

APPLETON WITH EATON PARISH COUNCIL

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Appleton with Eaton Parish Council (AWE PC)

Conducted Via Zoom

Monday 8th February 2021, 7:15pm

Allison Leigh – Parish Clerk

Minutes

Present: Chair Mark Richards (MR), Vice Chair Liz Gilkes (LG), Councillors John Adams (JA), Andy Salmon (AS), Stephen Day (SD), Mary Carey (MC) and Nicki Clarke (NC). District Councillor J. Avery and County Councillor Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor (AFO)

Also present: Allison Leigh, Clerk (AL), Councillor Paul Barrow and members of the public

20/169: Apologies for Absence: None

20/170: Declarations of interest: None

20/171: Public questions and statements: Members of the public to discuss agenda item 20/177

20/172: Reports from District and County Councillors:

Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC)

J. Avery reported that planning application P18/V2791/O will be going to planning committee on the 11th January. J. Avery reported he will be attending and speaking against the application.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

AFO reported that OCC has misgivings about planning application P18/V2791/O from a transport standpoint.

She reported that there will be a full meeting of the council on the 9th February to discuss the OCC 2021/22 budget. There is a proposed overall increase of 2.99%. 1.99% of that is for adult social care.

The overhanging tree at Jubilee Park was discussed and MR indicated he believes OCC has cut and removed those branches.

AFO reported that the grant for a defibrillator at the Pavilion and banners at the school has been approved and the funding sent through. AL reported she had an e-mail to this effect and thanked AFO.

The council asked AFO for a progress report on the flooding and signage issues raised.

AFO reported that there is not funding in the budget for the repair of the barrier at the site of the accident in August 2020 at Oaksmere. AL indicated that she was concerned as the budget concern had only been mentioned 2 weeks ago when the council has been asking for the repair to be actioned since the time of the accident.

AFO will go back and see if there might be a way to action the repair sooner, but if not, ensure it is on the list for the beginning of the financial year in April 2021. AS asked if an accident occurs at this area prior to the repair, who would be liable. AFO will look into this.

The issue of flooding and the clearing of the gullies was raised. AS reported that a team had come out and cleared some of the gullies but not all which AWE PC feels is an ineffective use of monies.

The issue of potholes was discussed. A resident had contacted OCC about a pothole and told that they should not have put it on Fix My Street as it was considered an emergency. However, this is now residents are encouraged to report items.

The resident then reported OCC had come down the road where the pothole was for other pothole repairs, but wouldn't repair that one as it was not marked for repair even though it was obviously a very large, bad hole. AWE PC is again concerned about an ineffective use of monies as well as safety.

AFO reported she will look into all of the above and left the meeting at this stage.

20/177: Footpaths from Long Close and Englands Lane to Besselsleigh Woods: Due to the number of members of the public in attendance to discuss this agenda item, it was moved to earlier in the meeting.

MR reported that the state of the footpaths from Long Close and Englands Lane to Besselsleigh Woods was to be discussed. He invited members of the public to speak.

The first member of the public reported the state of the mentioned footpaths is hazardous and there is a danger of falling, especially for those who may be compromised in some way. They are frustrated in that they felt efforts to re-surface the footpaths in some way had been thwarted 6 years ago.

JA reported that he has walked the footpaths and feels they are dangerous due to mud.

NC commented that she felt the ground needs time to repair in order for the footpaths to survive and suggested 2 options might be closure or signage indicating the dangerous current state.

MC reported that she has spoken to someone who indicated putting chippings down may make the state of the footpaths worse in the longer term. She felt it would be good to have some professional advice. She referenced some surfacing had been useful in Besselsleigh Woods, but felt that the best next steps would be to get professionals and landowners together to discuss.

LG reported that the state of the paths is dangerous and also raised the point that the school uses them. She also felt that a site meeting would be useful.

AS stated he agrees with NC in that if paths are muddy and dangerous, it is best not to use them and that this is a natural occurrence with wet weather and the increased number of users.

Another member of the public noted that people are walking on land that is not the footpath to avoid the path and that it isn't fair to the landowner. They feel this is a safety issue and referenced some surfacing Chalgrove had done 6 years ago.

SD raised the issue of who has the responsibility to maintain footpaths.

The Jeffreys, one of the landowners, reported that they are not allowed to do anything to the footpath themselves. They noted that they would be happy to donate any chippings if this would be beneficial, but recognises MC's earlier point about this possibly being a long-term issue. They also noted they did not believe surfacing would solve the problem of dangerous walking as once the woods were reached, the danger of a muddy state of path is there. They are happy for the footpaths officer to come and look, but feel that he may then close the path rather than look to repair it.

Mr Swainton, one of the landowners, reported he is happy to allow access through his land for anything that needs doing.

AL reported she had spoken to Ian Burnell, one of the landowners, who was not able to attend. AL indicated there is some barbed wire on the ground and he will repair that.

The council resolved not to put chippings down. The council resolved to put a notice in the Advertiser, do a shout out and create posters about the state of the paths. The council also asked AL to contact the footpaths officer and ask him to come out ASAP for a site visit.

JA reported there is barbed wire on the ground which could cause a danger to the public on land owned by AH Cornish. AL will contact them.

Members of the public in attendance to discuss the footpaths left the meeting at this stage of the meeting.

20/173: Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the Meeting of the 11th January 2021 were approved and signed as a true record.

20/174: Matters arising from the previous meetings and not appearing elsewhere on the agenda: None

20/175: Clerk's report: The council is happy for AL to proceed with a fireproof cabinet.

20/176: Website: AL reported that she is progressing with the website. She has been in communication with the smaller working group, but will now e-mail the link to the whole council. She will speak to the designers to see if they can assist in placing photos.

The council discussed letting the public know once it is up and running.

20/178: Planning applications:

New applications

<u>Application number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Comment</u>
P20/V3279/LDP	Tacoma Netherton Road Appleton OX13 5QW	Certificate of Lawful Development: Construction of two storey rear extension and construction of box dormer to rear roof slope to enable loft conversion.	No call for comment
P21/V0096/HH	86 Eaton Road Appleton OX13 5JJ	Alterations and construction of a new upper floor to 86 Eaton Road including internal modernisation, opening up of internal rooms, and improvements to the exterior of the building including replacement of windows.	Appleton with Eaton Parish Council have no comments on this planning application.

Planning Decisions

<u>Application number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Vale of White Horse District Council Decision</u>
P20/V2825/LDP	89 Netherton Road Appleton	Proposed single storey rear and side extensions, single storey outbuildings in rear garden and front porch	Granted

- **Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC):** The council resolved for AL to renew the SLCC subscription. This will be split 3 ways between AL's other 2 councils with AWE PC paying 40% which is £71.20
- **Internal auditor:** The council discussed the 2020 2021 internal audit. AL reported she had circulated 3 quotes to the council. She noted that Wanda Todd has done a fantastic job with the accounts, but that the other 2 quotes for internal auditors provide an internal audit of the council's processes. AL advised this is of value to the council and the council resolved to proceed with Jane Olds as internal auditor.

AL will advise Wanda Todd.

20/180: Website: The council asked for the following information to be placed in the Advertiser:

- Thank you to the Flood Group for their efforts
- Advisory note about the state of the footpaths

The council asked AL to ensure the updated Flood Group list is on the website as well as outside the village shop.

20/181: Publications and correspondence:

- AL reported she had received an e-mail from AH Cornish asking for the council to be made aware of e-mails sent to permit holders about dogs being kept on leads and taking dog bags and rubbish bags with them. The council acknowledged this e-mail, but cannot take any action as the contractual agreements are between AH Cornish and the permit holders
- AL noted she had an e-mail about a fishing shield. MC has several fishing shields and AL will advise the correspondent and discuss next steps.
- AL reported she has received a report of the flooding issues of the weekend of the 30th January from Sanchia Prickett and will forward this to the council. The council thanks the Flood Group and AL for their work over that weekend.

20/182: Matters for report: AS and reported that a letter has been written to AH Cornish about cutting the verges back and clearing some of the dead wood which is covering part of the verges outside of the Appleton Christmas Barn.

MC reported that she had been contacted about the muddy state of the ground near the letterbox on Eaton Road.

MC reported she had been in touch with Thames Water about water on the road by the bridge at Oaksmere. They haven't been very helpful and the issue is not yet resolved. MC

reported that Andrew Farrant will have a look. JA noted that the road there is in a terrible state and will need some repair.

20/183: Date of the next meeting: The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as the 8th March 2021.

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The meeting concluded at 8:50pm.