

## Minutes of the Appleton with Eaton Parish Council meeting at the Village Hall, Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at 7.15pm.

*Susan Blomerus* – Parish Clerk – 14.12.16

# Minutes

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

**16/173 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Hayward, Cllr Tilley

**16/174 Declarations of interest:** None

**16/175 Public questions and statements:**

16/180: Lock Road Access Group:

It was reported to the parish council that parishioners held a meeting at The Plough on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to discuss Lock Road access and it was very well attended by parishioners. The overall feeling of those in attendance was great sadness that the Lock Road is closed and there was enthusiasm to make progress and move things on so that it could again be used by the community. The parishioners decided to form the Lock Road Access Group (LAG) and the group had their first meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The view of the group is to try to facilitate open dialogue with A.H. Cornish and come up with an agreement that works for everyone. In the short term LAG has asked A.H. Cornish to open the Lock Road over the Christmas period as a goodwill gesture and A.H. Cornish are considering this request. LAG has offered to help by putting up signage, communicating information to Northmoor parishioners, clearing litter, monitoring dog mess and keeping a record of any problems regarding the lock road. The group will meet again on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and request a meeting with David Gow in order to discuss a way forward in more detail.

16/181 Report from Mr Winks: Mr Winks suggested that a robust plan needs to be formulated prior to an event of flash flooding to manage the number of cars driving down Badswell Lane.

16/184 Green Lane: A parishioner suggested forming a Green Lane Group that can monitor the lane.

**16/176 Reports from District and County Councillors:** Report received from Cllr Tilley

**16/177 Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 parish council meeting and the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 Extraordinary parish council meeting were signed as a true record.

**16/178 Matters arising from the previous meeting and not appearing elsewhere on the agenda:**

None

**16/179 Clerks report:** Nothing raised

**16/180 Lock Access Group:** For information only. See 16/175 Public questions and statements.

**16/181 Report from Mr Winks:** The parish council received a report from Mr Winks concerning a non-compliance with planning permission in Appleton. Planning enforcement is not in the remit of the parish council therefore it was resolved that the clerk will pass the report to the Vale of White Horse District Council Planning Department for them to consider.

Mr Winks was also concerned that in the event of a flash flood if the campsite needed to be evacuated through Badswell Lane the large number of vehicles may cause standing water to be pushed into houses as was the case from local traffic during a previous flash flood. It was **resolved** to ask The Flood Action Group to formulate a plan. The plan will be presented to the parish council once ready.

**16/182 Appleton Parochial Church Committee (APCC):** The parish council received a request for a donation to cover half the grass cutting costs of the churchyard. It was **resolved** that the parish council will donate the requested £700 to the APCC.

**16/183 Comet bus Service:** The Comet Service is now running two days a week: Mondays and Wednesdays. The cost of the bus service will be £20 return for a Monday and £10 for a Wednesday. The estimated cost per year is £900. The parish council **resolved** that a bus user group, which is separate to the parish council, needs to be set up to handle the finances. The bus user group will need to generate donations of £400 and the parish council **resolved** to donate £500 to cover the remaining costs.

It was also **resolved** to write a letter to Cllr Melinda Tilly to ask for help from grant aid or other funds to help cover this new Parish Council expense which may be ongoing if the Comet bus continues to run in the long term.

**16/184 Green Lane:** The surface condition of Green Lane makes it difficult to walk on, due to the squelchy muddy condition. Although more wood chippings are being collected, the ground is too wet to drive a tractor along the lane to spread the chippings. It was also reported that there is debris in the ditches and ditches need to be cleared. It was **resolved** that Mrs Anna Yalci will organise a date for a group to get together to maintain the lane.

**16/185 Rainbow Bridge:** The parish council received a report that Rainbow Bridge has fallen into disrepair. The parish clerk reported this to Mr Magnus Williams, Environment Agency, and he examined the bridge together with Mr Mansfield and reported that the bridge is structurally sound. There were minor issues and he will send a maintenance man to plug the drill holes on the wooden railing, seal the holes in the joints and put a concrete step on the Appleton side of the bridge.

**16/186 BT Phone box Consultation:** The parish council considered BT's proposal to remove the phone box outside the village shop and at the pub in Eaton and it was **resolved** to support the removal of the two phone boxes.

**16/187 Planning applications:**

(i)	<b>P16/V2892/HH</b>	7 Town Furlong Appleton Abingdon Oxfordshire OX13 5JW	Demolition of garage and erection of side extension.	<b>No objections</b>
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**16/188 Finance:**

**Budget 2017-18:** It was resolved to donate £500 to the Comet Bus Service using Section 106A of the 1985 Act, as the parish council agreed it is vital that the village has a working bus service. There is a loss of £1152 in the budget. The parish council resolved to vire money from the contingency reserves to cover the loss. The parish council resolved to set the precept at £18488 for 2017/18. This equates to £41.49 council tax per band 'D' dwelling. This is an increase of £1.12 per household to help provide a bus service and to support the Neighbourhood Plan. It was **resolved** to accept the proposed budget for 2017/18.

**Invoices**

<b>360</b>	<b>Clerks Salary and expenses (November)</b>	See attachment
<b>361</b>	<b>Appleton Evergreen:</b> Section 137 donation	£70 <b>Approved</b>
<b>362</b>	<b>Citizen Advice Service:</b> Section 137 donation	£50 <b>Approved</b>
<b>363</b>	<b>Appleton Village Hall Committee:</b> Section 137 donation	£1000 <b>Approved</b>

**Direct Debit:**

<b>Southern Electric:</b> Electricity for Appleton Sportsfield	£66.04
<b>Thames Water:</b> Water for Appleton Sportsfield	£39.98

**Income received:**

<b>Appleton Cricket Club:</b> subletting the sportsfield grounds	£175
<b>Appleton Quest:</b> Proceeds from fundraising event	£433.11

**16/189 Publications and correspondence**

- Letter from Vale of White Horse District Council regarding precept 2017/18

**16/190 Matters for report:**

- The parish council received a report of excessive dog fouling in all areas of the village. It was resolved that the issue will be on the agenda for the January meeting.

**16/191 Date of the next meeting:** The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7:15 in the village Hall.