



Appleton Parish Council

Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, Appleton, Warrington, Cheshire
WA4 5EQ

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**Minutes of the monthly Parish meeting of Appleton Parish Council held on
Tuesday 17th July 2018 at 7.30pm at Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road
Appleton WA4 5EQ**

Present: - Councillor S Harris (Chairman)

Councillor K Arnett, Councillor B Axcell, Councillor S Benger, Councillor J Bilstrand, Councillor G Palmer, Councillor J Price, Councillor G Skentlebery Councillor P Walker, Councillor J Walker and J Wheeler.

Mrs. J Monks (Clerk), Mrs I Derbyshire (Assistant Clerk), a PCSO and eight members of the public.

Part one – this part of the meeting is open to members of the public and the press

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Councillor S Harris welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.

Councillor S Harris reminded all the Parish Councillors and members of the public that the use of mobile phones was prohibited during a meeting and all Parish Councillors were asked to use the microphones when speaking.

Councillor T Stansfield sent his apologies as he was unable to attend due to being on holiday. Councillor I Axcell sent her apology as she was unable to attend as she was on holiday.

2. Members Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest

Councillor S Benger declared a non-pecuniary interest as she lived on Hatfield Gardens and left the room for the discussion with regards to the planning application for 6 Hatfield Gardens

3. PCSO / Police report

The PCSO reported that there had been another bike theft where a bike had been left unlocked outside a school and four car thefts all in the same area and in the same timeframe as such an investigation was ongoing regarding this. There have also been

two incidents of criminal damage. The PCSO confirmed that regular speed watch campaigns had now been set up on Wrights Green following complaints from residents.

4. Public Participation.

Members of the public addressed the Parish Council with regards to the Lawful Development certificate for 231 London Road as they were concerned that the applicant did not own the land and that the applicant had claimed that he had maintained this land for the last ten years. This was dealt with under item 5, planning.

Members of the public addressed the Parish Council with regards to the work ongoing at 6 Hatfield Gardens in Appleton. Councillor S Bengler and Councillor J Wheeler left the room for this discussion. Councillor S Bengler declared a non-pecuniary interest as she lived on Hatfield Gardens. Councillor J Wheeler left the room as she was a member on the Warrington Borough Council Development Control Committee. A planning application had been submitted for work ongoing however the residents were concerned that there were insufficient car parking spaces and the residents are concerned about on-street car parking as Hatfield Gardens was narrow and not suitable for multiple cars parking on the road. The residents felt frustrated with the Development Control Department of Warrington Borough Council and were concerned that the current work being undertaken did not comply with the approved planning application. The clerk was asked to send a letter from the Parish Council to the Development Control Department regarding the matter requesting an update.

5. Planning

The recommendations of the Planning Committee on applications received since the last meeting were accepted and it was

RESOLVED that;

The following recommendations be forwarded to the Development Control Manager, Environment and Regeneration, Warrington Borough Council.

No Objections to the following applications –

2018/32946, 28 Warren Road, Appleton, WA4 5AG. Householder - Proposed detached triple garage.

2018/33120. Green Hedges, Firs Lane, Appleton, WA4 5LB. Householder - Proposed Roof extensions to provide additional habitable accommodation, including first floor extensions over existing Lounge and Kitchen.

2018/33133, Heritage, Quarry Lane, Appleton, WA4 5JD. Householder - Proposed canopy over existing external balcony area to side elevation.

The Parish Council raised objections to the following applications;

2018/32993, Land adjacent to, 231 London Road, Appleton, WA4 5JF. Lawful Development Certificate - Proposed 2m high timber fence to the land adjacent to 231 London Road. The Parish Council objects to this Lawful Development Certificate on the following grounds: The ownership of this land is unclear. It clearly does not belong to the applicant and he has only been resident since 2011 and the previous resident was elderly and unable to maintain the land. The applicant has not provided any indisputable evidence of work done to date; A precedent has been set against the incorporation of land into a garden in respect of 20-32 Snaefell Rise as such the Parish Council would urge you to reject this application on similar grounds. The Parish Council requests that this application is considered as a planning application rather than a lawful development certificate. It also requests that a Planning Officer undertake a site visit and for this to be referred to Development Control Committee as a full planning application.

8/32672, Pewterspear Green Road, Appleton. Reserved Matters (Major) – Application for the approval of the reserved matters pursuant to outline planning permission ref 2016/28807, (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale). The following objection as submitted to the Development Control Department of Warrington Borough Council; It is essential that Warrington Borough Council makes it a planning condition and requests Section 106 monies for junction improvements at the following sites. Junction improvements at the traffic crossroads A49/B5356 in Stretton where the Post Office is located. Junction improvements at Lumb Brook Road /A56, at this present time there are traffic issues especially around school drop off and pick up times on both Lumb Brook Road and Bridge Lane. Investigation into the possibility of a roundabout or traffic lights at the Arley Road/ B5356/Lumb Brook Road junction in Appleton Thorn in order to improve traffic issues. Another area of concern is the heavy traffic flow going towards the M56 from the south going A49 (from Stockton Heath direction) and the Longwood / Acton Ave roundabout. In addition to this the Parish Council are concerned regarding the cumulative impact of this development with the proposed developments at both Appleton Cross and Grappenhall Heys by Homes and Communities. The cumulative impact of the traffic from an additional thousand new homes in the immediate area will cripple the current road network and it is essential that the developer, Homes and Communities funds the above junction improvements and the proposed Howshoots link from Witherwin Avenue, Grappenhall Heys to the B5356 junction with Broad Lane, Grappenhall. Given the plot size and the proposed number of houses, the Parish Council wish to object as 180 dwellings will be an overdevelopment of the plot. Whilst it is appreciated this only outline planning permission there is a distinct lack of open green spaces. The Parish Council is also concerned regarding the lack of supporting infrastructure in the surrounding area. For example, the schools and doctors are currently full. There is insufficient infrastructure to support an additional 180 houses in the local area and this has not been addressed in the planning application. The Parish Council requests for this planning application to be referred to Development Control Committee and that Committee members undertake a site visit prior to any decision on this planning application being made.

2017/31757, Land North of Barleycastle Lane, Appleton Thorn. Full Planning application (Major) - Demolition of all existing on-site buildings and structures and construction of a National Distribution Centre building (Use Class B8) with ancillary office accommodation (Class B1(a)), vehicle maintenance unit, vehicle washing area, internal roads, gatehouse, parking areas, perimeter fencing, waste management area, sustainable urban drainage system, landscaping, highways improvements and other associated works. (Environmental Impact Assessment application) The Parish Council objects on the following grounds; Greenbelt. Any proposal for any planning application on this land would be unacceptable. The land is greenbelt and therefore should be protected from any development of any kind. There are no 'exceptional circumstances'. Whilst the Parish Council understands the need for this business to grow, other suitable brownfield sites must be used. The Highways network in the immediate surrounding area is insufficient to meet the needs and the additional traffic of the proposed development. The Parish Council understands that roads near the development may be improved with Section 106 funds however the surrounding roads and motorway network all are currently at capacity. All the surrounding roads would require upgrading and an additional motorway junction for the M6 would be essential. Litter The litter from the current Appleton Thorn Trading estate is appalling. The litter extends well away from this site going down Grappenhall Lane. Due to the speed of the road, litter picking can only be undertaken with road closures which is at a considerable cost. The current litter issue will only increase if further developments are made to this trading estate. Section 106 funds must be granted to take action on this matter. Matrix signage must be installed should planning consent be granted and the developers of the site must also be requested to either make a yearly contribution towards the collection of litter on the trading estate and proposed new development or be made responsible for cleaning any litter on a regular basis as a planning condition.

Due to Councillor J Wheeler and Councillor P Walker being members on the Warrington Borough Council Development Control Committee, they did not participate in the planning discussions or the recommendations agreed.

6. Clerk's Report and Accounts

The June 2018 statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year 2018/2019 was noted, and the Members noted the Bank Statement as at 30th June 2018.

RESOLVED that;

Payments were to be made in accordance with the payment schedule for July 2018.

The bank reconciliation and bank statement were both signed by the Chairman.

The clerk confirmed that Councillor K Arnett undertook the verification of the bank reconciliations for all accounts as at 30th June 2018.

The clerk has confirmed that the amount of £60,000 will be transferred on 20th July 2018 from the NatWest current account to the Nationwide Savings account and confirmation of this has been authorised by three signatories.

The assistant clerk obtained three quotes for the renewal of the van insurance for the Parish Ranger the quotes varied from £440.00 to £785.00. The quote for £440.00 was to insure the Parish Ranger, the clerk and Assistant Clerk as named drivers. As the renewal date was 1st July 2018, the clerk has purchased van insurance at the cost of £440.00.

The clerk reported that the Parish Hall is due a five-year electrical condition report which is due in September 2018. The clerk has therefore booked this for September. The cost of this will be £280.00 plus VAT.

The clerk reported that the cleaner required a new vacuum cleaner at the cost of £210.00 including VAT.

The clerk had received a letter dated 17th June 2018 from Councillor J Bilsland who has formally resigned from the Environment Committee. Councillor S Harris thanked Councillor J Bilsland for all her work on the Environment Committee.

7. August Recess

As there is no meeting of the Parish Council in August it was

RESOLVED that;

Planning – The Clerk should liaise with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Committee on planning applications received during the Recess with subsequent discussion with other Councillors as required.

The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to deal with all routine matters during the Recess in liaison and in consultation with other Parish Councillors.

The signing of required cheques/bank transfers be undertaken by authorised signatories in accordance with the bank mandates and then detailed on the August payment schedule.

8. Cheshire Branch conference

The clerk has received notification that the Cheshire Branch of the Society of Local Council clerks has arranged a full day training course on Thursday 27th September 2018. It would be beneficial for the clerk and assistant clerk to attend the cost would be £25.00 each.

RESOLVED that;

The clerk and assistant clerk could attend the training course on Thursday 27th September 2018 at the cost of £25.00 each.

9. World Scout Jamboree West Warrington

The clerk received a completed grant form application on 15th June 2018 for a request for financial assistance for scouts to attend a World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia.

RESOLVED that;

That on this occasion the application did not fulfil the policy grant criteria.

10. Review of budgets

The clerk had produced a quarterly budget, and this had been reconciled with the bank account. Each item of expenditure was now marked with the allocated budget.

A copy of the budget was signed and dated by the Chairman, Councillor S Harris.

The following budgets need increasing due to payments.

The advertising budget needs increasing by £16.00 from £200.00 to £216.00.

The equipment budget needs increasing from £500.00 to £1,200.00.

The amount of £716.00 was therefore transferred from General contingencies to the Advertisements budget (£16.00) and the equipment budget (£700.00).

11. Standing Orders

The clerk had noted that new model standing orders had been produced by the National Association of Local Councils as such it was necessary to update the Standing Orders to be compliant with the new legislation. Following the Parish Council meeting in June the clerk had added the co-option procedure to the Standing Orders as requested.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council adopts the new Standing Orders including the co-option procedure.

12. BT phone boxes

The clerk has contacted the contractor regarding ordering the parts for the BT phone box repair however the cost of the parts and paint have increased by £500.00.

A National lottery grant has been awarded to the Parish Council for £2725. In addition, £500.00 is now required in order to cover the costs of the part and paint.

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £500.00 be approved for the additional cost of the BT phone box repairs with the funds to be taken out of the Environmental Improvement budget.

13. Sandy Lane Tip consultation

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council objects to the planned closure of Sandy Lane tip.

14. Additional waste bin

Councillor J Wheeler reported that she had contacted the Street scene Manager of Warrington Borough Council regarding this matter and they have agreed to install an additional waste bin, as it was a replacement near to the bridge next to the Millennium Green begins.

15. Floor polishing for main hall, entrance hall and kitchen

RESOLVED that;

That the main hall, entrance hall and kitchen floors were to be polished at the cost of £901.00 plus VAT. The funds to be taken from the Parish Hall improvement/etc budget. This would be undertaken over the summer subject to the building work.

16. Official Email address

Councillor S Harris reported that each Parish Councillor may have their own official @appletonpc.org.uk email address if they wished. The clerk informed that there would be an additional charge per email address. If any Parish Councillor wants an official email address to contact the clerk.

17. Freedom of the Parish

RESOLVED that;

Councillor J Walker is granted the Freedom of the Parish for her long-standing work over 23 years and dedication to the Parish Council.

18. Bridge Lane Planters

RESOLVED that;

Additional watering for three times a week for the planters and plot at Bridge Lane shops was agreed.

The total cost for planting twice a year and for watering three times a week was £910.00, to be undertaken by All Seasons Ground Maintenance.

19. Environmental committee meetings

RESOLVED that;

The Minutes of the Environmental meeting held on 13th June 2018 (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

20. World War One Event

Councillor J Wheeler informed the Parish Council that the Community Events Committee was in the process of organising a World War one event including beacons. The Community Event Committee is getting the schools and scouts involved in the event.

RESOLVED that;

The Community Events Committee has up to £1,000 for expenditure for the planned World One event. The clerk was asked to move funds from the Environmental budget to fund this event.

21. Minutes of last Parish Council meeting and matters arising

RESOLVED that;

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th June 2018 (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor J Wheeler confirmed that she will contact Lumb Brook Millennium Green regarding the possibility of a playground.

Councillor S Harris confirmed that the consultation over the future of Broomfields Sheltered housing has now closed and that no outcome was known.

22. Parish and Borough Councillors Reports

Councillor J Price requested that Councillors review content and recipients before sending emails.

Councillor J Bilsland reported that she is on holiday for the next Parish Council meeting in September and asked the clerk to record her apology for this meeting.

Councillor P Walker informed the Parish Council that the path was overgrown between Warren Drive and London Road and that he had reported it to Warrington Borough Council for their attention.

Councillor J Walker informed that an Environmental Committee needs to be arranged with the Street Scene manager of Warrington Borough Council. The members of the Environmental Committee will arrange a suitable convenient date for this.

Councillor S Harris confirmed that the gateway signage for the various locations in Appleton Thorn has now been ordered, however an installation date is not yet known.

Councillor S Harris requested that the Outstanding Citizen/Community Champion was put on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting in September.

Councillor S Harris stated that a committee meeting of the Media group will be arranged over the summer and the Media group will arrange a suitable convenient date for this.

23. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 18th September 2018, Planning Committee meeting 7pm followed by the Monthly Parish Council meeting 7.30pm.

Part Two – This contains confidential information and only Councillors and reporting officers can be present.

24. Assistant Clerk

The Assistant Clerk had completed three-month probation and Councillor S Harris and Councillor P Walker had completed an appraisal on 12th June 2018.

RESOLVED that;

The appointment of Mrs Irene Derbyshire in the post of Assistant Clerk is confirmed as a permanent position.

