

**Minutes of the Appleshaw Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday the 8th of July 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
Members of the Public - 7

Apologies: Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook, County Councillor Mr C Donnelly, Dr Graham Legg – Village Hall and Emma Moss, HR Manager Pilgrim's UK.

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY.

The Parish Council have 4 vacancies.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

There has been quite a bit going on since the May meeting, not least the notification of the sale of the Walnut Tree pub.

Blocked road drains in Ragged Appleshaw were reported in mid-May with Action Scheduled marked on the HCC report app. We also reported the state of the low wall at the ditch opposite Rowan Cottages – that is now marked In Progress. The loss of the sweeper lorry is the main cause of all the undergrowth on the side of the road from Rowan to the bottom of White House Hill.

We were notified of concern by some parishioners that rats were getting into their properties from the allotments. The TVBC rat man came and had a look and confirmed there is no sign of an infestation. If you are concerned about your own properties, the TVBC Environmental Health team are happy to advise.

Good news if you are around on the August Bank Holiday weekend: the Saturday (29th) morning coffee in the Hall will be expanded into a very mini-Fete with a produce and a book stall – the books have been very kindly donated by Lavinia Trevor.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Cllr B Hodgson reported that grass cutting continues and the village is looking tidy. Cllr B Hodgson wished to thank Mr Owen Mills for his continued support with the grass cutting, the Playing Field, despite the lack of green grass due to the hot weather is looking good.

Cllr B Hodgson reported that all the allotments are now taken. An Allotment Holders Meeting will be held in the Autumn to plan a way forward. In this hot weather the provision of water has been a godsend for the allotment holders.

Allotment Rents = £20.00
 = **£20.00**

R. N Waterman Admin – June and July	= £	600.00
SBPC Storage	= £	20.00
Lloyds Bank Charge	= £	12.34
Allotments Water	= £	49.75
Fuel For Grass Cutting	= £	58.91
Mr L Johnson – Grass Cutting	= £	1,200.00
TVBC – Dog Bin Emptying	= £	1,212.85
Speed Sign Management Ltd – FSS	= £	319.07
Appleshaw Community Group	= £	500.00
Mr P Reynolds Audit	= £	340.00
	£	4,312.92

Opening Balance	1 st April 2026	=	£6,486.11
Plus Income – April and May			£9,571.80
	June and July		£ 20.00
		=	£16,077.91

April and May = £4,136.52
June and July = £4,312.92
= £8,449.44

Allotments	=	£ 310.00
Parish Council	=	£ 6,718.47
Play Area	=	£ 600.00
	=	£7,628.47

PLANNING.

Cllr Carole Wooton reported on the most recent Planning Application.

26/01292/FULLN – Demolition of garage, link, conservatory and porch, erection of Single storey side extension and two storey rear extension, and construction of vehicular access. The Spinney, Barncroft, Appleshaw. NO OBJECTION.

Draft Local Plan

TVBC is holding a full council meeting later this month and there should be an announcement by TVBC on the DLP before the end of July. Local Plan revisions won't be finalised before the Local Government Review kicks in and there is a widely held view that DLP problems can be left to the new unitary authorities with their newly-devolved powers. These are the powers that will take away local planning control on sites over 100 houses and give control to the Sec of State.

Discussion is going around in circles because there appears to be no central government plan or funding to build all the houses, and this has created applications from opportunist developers, like the one in Fyfield (drop in tomorrow at Thruxton Memorial Hall 3.30-8pm). It doesn't mean the applications will be successful, and TVBC are taking their time now and leaving the larger applications open for comment far beyond the closing date. We understand that at least 3 of the 5 plots put forward in the TVBC register for this parish are not available for development at present in any event and no applications have been made to date.

The other thing is that almost all the government housing numbers could be met if local authorities could include in the numbers all sites where planning permission has been given already but developers are sitting on their land banks.

SOUTHERN WATER

Sealing work is going well. The current work in Greensey has shown that the sewer system is not mapped on the Southern Water plans.

Work on the Eastville public pipeline will start on 27th July and the working hours are 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Eastville residents have been pre-warned.

Reinstatement of the grass verges has been agreed with Southern Water and their contractors but has yet to start. Lanes are awaiting permission for revised traffic light permits.

Thruxton Air Festival – 12/13 September

The Festival includes Saturday evening fireworks and illuminated drone displays. I am mentioning here because a parish closer to the airfield and flight path has expressed concern about the extra flights and noise and so we have been invited to a meeting at TVBC at the end of the month to discuss. We are probably far enough away not to be affected too much – and could enjoy a free air show from our gardens!

WALNUT TREE PUB UP-DATE

The Walnut Tree Inn is now on the open market. A Public Meeting was held, attended by 54 parishioners and supporters, and it is very encouraging that 15 residents came forward to form a core committee to be on hand to help and advise the new owners when the pub is sold.

WILDFLOWER BEDS

These were dug and sown by a group of volunteers in Appleshaw and Redenham and initially looked wonderful.

Sadly, they have not been maintained for the last 2 or 3 years leading to at least one looking rather scruffy. This time of year is crucial to the maintenance – cut back the growth towards the end of July and leave for a couple of weeks for the seeds to settle, then rake up the debris and take away. We do love community initiatives like this, but would be grateful if the group who initially owned the scheme could arrange for this work to be done annually.

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

ROAD SAFETY GROUP

The Chairman reported that two further sites have been identified for additional poles for the Flashing Speed Signs. The process of getting the agreement for the siting from Hampshire County Council will be undertaken.

The 20MPH scheme is still being pursued and a visit from a Highway's Engineer is planned. The scheme can only be implemented if it meets the criteria and funding is available.

COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE.

Several different venues are being tried for events. A Quiz has been held at the Lion at Clanville. The 'Charity Ride Out' on the 31st of August 2026 will be hosted by the Chute Club and the event will finish with a BBQ. The May Race Night was a great success.

A donation of £3,660.80 has been presented to Naomi and Jack's, which is the new name of the Naomi House and Jack's Place Children's Hospice.

The Parish Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Pilgrims UK were thanked for their support.

VILLAGE HALL.

There have been issues with the on-line booking, this is being looked in to. At present the Village Hall can be booked by emailing Dr Graham Legg.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The idea of starting a collection service for re-cycled soft plastic for residents that can not get to a re-cycling Centre was aired. The Chairman stated that she will talk to Michelle Penn the Test Valley Borough Council Community Officer to see if she could help.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9th of September 2026