



Appleton Parish Council

Appleton Parish Hall, Dudlow Green Road, Appleton, WA4 5EQ

Telephone 01925 268153 Email clerk@appletonpc.org.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of Appleton Parish Council held on Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7pm at Appleton Parish Hall

Present: -

Councillor K Critchley, Councillor G Chapman, Councillor L Chapman, Councillor M Delaney, Councillor M Jervis, Councillor P Lewenz, Councillor M Marshall, Councillor P Walker and Councillor J Wheeler.

Mrs J Monks (Clerk), representative from Warrington Borough Council, representative from Appleton Thorn Village Hall and two members of the public.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Councillor B Kidley, Councillor C Critchley and Councillor M Browne sent their apologies for the meeting.

2. Chair's report on the past year

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor S Brookes, and in the absence of the Vice Chair, Councillor B Kidley, Councillor K Critchley made the following report for the Annual Parish Meeting which was as follows;

The past year has been highly successful for the Parish Council. Some of the highlights of the year were continued grant supporting funding for the Appleton Thorn Bawming event in June, financial contributions towards the running costs of Stockton Heath Library, Lumb Brook Millennium Green, funding for the Tuesday litter picking group and financial contributions towards the car park resurfacing project at St Mary Magdalene and continued financial support for Broomfield's Youth project. In total in the financial year 2022 to 2023 the Parish Council has paid grants totalling £10,132.50. Also, the Parish Hall roof was replaced to address the leaks and to ensure that this valuable public amenity is available for future generations.

The continued work of the Dingle and Fords Rough Working party shows the benefits of the Parish Council working with Warrington Borough Council, the Woodland Trust, Land Trust and volunteers to enhance and improve this public amenity.

The Parish Hall has bounced back following covid and is nearly at full capacity with bookings soaring above pre-pandemic levels.

The Events Working Party co-ordinated two afternoon tea parties for the Queens Jubilee, one at Appleton Parish Hall and the other at St Mary Magdalene's Church.

The Planning Committee look at every single planning application submitted in the Parish and for 2022/2023 there were in the region of over two hundred planning applications received throughout the year. Due to the deadlines imposed by Warrington Borough Council, the Planning Committee meets every two weeks to look at, examine and comment on every single planning application.

The Finance and General Purposes have a wide remit from the overseeing of the management of the Parish Hall to considering all key financial matters. They have ploughed through the various agenda items on every topic you can imagine, from replacement defibrillator pads to the £17,000 full roof replacement project.

The Parish Council were pleased to continue to support the work of the South Warrington Parishes Group and provided continued financial assistance in particularly with regards to the Warrington Local Plan and the Six:56 development both of which have significant adverse consequences for Appleton.

When setting the budget and precept for the oncoming year, 2023 to 2024 it was pleasing to again have a nil increase in the amount payable for residents of the Parish. The Band D precept has remained at £35.09 pa for the last two years. This has only been possible due to the increase in the number of houses in Appleton and the careful management of expenditure and use of reserves.

I would like to thank the Parish Council staff, the Clerk, the Assistant Clerk, the Booking Secretary and the Parish Ranger for their important contributions to the life of the Parish throughout the year.

3. Open discussion on Parish matters

No member of the public wished to address the Parish Council at this point.



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Mrs J Monks (Clerk), representative from Warrington Borough Council, representative from Appleton Thorn Village Hall and two members of the public.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor S Brookes and in the absence of the Vice Chair, Councillor B Kidley, Councillor K Critchley chaired the Parish Council meeting.

Councillor B Kidley, Councillor C Critchley and Councillor M Browne sent their apologies for the meeting.

2. Members Code of Conduct

Councillor M Jervis and Councillor J Wheeler declared that they were members of the Development Management Committee of Warrington Borough Council. Councillor P Walker declared that he was a substitute member of the Development Management Committee of Warrington Borough Council.

Councillor K Critchley and Councillor M Jervis declared an interest in relation to item four, the grant application for Appleton Thorn Village Hall as both were members.

3. Litter around Appleton Thorn Trading Estate

A representative from Warrington Borough Council addressed the Parish Council with regards to ongoing issues regarding litter around the Appleton Thorn Trading Estate. Warrington Borough Council were prepared to organise a one-day litter pick. However this would involve a financial contribution from the Parish Council towards the cost of the traffic management.

Several ideas such as cameras, signage and engagement with the firms on the trading estate were discussed.

The representative from Warrington Borough Council will contact the clerk with a proposal and costings in writing so this can be considered by the Parish Council at a future meeting.

4. Appleton Thorn Village Hall grant application for £10,500 towards the septic tank and toilet refurbishment project

A representative from Appleton Thorn Village Hall gave a presentation and answered questions regarding their grant application for £10,500 towards the septic tank and toilet refurbishment.

RESOLVED that;

The grant application for £10,500 was refused as Appleton Thorn Village Hall had already secured the funding for this project.

5. Public Participation

Two members of the public addressed the Parish Council with regards to agenda item 12, Section 106 request for the Six56 development and the ongoing issues with the Local Plan and the surveying of land for the further development of green belt in the area. The Parish Council reassured the member of the public that the Parish Council was against the planning application for the Six56, the Local Plan and any further developments on green belt land and that the Parish Council was part of the South Warrington Parishes group which were funding a Planning Consultant and Barrister to fight against all these developments.

6. Minutes of last Parish Council meeting and matters arising

RESOLVED that;

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 21st March 2023 (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chair.

Councillor K Critchley will sign the PCSO agreement in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

Councillor P Walker asked if a donation to Warrington Foodbank could be considered as an agenda item. The clerk will put this on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

7. Minutes of Finance and General Purposes committee meeting and to consider approving the recommendations and any matters arising

RESOLVED that;

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Thursday 6th April 2023, (copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chair.

RESOLVED that;

The following recommendations were approved;

- (a) The grant application procedure and allocation of funding was amended as detailed in the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting minutes dated Thursday 6th April 2023.
- (b) The St Mary Magdalene's car park project grant application for additional £2,000 funding was refused.

8. Planning

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the Planning Committee on Tuesday 21st March 2023 and Thursday 6th April 2023. (Copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chair.

9. Accounts for 2023/2024 and Payments Schedules

The March 2023 statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year 2022/2023 was noted, and the Members noted the Bank Statement as of 31st March 2023.

RESOLVED that;

Payments were to be made in accordance with the payment schedule for April 2023.

10. Quarterly Banking Reconciliation and banking checks

RESOLVED that;

Councillor M Delaney will undertake the verification of the bank reconciliation for all accounts as of 31st March 2023.

11. Environmental improvements Appleton Thorn

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £300.00 for village improvements/planting for Appleton Thorn volunteers to purchase items as and when required from the Environmental Improvement budget for 2023/2024.

12. Section 106 request for funds regarding Six56 development

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would submit a Section 106 request to Warrington Borough Council stating that the Parish Council strongly objects to the Six56 planning application but ask for Section 106 funds if the planning application was approved.

13. Remembrance Sunday

Councillor K Critchley and Councillor J Wheeler reported that there had been a meeting on Monday 20th March with Rev Jewell and the Church Wardens regarding the Remembrance Sunday event held in November 2022 at St Cross Church in Appleton Thorn.

The clerk confirmed that following this meeting she had received an email from the Church which has confirmed that they have public liability insurance for the event and that the Church will provide their own wreath to be laid at the war memorial.

There was a request from the Church for the Parish Council to donate towards the cost of tea and coffee to be served at the end of the Remembrance Sunday service in St Cross Church in Appleton Thorn.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would not make a donation to St Cross Church for the provision of teas and coffees after the service.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council will contact the PCSOs and ask them to be present at the Remembrance event in November 2023. The clerk stated that they would be no guarantees that the PCSOs could attend this event as they may not be available or on duty.

RESOLVED that;

It was the responsibility of St Cross Church to review the road closure and wreath laying at the Cenotaph and for the church to apply for any road closures as they are the organiser of this event. St Cross Church are responsible for applying for and for the management of any road closures and for any traffic management.

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would not apply for any road closures on behalf of St Cross Church. The Parish Council are not sending a letter to any residents regarding this, and the Parish Council would not fund any costs for the road closure or traffic management for the event.

The clerk was asked to send a letter to the vicar at St Cross Church regarding the decisions of the Parish Council.

14. Training

RESOLVED that;

the clerk, assistant clerk, Parish Ranger and Booking Secretary cleaner to attend a free Fire Marshall training in Chester organised by Cheshire West Voluntary action on Friday 28th April.

15. PCSO / Police report

The clerk had circulated the PCSO report to all the Parish Councillors for their attention. There were no PCSOs in attendance.

The assistant clerk has arranged with the PCSOs for a photo to be taken with the new speed indicator devices on Thursday 20th April at 3pm. All Parish Councillors are welcome to attend.

16. Parish Councillor reports and feedback from other meetings

Councillor G Chapman requested that the Parish Ranger mowed the land on the corner of Green Lane and Cann Lane North as the grass required cutting.

Councillor P Lewenz reported that he did not attend the Public Rights of Way Forum. However the Public Rights of Way Officer was looking to re-open footpath number twenty from approx. July 2023 following the work on Appleton Cross housing development.

Councillor P Lewenz reported that the Litter Network group had undertaken a little pick in a wood in Appleton and this had been successful in collecting lots of litter.

Councillor M Delaney reported that Broomsfields school was full of litter at the weekend following an activity at the school.

Councillor J Wheeler reported that a tree had to be felled on Hall Drive and this was part of the ongoing loss of trees in Appleton. Councillor J Wheeler will make a proposal for replacement trees (types, costs and locations) for the Parish Council to consider and the clerk was asked to put this as an agenda item for the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

Councillor K Critchley wants the Parish Council to consider the installation of Air Quality monitors around the Parish and the clerk was asked to put this as an agenda item for the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

17. Dates and time of next meetings

Thursday 4th May 2023, 9.30am Planning Committee meeting, Appleton Parish Hall

Thursday 4th May 2023, 9.45am Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting, Appleton Parish Hall.

Tuesday 16th May 2023, 6.30pm Planning Committee meeting, Appleton Parish Hall.

Tuesday 16th May 2023, 7pm Annual meeting followed by Parish Council meeting.