

**Minutes of the Appleshaw Annual Parish Council Meeting was held on
Wednesday 14th of May 2025 in Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllr Mrs S Smith – Chairman.
Cllr Mr B Hodgson – Vice Chairman
Cllr T Burden
Cllr Mrs C Wotton
Cllr Mrs D Hodgson
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr C Donnelly
Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook
Members of the Public – 14

Apologies: Emma Moss, HR Manager, Pilgrims UK

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

The Chairman reminded members of the public that they have an opportunity to address the Parish Council as an item on each agenda. The Chairman understood that not everyone is comfortable about talking in public so, with this in mind, there will now be paper and pencils available at each meeting and a sealed posting box so that issues can be raised.

The Parish Council will try to address any issues they receive but, failing that, will pass on to the relevant authorities.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest recorded. All Councillors confirmed that there was no change to their Declarations of Interest.

VACANCY.

Cllr Lucinda Prince has resigned from the Parish Council due to work commitments. The Parish Council now has two vacancies.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.

The election of Chairman and Vice Chairman will be postponed until the July Meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman reported on a busy year for the Parish Council:

- The Chairman wished to thank Cllr Mr B Hodgson and Cllr Mr T Burden for all the time they have spent on village maintenance.
- The Parish Council have joined forces with Penton Grafton, Penton Mewsey and Charlton to set up a Pan Parish Forum. The Pan Parish Forum is liaising with Southern Water and other agencies to discuss the flow of surface water through the villages and the dispersal of sewage.
- The Parish Council has been included in a review of the Village Emergency Plan and the final draft was handed in today.

- Grants were allocated through County Councillor Mr C Donnelly and Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook to fund the provision of a generator to power the village hall to make it a warm hub in an emergency. A fuel-powered generator was purchased and installed.
- Appleshaw now has an emergency 'Grab Bag' and should prove a useful tool in an emergency.
- It has been a wonderful year for the village with many volunteers to help with the events that have been held. A big thank you to everyone involved.
- Appleshaw now has a new people carrier service to replace the previous bus service. This is run on the same lines as 'Dial a Ride'.
- The Parish Council are working with the Parochial Church Council on maintenance of the cemetery
- The Parish Council have pledged 25 playing field grass-cuts for the 2025 Season.
- The Parish met the new Test Valley Community Engagement Officer, Michelle Penne, on the 16th of April. Good links were forged.
- The Parish Council experienced a lack of communication from Southern Water over road closures due to the over-pumping. This caused problems and it is hoped that communication between Southern Water and the Parish Council will continue to improve.
- The Chairman wished to thank her fellow Councillors and the Parish Clerk for all their hard work and support.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Cllr Mr B Hodgson reported that Southern Water hope to remove all of their equipment within the next 3 – 4 days. The road would be closed for an hour while this takes place. There should be no more tankers after a couple of weeks.

The Parish Council are in negotiations with Southern Water for the provision of water to the allotments. Southern Water have confirmed that they will not charge for the connection.

SAFETY COMMITTEE.

Mr Andrew Smith gave a brief update:

- The Parish Council's priority is to improve safety on the village roads. The current status has been assessed and there has been constant dialogue with Hampshire County Council.
- The village has been consulted widely for their views.
- 96% of residents are concerned about speed in the Village. 68% have reported 'near misses. 90% would like to see a 20mph speed limit through the village.
- Hampshire County Council need data to confirm the speeds vehicles travel through the village. With the purchase of the new solar-powered speed signs, the village will be able to provide this in the future.
- Poor road signage at the White House junction and through the village has been raised with Hampshire County Council. The Parish Council have funded additional signs that have been put up through the village. HCC have now installed two new signs warning pedestrians in the road.
- Promoting the use of high-visibility clothing etc. while walking on the roads is ongoing.

FINANCE.

April and May 2025

INCOME.

TVBC ½ Precept	£ 9,500.00
Cllr P Lashbrook Grant	£ 987.04
SSE Wayleave Payment	£ 49.68
	<u>£10,536.72</u>

EXPENDITURE.

R. N Waterman Admin – April and May	= £ 600.00
SBPC Storage	= £ 20.00
Mrs S Smith Expenses	= £ 119.60
Lloyds Bank Charge	= £ 12.50
Electric Works Balance Generator	= £ 920.46
TVBC Dog Bin Emptying	= £ 1,419.90
Mr C Wilkins Maintenance	= £ 200.00
D Cook Mower Service	= £ 307.06
	<u>£ 3,599.52</u>

Summary of Accounts 2025/2026

Opening Balance 1 st April 2025	= £3,785.80
Plus Income – April and May	£10,536.72
	= <u>£14,322.52</u>
Less Expenditure	
April and May	= £3,599.52
	= <u>£10,723.00</u>

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Allotments	= £ 398.00
Parish Council	= £9,725.00
Play Area	= £ 600.00
	= <u>£10,723.00</u>

END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

APPLESHAW PARISH COUNCIL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025

RECEIPTS	£
Precept	15,000.00
Allotment Rents	Nil
Grants from TVBC and HCC	2,000.00
Grant from Fete	600.00
Sale of Grass Topper	1,000.00
	<u>18,600.00</u>

PAYMENTS

General Administration	1,323.46
Insurance	1,038.43
Dog Bin Emptying	1,116.26
Village Hall Generator – Resilience Project	1,920.46
Street Lighting	244.87
Village Maintenance	1,002.04
Grass Cutting + Ditch Clearing	4,206.05
Flashing Speed Sign Maintenance – 2 Years	307.98
Clerk	3,600.00
Community Fund, Coronation and Christmas event	1,300.00
Misc	178.87

V.A.T. on Payments	849.55
	<u>17,089.97</u>

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY

Balance brought forward 1/4/2024	2,273.77
Add : Receipts	18,600.00
	<u>20,873.77</u>

Less: Payments	17,089.97
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Carried forward to 2025/2026	<u>3,785.80</u>
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Appleshaw Parish Council Bank Reconciliation

Lloyds Current Account 31.03.2025	£ 3,904.05
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Less cheques not presented 31.03.2025

No 400	35.00
No 410	15.49
No	67.76

£3,785.80

The Clerk explained each item. Mrs Hopkins asked for clarification on the expenditure on events. The Clerk reported that a £500 Grant had been received from TVBC for the King's Coronation, the Parish Council provided a further £300, total expenditure on King's Coronation was £800. The Parish Council gave their annual grant to the Appleshaw Community Committee of £500. Total spent during the financial year is £1,300.

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the end of year financial report as a true record. Proposed by Cllr S Smith and seconded by Cllr B Hodgson.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION – AGAR 2024/2025

The Parish Council agreed to submit a Certificate of Exemption as the turnover was below £25,000. Proposed by Cllr S Smith and seconded by Cllr B Hodgson. All agreed.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/2025

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statement. The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Smith and seconded by Cllr T Burden. All Agreed.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2024/2025

The Annual Accounting Statement 2024/2025 was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Smith and seconded by Cllr T Burden. All agreed.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR C DONNELLY

Cllr Mr C Donnelly report on the following:

- Cllr Mr C Donnelly was pleased that he was able to help secure the new bus service for the village.
- Roadworks are scheduled for 100-acre roundabout, and re-surfacing is to be undertaken overnight from the 16th to 30th of July.
- Donna Jones, the Police and Crime Commissioner has vowed to crack down on rural crime and will be holding a rural crime conference later in the year.
- The Government's reorganisation of Local Government is continuing with little to report at the moment. The splitting up of Hampshire has not yet been confirmed, HCC have submitted their recommendations. Hampshire County Council are looking at what services will be passed on to Parish Councils.
- Cllr Mr C Donnelly reported that he is taking part in the task of reforming the constitution of HCC with a view to making it more accountable.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR P LASHBROOK.

Cllr Mr P Lashbrook reported on the following:

- Test Valley Borough Council, through good investments, have been able to set the lowest council tax in the country.
- TVBC have also have one of the finest refuse collections in Hampshire and hope that this will continue after 2028.
- Demolition of the current building to make way for the new 'Lights' Theatre is due to start very soon. Cllr Mr P Lashbrook stated that he had seen the plans for the new Theatre, and he was very impressed.
- TVBC are continuing with their tree-planting scheme.
- The Community Engagement Team are making great progress working with the Community.
- The Government is forging ahead with Devolution. Cllr Mr P Lashbrook stated that in his view this is undemocratic as the Public have not been consulted, Localism is dead. TVBC will cease to exist after April 2028. Services will be centralized, and he has fears for the service provided.

MAINTENANCE.

Cllr Mr T Burden reported on maintenance. The playing field looked good and he wished to thank Owen Mills for the work he has done.

The Parish Council will continue to provide 25 grass cuts for the playing field and will continue to cut the Village Green and community ground.

Cllr Mr T Burden will arrange for Mr D Cook to service the mower and will liaise with the cricket team to cut before matches.

Mr Owen Mills suggested that all parties interested in keeping the playing field looking good come together and pool their resources to formulate a way forward. This was thought of as a good idea, a meeting will be organised to discuss this.

Cllr Mr T Burden asked if Southern Water is repairing the road after the damage caused by the tankers. Cllr Mr B Hodgson believed that there are forthcoming repairs now that it is planned to stop using the tankers and that he will raise this with Southern Water.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

No issues raised.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AWARDS.

The Chairman stated that she has often spoken at the Parish Council meetings about the wonderful volunteers we have in our village. She would like to thank Alice and Olivia for the work they do on the Fete; The Community Events Committee; The Parochial Church Council; those offering coffee mornings, community lunches and suppers and everyone who has helped.

Two community support awards were presented:

The first award went to Sean Caddy who is "the epitome of the saying 'nothing is too much trouble'". The Chairman was delighted that Bob and Lin Caddy were there to receive the award on their son's behalf.

The second went to "someone you truly can count on for help and support", Netty Duckett.

Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook presented the awards and also thanked the recipients on behalf of Test Valley Borough Council for the hard work they did for their community.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

9th of July 2025.