

Minutes of Over Wallop Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6th of February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Wallops Parish Hall.

Present: Cllr K Dixon – Chairman
Cllr Mr I Cleife
Cllr Mr M Goodman
Cllr Mrs P Bunche
Cllr Mr A Meek
Cllr Mr S MacDonald
Cllr Mrs B Hunt
County Councillor Mr D Drew
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
Members of the Public – 4

Apologies: Cllr Mr C Sanger – Vice Chairman and Borough Councillors Mrs M Flood and Mrs S Hasselman – Palestine Ward.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Mrs K Dixon declared an interest in Planning Application 25/00192/TREEN.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman then signed the minutes of the December meeting as a true record.
Proposed by Cllr Mr A Meek and seconded by Cllr Mr I Cleife.

COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

County Councillor Mr D Drew and Borough Councillor Mr S MacDonald reports will be put on the Hub.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR S MACDONALD.

Cllr Mr S MacDonald spoke about the following issues:

- Planning changes in the National Planning Policy and a 78% increase in the provision of new dwellings. The Parish Council will watch with interest the proposed development at Grateley Station with the rail link and easy access to major routes.
- Local Government reorganisation – The Government has decided to impement Devolution of Local Government, which will see the amalgamation of Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. It is likely that Test Valley Borough Council will merge with other Borough Councils and be governed by a Unitary Authority with an elected Mayor. It is thought that more responsibilities may be handed down to the Parish Councils. The effect will be the Governing Body will be less local.
- Weekly food waste collections are starting in October 2025.
- There is a Test Valley Resilience Forum on the 8th of March 2025 at Kings Somborne.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR D DREW.

The Chairman reported that County Councillor Mr D Drew's report would be placed on the Hub.

Cllr Mr D Drew highlighted the devolution issues when he arrived at the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

- The Chairman attended a Teams meeting organised by TVBC on what Parish Councils should do to prepare for devolution. One of the recommendations from TVBC is for Parish Councils to build up their reserves for the future, as it is likely

that grant funding will be harder to obtain. The Parish Councils with an established NDP should be protected from large scale development.

- PRECEPT 2025/2026. The Over Wallop Parish Council held an 'in-camera' meeting in January 2025 to discuss the precept. It was agreed after careful consideration that the Precept will be increased from £42,000 to £49,000. This increase is to fund flashing speed signs that will record data and will be permanently sited in the Parish, support for the Village Shop and ongoing tree works. This will mean an increase of an average £8.87 on the Council Tax for the Parish Rate bringing it up to £61.47 for the Year.
- Pavilion – Work on the Audit Process for the Grants received is nearing completion. A security cage is to be fitted around the Heat Source Pump as it has already been dented. The intruder alarm has been fitted, as have the window shutters.
- Cllr Mrs B Hunt has agreed to take over pavilion finances and Mr Fox has taken on the task of promoting it.
- Positioning the Kings Coronation Bench at the Pavilion was discussed and thought a good idea. Problems of underground wires at the War Memorial site have hampered the siting of the bench. Unless this can be swiftly resolved the bench will be sited at the Pavilion.
- The Cricket Club has paid their Fees for 2024 and the 2025 Seasons.

FINANCE.

Financial Report January and February 2025

INCOME.

Bank Interest	92.57
TVBC Grant Tel Box	1,601.25
Scottish Electric Grant	15,000.00
Vintage Gathering Grant	750.00
For Pavilion Defibrillator	

£17,443.82

EXPENDITURE.

Standing Orders:		£
R.N. Waterman	Wages	560.00
Came and Company	Insurance	451.22
TVBC	Grass Cutting	180.68
SBPC	Storage	10.00
R.N. Waterman	Expenses and Website	14.00
VIXIT	Grounds Maintenance	198.00
	Total =	<u>£1,413.90 X2 £2,827.80</u>

Cheques Issued:		£
BDO LLP	Audit	1,260.00
Brian Pearce	Repairs and Paint Play Equipment	153.00
Mr C Wilkins	Pavilion and Maintenance	202.00
SSE	Street Lighting	471.60
Business Stream	Pavilion Water	36.50
Wood's Tree Consultancy	– Tree Survey	1,917.92
	Total =	<u>£4,041.02</u>

PAVILION PROJECT.

SBPC	Boilers and Tea Pots	70.00
PGPC	Supplies	90.00
London Heart	Defibrillator	900.00
Philip Grob	Boot Racks	1,945.20
ISO Containers	Rent/Purchase	3,201.60

Cllr Mr M Goodman is now looking to send out to tender for the work. Cllr Mr M Goodman wished to thank Mr John Taylor-Firth for all the work he has done on the trees over the years. The Parish Council supported this.

PARISH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.

CLLR MR M GOODMAN – Reported that the Allotment Society are holding their AGM on Monday 10th February 2025.

CLLR MR S MACDONALD – Reported that he has applied to Hampshire County Council for a 20mph speed limit in Over Wallop. Hampshire County Council have agreed to a scheme, but it does not cover all of Station Road as work is required to reduce the speed limit below the current 30mph before a 20mph speed limit can be imposed.

The new 20mph speed limit will cover the majority of Station Road, part of King Lane, Pound Road, Evans Close, Appleton Close and Salisbury Lane up to Suddern Farm. A map showing the area will be put on the Hub and Website. Hampshire County Council will fund the £30,000 cost from the remaining s106 Developer contributions.

Cllr Mr S MacDonald stated that work to secure the areas not covered in the scheme will continue, the Flashing Speed Signs will help to build up evidence on the average speed.

Cllr Mr S MacDonald reported that the refurbished telephone box should be back in the village by the end of March 2025.

The £15,000 Resilience Grant from SSE for the Parish Hall Battery System has been received. Quotes are being discussed by the Parish Hall Management Committee. It is also planned to make the Pavilion a back up venue for a 'warm hub' in an emergency.

The new website is progressing, a draft version has been completed, and it is hoped to launch in a few weeks.

CLLR MR S SANGER – Report given by the Chairman.

FTTH

Following the protracted lack of substantive updates from Openreach, I have now received a current status. There are three ways in which the whole of the Parish can get FTTH, being: the rollout by BT as part of its investment plans, a Fibre Community Partnership (the voucher scheme) and Project Gigabit.

We had initially been told to proceed with the Fibre Community Partnership and obtain commitments from Parishioners to take up fibre, in order to receive vouchers from the Government that would cover the installation of FTTH. This would have committed many of our parishioners to take up fibre broadband once it was made available. However, following the initial response, Openreach had consistently failed to update the register of properties and to provide us with details to finalise the voucher scheme.

1. BT roll out

As repeated on its website, Openreach/BT/EE is currently in the process of installing FTTP all over the UK, with an aim to provide 25 million homes with full fibre by 2026. We, i.e. our exchanges, are included in those plans but Openreach has not been able to confirm an immediate timescale as to when the technology will reach our Parish. However, they are reporting "excellent progress with our roll outs". I was led to believe that this could be by the end of this calendar year, and am due to re-engage with the lead official in June

The official comment is:

To confirm, there are no upcoming plans in which we can provide a date for, commercial or government funded via Openreach, to provide your home with FTTP. That being said, our plans can and do change quite often so my advice would be to stay close to the Openreach website as if there are any changes to the situation, this will be updated to reflect our progress. You can do this by visiting [Where and when we're building Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband | Openreach](#). You can also sign up to receive a notification for when the service is readily available by filling in the online form here: [Fibre broadband | Openreach](#).

The other options are the Fibre Community Partnership and Project Gigabit .

1. Fibre Community Partnership (FCP)

With the inclusion of Hampshire in the roll out plans, the Fibre Community Partnership plan has been halted and, at present, there are no vouchers available within Hampshire to use towards an FCP. This obviously also includes Nether & Over Wallop, which will revert to the roll out plan.

2. Project Gigabit

In addition to the FCP, the Government's "Project Gigabit" is aiming to roll out Fibre to rural communities. For Hampshire, this has been awarded to City Fibre and installation is ongoing in some areas. However, given that we are included in the Openreach roll out, we are not included in the work of City Fibre.

Conclusion on FTTH

In a nutshell, whilst we now have Openreach responding to our queries, the information provided is broadly "we'll get to you soon, by end of 2026, and hopefully earlier". This is not a very acceptable answer and I will continue to push for updates on a quarterly basis.

CLLR MR I CLEIFE – Reported that he is picking up the new high security locks for the Pavilion ready to be fitted. The Chairman thanked Cllr Mr I Cleife for his continued work at the Pavilion.

CLLR MRS B HUNT – Reported that interest from a Pilates Class for a regular booking of the Parish Hall has been received. It was noted that the internet coverage in the Parish Hall has been appalling over recent weeks, the provider has been contacted.

CLLR MRS P BUNCH – Reported that there is a lot of mud on the A343 caused by a local farmer exiting one of the fields. It was noted that it is the responsibility of the farmer to clear the road of mud, this will be reported to Hampshire Highways.

DOG BIN.

The Clerk suggested that one of the four dog bins on the AEMG be moved to Palestine. The Parish Council thought this a good idea and asked the Clerk to pursue this with TVBC to see if it is possible.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter of thanks for the Parish Council's support has been received from the Over Wallop Cricket Club.

A letter from Mr P Hope thanking the Village Shop for their recent refurbishment.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Mr Peter Hope wished to thank the Parish Council for the excellent job they do and to also thank Wallop Good Neighbours for the excellent job they do.

Concerns about speeding on the village roads especially when there are horse riders. A recent incident was relayed that could have ended badly. The drivers' details and registration number were noted. The Chairman strongly advised that this information should be reported to the Police if had not already been done.

Mr Charles Good also spoke about speeding traffic through the village and relayed an incident involving his daughter on the way to catch the School Bus. Mr Good gave his support to the 20mph scheme and stated that it is important to pursue the extension to cover the whole of Station Road.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING. 6th of March 2025 in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE:

www.overwallopparishcouncil.org.uk