

Appleby Magna Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 7 April 2016, 7.30pm, Sir John Moore Community Building Appleby Magna

Present: - Cllrs P Hemmerdinger (Chair), P Smith, G Pott, E Bird, A Whitehurst, D Gothard, Clerk Lindsay Swinfield, member of public (Appleby Environment), Police representative

1601 Apologies: - Nil

1602 Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held April 2015 were endorsed and signed.

1603 Chairman of the Parish Council – Annual Report:

Cllr Hemmerdinger welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting with an annual report from the Parish Council:

Precept – to be £16,000, this is now made up of £15,062 Precept and £938.00 Government grant which includes a Band D Parish Council tax of £35.36 per household.

Precept = the amount raised by Council Tax;

Council Tax (Band D) = the Council Tax per band D property

Total Budget Requirement = Grant + Precept

Various 'street scene' improvements and repairs carried out, stiles mended, new kissing gates, trees and hedges cut back, two grit bins paid for and installed. The kissing gate replacements cost £2,147 to date, there are more to be replaced and refurbished. Street lighting repair costs amounted to £143.00 (the street lights we have to pay for are for Appleby Parva).

The Allotment Society is working well, with many improvements being made to the site and an orchard in the making.

Work to the recreation ground, such as ditches being unblocked, trees cut back etc has been carried out; the PC is supporting grant applications for a new sports pavilion. The play area has been refurbished and 'no dogs allowed signage installed' but since vandalised we are researching 'vandal proof signs.- the PC is looking at providing some new play equipment. Bollards have been placed along Rectory Lane to prevent vehicles parking on the verge. On several occasions, NWLDC has been called out to remove fly tipping.

Crime figures in the village have dramatically reduced this year.
The two Parish notice boards have been refurbished.
The Parish Council is looking to have a 3D village sign installed.

Over £100 of spring bulbs have been planted in the village.

This financial year the Parish Council has given £500 in grants, to SJMF.

The Parish Council is supporting the production of a new Village Design Statement which is being undertaken by Appleby Environment

Parish Council along with Measham Mobility have raised funds for a Community Media Mini bus – which has been ordered.

A new Parish Council web site is live and is very successful thanks to Cllr Peter Smith.

Various large planning applications have been considered.

Budget is looking healthy, but government cut backs and further control of the Precept will mean belts will have to be tightened.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the existing Councillors for their time and commitment, and to the Clerk and volunteers.

Report from Appleby Environment (given in person):

Our main activities over the last year have been in relation to the new version of the Local Plan. We attended Council meetings to monitor developments and when the draft plan was agreed and put out for consultation we went through it in detail to identify issues of concern (or celebration).

We identified issues relating to the planning policies for sustainable villages (of which Appleby remains one) which we felt were likely to lead to further creeping development. We also identified specific problems with the suggested limits to development (particularly on Measham Rd and Black Horse Hill). We also felt that the Council should be designating local green spaces (rather than leaving it up to local communities via Neighbourhood Plans). We emailed all our contacts about these issues and put posters up around the village – in both cases asking people to respond to the consultation. It appears this was relatively successful as issues of concern to Appleby residents have been singled out in the reports so far.

There have been 2 meetings so far of the council sub-committee considering consultation responses. It appears that the wording may be tightened up in relation to 'sustainable villages' and we are likely to 'win' (at least at this stage) a redrawing of the limits to development around the Measham Rd site where the large housing site has permission (this should constrain the housing numbers to those already granted).

The Local Green issue hasn't been discussed yet.

The next stage is the Council deciding what amendments they want to make to their draft in response to all the consultation. This then goes to another stage of consultation where an inspector (rather than the council) will consider objections. Meanwhile the national context remains very hostile to those trying to preserve villages and local sense of place. Although national guidelines stress the importance of balancing housing need against other criteria in practice appeal decisions and government interventions seem almost always to be in favour of more housing.

We have not been able to pursue a revision to the VDS, or initiate the more ambitious Neighbourhood Plan while the Local Plan has been so uncertain. We would still like to do one or other of these but do need a wider group of people involved. In particular, the Neighbourhood Plan is a long term project that requires wide public engagement (as it has to be passed by a local poll).

Appleby Environment Committee

End of reports

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm

Lindsay Swinfield (Clerk to the Parish Council)