



Appleford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on Thursday, 9th January at 8pm

Attendees – Councillors:	Apologies:
Victoria Shepherd (Chair) (VS)	
Greg O’Broin (Vice-Chair) (GOB)	
Dom Grigg (DG)	
Manu Mavrikis (MM)	
Sandrine Phillipot-Gasc (SPG)	
Cllr Peter Stevens (PS) – District & County Cllr	
	In Attendance:
Members of the public: 8	Jane Humphreys– Clerk

The Meeting Opened at 8.00pm

1. Welcome, Apologies and Quorate VS welcomed all to the meeting. The meeting was quorate. A number of residents had given apologies	ACTION
2. 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.	
3. Minutes of the APC meeting held on September 14th November 2024 Minutes from the meeting held on 14 th November 2024 were APPROVED and signed by the Chair.	APPROVED

Signed:

Date.....

<p>4. Public Participation</p> <p>A resident asked for information on the role of Village Hall trustee, which was briefly outlined. VS stated that the most important action is to appoint a Village Hall keyholder. A resident commented that the response to the 20mph speed limit has been poor which could be due to problems with the signage. Further traffic calming measures were recommended. VS commented that a resident had proposed a traffic calming project but that further team members would be required to take this forward.</p> <p>A number of residents commented that the noise and vibrations from the sidings was an ongoing issue. VS confirmed that this would be reported at the FCC Liaison meeting on the 13th of January. GOB commented that FCC/Hanson have agreed to cooperate with the proposed noise survey and an in-person visit to the site would be preferable to take this forward. A resident complained that the noise in Manor Close is often intolerable with a “scrapping noise” being heard on occasions from very early in the day. The cause of this noise is apparently the sound of gravel being scooped out of trucks that are being delivered to the site to add to the stockpile for HS2. GOB commented that RPS (BESS application), have notified the council that they have now completed their Noise Assessment background readings, and are proposing to attend a PC meeting to provide feedback. GOB agreed that they should be invited to attend the next PC meeting to share their findings.</p>	<p>Action: Clerk/GOB to invite RPS to attend next PC meeting</p>
<p>5. Report from District and County Councillor Peter Stevens</p> <p>PS commented that he will be attending a walk on Saturday 11th January to inspect footpaths in the Sutton Courtenay area that have not been properly maintained.</p> <p>PS reported that he attended an OCC briefing on the 9th of January regarding HIF1. OCC planning officers have approved the original plans with minor changes. There is further work required to revise and refine the design with the consultation period closing at the end of January. The decisions on the Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) are awaited with work expected to start in Q1 2026. There will be 3 projects involved in the construction which will happen at the same time with completion expected in Q1 2028. PS confirmed that OCC will be engaging with parish and district councillors during this process.</p> <p>Residents raised concerns at the meeting about the issues of recent flooding which could not have been considered in the original design and if the design is still resilient. PS confirmed that the inspector did not believe that flooding would be an issue for Appleford. HIF1 may cause increased flooding in Sutton Courtenay (behind the barrier) but reduced flooding in Appleford. It is not known at this point if the Flood Risk Assessment will be revised.</p> <p>GOB raised the following concerns with PS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delegated authority – GOB asked that no decision on conditions should be delegated to a planning officer. All decisions should be taken by a planning committee. If there is a dispute should the chair of the planning committee make the final decision? 2. GOB asked if there was a plan with respect to the closure of any of the local bridges – Sutton Courtenay, Culham or Clifton Hampden. PS confirmed that closure of the bridges was not planned or part of the traffic modelling, but the roles of the existing bridges will have to be considered in the future. PS noted that the Thames Valley Flood Relief Scheme has been put on hold and that a complaint has been 	<p>Actions carried forward from November meeting: Action: PS – to investigate issues with Moor ditch</p>

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<p>raised with the Secretary of State. In particular the Ock through Abingdon should be viable for flood relief (linked to SESRO).</p> <p>3. Funding for Watlington Relief Road – questions should be raised as to why 80% of the funding is coming from the active travel budget</p> <p>4. HIF1 traffic modelling does not include induced traffic, and the modelling was carried out in 2014. Should a further traffic model be developed which does include induced traffic?</p> <p>PS also noted that OCC recently discussed the government’s devolution white paper which was published on 16 December on local government reform. OCC has requested being fast tracked as a unitary authority. OCC could potentially become a strategic authority by merging with other local authorities. There is an issue of the impact that the devolution process will have on local elections. District councils have called for elections to continue. VS advised PS of a forthcoming event at the Europa School on the 22nd of January to discuss active travel. PS indicated he would be attending this event.</p>	
<p>6. Update of progress from the previous minutes – the Clerk/Chair will report on progress of outstanding items which do not require further decision</p> <p>MM confirmed that replacing the vandalised SID is still ongoing. The call for more volunteers to come forward is still ongoing. GOB confirmed that one quote has been obtained for a Village Hall fire alarm, but a further quote is required.</p> <p>PS noted that a follow up with respect to the clearance of Moor Ditch had not been made. GOB reminded PS that the landowner was not allowed to clear the ditch.</p> <p>A question was asked on the various local BESS applications including the one on FCC land. GOB confirmed that this issue will be raised at the next FCC/Hanson Liaison meeting on the 13th of January and PS, who will be chairing this meeting, will report back.</p>	<p>Actions carried forward from November mtg: Action: MM reinstale SID at Meadow House with CCTV (NB Solar Panel theft & damage)</p>
<p>7. Planning</p> <p>a. Update on HIF1 status since approval by the Secretary of State in December, feedback from ORAA meeting. ORAA has appointed a barrister who has issued a 24-page legal opinion (GOB)</p> <p>GOB presented the background to Appleford PC’s engagement with the potential HIF1 development.</p> <p>The Secretary of State approved the HIF1 project on the 11th of December but no decision on compulsory purchases was made at the same time. The 300 page Inspector’s report supported OCC’s case and down played the impact on parishes. The POETS group was threatened with costs due to the delay. The Inspector’s report did acknowledge both conflict and damage to the landscape and that 19 properties will be harmed by the scheme, not just inconvenienced. The ORAA group has spent thousands of pounds seeking advice from barristers at Landmark Chambers. The group does not intend to pursue a judicial review as both the costs and the risk would be very high. OCC will still need to gain approval for the expenditure and a spending review may reduce interest in supplying adequate funding for the HIF1 scheme. APC also intends to monitor the compulsory purchase process closely. GOB restated the need for decisions to be taken by councillors and not by officers and concluded that building this harmful road is not an option.</p>	
<p>8. Volunteers and new Parish Councillors – your parish council needs you!</p>	

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Date.....

Appleford Parish Council needs support from volunteers and new Councillors to drive forward the work that is needed in coming years to sustain and develop the parish and to support the community. Please make yourself known if possible.

Volunteers and new Councillors are needed in several areas including –

- Helping to manage and develop the Village Hall to keep it open in the New Year once Jim and Claire step down (**31st December 2024**). Please help us to ensure it can remain a valuable facility for the community in the future.
- Working to improve the safety of the roads in our parish with the introduction of additional traffic calming measures.
- Developing a plan for renovating the playground and ensuring its operational safety into the future.
- Reviewing planning applications and creating a Steering Group to drive forward a Neighbourhood Plan to benefit the whole community.

Carried forward from November meeting:

Action: ALL – please consider which village resources & activities you can contribute time to, and let the Clerk or Cllrs know

9. Finance

a. To note invoices paid since the last meeting and to consider invoices for payment itemised below.

Supplier/Invoice	Purpose	Net	VAT	Gross
Payments made:				
Pet Waste Solutions 37388	Dog bin collection	85.80	17.16	102.96
Pet Waste Solutions 38751	Dog bin collection	85.80	17.16	102.96
Scribe Accounts INV-7835	Accounts system	12.00	2.40	14.40
Scribe Accounts INV-7631	Accounts system	12.00	2.40	14.40
WEL Medical Ltd I1281683	Defibrillator spares	565.90	115.17	691.02
OALC W-3625	Councillor Training	60.00	12.00	72.00
SLCC QL206348-3	Clerk training	120.00	24.00	144.00
Clerk's Salary November				515.26
Clerk's Salary December				449.54
A&W Grounds INV-0109	Waste bin collection	39.00		39.00
A&W Grounds INV-0105	Waste bin collection	26.00		26.00
Receipts				
HISCOX	Insurance claim			744.41

b. To approve and sign bank reconciliation to 31st December 2024 **APPROVED**

APPROVED

Signed:

Date.....

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<p>c. Payments & Receipts Summary to 31st December 2024 and progress against budget APPROVED</p> <p>d. Opening of Unity Trust deposit account and obtaining a Unity Trust charge card for the Clerk APPROVED</p> <p>e. The APC budget for 2025-26 was APPROVED at £34,139.16. The APC precept for 2025-26 was approved at £24,000</p>	
<p>9. Risk Assessment</p> <p>a. Risk Assessment – a review of the risk assessment and Emergency Plan was deferred to the next PC meeting.</p> <p>b. Village Hall fire alarm – one quote had been received, and a further quote is to be obtained.</p> <p>c. Playground Maintenance: To report on progress on playground maintenance since last meeting. It was agreed that APC will switch from A&W Grounds maintenance to APC</p> <p>d. Playground Inspections: To discuss current issues with regular playground inspections and to review costs associated with quarterly playground inspections by Play Inspection Co. VS continuing to encourage villagers to form a group of volunteers to manage the playground and recreation ground.</p> <p>e. Playground renovation: FCC Community Action Fund: Grant Application for playground refurbishment – to review progress and determine next funding round for application (<i>025-1 Round - opens 4 December 2024 and closes at 5.00pm on 19 February 2025</i>). To seek support from the local community to put a plan together which will form the basis of the FCC application. Not discussed at this meeting – deferred to next meeting.</p>	<p>Action: DG to obtain second quote for Village Hall alarm</p> <p>Action: Clerk to transfer grounds maintenance to APC</p> <p>Action: Clerk to obtain further quotes for playground inspection and maintenance</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting: Councillors agreed to hold monthly meetings temporarily due to the number of local challenges to address: 13th February 2025, 13th March 2025, 3rd April 2025, 15th May 2025.</p> <p>Please add these to your diary; we look forward to seeing you there.</p>	

The Meeting Closed at 9.45pm.

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