

Minutes of the Annual Appleford Parish Meeting/Assembly held on Thursday 9th May starting at 8.05pm in the Village Hall and finishing at 8.35pm

Present: Greg O'Broin (Chair), Victoria Shepherd (Vice Chair), Sandrine Philipot-Gasc, Dom Grigg

Graham Warrington (Clerk)

There were 4 members of the public present.

Welcoming everyone to the meeting GOB then gave an overview of the past year's activities with a summary of major issues identified for the forthcoming year.

The Parish Council had prepared a comprehensive Emergency Plan. The hope was that it would never be needed but periodic reviews would be required.

A new parish clerk had been appointed in October 2022.

Accounts had been presented to and approved unanimously at the March 2023 meeting.

The accounts would now be finalised and presented for audit through an independent review.

The accounts had shown a surplus of almost £2,000 with strong reserves going forward. A reduced precept of £20,000 had been requested from the Vale of White Horse District Council.

The lease of the football pitch had been renewed with St Edmunds Youth FC. As well as providing a source of income for the village leasing the facilities also supported youth football where there was a noticeable dearth of suitable playing facilities.

The website had been upgraded and although still work in progress it was becoming the go to place for local information.

Solicitors had been instructed to prepare a new 5 year lease for the Village with work to prepare new title deeds for the Recreation Ground and Hall. That work was ongoing.

There had been a great deal of activity over the year with regard to planning applications:

HIF1 application – work had been carried out in conjunction with the 5 Neighbouring Councils Group and ORAA in opposition to the application. That had resulted in other

Councils being encouraged to lodge formal objections and successfully challenge Oxfordshire County Council to introduce mitigation measures as part of the scheme.

Unusually a second Regulation 25 consultation had been undertaken with comments required by 12th June 2023. A planning hearing would need to be held to determine the application after that date although no final date for that hearing had been set. Objections had also been submitted to the Compulsory Purchase Orders which had been made by the County Council in connection with the scheme.

The FCC/Hanson Liaison Committee with Appleford and Sutton Courtenay Parish Councils attending continued to offer an opportunity for dialogue which was welcomed particularly as currently 8 planning applications had been submitted to the County Council by Hanson and FCC for changes to operations locally. The Parish Council would continue to monitor those applications closely with regard to issues such as noise, dust and flies. Any objection(s) that were lodged would need to be robust and with that in mind quotations were being sought to carry out independent noise monitoring to support any representations made to the planning authority.



The Parish Council continued to support the Village Hall Committee and thanked Claire and Jim Boyce for their continued work.

Various contracts had been renewed for maintenance of the recreation ground the largest of which was for grass cutting. It remained an option to undertake some of the work in house but volunteers would be required.

Currently no trains were running through Appleford station due to repair work being carried out at the Nuneham Courtenay viaduct. That work was due to be completed in June but there were realistic concerns locally regarding the potential for future reductions in levels of service once works had been completed and ultimately future provision of the station itself. A particular focus would be needed to maintain the status quo and it was proposed to establish a rail group to represent Appleford's interests.

Applications were also being considered for Customer & Community Improvement funding with regard to rail service provision and improvements locally.

Residents in attendance raised issues of noise. Firstly and specifically as a result of a recent party at the village hall. GOB confirmed that it was a village hall management responsibility. There were likely to be protocols in place to prevent these issues and while hopefully the event in question had been a one-off occurrence if it became an issue it could be raised with the village hall committee. The second noise issue concerned motor-bikes possibly emanating from a local operator site. Enquiries could be made via the Liaison Committee.

Signed..........
Chairman

Date of signing.....29/6/23.....