

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF APPLETON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JULY 2014 AT 7.40PM IN THE PARISH HALL

PRESENT:- Mrs. S J Bengler (Deputy in the Chair)

Dr. I Axcell, Mrs. V P Davies, Mrs. S A Harris, Mrs. J M Walker and Ms. J C Wheeler

Mr. K J Arnett, Dr. B P Axcell, Mr. J L Price, Mr. B K Smith, Mr. T M Stansfield and Mr. P J Walker

Mrs. L E Parker (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mrs. D Edwards.

2. Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at the start of the meeting.

3. Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)/Police Report

PCSO Lynda Garner (LG) in attendance (latterly arrived at 8.05) and report included the following:

- Reported incidents in Appleton from 15 June to 15 July
1 theft of motor vehicle, 1 burglary not in a dwelling, 1 theft from motor vehicle, 1 criminal damage and 6 thefts (other) plus 10 incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- Speed enforcement had been undertaken on Dipping Brook Avenue, Longwood Road and Stretton Road.
Mr. B K Smith requested speed enforcement at Wright's Green, Lumb Brook Road between the hours of 7 and 9pm.
- There had been complaints of anti-social behaviour in the Dipping Brook Avenue area and the nearby 'amphitheatre' with the resultant litter. LG confirmed that the Police do patrol the area which has now been added to the 'daily' Police briefing so the whole station is aware.

The Clerk had advised that Continental Landscapes undertake fortnightly litter picks of the area as Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) owned land however the Parish Ranger will be requested to do a litter pick in the meantime.

- HomeWatch was going well.

The Clerk had previously advised:

- PCSOs were on duty for the Bawming of the Thorn event on 21 June
- PC Michelle Adamson, Beat Manager will be in attendance at the Broomfields Youth Project (BYP) Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday 17 July to be held between 1 and 2pm at Hill Cliffe Baptist Church. Also the BYP Annual Resident's meeting will be held on Thursday 22 July 2104 (rearranged from 15 July) at Hill Cliffe Baptist Church. (Confirmation email dated 12 July forwarded from Mrs. S A Harris.)

Mr. K J Arnett reported on the issue of parking on both sides of Lumb Brook Road from New Lane to Ashberry Drive by visitors to the Playing Fields and double lines were suggested to be installed to prevent vehicles parking. LG requested contact details of the user of the playing fields - which it appears is Appleton Boys Football Club - from the Clerk.

Following an enquiry by Dr. I Axcell, LG clarified that a “dog bite register” was held for dangerous dogs.

Mr. J L Price reported on the temporary traffic lights on London Road and the issue raised by a resident on the parking of workmen’s vans at 313 & 317 London Road causing a visibility problem due to the bend. LG had already been advised of the issue by Mrs. S J Benger however would speak to the residents concerned.

Mr. J L Price reported on the parking problems on Park Lane near the Reservoir and advised LG that double yellow lines were in place.

LG referred to complaints received on the parking issue/blocking of the thoroughfare/parking on pavement at Wood Lane on the access road leading to the garages and Dr. B P Axcell advised that this was not Warrington Borough Council (WBC) Highway land however LG added that the “law is do not obstruct the footpath.”

4. Bloor Homes – Development of land on Stretton Road / Pepper Street, Appleton Thorn

The Clerk confirmed that following a telephone conversation on 11 July with a Consultant from Bloor Homes and an email dated 15 July from the Strategic Planning Director, the next public consultation will be held on Monday 28 July at Appleton Village Hall from 2pm to 7pm – (Councillors have been invited from 1pm to 2pm). An invitation leaflet to the public consultation will be delivered to all residents in Appleton and Appleton Thorn on behalf of Bloor Homes.

Bloor Homes will be looking to establish a Design Working Group, made up of a selection of volunteers, to develop the scheme further.

5. Public Participation

5.1 Speeding on Lumb Brook Road, Wrights Green

Residents in attendance requesting an update following concerns raised at the Parish Council meeting held 20 May on the speed of traffic at Wright’s Green. An Automated Traffic Count (ATC) survey had been undertaken in June by the Engineering Consultant, WBC Traffic Management & Road Safety to determine the current traffic flow and results were still awaited.

The Clerk had followed up the issue with PCSO Lynda Garner who had then discussed the issue with PCSO Ben Scholte, advising that he would investigate the outstanding issue and report back.

Concern was raised on the manoeuvring of vehicles by residents in and out of their driveways due to the speed of traffic.

Mr. P J Walker suggested that the Borough Councillors request that Lumb Brook Road in the Wright’s Green area becomes a 30mph rather than a 40mph road

Mrs. S A Harris subsequently added that Dingle Lane should be included in any traffic control measures for the area.

Ms. J M Wheeler arrived at 7.58pm – apologies had previously been given to the Clerk advising of her possible late attendance.

5.2 Bloor Homes

Residents in attendance advising:

- They wish to see the site as a village green.
- The loss of the field will destroy the nature of the village.
- A group had been formed known as CARE (Campaign Against Ruining the Environment).
- Several residents wished to volunteer to be members of the Design Working Group.
- The value of the land as a village green vs a building plot and perhaps the purchase by the 500 Appleton Thorn villagers.
- Tree Preservation Orders on 4 trees: 2 Oak trees and 2 Ash trees.
- Their tactic would be to apply a preservation order on the hedge surrounding the site.
- A Working Party be set up to consider options.

Discussion ensued by Members and it was agreed to place the Bloor Homes item on the Parish Council agenda for its next meeting on 16 September and Mr. P J Walker in the meantime would speak to the WBC Planning Department to determine the status of the field.

It was confirmed that Mrs. Dot Edwards, a Thorn Ward Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Councillor had attended a previous residents' committee meeting.

Later in the meeting Mr. J L Price referred to *A History Of Appleton* book and a photograph of the field on the last page with the caption *A meeting of the Cheshire Hunt at Appleton Thorn, c1914.*

Public Participation ended at 8.10pm.

6. Bridge Lane Playing Fields – Warrington Rugby Union Football Club (WRUFC)

Ms. J C Wheeler reported, that following contact with WBC, there had been no new developments since the Parish Council meeting in March 2013.

Discussion ensued between Members and it was suggested that the Borough Councillors make enquiries and report back at a future meeting.

7. Stockton Heath Community Recycling Centre

Mrs. S J Bengier confirmed that a letter had been sent from the Chairman dated 2 July to Prof. S Broomhead, Chief Executive, WBC raising concerns that the Parish Council and residents were not consulted on the proposed closure of the Stockton Heath Community Recycling Centre (SHCRC) with effect from 31 July and a request was made for a delay in the closure of the site.

Mr. P J Walker reported on the Special Meeting of WBC Scrutiny Committee held on 3 July where it was agreed that the decision to close SHCRC be referred back to the Executive Board for its next meeting on Monday 14 July at 6.30pm (open to the public) on the following grounds:

There was no consultation, the decision was not open, it was not clear that the financial implications of the closure had been considered and viable alternative options had not been considered.

The decision to close SHCRC was reconsidered by the WBC Executive Board committee on 14 July with reference to the above points and it was agreed that a 4 week consultation would now be undertaken on the WBC recycling strategy before any action is taken.

However Mr. P J Walker will raise concerns at the WBC full Council meeting on 21 July that Parish Councils are in recess during August and many residents will also be on holiday. It is not yet clear when the 4 week consultation would commence but the WBC Executive plan to agree the new strategy, taking into account responses to the consultation, at their meeting on 15 September.

Discussion ensued between Members with concerns raised and it was agreed that during the Recess, the Borough Councillors, Mr. P J Walker as the main contact, would liaise with Councillors and the Chairman through the Clerk.

Mr. P J Walker subsequently suggested that it would be useful to liaise with other Parish Councils and it was agreed that contact should be made through other Borough Councillors in the South of Warrington.

8. – 9. Planning

8. Current Planning Applications

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, WBC:

Planning applications to 15 July 2014

a) NO OBJECTION to the following applications -

- 2014/23815 Mr. Ray Mackay - Full Planning - New teaching and practice facility on existing golf practice ground at Warrington Golf Club, London Road, Appleton.
- 2014/23991 Mr. Bramhall - Proposed open trellis to top of existing boundary wall between Longwood House and Dingle Lodge at Longwood House (formerly), Wytchwood, Cann Lane North, Appleton.
- 2014/24026 Mrs. Laura Gregory - Variation of Conditions - Proposed removal of condition 3 (obscured windows) following approval of planning permission 2014/23526 at 3 Saxon Close, Appleton.
- 2014/24031 Mr. Nicholas Holmes - Householder - Single storey side and front porch extension at 22 Farm Lane, Appleton.
- 2014/24059 Mr. Warren Kenwright – Householder - Demolition and replacement of detached garage together with front porch at 68 Birchdale Road, Appleton.
- 2014/24063 Mr. Robert Walsh - Householder - Proposed alterations and two storey side extension at 10 Delphfields, Appleton.
- 2014/24066 Mr. A Bramhall - Householder - Proposed veranda extension to existing garden store and potting shed at Longwood House (formerly), Wytchwood, Cann Lane North Appleton.
- 2014/24078 Mr. Stuart Stimpson – Householder - 2 New roofs to front elevation to replace existing flat roofs at 29 Beechways, Appleton.
- 2014/24114 Mrs. L Eckersley Neale - Householder - Proposed single storey rear extension, external render finish, internal room re-arrangement and new detached garage at 23 Pineways, Appleton.
- 2014/24124 Mr. Michael Brookes - Householder - Proposed new detached garage to front of house at 7 Lyons Lane, Appleton.

b) OBJECTIONS to application:

2014/23981 Mr. Nygel McCormack – Householder - Proposed first floor side extension over existing garage, conversion of existing garage to create a gym, extension to front to form new garage and first floor side extension over existing family room at 6 Hatfield Gardens, Appleton.

It is felt that the proposal will be an overdevelopment of the site and concern is raised on the loss of the parking area on the driveway to the front of the property. There is no existing garage to the property as the space was never converted into a garage from when No. 6 Hatfield Gardens was the show home for the ‘The Priory’ Pewterspear Wainhomes development.

If the application is considered by the Planning Applications Sub-Committee / Development Management Committee, it is requested that a site visit is undertaken by members of the Committee before any decision is made.

c) CONCERNS to applications:

2014/24047 Mr. David Jones - Outline Planning - Application for Outline Planning Permission for proposed residential dwelling with all matters reserved for later approval at Red Hill, Firs Lane, Appleton.

The Parish Council has concerns that part of the site encroaches onto Green Belt land and on the feasibility of the access point which appears to utilise the existing sandstone gate posts off Firs Lane to the side of the sandstone rock face wall.

It is wondered whether the sandstone gate posts and rock face known locally as “The Cutting” should be added to the Historic Assets list in the WBC Local Plan Core Strategy.

The proposal will have an impact on nearby residents regarding the trees on the site and it is requested that the WBC Arboriculturist be involved in the early stages of any planning application.

2014/24064 Mr. Simon Wilmot - Householder - Proposed kitchen/family room to rear elevation plus loft conversion and entrance canopy to front at 34 Birchdale Road, Appleton.

Consideration needs to be given as to whether the proposed kitchen/family room extension to the rear elevation will breach the 45 degree code in respect of the attached property 32 Birchdale Road.

d) For information only

2014/24097 Mr. Kieron Ollier - Lawful Development Certificate (section 191) - Existing rear extension at 34 Pepper Street, Appleton Thorn.

2014/24131 Mr. Sathish Kumar - Lawful Development Certificate (Section 192) - Proposed two storey sitting room and bedroom extension to rear elevation at 6 Pineways, Appleton.

Due to Dr. B P Axcell being a substitute member on the WBC Planning Applications Sub Committee/Development Control Committee, he did not participate in the planning discussions or the recommendations agreed.

9. Previous Planning Applications

9.1 Refusals

2013/22676 Robert Bilton Estates Limited - Full Planning - Proposed change of use of barn to dwelling (retrospective), continued use of existing dwelling for tea rooms, studio and craft shop and redevelopment of all other buildings on site to provide one small farm/produce shop. Proposed two detached dwellings, a two storey building for use as studio apartment (C3) at first floor level and parking at ground floor in connection with dwelling 2 and for barn conversion and staff parking, associated parking retained for use for art studio and tea rooms, under 2013/21396, along with parking for all uses at Dingle Farm, Dingle Lane, Appleton.

Reasons for refusal:

- 1. The proposed residential development is an inappropriate form of development within the development within the Green Belt. The size, design and character of the proposed dwellings would result in a harmful encroachment of residential use and association trappings into the countryside. There are no very special circumstances to outweigh the harm that would be caused by the proposal.*
- 2. The planning application provides insufficient information to demonstrate that the proposal would not have significant adverse implications for diversity interests.*

2014/23641 Mr. David Horrocks - Householder- Proposed two storey extension to front and single storey extension to rear at 37 Thorntree Green, Appleton Thorn.

2014/23772 Mr. Anthony Hales - Householder - Proposed loft conversion including construction of new dormer window to rear at 61 Greenfields Avenue, Appleton.

9.2 Appeals

2014/23420 Mr. Geoff Page - Householder - Proposed garage conversion and construction of new garage to front of existing Dwelling at 10 Chiswick Gardens, Appleton.

Notification from WBC dated 24 June confirming that an Appeal had been made to the Secretary of State following refusal of planning permission and this will be dealt with on the basis of an exchange of written representations.

2014/23641 Mr. David Horrocks - Householder- Proposed two storey extension to front and single storey extension to rear at 37 Thorntree Green, Appleton Thorn.

Notification from WBC dated 8 July confirming that an Appeal had been made to the Secretary of State following refusal of planning permission and this will be dealt with on the basis of an exchange of written representations.

9.3 Enforcement

ENF/14/04316 (2013/22600 Mr. Rehman – Householder – Proposed 2 storey rear extension with conservatory and adjusted driveway to front at 313 London Road, Appleton.)

Mr. J L Price raised concerns on the apparent building discrepancies to the approved planning permission and it was agreed that the Parish Council make enquiries as to the up to date situation on the Enforcement action.

10. Warrington Borough Council Local Plan Core Strategy

The Clerk confirmed that at the WBC Executive Board on 14 July 2014 the *Warrington Borough Council Local Plan Core Strategy* was approved to progress to final adoption and is now an agenda item for the WBC Council's Committee meeting on 21 July.

11. - 12. Clerk's Report

Parish Councillor photo ID badges were handed to all Members present.

The Clerk advised that Mr. T M Stansfield would be installing the Union flag and pole outside the Parish Hall to commemorate World War I as Monday, 4 August 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the day Britain entered the First World War.

11. Correspondence

The following correspondence/contact was noted and resolutions made where appropriate:

- a) Email dated 19 June advising of an All Member Briefing - High Speed Rail on Friday 11 July and inviting one representative from the Parish Council to attend and Mr. K J Arnett, as the Parish Council's previous representative, had attended.

Mr. K J Arnett provided a booklet titled *HS2 Plus – A report by David Higgins* to the Clerk received at the meeting and Dr. B P Axcell also confirmed he had attended as a Borough Councillor.

- b) Letter from the Police & Crime Commissioner dated 30 June advising of the meeting with Parish Council representatives on 31 July at 6.30pm in the Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington WA1 1UH. Mr. P J Walker confirmed he would be attending.
- c) Letter received by email on 1 July from the Chief Constable Simon Byrne advising of the collaboration of the Cheshire Constabulary and North Wales Police Armed Policing Alliance on the delivery of Firearms Training and Firearms Operational capability including Armed Response Vehicle coverage.
- d) A representative from Tinies Childcare North West carried out a risk assessment of the Parish Hall on 10 July prior to the Summer Playscheme between 4 and 15 August and indicated a visit would be made to Cobbs Infant School to undertake a risk assessment for their Playscheme commencing 21 July.
- e) On 11 July, Graham Whibley, member of Appleton Cricket Club met with the Clerk with copies of the now completed *The History of the Lyons Lane Cricket Ground 1908 – 1976* booklet. Seven copies were purchased at a cost of £4 each – 1 for the Parish Office, 1 for the Community Library and 5 for on sale to residents. On page 2 of the booklet, acknowledgements include Appleton Parish Council.

12. Accounts

12.1 Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year 2014/2015

The Members noted the Statement as at 30 June 2014 with the reconciliation to the Bank Statements undertaken by the Chairman.

12.2 Nationwide International Limited Business Saver Account No. 11410812

It was agreed that a transfer of £10,000 be made to the Parish Council's NatWest account to cover forthcoming payments.

13. August Recess

Resolved that

- a) 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.
- b) The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Clerk be authorised to deal with all routine matters during the Recess.
- c) 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.

14. Lumb Brook Millennium Green Ltd Music Day 12 July 2014

A grant request for financial assistance for the Music Day held on 12 July had been received from the Management Team of The Lumb Brook Millennium Green and it was agreed at the Parish Council meeting held on 17 June that consideration would be given by the Parish Council at its next meeting.

Resolved that a grant be given of £250 towards the costs.

Mrs. V P Davies thanked Mr. T M Stansfield for assisting with moving the staging/pallets in preparation for the Music Day event.

15. Committee Reports

15.1 Environment

- a) Bench – Clydesdale Road and Bridge Lane

Mr. K J Arnett had contacted the owner / resident to discuss the issue and it was decided that the bench should be removed.

b) Benches owned by the Parish Council

Dr. B P Axcell has provided Mr. K J Arnett with cleaning materials for the benches prior to treating however this required water and a hose. Mr. T M Stansfield advised that he could assist and it was agreed that they would liaise.

c) Christmas Lights

Mr. K J Arnett and the Clerk met with City Illuminations on 26 June to discuss the proposal for lights on the trees adjacent to the Parish Hall and on the Thorn tree. Email response dated 2 July from Osborne & Co, as owner of the trees adjacent to the hall, giving approval to lights being installed however as the trees do require pruning, a meeting has been arranged to discuss the issue. City Illuminations will make enquiries with WBC to ascertain if an electricity supply can be taken from the adjacent street light column for the Thorn tree.

A quotation is now awaited and it was agreed that the neighbour opposite the Parish Hall would be consulted though the lights would be on a timer.

d) Planters – Outside Bridge Lane Shops

Mr. K J Arnett is frequently attending to the plants and dead heading the flowers as necessary. The planters are being watered twice weekly by Springbrook Landscapes.

e) Bulb Planting

Mrs. J M Walker suggested that the Committee meet to consider bulb planting at Lumb Brook Millennium Green and Clydesdale Road.

15.2 Finance & General Purposes

a) Parish Office

A further quotation had been received from Embletons Decorators for painting the Parish Office:

Prepare and paint ceiling, walls and woodwork with two coats - £496.76

Resolved that the works be agreed at the cost quoted.

It was also agreed that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman liaise during the August recess with the Clerk on colours etc. for the painting of the Parish Hall and Office.

b) Replacement Kitchen Work Surface

The work has been scheduled for 21 July.

16. Minutes of Last Meeting

Resolved that:

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 17 June 2014 (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chairman.

17. Matters Arising for Updating and Noting Only

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Parish Council 17 June 2014

17.1 *A Most Remarkable Family – A History of the Lyon Family From 1066 to 2014*

The Clerk showed Members the two books purchased at a cost of £30 and advised that they had been signed by the author, Mr. Michael Hewitt.

17.2 *Children’s Centre consultations – have your say’*

Ms. J C Wheeler advised on a committee meeting to be held on Friday 18 July at the Cygnet Centre between 1pm and 3pm. It appears that following an OFSTED report, the centre is not fulfilling its role of targeting vulnerable children. Health provision will however remain at the Cygnet Centre and Cobbs Primary School has expressed an interest in provision for 2 year olds.

17.3 *Model Publication Scheme*

The Clerk provided a copy of the agreed amended Appleton Parish Council Model Publication Scheme to Members.

17.4 *Parish Council Manchester Airport Meeting*

Mr. K J Arnett advised that the bridge over the M56 motorway at junction 5 was now being moved on 18 to 20 July.

17.5 *Parish Council Website*

Mr. K J Arnett thanked the Clerk for adding the WBC Contacts to the ‘Contact’ page and it was noted that the Councillors and Staff page had now been updated to include photographs of all.

17.6 *Parish Council Newsletter*

Mrs. S J Bengier thanked Mr. B K Smith for producing the Parish Council Newsletter which had now been distributed to all residents in Appleton.

17.7 *Grass Verges*

Email from the WBC Public Realm Service Manager sent to Members on 19 June attaching a note titled *Street services and grass cutting in Warrington* explaining WBC’s current position.

Following a complaint from a resident, Mr. K J Arnett raised concerns on the verges being unattended with the subsequent overgrowth problems in spring 2015.

17.8 *Parish Council Event*

Mrs. J M Walker referred to an event for members from Parish Councils to discuss ideas and it was agreed that Mrs. Walker would progress the matter.

17.9 *Outstanding Highway Issues*

Dr. I Axcell reported that Mitchell Street, Stockton Heath street name plates had been installed.

18. Parish and Borough Councillor Reports

- a) Ms. J C Wheeler reported:
- i. On attendance at a meeting at St. Mary Magdalene's Church Hall with Mrs. S J Benger, Mr. P M Gleave, Minister of Appleton Independent Methodist Church, Rev. M Ridley and the Curator plus the Manager of Broomfields Sheltered Housing Association to discuss the setting up of a coffee morning and perhaps, in the future, a community library.
 - ii. A meeting is to be arranged between Ms. J C Wheeler & Mr. P J Walker and Network Warrington following complaints received that the last bus to Appleton leaves Warrington at 3pm.
- b) Mr. J L Price confirmed that the sale of his house in Appleton was progressing however would continue as a Parish Councillor.
- It was agreed that the address list for the Councillors be amended to c/o Appleton Parish Hall and Mr. J L Price would provide the Clerk with his brother's address for correspondence to be forwarded.
- c) Mr. B K Smith reported:
- i. The gully outside 19 Wright's Green, Lumb Brook Road was still blocked.
 - ii. The hedge at the entrance to the footpath opposite Stud Farm required cutting back and Mr. T M Stansfield offered to undertake.
- d) Mr. K J Arnett advised that potholes had been filled in on Swineyard Lane, High Legh by Cheshire East Council.
- e) Dr. B P Axcell referred to contact by the Press concerning the number of Prison Officers in the North West and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Governor at Thorn Cross for further details.
- f) Mr. T M Stansfield enquired as to the current situation concerning 2014/23725 Mr. Rod Mills - TPO - Proposed removal of Beech tree at 30 Lyons Lane, Appleton and the Clerk agreed to make enquiries.
- g) Mrs. S A Harris referred to a complaint on the installation of 20mph signs from a resident and several other Councillors advised that they had also received complaints.
- h) Mr. P J Walker referred to the Warrington Borough Council Local Plan Core Strategy (pages 133, 138 and 140) and advised that he would request a more detailed map of the areas of Green Belt land.

The meeting ended at 9.37pm.