



Appleton Parish Council

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

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Appleton Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7pm at Appleton Parish Hall

Present: - Councillor L Booth, Councillor K Critchley, Councillor G Chapman, Councillor L Chapman, Councillor M Jervis, Councillor P Lewenz, Councillor M Marshall, Councillor H Speed and Councillor P Walker.

Mrs J Monks (Clerk) and seven members of the public were present for public speaking time and agenda item 13, Appleton Cross phase two development.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor L Chapman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Councillor M Browne, Councillor M Delaney, Councillor C Critchley and Councillor J Wheeler sent their apologies for the meeting.

2. Members Code of Conduct

Councillor M Jervis declared that he was a member 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.

3. Public Participation

A member of the public addressed the Parish Council with regards to the lack of any development of phase two of the Appleton Cross development and they wanted Homes England and Warrington Borough Council to deliver the facilities in the outline planning permission which had been granted.

4. Minutes of last Parish Council meeting and matters arising

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the Parish Council's monthly meeting on Tuesday 12th December 2023. (Copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chair.

Councillor L Booth reported that she had met with the electrician on site at the Parish Hall twice to look at the lighting in the car park. With regards to the complaint from a resident regarding the existing lighting this has now been altered and was adjusted on Wednesday 10th January. Two lights need replacing as they are broken and the quote for this will be on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

5. Planning

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the Planning Committee on Tuesday 12th December 2023 and Thursday 21st December 2023. (Copies of which had been circulated to each Member) were approved and signed by the Chair.

6. Accounts for 2023/2024 and Payments Schedules

The December 2023 statement of Receipts and Payments for the Financial Year 2023/2024 was noted, and the Members noted the bank reconciliation of 31st December 2023.

RESOLVED that;

Payments were to be made in accordance with the payment schedule for January 2024.

7. Bank Transfer for future payments

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £10,000 was approved by the Parish Council for the bank transfer which was undertaken in error by the Mansfield Building Society on 28th December 2023.

The clerk was asked to submit a formal complaint to the Mansfield Building Society regarding the two transfers of £10,000 which brought the total withdrawal amount to £20,000 rather than the one withdrawal of £10,000 which was requested and authorised.

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £30,000 was transferred from the Mansfield savings account to the NatWest current account to cover future payments until the precept is received in April.

RESOLVED that;

The £25.00 bank transfer fee was approved.

8. Quarterly Banking Reconciliation and banking checks

RESOLVED that;

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

9. May 2024 Elections arrangements

RESOLVED that;

The following arrangements were approved for Appleton Parish Hall;

- that the Parish Hall is a neutral venue and that no posters/leaflets promoting any political party or individual will be allowed to be displayed.
- All bookings for Thursday 2nd May 2024 have been cancelled as the Parish Hall will be in use as a polling station.
- Warrington Borough Council will be responsible for the hire of the Parish Hall for the use as a polling station and will be required to sign a tenancy agreement and pay hall hire at the standard rate of hire (in line with all other existing hall hirers). As the election staff will not clean the hall at the end of the period of hire an additional £50 cleaning charge will be added to the invoice for payment, in line with the standard agreed hire charges.
- On polling day, there is no access to the front garden area of the Parish Hall, and this will be cordoned off with hazard tape.

10. Minutes of Dingle and Fords Rough Working party meeting on Friday 15th December

RESOLVED that;

The minutes of the Dingle and Fords Rough Working party meeting on Friday 15th December 2023 were approved.

Councillor P Lewenz reported that the Land Trust were looking at putting tree preservation orders on trees on their land adjacent to the Appleton Cross housing development.

11. Parish Hall lock

RESOLVED that;

The amount of £96.40 plus VAT was approved for supplying and fitting a new battery for the front door at the Parish Hall.

12. Warrington Borough Council Local Plan draft supplementary Planning documents

RESOLVED that;

The Parish Council would not make any comment on the draft supplementary documents in support of the Local Plan.

Individual Parish Councillors could submit their own comments directly to Warrington Borough Council if they wished on the Local Plan draft supplementary planning documentation.

13. Appleton Cross phase Two

Councillor H Speed reported that as the Ward Councillor who covered the Appleton Thorn area she had been invited to a recent meeting with Homes England and they were keen to make a presentation to the Parish Council with regards to the progress for the phase two development of Appleton Cross.

The clerk was asked to contact a representative from Homes England and Warrington Borough Council to invite them to attend the next Parish Council meeting.

14. Quote for removal and reinstallation of Christmas tree lights in the tree outside the Parish Hall

RESOLVED that;

The quote for removal of the Xmas lights was approved at the cost of £300 plus VAT.

The quote for the storing, testing and reinstallation of the Christmas lights for 2024 was approved at £500.00 plus VAT.

All the work was to be undertaken by City Illuminations.

15. Bushes and signage for Parish Hall car park

RESOLVED that;

The expenditure of up to £50 plus VAT was approved for CCTV signage for the Parish Hall car park.

RESOLVED that;

No action was to be taken regarding the bushes at the side of the Parish Hall.

16. Replacement defibrillator cabinet/door

RESOLVED that;

A replacement door is purchased for the defibrillator at the Parish Hall with the cost to not exceed £150.00 plus VAT.

17. Data Protection annual fee

RESOLVED that;

The annual fee of £35 was approved for the renewal of the data protection registration fee.

18. PCSO / Police report

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

Councillor P Lewenz reported that he had removed some canisters which had been found in Berry Wood and this had been reported to Cheshire Police for their attention.

Councillor K Critchley raised concerns regarding the time the PCSO was spending in Appleton as the Parish Council funded 50% of a PCSO. The PCSO report stated the 'Street of the week' but no speed enforcement had been undertaken due to increased patrols of retail units in central Warrington as part of the Operation Jingles Christmas patrol plan. There was concern regarding the amount of time that the PCSO was spending in Appleton and Appleton Thorn.

Councillor H Speed reported that a resident had expressed concern regarding the amount of time the PCSO was present in Appleton Thorn as they had not been seen for some time now.

The issues will be taken up with the PCSO when they next attend a Parish Council meeting.

19. Parish Councillor reports and feedback from other meetings

Councillor M Jervis reported that he had attended the public enquiry regarding the 656, but it had been adjourned as a challenge has been made to the Local Plan. Councillor M Jervis reported that the South Warrington Parishes group will therefore incur further costs in relation to this. The clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had made no financial commitment to the South Warrington Parish group for the financial year 2024/2025. The clerk has contacted Lymm Parish Council requesting further details if further funding was required for this to be considered at the February Parish Council meeting.

Councillor K Critchley reported that he believed that the figures were incorrect for the setting of the Council Tax base for Appleton, and he would be taking this matter further with Warrington Borough Council.

Councillor K Critchley reported that he had met with a representative from the Highways Department of Warrington Borough Council with regarding to the possibility of an average speed camera system in Appleton Thorn. The cost of this was around £60,000. Councillor K Critchley will produce a full proposal with costs for consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Councillor H Speed has been liaising with residents and the bus company regarding the new 'hail and ride' bus service in Appleton following complaints about the bus route.

Councillor H Speed has received a request from the residents of the Bloor Homes Estate for Warrington Borough Council to take over the management of the play area. Complaints have been received as the residents of the Bloor Homes estate pay a management and maintenance fee for the play area and children who are not resident on the Bloor Homes estate have been using the play area. There are also ongoing issues with flooding and a lack of gate on the play area site.

Councillor P Walker reported that Red Lane was closed for emergency repairs.

Councillor G Chapman reported that Dingle Lane would be closed for one week to allow a contractor to install fibre.

Councillor G Chapman reported that she had received complaints regarding the non-collection of the garden waste due to the strike action. Warrington Borough Council has arranged extra additional collections, but no refunds will be issued.

Councillor P Lewenz reported that he had contacted Warrington Borough Council regarding the drains being blocked in The Dingle and Warrington Borough Council had confirmed that they will be looking at this issue.

20. Dates and time of next meetings

Thursday 18th January 2024, 9.30 Events Working Party meeting.

Thursday 25th January 2024, 9.30am Environmental Working Party meeting.

Thursday 1st February 2024, 9.15am Planning Committee meeting.

Thursday 1st February 2024, 9.45am Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting.

Tuesday 20th February 2024, 6.30pm Planning Committee meeting.

Tuesday 20th February 2024, 7pm Parish Council meeting.