

**Minutes of Over Wallop Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday,
5th May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Wallops Parish Hall.**

Present: Cllr K Dixon - Chairman
Cllr C Sanger – Vice Chairman
Cllr J Taylor Firth
Cllr T Burden
Cllr I Cleife
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr D Drew
Members of the Public – 6

Apologies: Cllr D Boardman, Cllr C Smith and Borough Councillors Mrs M Flood,
Mr I Jeffrey and Mr D Coole.

WELCOME. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN – Cllr J Taylor Firth proposed Cllr K Dixon as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr C Sanger. There were no other nominations. All agreed. Cllr K Dixon was elected Chairman.

VICE CHAIRMAN – Cllr J Taylor Firth proposed Cllr C Sanger as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr I Cleife. There were no other nominations. All Agreed. Cllr C Sanger was elected Vice Chairman.

PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT.

Introduction

Welcome to the Over Wallop Parish Council Annual Meeting. I'll take you through our report helped by Cllr Sanger and Cllr Cleife, then we'll hand over to our clerk for the Financial report, followed by the Borough and County reports.

Our Clerk, Richard Waterman, does much of the Parish Council's work and we owe him many thanks. He organises grass cutting, reporting on flashing speed reminder signs, updating the website and coordinates important maintenance work throughout the year, as well as arranging the replacement of the parish streetlights as they reach the end of their useful lives. Critically he manages the accounts and pays all the bills with a forensic eye for detail. He's an important point of contact for parishioners as well as a source of endless wisdom and experience to the rest of us.

Precept

The precept is our annual income from Council tax. Having held it at £32,000 since 2016 we have raised it by £10,000 in order to meet our increasing responsibilities of management of the trees around the Alan Evans Memorial Ground. This represents an increase per household of £12.50 but enables us to afford the eighteen monthly surveys and ensuing work. As an example, the last survey identified £16,000 worth of necessary tree work which we have spread across two financial years. Adding in the cost of the surveys and emergency works such as removing the bulk of the fallen tree by the churchyard we are spending at least £10,000 a year on trees.

The Parish Council has one vacancy and two councillors have signalled their intention to step down. Any applicant to join the Parish Council will be most welcome and able to attend the vast majority of monthly meetings, take on and deliver a portfolio of responsibility as well as respond to general Council emails and shared responsibilities such as planning and the NDP.

There are several areas where we don't have the resources to do as much as we could for the Parish. Any applicant to join the Council would have the opportunity to choose two or three areas as their own responsibility. These include:

- Administration and review of all Parish documents (Standing orders, Constitution, risk assessments etc)
- Facilities for the teenagers of the Parish. Section 106 money is available for this purpose and needs to be used so that the children may benefit.
- Greening the Parish. Someone to coordinate efforts to improve the habitat of the Brook, to plan how our green spaces can become more wildlife friendly, to work with Test Valley to manage the verges in a greener way and many other ideas.
- Communication. The Parish website needs updating and we would benefit from a communications review to ensure that we communicate effectively and proactively with the Parish. The Hub has been a great innovation but we should try to extend its reach, for example.
- Grants expert. We really need one member of the Parish Council who takes responsibility for applying for any and all grants on behalf of the PC. This is a lengthy process and one which would be greatly improved by having an expert. This would go well with the administration role.

In the immediate future a member of the Parish Council will take on responsibility for communication and coordination with any families in the Parish who take in Ukrainian refugees. The Parish Council could play an important part in welcoming these refugees, supporting the families and providing a space for them to get together.

If you would like to take on one of these roles but are unsure about joining the Council then we really welcome volunteers who are keen to help us achieve more for the Parish by taking on a job on our behalf, reporting back to the PC without necessarily having to sit on the Council.

The dominant issue at Parish Council level this year has been the long-debated traffic calming scheme proposed by HCC. This was due to be implemented in 2017 following support in a consultation in 2016. Delay followed delay and by 2021 it was clear that the inevitable increase in traffic on Station Road, following implementation of the scheme, was causing serious concerns and that the Parish remained deeply divided over the issue. Having supported the Hampshire scheme and indeed having spent two years chasing, encouraging and seeking implementation it became clear that this Parish Council was no longer representing a clear majority of the Parish. We thus took the decision to seek the considered views of the parishioners of both Over and Nether Wallop (in line with the 2016 consultation) on the updated scheme which as you know had removed the critical element of changes to the OSR/Wallop Road junction. The consultation was implemented in early February with widespread publicity on all Parish noticeboards, at the village shop, on NextDoor.com, both Parish websites, the Hub and the Pump as well as effective communication by parishioners passionate about the outcome both for and against. The result was a narrow majority in favour of not implementing the existing scheme. HCC then took the decision to suspend the scheme and replace it with lower cost measures costing £60,000. Together with client, design, supervision and land fees for this project and spent to date, the value of the project will be £189,000. The Capital Programme contains £332,000.

These new measures are at the design phase and will be communicated to us in due course. We will continue to put pressure on HCC to achieve the desired outcome which is a reduction in speed and volume through Salisbury Lane and Station Road. Section 106 money allocated to Over Wallop traffic calming cannot legally be spent elsewhere and it is clear that we will continue to lobby for the full remaining funds to be spent on traffic calming in the Wallops rather than returned to the developer. As part of this, HCC did an updated traffic count. We will put the raw data on the parish website but the headlines are:

Volume:

Location	Peak traffic both ways	Average Daily vehicles*
Station Road: Evans Close	Friday: 1900	1660
Station Road: Salisbury Lane	Friday: 1500	1250
Station Road: Church	Friday: 1800	1500
Old Stockbridge Road	Tues peak 1150 East; Mon peak West 1150	2000
Salisbury Lane	Tues peak: 1020	920

*numbers rounded

Speed:

Location	Average speed	% over limit	Predominant speed over limit	Top speed
Old Stockbridge Rd	58 mph	31%	62-66mph	>76mph
Salisbury Lane	31mph	45%	31-35mph	45mph
Station Road	34mph	65%	31-40mph	>45mph

Safer Travel – in the last year the joint parishes Safer Travel group has recruited volunteers, undergone training by the police and gone out with our speed equipment. Typically we only catch one or two cars going over the speed limit because they can see us waiting there but that in itself is valuable as a deterrent. Our thanks to all the volunteers and please keep getting out there when you can and helping to keep us all safe.

NDP

Excellent progress continues to be made in respect of the Parish's Neighbourhood Development Plan. In the last year the NDP group has sought parishioner input through two residents' surveys, a business survey and held various exhibitions and stalls in the Wallops Parish Hall, at the summer fete and at the vintage gathering.

All that input has been collated and resulted in our first draft NDP which opened for public consultation through February and March this year.

The feedback from the consultation is now being analysed and a revised draft will be sent to Test Valley for their formal input in the coming weeks.

Assuming good progress continues to be made, the volunteer group remains hopeful that the NDP will be finalised and put forward for a referendum of the parish before the end of this year. It's been a deeply impressive process and our thanks to the professionalism and enthusiasm of the NDP volunteers.

Commenting on planning is one of the Parish Council's most important roles. In the last year we have looked at 44 sets of plans, commented on one, supported 24, objected to one and made no comment on 18. The vast majority of the no-comments are tree work applications which are dealt with by the tree experts at Test Valley. We only ask that if anyone fells a tree that they replace it with at least two new trees. As of last month we are reviewing all applications in line with the draft NDP which familiarises us with it and the new approach we will take once the plan is made. For the first time the Parish will have a real say in its own development.

Pavilion – we had a break in on Easter Day. We are in contact with the insurance and are attempting to keep costs down given that last year we were granted planning permission to build a new sports pavilion. We have sent a letter of intent to Millway builders whose quote was the most competitive. We are now starting the grant process which will be concluded by the end of June with, we hope, all results in by the end of January 2023. Once we have secured the necessary funding we will be able to start building work and hopefully conclude by the end of 2023. This is a very exciting project and one

which will give the Parish another wonderful space to use when the sporting teams are not there. Plans are on the Parish website so do take a look.

AEMG - Covid continued to make 2021 difficult, both in enabling sporting activities and in maintenance of the facilities due to various restrictions being in place for much of the year. All sporting activities in 2021 took place under the guidelines issued by the government and relevant national sporting body, the FA, the ECB and the LTA.

- Pezzaz Soccer Training did take place in 2021, with some pauses. Training is planned for twice a week on Mondays and Thursday from April to September, excluding bank holidays and is starting again on Thursday May 5th - today.
- A full season of cricket was played in 2021, with many Covid precautions. There is a full season planned for 2022 and the 1st warm-up game has happened.
- Free tennis coaching for the children of the Parish – we ran a successful double batch of sessions in August, and will be planning coaching again this summer.
- MUGA – this is now being cleaned and sprayed twice a year to prevent weed and moss growth, which damages the playing surface. A maintenance programme, specifically targeted at moss prevention was carried out in October 2021 and March 2022, and will be repeated each year to preserve the playing surface.

The AEMG is a wonderful area for dog walking, so please continue to remove dog waste and put it in the provided bins. If you see someone not taking responsibility for their dog, speak up.

Parish Resilience Plan – Councillor Boardman is developing a resilience plan in case of helicopter or traffic crash, prolonged electricity outages, pandemic, flooding or fire.

Wallops Parish Hall

The Wallops Parish Hall is jointly owned by Over and Nether and run by Cllr Taylor Firth aided by a committee made up of councillors from both parishes. The hall was closed until mid-May 2021 under the Covid-19 regulations and was then allowed limited opening until mid- July when most restrictions were lifted. Rules about face coverings remained in force until late January of this year. All this meant that hall use was about half that of a normal pre-pandemic year and hall income from hirings was similarly reduced.

At the end of the financial year the hall had therefore earned £7,000 of income from hirings but had spent about £8,400 on annual maintenance, services, wages and energy costs. Luckily, two Covid-19 business support grants were received from TVBC during the year that totalled £10,667. These helped to cover the costs and allowed the account to hold a good credit balance.

There have been no major changes to the hall during the year although the hall committee is now examining options to reduce future energy use and is likely to install solar panels during the coming year as well as installing two bike racks to encourage greener travel. Hall use is still lower than normal but numbers are building and new customers are sought.

Sports Field Trees

During the autumn of 2021 and the spring of this year tree surgeons completed planned work on 50 of the large mature trees that surround the sports field on the AEMG. The work comprised the removal of deadwood and damaged branches and the felling of 3 trees that were in a poor condition. Several of the older lime trees were reduced in height and had ivy and suckers removed from their bases. A further 19 trees are due to be worked on next autumn and another safety survey will also be carried out at that stage.

The council has employed a gardener for 10 hours a month since December who is tasked with clearing the ivy and suckers from the smaller trees and also clearing some of the undergrowth, which includes, unfortunately, clearing fly tipping. She has already cleared the area near the Churchyard and will work her way around the whole woodland over time.

To compensate for the loss of trees from the woodland over recent years nearly 30 saplings donated by the Woodland Trust have recently been planted around the top of the steep entrance path to the

AEMG from Salisbury Lane which, together with some of the protected self-seeded saplings more than compensates for trees which we have had to cut down.

War Memorial

The memorial was inspected by the architect in the autumn and was found to be in good overall condition. The stonemasons will however visit in the next few weeks to replace some small areas of weathered pointing and to repair some minor damage to a carriage block.

Platinum Jubilee

Progress is being made for our Parish Party on Saturday 4 June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Tickets have been designed and prepared and are now on sale in the Wallops shop (£1 for admission tickets to include hog roast or Vegan food, free for children)

Peter Hope has started collecting the pledges made for the hog roast. Donors will be given free tickets. Greenfields is doing the hog roast and the WI are running the cake and soft drink tent. The village shop running the bar / other items (and maybe extra food if needed). There will be three exhibitions in the Church Hall (Coronation memorabilia, Photos around Over Wallop, Busy Fingers Sewing group display of work). There will be stands for various organisations to show what goes on in the OW community (Not on Your Own Club, Good Neighbours, WI Tent, WASPs). The day will finish with the singing of the National Anthem led by the WASPs.

We are looking for some volunteers to decorate the tables and help in the Crown Competition Tent
We are looking for someone to co-ordinate the Children's Royal Races.

Corgi knitting is in full swing with a number of knitters.

Bellringers will ring the Church bells

Some prizes already obtained. If you can offer a prize, help on the day or with planning and preparation, please do come and offer your services. This sort of event is deeply rewarding and fun to be part of.

Cllr Sanger will now take us through his update on Fibre to the Home and Cllr Cleife, the sports on the AEMG as well as Pavilion maintenance, before we hand over to Richard for the end of year financial report and then the Borough and County Councillor reports. We will then open the floor to hear from you. Thank you all for your enthusiasm, your support and your patience. We are all lucky to live in Over Wallop and working together to help the community is deeply rewarding. There's an interesting piece written in this month's Parish Magazine by Stephen Baldock on that subject so please do have a read of that. Thank you.

Wallops High Speed Broadband

During this year, the Parish Council has been investigating the possibility of having Fibre Broadband introduced to the Parish. Some properties in the Parish already have Fibre to the Premises ("FTTP") but this is not generally available. Installation will involve upgrading the junction boxes and then running fibre to each house.

Gigabit broadband voucher scheme

The upgrade of the country's Broadband infrastructure is part of the government's "Project Gigabit", consisting of a phased upgrade across the country and a separate opportunity for communities to use government grants to accelerate the roll out of Fibre to the Premises ("FTTP") ahead of the government roll out. Under the grant scheme, grants of up to £1,500 per residential premises and £3,500 per business premises will be provided towards the upgrade by one of its authorised providers, which in this area is Openreach. A requirement for the grant is a commitment that the premises will upgrade their broadband to Fibre once it is made available.

Following the PC's engagement, Openreach produced an original estimated cost for a number of premises in Over Wallop based on Openreach's records, but this was incomplete and a new offer is now being made to cover all the premises in the Parish covered by junction boxes in the Parish that are not yet on Fibre. This is expected imminently. Whilst waiting for the final offer from Openreach, the PC has collected commitments to the new FTTP offer and, to date, has received 68 responses, of which 59 are from residential properties and 9 from business premises. This represents the potential grant of £120,000.

Given the number of premises to be covered by the upgrade, more commitments will be needed to generate sufficient grants to fund the project. Hence, once the final offer has been received from Openreach, volunteers will be requested to go round the Parish to encourage Parishioners to consider whether they would like to sign up to the scheme, thereby ensuring that the government provides the grant. Once enough parishioners have signed up, Openreach will apply for the grant and start work.

Project Gigabit

At the same time, the government has been reviewing the areas covered in each phase of Project Gigabit. Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is in phase 1b and the government is now considering the timing of this phase and the inclusion of Over Wallop. If this were to happen, then the project could proceed without the need for vouchers. The timing of this is unclear and hence we are still proceeding with the Gigabit voucher scheme.

Next steps

Commitments to FTTP will be sought from Parishioners over the next few months, with a view to proceeding as soon as possible. Once the final offer has been received, this gathering of responses will be accelerated. More information will be provided on the NDP website, as well as at Parish events (such as the Jubilee). In the meantime, please could any Parishioners who want to sign up, please do so on: [Wallops High Speed Broadband - Over Wallop Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan \(owparishndp.uk\)](https://owparishndp.uk/wallops-high-speed-broadband/) (<https://owparishndp.uk/wallops-high-speed-broadband/>)

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT.

OVER WALLOP PARISH COUNCIL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022.

2020/2021		2021/2022
£	RECEIPTS	£
32,000.00	Precept	32,000.00
2.61	Bank Interest	1.02
83,997.49	War Memorial Project // Film Night	435.00
850.00	Parish Hall	920.44
95.00	Sports Field Lettings	265.00
16,992.47	VAT Refund	Nil
146.00	Refunds // NDP Funding	9,995.00
370.00	Allotments	337.00
500.00	TVBC Covid-19 Grant // Grants	299.00
	CIL Funding	4,997.52

134,954.40

49,249.98

PAYMENTS

823.62	Administration and Web Site	1,266.23
6,000.00	Staffing Costs	6,000.00
1,045.00	Audit Charges	1,170.00
36.00	Subscriptions	36.00
1,175.10	Insurance	3,304.18
145.23	Village Hall Hire	178.00
773.78	Flashing Speed Signs & Speed Watch	1,090.00
3,423.80	Street Lighting	3,407.23
120.00	Storage	120.00
	NDP	10,329.44
	Play Area	144.00
2,615.41	Pavilion	14,699.36
1,047.24	Sports Field - Grass/Maintenance/ Trees	11,351.23
	Village Clock	575.00
	Defibrillator Battery and Pads	144.00
50.00	Section 137 Payments - School Prize	
75,381.04	War Memorial and Pillars	3,046.32
6,019.00	Village Maintenance/Footpaths	5,042.44
16,492.62	VAT on Payments	7,770.92
281.36	Allotments	
42.00	NDP Admin	
<u>115,172.20</u>		<u>69,674.35</u>
23,503.04	Opening Balance 1 st April 2021	43,285.24
134,954.40	Plus Income	49,249.98
	Plus Cheques issued and not presented	100.00
<u>158,457.44</u>		<u>92,635.22</u>
115,172.20	Less Expenditure	69,674.35
<u>43,285.24</u>		<u>22,960.87</u>

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the End of Year Accounts. Proposed by Cllr C Sanger and Seconded by Cllr J Taylor Firth.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Mr P Hope stated that the Village are very grateful for all the hard work the Parish Council do.

ZOOM PARTICIPATION.

Charlie Russell wished to thank the Parish Council for all the work they are doing to provide a new pavilion for the village. The recent break in was discussed. The Chairman stated that an inventory of the equipment in the pavilion will be undertaken.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR D DREW.

Cllr Mr D Drew spoke about:

- His County Councillor Community Grant – He has £8,000 this financial year.
- The Councillor Community Grant for 2021/2022 was all spent.
- The Resilience Plan and the grants available from SSE.
- Young People and their views on the Environment.
- Hampshire County Council are extending the 'Food Help' scheme.
- 98% of first choice school places have been met.
- The Gender Pay Gap.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

9th June 2022 at 7.30pm in the Wallops Parish Hall.