



Appleford Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on Thursday, 15th May at 8pm, preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm

Attendees – Councillors:	Apologies:
Victoria Shepherd (Chair) (VS)	Cllr Peter Stevens (PS) – District & County Cllr
Dom Grigg (DG)	Manu Mavrikis (MM)
Greg O’Broin (GOB)	
Claire Rees (CR) – co-opted at the meeting	
	In Attendance:
Members of the public: 10	Jane Humphreys– Clerk

The Annual Parish Meeting – 7pm

Updates were received from the following local groups either in person or via the Chair.

- St. Edmund's Football Club
- Allotment Association & Bradstock’s Trust
- Appleford Church
- Appleford Community Project & Orchard
- Public Rights of Way
- Millennium Common
- Appleford Acapella
- Recreation Ground
- Playground Working Group
- Village Hall & Table Tennis Group
- Soleluna Pizza Van
- Appleford Trust

Signed:

Date.....



Appleford Parish Council

The Annual Parish Council Meeting - 8.00pm

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair, Chair to sign acceptance of office Cllr Vicky Shepherd was elected as Chair (proposer GOB, seconder DG) and Greg O'Broin was elected as Vice-Chair. Vicky signed the acceptance of office. GOB stated the need for more support from villagers due to the pressures of the role and the amount of work involved. Cllrs had asked OALC if it might be possible to increase the number of councillors for Appleford to support the amount of work required in the parish. The election of Chair and Vice-Chair may be only on a temporary basis due to the pressures of the work required.	ACTION
2. Welcome, Apologies and Quorate VS welcomed all to the meeting. The meeting was quorate. Cllr Peter Stevens and Cllr Manu Mavrikis gave their apologies.	
3. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest VS & GOB declared an interest in Appleford Parish Trust. GOB is also involved in the management of the Village Hall. <i>It was noted that the conversion of Appleford Village Hall Charity into a CIO might be completed in the next 2-3 months.</i>	
4. Minutes of the APC meeting held on 13th March 2025 Minutes from the meeting held on 13 th March were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.	APPROVED

5. Update on progress since the previous minutes DG confirmed that he will obtain a quotation for a pest control survey due to the reported rat infestation behind Chambrai close.	
6. Travellers in the Recreation Ground The travellers have now gone from the recreation ground but left behind a considerable amount of rubbish. GOB is managing the removal of the majority of the remaining waste. A number of residents also volunteered to assist in the removal of waste. The PC was supported by Andy Rymer of the OCC Gypsies and Travellers Team who spoke directly with the travellers and who also provided further information on the types of suitable locks or barriers that could be considered to discourage travellers from accessing the recreation ground in future. The PC would like to thank Andy Rymer for his support. An estimate for the cost of an overhead barrier was c. £1,500 plus installation costs. The purchase of a stronger lock was approved (to £40) to act as a deterrent until a barrier can be purchased and installed.	

Signed:

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7. Public Participation A resident asked about the status of SESRO and the PC's involvement. Cllrs confirmed that the PC had no capacity to be involved in SESRO/GARD. A resident also commented on the presence of black bags beneath the Christmas trees, which still remain in the recreation ground car park. It was agreed that a group of residents would tackle the problem. There was also a question on a potential Neighbourhood Plan for Appleford but again not enough volunteers had come forward to be able to progress.	
8. Report from County Councillor – Peter Stevens Peter gave his apologies for the meeting.	
9. Planning a. Update on HIF1 – OCC due to engage with local stakeholders on final design, concerns over Scheme of Delegation to Officers, maintaining footpath and cycle access during works. GOB noted that all key contacts at OCC were no longer in post after the May county council elections. Cllrs have not received notification of any further engagement on the final design to date. ORAA have taken legal advice which resulted in the decision not to continue the legal case as the chances of winning are slim. OCC will still need to confirm to the conditions for the development and will need to ensure footpath access remains open when the work starts. b. Updates following Heidelberg presentation– sharing of noise data, lack of enforcement by OCC on commercial sites, feedback on report of traffic through village. GOB noted that a truck driver who was reported driving through the village had been put on a training course. The noise levels in the village were reported by residents as relatively low currently. c. Update on BESS - progress of community donation proposed by TBC Partners. The developers have refused to provide a community donation. As the development is not for housing, it will not attract CIL. GOB stated that there are ongoing concerns about the development relating to the security risk, the presence of an industrial development at the entrance to the village, the potential risk of flooding, loss of habitat for endangered species, and the risk of polluting Moor Ditch. GOB also referred to the height of the BESS development and the need for improved frontage shielding. d. The landowner confirmed that the site will be fully bunded and therefore contained. The land is being leased, not sold, therefore the landowner would not expect the land to be contaminated at the end of the lease. GOB will continue to liaise with Grant Fixter of RPS, as well as the OCC County Councillor. The planning application (<u>P25/V0149/FUL</u>) may be on the June planning committee agenda for the Vale. The landowner confirmed that if the planning application is successful, the connection date will most likely be in 2027. There are also other speculative BESS planning applications in the wider area including FCC land. e. Update on FCC - offer for community funding. The offer of funding is available potentially for a MUGA or for the recreation ground barrier.	

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b. Playground and Recreation Ground Working Group (VS) VS gave a brief update – more volunteers are also being sought to take forward the playground maintenance work and re-development. c. Village Hall Working Group (GOB) – a potential Village Hall Manager has been found. (<i>Post meeting note – the candidate has accepted the job offer</i>) d. Staffing Committee (VS) – a new Parish Clerk is being sought.	
14. Date of future meetings Councillors agreed to hold monthly meetings temporarily due to the number of local challenges to address. The next Parish Council meetings will be: Thursday 12th June Thursday 10th July Tuesday 9th September Please add these to your diary; we look forward to seeing you there.	

The Meeting Closed at 9:45pm

Signed:

Date.....



Appleford Parish Council

Appendix 1

Supplier/Invoice	Purpose	Net	VAT	Gross	Status
Payments for approval:					
Payments made:					
APC Garden Services INV 06438	Grounds maintenance in March	332.00	66.40	398.40	Paid 25 th March
Scribe INV-9368	Accounts software	12.00	2.40	14.40	Paid by DD 21 st March
Scribe INV-10319	Accounts software	12.00	2.40	14.40	Paid
Play Inspection Co INV 76649	Annual playground inspection	295.00	59.00	354.00	Paid 31 st March
Pet Waste INV 42009	Dog bin collection	39.60	7.92	47.52	Paid 31 st March
Fortress Fire Alarms UK Ltd Inv 57765	Fire alarm for village hall	615.00	123.00	738.00	Paid 25 th March
Sharps Acoustics 2025/183	Noise survey	2,500	500	3,000	Paid 18 th March
ICO	Annual registration fee			47.00	Paid by DD 24 th March
Clerk's Salary March				599.39	Paid by BACS 31 st March
Clerk's Salary April				599.39	
Clerk's expenses	WAVE AI subscription x 2 weeks			17.98	Paid 18 th March
VS expenses	Meeting refreshment expenses			24.07	Paid 31 st March
Receipts					
Precept	1st Half Precept 2025/26			12,000	

Signed:

Date.....



Appleford Parish Council

Appendix 2 - Reserves

		£	£	£
Earmarked reserves:				
	Description of reserve:			
	Village Hall legal fees for conversion to CIO with PC as sole trustee	3,000		
	Village Hall installation of internet and virtual meeting equipment	1,000		
	Recreation ground fencing	1,000		
	Election Fund	2,500		
			7,500	
Restricted (ring-fenced) reserves:				
	Description of reserve:			
	Noise Survey (OCC Grant)	2,500		
			2,500	
General reserves		14,637		
			14,637	
Total reserves				24,637

Signed:

Date.....