

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm at Appleford Village Hall**

*DRAFT pending formal approval*

<b>Attendees – Councillors:</b>	<b>Apologies:</b>
Greg O’Broin (Chair) (GOB)	Dominic Grigg (DG)
Victoria Shepherd (VS)	
Sandrine Phillipot-Gasc (SPG)	
Manu Mavrikis (MM)	
	<b>In Attendance:</b>
<b>Members of the public:</b> 5 members present	Denise Corney – Clerk (DC)

The Meeting Opened at 8pm

1	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Quorate</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Councillors and the public for their attendance. The meeting was Quorate.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Denise Corney as Clerk and noted thanks to Graham Warrington for his work and support in his role of clerk and who had now taken retirement.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Dominic Grigg.</p>	<b>ACTION</b>
2	<p><b>Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest</b></p> <p>Greg O’Broin – Member of the Parish Trust Committee and Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>Victoria Shepherd – Member of the Parish Trust Committee.</p>	
3	<p><b>To Approve Minutes dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023</b></p> <p>It was noted that there was one amendment to the minutes which should read 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 6pm for the next Liaison Committee meeting. The Minutes were <b>APPROVED</b>.</p>	<b>APPROVED</b>

<p>4</p>	<p><b>Report from County/District Councillor – Richard Webber (RW)</b></p> <p>Richard Webber (RW) gave an overview of the update regarding HIF1. The Secretary of State (SOS) had intervened, and an independent inquiry had been requested. GOB thanked RW for showing integrity on the HIF1 decision and for his assistance generally on that and related matters. VS emphasised that community concerns with the intervention from the SOS.</p> <p>Residents understood the need for infrastructure and were happy to discuss an alternative and sensible plan which would fulfil the needs for all parties. RW questioned whether the SOS had the right to call in the decision and request an inquiry and if this could be legally opposed. RW was hopeful that the original decision would be upheld, and all parties would be able to work towards an improved and more acceptable plan. GOB drew attention to the concern that there was nobody putting a case against HIF. OCC policy was to support HIF as was the Vale and SODC. RW assured that all minutes and recordings from the planning committee would be available as evidential information. GOB explained that it was very expensive to employ an advocate (Rule 6) to cross examine and state the case for upholding the decision to reject the application, made at the planning hearing. Costs would be in the region of £20-25K and fundraising would be required.</p> <p>GOB drew attention to the noise issue and requested if RW could broker a meeting with the environmental officer at the Vale of White Horse DC. RW confirmed that he had requested a meeting and was awaiting a response.</p> <p>GOB commented that he had applied to speak at the Planning Committee meeting which was held recently. His request had, disappointingly, been declined and it had appeared that nobody (even representing as a member of the public) had been able to raise issues regarding the Hinterland Agreement. He thanked RW for supporting his request to speak and advised APC didn't intend to oppose FCCs application but wanted better reporting on the fill rate at the landfill. The application to expand the Hinterland to anywhere in the UK was approved to help fill the landfill void by the licence closure deadline of 2030.</p> <p>RW expressed his concern that issues of enforcement regulations were slack and not fully supported within the law.</p>	
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5	<p><b>HIF Road Planning Application (GOB) update</b>            GOB gave a brief overview of the current status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Inquiry – Rule 6 could be applied, and GOB had spoken to a Barrister(s) who could present a case with verified evidence. A quote of circa £20-25K was received. GOB was researching options to raise funds which included the possibility of a hybrid group which could assist funding.</li> </ul>	
6	<p><b>Noise Monitoring update</b>            GOB drew attention to the issue of noise intrusion. Many residents were unable to sit in their gardens due to noise intrusion. A meeting was planned with the environmental officer from VWH to discuss and implement a noise management plan which would effectively monitor noise issues.</p>	
7	<p><b>Planning Applications</b>            No new planning applications to report.</p>	
8	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note invoices paid since last meeting.</li> <li>Bank Reconciliation Statement</li> <li>Note reimbursement of VAT receipts between March 2023 and June 2023 totalling £1561.48</li> </ol> <p>The above were noted and approved.</p>	<b>NOTED APPROVED</b>
9	<p><b>Renewal of St Edmunds Lease</b>            It was agreed that the Clerk (DC) would contact St Edmunds to discuss renewal with the possibility of a cost increase. The Clerk would research comparable rates and agree with GOB and VS prior to discussion with St Edmunds.</p>	<b>CLERK</b>
10	<p><b>Village Hall Lease</b>            A letter from Challoner and Sons had been received. GOB/VS and the Clerk would discuss and agree.</p> <p>GOB said the Title Deeds had gone missing some years ago and this was a priority. It is possible to recreate Title documents, but it will take some time. The Clerk will pursue resolving the matter.</p> <p>GOB left the meeting at 9.15pm.</p>	<b>CLERK VS/GOB  CLERK</b>

11	<p><b>Community Transport Improvement Grants</b> MM confirmed that the grant was not relevant to the needs of APC at the current time. Further suggestions sought if appropriate.</p>	<b>MM</b>
12	<p><b>General Items for Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20mph update - MM will follow up and would look further into any action required to support the change in speed limit.</li> <li>• MM reported that APC had been successful in securing funding from GWR to improve facilities and safety within the village. Ideas for use of funding were to be submitted to GWR - such as a speed display radar; improving safe cycling; gate from platform at the bridge – directly onto road – ensure that the gate is inward turning towards the exit; traffic signage with hazard signs by the railway bridge; lit sign at the exit gate. MM and VS agreed to discuss the various suggestions in more detail.</li> <li>• No further updates regarding improvements to rail services.</li> <li>• Road markings at the Knapp bend – clerk to follow up with previous clerk on what had been agreed.</li> <li>• Appleford Survey – in progress with MM. 50 responses had been received to support the 20mph proposal.</li> <li>• VS confirmed that repairs to the playground platform were necessary, and Councillors agreed and approve the costs of maximum £1000 for repair work to be undertaken. VS would progress.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MM</b></p> <p><b>MM/VS</b></p> <p><b>CLERK</b></p> <p><b>MM</b></p> <p><b>VS</b></p>
13	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting and items for the agenda</b> The next meeting would take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 8pm. The Clerk will schedule further meeting dates. It was agreed that meetings would continue to be held bi-monthly with the exception that if any urgent matters arose, an interim meeting could be arranged.</p>	<b>CLERK</b>
	The meeting closed at 9.55pm	