen and share our thoughts about how we can best serve the parish.

There is now a timetable in place, and, if all goes well, we shall be interviewing by mid-July with a view to a new Rector taking up post in the Autumn which would coincide with the new Headmistress starting at school. We have also heard that we do not need to rent out the Rectory during the interregnum.

Contact details have been widely circulated so that anyone and everyone knows who to contact with any questions. You can find details on the Church noticeboard and in Church, the village website, and in the Advertiser. In preparation for change, our active Pastoral care team are ready and able to assist anyone who might need their help and support. In any doubt, please ring any member of the PCC.

Martin French, our lay minister with permission to officiate, is already a well-known face to the children in school, and he will continue to take assemblies there.

There are weddings taking place over the summer and lots of fun activities including the Pet service, and of course, Church will be open every day.

We're confident that we can continue to support the community and we are very grateful to the Parish council and community for supporting us especially in this time of change.

### **OX13 Youth Club**

*Report by Alison Jeffreys read by John Adams*

2016 has been a very busy year of activities and firsts for the club! We would like to begin of course by thanking everyone. We thank you for your continued support; your financial contribution to the club and your financial support of the Children's Christmas party run by OX13 for the young.

We continue to average around 20 young people attending every other week. Cookery remains a firm favourite with members. From Pizza with Tony Sibthorp to pasties with Sue, it is amazing how many cook in an hour and produce something seriously delicious by the end of the evening. Tennis night courtesy of the tennis club and rounders at the sports field, Dodge ball and craft are ever popular.

As a full partner of Oxfordshire youth, we benefit from courses they organise specifically aimed at helping run voluntary youth organisations and from ideas and bookable workshops we can source for club nights. Members have been able to take advantage of all sorts of interesting activities they offer. 'Beat box' and 'Street Dance' workshops were extremely popular. We can also access activities otherwise too expensive to source. UPS 'Road Code' workshop was a worthwhile example of this. Free to us, facilitated by Oxfordshire Youth,

UPS sponsor a driving awareness programme aimed at 15-16 year olds. They bring simulators and pizza and we spent a valuable Saturday morning in the village hall. Our recent planting of wildflower seeds in the playground donated by 'GrowWild' – initiated by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, was also sourced via them.

Oxfordshire Youth are a charity needing fundraising, and, in November we hosted a pilot joint fundraiser in the barn at South Lawn 'Farmyard race night'. The event is designed to help youth clubs raise funds for both themselves and Oxfordshire youth. It was a big success and great entertainment in true Appleton style. We are sure it will become a biannual favourite!

Another first for OX13 but definitely to be repeated, was our table tennis challenge from Appleton's senior table tennis club! Members from each club formed pairs to enter the competition. It was an extremely active evening and great fun.

As you see, the community has been very involved with our members and OX13 has been very involved with the community helping out at other community organised events The Harvest Party, the Ceilidh, St Laurence Parish drinks, Woodfest to name amongst others.

Last but not least, we are desperate for further help and especially male help. We have said a fond farewell to Phil Sapwell who has retired from OX13 and Appleton. It is not a big commitment and doesn't require any preparation. Helping out a few times a year would be wonderful. Please contact us, or come and join in one evening.

Many thanks again for your invaluable support.

### **Tennis Club**

*Report by Andrew Eastgate read by James Mansfield*

Andrew extended the club's thanks to Alison and Colin for hosting the Tennis Club AGM at the Plough and also thank them once again for hosting us for the annual BBQ last May, our Tennis Club Dinner in December and our Presentation evening all of which were a great success. It has been quite a busy year with some major planning and changes happening at the Tennis Club. With the club moving away from the Parish Council control due to regulation change and we have been busy getting planning permission for the floodlights which has been approved.

I would then like to take this opportunity to thank the whole Committee who have supported me and worked very hard for the club during the past 12 months. We have a change of some of the major roles this year with Vicki Jack standing down as your Club Secretary, Alan Murray standing down as Club Treasurer, Duncan Todd standing down and leaving the Committee as the Club's Coaching Officer, Libby Willett standing down as Club Match Secretary and Adrian Willett standing down and leaving the Committee as Club Membership Secretary. But we have some people who have stepped up to the plate to take on these roles. Alice Parker has volunteered to be your new Club Secretary, Paul Haines as Club Treasurer, Rob Scriven as Club Coaching Officer, David Helson as Club Match Secretary, Alan Murray as Club Membership Secretary and John Stedman joining as a new Committee Member. We have a vacancy for Maintenance Officer which is currently being shared between members.

We have had a very successful year of coaching with Craig AmisonSmith as our coach. A huge thank you to Craig and also to Duncan, who have planned and organised the coaching over the past 12 months, come rain or shine. The cardio tennis sessions are still proving very popular on Wednesday mornings. I know all the juniors have enjoyed their coaching and we hope to be able to keep these coaching sessions going all year round; weather permitting once we have the floodlights installed. A quick update on the floodlight installation process: I would like to thank Alan Murray and Adrian Willett who are with myself your subcommittee for the floodlight project. We are currently installing which will hopefully be completed in the next few days.

Events at the Tennis Club last year were a friendly tournament in aid for Rally for Bally where we raised over £100 plus gift aid to go towards Elena Baltacha's fund after her sad death from cancer.

We also ran a British Tennis Weekend Day to encourage new players and family members to enjoy the game of tennis. The Club tournament was again hard fought, well done to all the winners. Thank you to all of those that helped on finals day and also thank you to Alison for organising the tournament once again. Also you can now see the winners on our new honour boards in the clubhouse, which are updated annually by Meriel are publicity Officer. The club is also now on Facebook which has been organised by Meriel for which I thank her and also thank her on your behalf for the production of Netcall keeping you all in touch with events and news from the Tennis Club.

### **Parish Footpath Warden**

My job as Parish Path Warden is voluntary and the remit for the job is to walk the parish paths in spring and autumn, then report any problems which I find back to my co-ordinator. This year everything has gone computerised and my computer is not compatible with the system so I am not able to read the list of outstanding problems in my area, and cannot report problems in the correct way. However over the last year I have reported issues using the old system called emails! My field Officer used to work in this area and is very familiar with the lay of the land so responds accordingly. We have dealt with fallen trees, over grown hedgerows, strimming paths and rebuilding stiles. A local landowner joined forces for a day and helped with replacing sign posts on cleared paths which was really good – thank you. Living in Appleton or Eaton means our paths are rural, so weather plays a big part in the state of our paths as Path warden I cannot change this so please be prepared to wear sensible footwear to be able to access some paths in wet and damp conditions.

My final not is unfortunately dog mess! All paths are public places so if you have a dog do the right thing and pick up poop and dispose of it in a bin, not under the church field bridge or hedgerows. You will be caught and prosecuted for dog fouling and fly tipping. Thank you for the majority of good dog owners that do this.

### **Website Team**

*Report by Kayhan Yalci read by Liz Gilkes*

Mr Kayhan Yalci sends his apologies for not being present due to visiting Turkey.

The village website was established last year. Currently the website has around 150 subscribers and this is increasing every day. The site is very user friendly and we have Contributors from some of the clubs and groups to edit their own pages. As a whole, this self-editing process is going well with no trouble. Our aim next year is to recruit more Contributors and to make sure all Contributors contribute to the website. Our main philosophy is to be open to the suggestions from the public and act in line with their wishes. At the end of the day, the website belongs to the village and the villagers.

### **Friends of Jubilee Park**

*Report by Nick Withers*

Jubilee Park opened in June 2012 and continues to be well used and enjoyed by young and old. We have recently planted some new trees and in the next few months we hope to have our new outdoor table-tennis table installed.

The Friends of Jubilee Park exist to look after the park and to raise money towards the maintenance costs of the park as a whole. The total cost is currently around £3,000 a year and the Friends are asked to contribute a minimum of £1,000 annually. During the last financial year we held three main fundraising events, the Treasure Quest in September raising £443, a car wash at Millets Farm £230 and

the Lanterns and Carols in December made a further £112. Fortunately other donations enabled us to make the target

As we don't have members or an identifiable list of users it is more difficult for us to gain new members than in the case with other village clubs and organisations. Currently the twelve Friends take a month each, during which we visit the park weekly to check the equipment is safe and that the grounds haven't been overrun by strange fungi or wild animals. Incidentally dog poo has been found in the park this month so please could owners be careful that when near the park their dogs are under control. The Friends also hold a couple of maintenance sessions a year, when extra weeding and general tidying up takes place.

We would most definitely welcome new supporters – either by giving money or time. A couple of hours washing cars can be profitable and (almost) fun! Otherwise please support us by attending any or all of our fundraising events. Please let me know afterwards if you are interested in lending your support in any way.

Finally I would like to extend my thanks to everyone, Friends with a capital F, and friends of Friends who have worked so hard for many years to create and maintain the Park as such a valuable village asset.

### **Appleton History Group**

*Report by John Page (chairman) read by Roger Gilkes*

The group currently has some 12 members. We meet the first Thursday of each month between September and May. We normally meet in the home of one of our members.

Our objective is to produce relatively short researched articles of some local relevance which has sparked the interest of one of our members. These articles are then gathered together into a booklet and then published as 'Awesome Histories'. We currently have three of these publications on sale with a fourth edition due to be published within the next month or so.

Our most recent publication is a record of all the men of Appleton and Eaton who fell during the First World War. The author, Alison Strugnell, has produced a booklet which we hope will ensure that their sacrifice will be remembered by succeeding generations.

Our activities over the past year have included a walk along part of Besselsleigh's Saxon boundary and a guided walk around the village for Abingdon Archaeological and Historical Society. The group has also been instrumental in assisting the Rector and Church Wardens to appreciate the need to conserve some 400 year old documents which were being stored rather casually in the Church. The most significant of these are now lodged in Reading. We have held only one public lecture in which Dr John Evans told a select audience about the discovery of the location of Quarrelstead Manor.

We have a number of ongoing projects for the coming year. We hope to publish a self-guided walking tour of the historic heart of the village. We are researching the possibility of erecting an information board about the history of Appleton and most interesting of all: we are joining forces with Oxford University Continuing Education Archaeologists to carry out a series of small scale digs around Appleton to see if any trace of our Saxon origins can be found. The pits are one cubic metre and we are assured the technique leaves little sign of disturbance. The group would like to hear from anyone who would like to be included in this activity which is planned for mid-October.

Our next planned meeting is on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 27, Badswell Lane. The group welcomes new members.

### **Evergreen**

*Report by Trish Wagstaff*

The Evergreens meet on the second Friday of the month in Appleton Village Hall. The activities that the group partake in are:

- Sing along with chair exercises
- Antique valuations with Brian



- River outing up to Marlow with tea
- Garden party at Appleton Manor
- Christmas lunch at the Dog House
- Police visit regarding safety to name a few

The Evergreens are a friendly group and always welcome new members from Appleton and surrounding villages.

### **Appleton 250 Club**

*Report by Betty Griffiths*

In the last twelve months the committee has met 4 times, at approximately 3 monthly intervals, in May, August, November of 2015 and February 2016. 4 DRAWS have taken place.

The total ANNUAL INCOME from subscriptions at £4 per member is £1000.

The total amount paid OUT this year in PRIZE MONEY is £400: £100 per Draw, made up of 2 prizes of £25 and 5 prizes of £10.

The total amount paid out in GRANTS this year in response to local requests is £100:

- £50 awarded to the Evergreen Club towards their Christmas Dinner
- £50 awarded towards the annual Easter Egg Hunt organised by Barry and Rachel Knight

In addition, regular ANNUAL GRANTS are awarded as follows:

- £200 to the Parish Council in support of Appleton Sportsfield
- £200 to the Village Hall Committee
- £20 to the Appleton Advertiser

Total amount paid out 2015 - 2016 - £920

The vacancies created by people moving away or discontinuing their membership have been filled and the Club has its full quota of 250 members.

The annual subscription of £4 per person is now due and will be collected during the next few weeks.

### **Appleton Toddler Group**

*Report by Jo Loots*

At Appleton Baby & Toddler group aka Toddler Group, we run a family friendly group, where everyone is welcome, whether you are a mum/dad, grandparent or carer. Our age range is 0-4years.

We are open every Friday morning 9:30-11:30 Term time only, and in the Summer Holidays we arrange places for everyone to meet if they are available.

We charge £2.00 for one child or £2.50 if you have more than one child. We also charge a £6.00 members fee payable once a year, which pays for the gift from Father Christmas. We also have a £10 opt out fee which means you don't have to put your name down to help.

I have a great committee who help me including 2 craft helpers and also Chris Cairns who comes in and does singing for us every week.

Every week we have a theme, so our Craft and Singing run alongside each other. All the children love the themes, and not only are they having fun making their craft and also singing songs in relation to the theme, but they are also learning at the same time. Every half term we have a 'Book Week' where one

of the mothers will read the story to the children before singing, the children will also do a craft based on the book, and depending on the book we will either ask the children to dress up or bring something in.

Recently we had spring week and James Mansfield kindly brought in 2 of his baby lambs for all the children to play with. They all thought it was great.

Every term we run a rota system for Snack duty, all mums can put their names down to help, when it is your turn, you need to bring in a healthy snack, plus some yummy treats for the adults to enjoy.

At Christmas we have a Christmas Party for the children; Father Christmas makes an appearance and gives all the children a gift. We also have a Halloween party, Easter Party and Summer Party.

On a normal week we can have 20-24 children but when we have parties we can have between 35-40 children.

We have a baby corner, and we even provide some weighing scales if you would like to weigh your baby.

### **Allotments**

*Report by Tony Sibthorp read by James Mansfield*

Currently there are a small number of active allotment users, with several unused plots (although we understand the rent has been paid for this year) and couple of individuals using several plots in order to maintain the level of usage to prevent the College taking the site back.

Ideally, we would seek to encourage people to take over the unused plots so the whole area becomes vibrant. The plot sizes are such that they are supposed to feed a family of 4. More realistically the plot will provide all the vegetables during the summer and quite a lot during the winter. whilst we don't know the exact price for next year it will be circa £15 per annum.

Most of those on the site have taken over previously unused plots and have shared experience in getting started, so don't be dissuaded by what they look like, with a bit of effort you will get vegetables in the first year and get fit in return.

### **Gardening Club**

*Report by Charles Moorley read by Anna Yalci*

The Appleton and Eaton Gardening Club has been running in the village since 1975, so whilst we are less than half the age of the Women's Institute, we can claim to have a long history.

For most of the 40-odd years the Club has run the Appleton Show, which was once the preserve of the Women's Institute, and of course we still do. It is generally reckoned that in numbers of entries. And in the quality of those entries, the Appleton Show is superior to the shows of villages round and about. But perhaps we would say that, wouldn't we. The Show covers not only things horticultural, but also arts and crafts, cookery, flower arranging and photography.

This year's Show is on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September, at 2.00 pm in this hall, and the Show Schedules are now available in the village shop.

As well as the Show the Club has a programme of monthly lectures throughout the winter, on matters concerned with gardening and wildlife. These meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month from October through to May in the hall of Appleton Church of England Primary School, the May meeting being also our AGM – which was held last night. Over the previous seven months we had a varied and interesting programme of talks by outside speakers, which attracted an average audience of over 30 people.

We also now run a Plant sale in the Village Hall. This started in 2014, so the sale planned for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May will be our third. These have been remarkably successful, thanks largely to the generosity of our members and others in supplying plants in such quantity and of such quality as to make the event the success it is.

So the 2016-17 Club year has just begun. In common with many organisations we have a certain difficulty in persuading people actually to run the Club, possibly because, also in common with other organisations, we have an ever-increasing age profile in our membership. We do have an elected Committee for the year just started, and we sincerely hope that in 12 months' time we shall be able to say the same again. In the meantime, we have a full programme of meetings arranged for the coming winter, and this programme can be found in the Show Schedule which I have mentioned. Membership of the Club costs £5 a year, for which you get free admission to all our meetings, and reduced entry fees for the Show. We would love to see new blood joining us this year. There will be a membership table at the Show, or we welcome old and new members to our first winter meeting in October.

## **6 Report from the Leisure and Recreation Committee of the Parish Council**

Sportsfield and Jubilee Park

## **7 Items for discussion raised by those present**

- Mr Adams mentioned that the scouts and cubs in the village are fantastic and should be invited to speak at the next meeting.
- Claire Salmon stated that the grass at Appleton landing is in need of a cut and also mentioned that someone made a fire on the landing.
- Mr Salmon mentioned the short notice given to residents regarding the tennis club floodlights installation.

Meeting closed at 20:46pm

**Appleton with Eaton Parish Council**  
**Finance report for the annual parish meeting 2016/17**

<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>2013/2014</u></b>	<b><u>2014/2015</u></b>	<b><u>2015/2016</u></b>	
Precept/Grant	17041.32	17467.00	17931.00	
Interest	0.00	1.05	0.00	
VAT reclaim	3219.23	1266.74	1854.23	
HM Treasury Reserves	0.00	20.23	0.00	
Wayleaves	13.29	13.60	13.92	
Sportsfield	1892.95	5206.25	2746.00	
Playground	772.00	1785.13	1195.63	Fundraising/donations
Sovereign Grant	0.00	0.00	1000.00	Table tennis table
Donations	0.00	0.00	180.00	Refund from indoor defib cabinet
Refund from Slade Legal	0.00	0.00	9.00	
Tennis Club	0.00	2000.00	1000.00	
	<b>22938.79</b>	<b>27760.00</b>	<b>25929.78</b>	

**Expenditure**

Overheads	7360.43	8512.58	9705.24	Wages Expenses, including purchase of External defibrillator cabinet and installation expenses Audit Insurance Membership fees
Playground	12331.07	1816.66	3044.12	Inspections (quarterly and annually) Grass cutting Rent
Sportsfield	1184.33	3580.61	4234.19	Grass cutting Alarm inspections Purchased new goalposts Oil, electricity, water
Tennis Club	1925.00	2456.00	1150.00	Rent and repayment of loan
Grants: S137 and other	910.00	2370.00	2375.00	Village hall, OX13, APCC, CAB
Footpaths	193.68	193.68	96.84	Cutting of Doctors Lane and Appleton Landing
Trees	290.00	380.00	0.00	Cutting trees at sportsfield
Floodgroup	1000.00	0.00	0.00	
VAT	3034.74	1160.36	1617.08	
	<b>28229.25</b>	<b>20469.89</b>	<b>22222.47</b>	

## Reserves:

General reserves 15000.00

Earmarked reserves:

sinking fund for playground 19600.00

traffic monitoring 150.00

Parish Council Elections 650.00

Tree works 370.00

Neighbourhood Plan 2890.00

Queens 90th Birthday 1500.00

Sportsfield Pavilion Fund 1000.00

Capital equipment for clerk 150.00

Table tennis table 1000.00

**42310.00**

Balance of bank account

as at 31/03/2016 42891.77

less outstanding cheques 576.14

**42315.63**