

**Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council AGM and May Meeting held on
Wednesday the 13th of May 2026 in Appleshaw Village Hall at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr Jenny Hopkins – Chairman
Cllr Barry Hodgson – Vice Chairman
Cllr Denise Hodgson
Cllr Carole Wootton
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr C Donnelly
Alison Hellyer – Hampshire Rights of Way
Members of the Public - 10

Apologies: Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook and Emma Moss, HR Manager
Pilgrim's UK

AGM

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Welcome you all and especially to Alison from the HCC Countryside Service who will put the importance of our footpaths and rights of way in perspective.

Chairman's Report

It has been an active year since I joined the council and this fabulous team!

We have tried to make our parish Communications as open as possible to reach all parishioners and especially those who do not have the internet. A periodic newsletter has been introduced which is delivered door to door.

Southern Water have been ever-present in the villages this year, of which more later. I was very mistaken to say in January that the water wouldn't run 3 years in a row, and we will now have to wait and see if the pattern truly has changed.

A tanker update and more about the pipe sealing programme will be given later on.

Allotments: this has been a big issue for us in the last year with the addition of water via troughs, thanks to Southern Water funding the connection to the mains and a grant of £500 by last year's Fete committee for hire of a trenching machine which enabled Barry to dig in all the pipework. Stefan very kindly connected the pipes to the troughs. Denise has done a great job letting the plots, of which more later.

Our problems continue with Aster selling their properties when they become vacant so the store of rentals in the village is getting smaller. Aster also sold off their garages at Greensey last year.

Grass cutting: the village is kept looking good by a combination of Barry, Owen and Lee, including the churchyard and cemetery. We are now doing it in house with our own machinery and have saved a considerable amount of money.

Jean Weeks' memorial bench – we received advice to move it from under the red horse chestnut tree on the Green and it will be placed on the playing field. Jean's daughter has been kept in touch throughout and is happy with the arrangement.

Footpaths are generally in good order. Some recent random parking on the Green will be addressed by possibly placing more bollards and reinstating the Parish Council sign.

Road safety sub-committee: the committee has been doing great work under Andrew Smith's chairmanship. The Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) were installed just before last year's Fete, and Ashley kindly downloaded the data from both at the beginning of the year and produced a detailed resumé which Andrew will expand later.

Dealing with Hampshire County Council's dwindling resources is a challenge – there was no salting of the village road in the cold period despite our school route, no help with roadside issues such as cutting back hedges or active help to clear ditches. Chris Donnelly has been of invaluable help to us in trying to get HCC to communicate with us.

Walnut Tree Pub: we registered the pub as an Asset of Community Value for the next 5 years under the TVBC Community Right to Bid scheme. Little did we know we might need this protection so soon with the pub going on the market in the last couple of weeks – Pam will update later on.

HCC/TVBC reorganisation:

We are in a state of flux again! Most of TVBC will be part of a Mid Hampshire Authority from May 2028. There will be elections in 2027 for shadow authorities which are 'temporary councils that will plan and prepare the new unitary council before it officially starts work on 1 April 2028'.

A new Mayor for Hampshire will also be elected in 2028 - we have no more details on the practical arrangements, except that a Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority has already been set up under an Interim Chief Executive, and a Mayoral Combined County Authority will follow. Transport and housing will be two of the responsibilities. Interesting times ahead!

The Fete and Flower Show are very sadly unlikely to go ahead this year. Both require a huge commitment, and we are very grateful to Nessie Cuthbertson who has kept the Flower Show alive for so long, and to Alice Molony and Olivia Russell for their care of the Fete, especially last year's which exceeded expectations. I am sure someone will come forward eventually to keep these institutions going!

Litter picks – we do two a year and they are a great success with a lot of rubbish picked up. Thanks to all who take part and to those who take a bag out regularly during the year to keep the roadsides clear. The next one will be on Sunday, 1st November.

Emergency Plan: specific contacts have been updated. The generator is housed in the Hall garage for use in case of a power failure. There will be enough power to boil a kettle, charge mobile phones etc. Barry and I start up the generator once a month.

Driven by the Local Plan consultation and the devolution plans, which came up just as I joined, local parish chairmen and councillors are now meeting regularly to discuss common local issues and to share information.

A group of parishes under the chairmanship of the Penton Grafton parish chairman and supported by HCC, TVBC and bus companies is looking at the issues experienced now on the A342, particularly at the junctions which feed into it. A draft report is being put together to put to TVBC or its successors. This cooperation with other

parishes will be essential in future to present a combined parish/community voice when local active assistance is somewhat falling apart.

Finally, thank you very much indeed to my parish council team of Barry, Denise and Carole for their great support and to our clerk, Richard, who has kept us on the straight and narrow. To the Road Safety sub-committee for their detailed work and to you all for your community spirit – Sue Smith for the upkeep of the phone boxes, Tony Burden for his help with maintenance, Justin Holder for his continued support on providing the Website, Andrea Holder for the wonderful Community Lunches and all who put on the events and entertainments which keep us in touch with each other. I include the church in that comment.

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT – Parish Clerk.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT/NOTES ATTACHED TO THE PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2026.

ASSETS.

Movements in the year:

- a) 2 Flashing Speed Signs were purchased in this financial year. Value £4,679.00
- b) No assets were disposed of.
- c) On 31st March 2026 the following assets were held:-

Agreed Insurance Values

Land – Playing Field – 2.75 Acres	Value £ 1.00
Brick Built Bus Shelter & Timber Bus Shelter	Value £ 3,945.80
Gates and Fences	Value £ 3,131.95
Playground Equipment	Value £ 11,751.07
Mowers	Value £ 6,705.13
Other Surfaces	Value £ 2,558.60
Defibrillator	Value £ 1,381.75
Lap Top	Value £ 597.00
2 Flashing Speed Signs	Value £ 4,679.00
	Total <u>£34,751.30</u>

BORROWINGS.

At the close of business on 31 March 2026 there were no loans to the Parish Council.

LEASES.

At the end of the year there were no leases in operation.

DEBTS OUTSTANDING.

At the end of business on the 31st of March 2026 there was a debt outstanding of £614.44 VAT to the Parish Council

TENANCIES.

During the year there were no tenancies entered into.

SECTION 137 PAYMENTS.

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables Parish Councils to spend up to the product of £11.10 per elector for the benefit of people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorised by other powers.

The limit for this Parish Council in the year of account was 409 x £11.10 = £4,539.90

Payment made to Community Events = £500

AGENCY WORK – Nil

ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY – Nil

SUPERANNUATION – Nil

APPLESHAW PARISH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2026

RECEIPTS	£
Precept	19,000.00
Allotment Rents	720.00
Grants from TVBC	987.40
Grant from Fete	500.00
Lengthsman Funding	1,000.00
SSE Wayleave	49.68
VAT Refund	2,270.56
	<u>£24,527.28</u>
PAYMENTS	
General Administration	1,234.40
Insurance	1,101.73
Dog Bin Emptying	1,183.25
Street Lighting	449.05
Village Maintenance	2,835.02
Grass Cutting + Ditch Clearing	1,354.10
Allotments	1,908.81
Clerk	3,600.00
Community Fund for events	500.00
Defibrillator Pads	86.00
Flashing Speed Signs	5,636.22
V.A.T. on Payments	1,938.39
	<u>21,826.97</u>
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS SUMMARY	
Balance brought forward 1/4/2025	3,785.80
Add: Receipts	24,527.28
	<u>28,313.08</u>
Less: Payments	21,826.97
Carried forward to 2026/2027	6,486.11

DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN BDO

There were no declarations of interest with BDO recorded.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION – AGAR 2025/2026

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

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/2026

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026 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 J Hopkins and seconded by Cllr C Wootton. All Agreed.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2025/2026

The Annual Accounting Statement 2025/2026 was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr J Hopkins and seconded by Cllr B Hodgson. All agreed.

ALISON HELLYER – HAMPSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY.

The Chairman welcomed Alison Hellyer to the meeting.

Alison Hellyer explained the role of Hampshire Rights of way and her remit as Community Engagement Officer: Points of Note:

- Alisons Job is to liaise with Parish and Town Councils to look after the Hampshire Rights of Way.
- Hampshire has 3000 miles of rights of way that is administered by a team of 14.
- Much of the maintenance of the Rights of Way is down to volunteers.
- Rights of Way encompasses a wide variety of topics including bridges, signage, footpaths, bridleways, finger posts etc.
- Alison reported that she works closely with the Ramblers Association.

The Chairman thanked Alison for her presentation.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.

Cllr Mrs J Hopkins was elected as Chairman and Cllr Mr B Hodgson was elected Vice Chairman.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

There were no questions from the Members of the Public.

CLOSE OF THE AGM.

The Chairman closed the AGM.

PARISH COUNCIL MAY MEETING

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY.

The Parish Council have 4 vacancies.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman signed the minutes of the March meeting as a true record.

VICE CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr B Hodgson wished to thank the Village Grass cutting team for all their hard work. The Parish Council have purchased a new sit on mower.

FINANCE.

Financial Statement 13th of May 2026

INCOME.

Allotment Rents	=	£20.00
SSE Wayleave Payment	=	£51.80
TVBC ½ Precept	=	£9,500.00
	=	<u>£9,571.80</u>

EXPENDITURE.

R. N Waterman Admin – April and May	=	£ 600.00
SBPC Storage	=	£ 20.00
Lloyds Bank Charge	=	£ 11.50
Allotments Water	=	£ 9.42
Fuel For Allotments work	=	£ 110.20
Andover Garden Machinery New Mower	=	£ 2,199.00
Mr L Johnson – Grass Cutting	=	£ 600.00
TVBC – Planning Application Fee	=	£ 154.50
Nelson Skip Hire – Allotment Skip	=	£ 96.00
Mark Lovell – Brush Cutter Service	=	£ 81.26
Mr B Hodgson – Maintenance Exp	=	£ 254.64
		<u>£ 4,136.52</u>

Summary of Accounts 2025/2026

Opening Balance 1 st April 2026	=	£6,486.11
Plus Income – April and May	=	£9,571.80
	=	<u>£16,057.91</u>

Less Expenditure		
April and May	=	£4,136.52

Total = £ 11,921.39

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Allotments	=	£ 290.00
Parish Council	=	£11,031.39
Play Area	=	£ 600.00
	=	<u>£11,921.39</u>

PLANNING.

Cllr Carole Wootton reported on the most recent Planning Applications.

26/00505/TREEN – Greenside, Biddesden Bottom Road, Appleshaw – work to beech tree on border with Playing Field. NO OBJECTION.

26/00778/FULLN – Appleshaw Village Hall, Greensey, Ragged Appleshaw – Replace metal shed with shipping container to be used for storage of gardening equipment. Consultation ends 21st May 2026.

OUTLINE APPLICATIONS STILL OPEN FOR COMMENT.

Although not in our parish, the additional traffic on the A342 produced by a potential 400 extra dwellings at Ludgershall will affect us and so we have put in comments on 26/00736/OUTN – Land at OS Ref 428247 150371 Andover Road, Faberstown – Outline – erection of up to 400 dwellings (C3), public open space, and all other associated infrastructure. Our observations mainly relate to the current adequacy of the junctions in the parish with the A342.

Two Dauntsey Lane developments will affect our parishioners in Dauntsey Drove/Fyfield Lane on access issues alone – the consultation period for both is still open if anyone wants to comment:

25/02226/OUTN – Land at OS Ref43016 146581 Dauntsey Lane, Weyhill. Erection of 20 dwellings, with associated access, parking, open space and landscaping, and associated works, all matters reserved except for access.

25/02233/OUTN – The Paddocks Land East of Dauntsey Lane, Weyhill – Outline planning application for up to 15 dwellings including affordable housing, parking and associated infrastructure and creation of new access to Dauntsey Lane (all matters reserved).

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN (DLP).

We understand the TVBC planning policy team has little resource to re-think its 5-year housing supply and we await another consultation in the next month or so. With 5 sites in the parish submitted by landowners to the TVBC SHELAA (the register of possible plots for future development), and one already in the draft Plan for 60 houses, we will be trying to bring parishioners and landowners together to agree what development should be in the villages and where.

TVBC say they are scrutinising developers' transport and other assessments extra well now, although it is in their interests to get as much housing agreed as possible to save having to start the Local Plan process all over again which would mean central government could impose a target on them.

ALLOTMENTS.

Cllr B Hodgson reported that there is only one vacant allotment.

SOUTHERN WATER (SW).

Tankers: The tankers have now left the village. Southern Water now plan to continue with road and verge repairs. It was noted that the small layby on Clanville Hill has enlarged considerably with the tankers parking there, the hedge has been moved at least six feet into Graham North's field.

The Chairman stated that she will raise this with Southern Water.

Pipe sealing: Work on sealing the public sewers is 2 months ahead of schedule. Consultation with Southern Water on how to deal with the work at Eastville is ongoing, the work is planned for the School Summer Holidays. It is hoped that the work can be undertaken at night so that the main bulk of HGV traffic to Pilgrim's Europe can still access the site during the day, without driving through the village. Negotiation with all parties concerned are on-going.

Road Drains: It was reported that the road drains in Ragged Appleshaw at the bottom of Clanville Hill and all the way along to the Rectory are blocked with silt. This has been reported to Highways.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR C DONNELLY.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Mr C Donnelly for being re-elected in the recent County Elections.

Cllr Donnelly thanked the Chairman and stated that this term is for 2 years until Devolution comes into force in 2028.

Cllr Donnelly spoke about the following issues:

- Cllr Donnelly hoped to get the outstanding projects in the Parishes finished within these 2 years. These include road resurfacing, ditches and road repairs, road safety schemes and signage.
- Cllr Donnelly has asked Hampshire Highways to come out and visit Dauntsey Lane Development sites as access under the bridges is a concern.
- Hampshire Highways have been looking with interest in the work the A342 Working Group have been doing and are keen to liaise with the Parishes involved.
- Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP has been to see for herself the problems the Parishes along the A342 will face with the large, proposed development in the area.
- Cllr Donnelly intend to have a catch-up meeting with the Appleshaw Road Safety Group.

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

ROAD SAFETY GROUP

Mr Andrew Smith gave a brief re-cap of the aims of the Road Safety Group – there are two key topics, the possibility of reduction in speed limits and the safety of pedestrians between the village and the 'top road' A342.

The real speed data we can now capture, from the Speed Indication Devices, provides the final piece of information to enable a successful application for a 20MPH speed limit in some areas. This will be discussed with Cllr Mr C Donnelly. The Road Safety Committee and the PC meeting discussions are now leaning towards a decision not to proceed with the application and to focus on other topics within our reach.

Mrs Sonia Clement asked if the Road Safety Group could please look at Redenham as speeding is a problem. This was noted.

COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE.

£1,017.79 was raised in the first quarter of the year. A recent Race Night event raised a further £1,552.45.

As it is unlikely that there will be a Fête this year, the Events Committee are organising a 'Charity Ride Out' on the 31st of August 2026.

VILLAGE HALL.

Dr Graham Legg reported that Mr Lee Johnson has confirmed that he will take on the role of Booking Clerk/ Cleaner and Caretaker of the Village Hall.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Issues raised included:

- The overgrown ditch belonging to the Redenham Park Estate and Biddesden Farm along Biddesden Bottom Road.
- A342 improvements at the dangerous White House junction.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15th of July 2026