

## **Minutes of Over Wallop Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Wallops Parish Hall.**

Present: Cllr K Dixon - Chairman  
Cllr C Sanger - Vice Chairman  
Cllr I Cleife  
Cllr C Anstis  
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk  
County Councillor Mr D Drew  
Members of the Public - 5

Apologies: Borough Councillors Mrs M Flood and Mr I Jeffrey.

**WELCOME.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no Declarations of interest recorded.

### **DECLARATION OF OFFICE.**

Cllrs K Dixon, C Sanger, C Anstis and I Cleife signed the Declaration of Office.

### **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES.**

The recent Parish Elections were uncontested. Test Valley Borough Council has confirmed that the Parish Council may co-opt to fill the remaining 3 Over Wallop Parish Council vacancies.

### **PALESTINE WARD VACANCY.**

No resident of Palestine submitted Nomination Papers for the Election on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The Parish Council may co-opt to fill the Palestine Ward Vacancy.

Mr Peter Benger from Palestine has recently expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council as the Palestine Ward Parish Councillor.

### **AMENDMENT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS.**

The Chairman proposed that the Over Wallop Parish Council Standing Orders be amended to a Quorum of 3 from 4. This was seconded by Cllr C Sanger. All agreed.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

Good evening and welcome. Reading through last year's report, the headline this year is that we have continued doing much the same work. All the minutes are published on the Over Wallop PC website for greater detail of our activities. In light of that and some sensitively delivered but very clear feedback from more than one member of the PC, I'll keep the 22/23 report brief.

The overriding theme of our work on the PC is community. It is for the people of the Parish that we do our work and we are grateful for your enthusiastic support, for the many volunteers who work so hard to improve the lives of those in Over Wallop and for the growing band of donors, helpers and advisors who give up their precious time to help us with cheerfulness, generosity and humour. There has been a noticeable increase in donations, offers of help and positive engagement this year which is brilliant. It's also worth repeating that none of this would happen without the wise counsel and hard work of our clerk, Richard. Thank you, Richard, for keeping me in order, knowing instinctively how to solve every problem and just getting things done. Richard will take us through the Finances later which are based on our precept which remains at £42,000.

I'll focus on infrastructure first and then the community

## **Infrastructure**

### Traffic Calming

Traffic calming work has finally started in the last week or so. Hampshire has committed to measuring the effect of their work a year after installation. In the meantime, we will redouble our efforts to achieve 20mph on Station Road and Salisbury Lane whilst we wait for the outcome of the review which was due in September 22. I have recently been to see our MP Caroline Nokes and underlined to her the seriousness of our traffic problem. I asked her to lobby Hampshire for us to seek imaginative, innovative and proactive solutions.

### Fibre to the Home

There has been no progress on this because the Government announced that it would be rolled out nationwide without the need to apply through the Openreach scheme. Our best guess is that we should all have Fibre within a 5 year timeframe. Cllr Sanger chases updates and keeps us up to date.

### Pavilion

We have raised 72% of the £539,000 required to build the new Pavilion. It is a huge amount of money and we are keen to hear from anyone who has access to grant funding, is willing to organise some fundraisers or who has experience in raising this sort of sum, to join our team of 2 who works on this every week.

The reason the Pavilion is so expensive is that prices rose enormously just as we were going to tender. We will of course be negotiating to lower any material costs we can. In addition, there are huge groundworks to be undertaken, demolishing the existing building, and replacing the drainage and septic tank systems. As well as fitting out the kitchen we will have two large changing rooms with multiple showers. For a public building which we intend to last for a generation or more, we need to build sturdily and for it to last. To be clear, this building is for the whole of Over Wallop. The cricket and football teams have the most urgent need and will be our primary users, but it will unlock the potential of the AEMG for more diverse sports teams as well as a space for private hire for parties, courses, classes and events using the wonderful setting and indoor/outdoor mix. We have so few facilities in Over Wallop – in fact, we are in the most deprived 10% of communities when it comes to local facilities.

We need your help. This is a building for the community and we need you to get behind us, to volunteer to help raise the necessary funds, to organise fundraising events or help us access grant or foundation funds. Please get in touch with your ideas and anything you can do to help.

### War Memorial

We are awaiting an assessment of the cleaning needed on the War Memorial which has developed a black bloom. We will get it fixed.

### Telephone Box

The library in the phone box is closed whilst we assess the extent of the repairs needed and we are hopeful that it will be renovated over the summer and reopen in the autumn. Thanks to Sue who works very hard to keep it tidy and alerted us to its state.

### Wallops Parish Hall

The Wallops Parish Hall has been run successfully and professionally by Councillor Taylor Firth for the last 13 years. Having done so much more than his fair share he has now handed over to Christian and Elisabeth whose kind offer to take over we were really grateful to receive. Now we have Christian on the PC and they are running the Hall

brilliantly. Thank you. Mark Cavill has most generously offered to supply and install solar panels on the WPH for us, for free. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him once again for an extraordinary act of generosity.

### Community

We continue to be plagued by burglary. Several houses have been robbed in the last year as well as numerous garden sheds. The AEMG continues to be depleted by locals stealing wood from our tree works. This is not permitted. In the most recent theft this week, the parishioner stealing wood drove recklessly up by the side of the rectory and narrowly missed some children riding their bikes. We do not give permission for wood to be taken from the grounds. We either leave it to rot down which is the most ecologically friendly option, or we arrange for Mark Lovell to take it for us. All incidents are reported to the police who have been very supportive. As a response to this the Neighbourhood Watch team has been revived and is in talks with Nether Wallop to join forces. We wait to hear their recommendations.

### AEMG

The AEMG is being slowly transformed into a vibrant space for sport and leisure. 18 bird boxes have been installed in the woodland and a generous parishioner has pledged to buy the bat boxes to live alongside them. Another kind donor has offered to fund wildflowers which we will sow in the autumn. We're trying to reduce the amount we mow to save on fossil fuels and give wildlife a chance to thrive.

For the humans, the brilliant SWP is bidding for s106 money to install new play equipment ringed with trees for shade and beauty.

Hampshire United has proved an inspired group to work with as they are in active discussion with OWCC about a youth cricket team to operate outside the football season. We work closely with the cricket team and allocated our CAF pavilion grant to them in the year to fund their non turf pitch and nets, on the understanding that Test Valley will reallocate it to the Parish Council in this financial year.

### Coronation

You will have seen the publicity for our Coronation Party on Sunday. The Jubilee last year was a roaring success with over 600 attendees and a real atmosphere of fun. Yet again we have a fabulous team lead by Rhona and Julie to plan the festivities which look set to provide the Parish with a wonderful, fun day. The PC has donated £500 from our Community Fund and we secured £500 from Test Valley. Two generous donors have also given and our sincere thanks go to them. We have also been granted a Councillor's grant – thank you Cllr Jeffrey – for a Coronation Bench which will be installed after being displayed at the Coronation Party. We will be seeking your ideas on the best place for it. Please make sure you have bought your £1 tickets for Sunday from the Village Shop and we look forward to seeing you all there.

### Planning and NDP

The NDP was delayed by the requirement to carry out two reports for Test Valley, at no cost to the Parish as all NDP work has been funded by Locality grants with the exception of a £1000 starter fund provided by the PC. We are hopeful that it will not be too long before we go to a Parish Referendum on the NDP after which we expect that the NDP will be 'made' and become an embedded part of the Test Valley Local Plan. At this stage we will work with TVBC to ensure that the Parish's plan is executed in planning decisions. You'll have noticed that we now assess all planning decisions against the draft NDP. In particular, we ask that parishioners replace all felled trees with at least two new trees. The Parish Council is considering how we ensure that this happens and how we support the Parish to make sure we can continue to plant more trees than we cut down.

We've considered 47 planning applications over the last year, 21 of which were tree works. We supported 30 of them and only objected, on NDP grounds, to 6. The remainder were no comment or limited comments.

### Community Payback

The Community Payback team came out this week to carry out their risk assessment for the works which they intend to do for the Parish Council. Due to the dangers inherent on Station Road they have reluctantly concluded that they cannot safely paint the white railings with the exception of the Church's ones which are off the road. They will focus on footpaths and are working with us to determine where they go. Any alerts from the community to direct us towards the most overgrown paths are gratefully received. If you come across the team, please welcome them to the Parish. The Community Payback team does extraordinary rehabilitative and educational work which extends far beyond the period of payback work.

### Parish Council

You have heard how the generosity in both time and money from parishioners has demonstrated itself this year. We need to ask yet more of you. There are currently three Over Wallop and one Palestine vacancies on the PC. Several of you have expressed interest. I would ask that you attend two or three meetings to make sure that you really want to commit your time and effort to taking on and delivering a portfolio of responsibilities. Areas that we are not covering at the moment are: Resilience plan, communications review, administration review, greening the parish and providing for teenagers. In addition, we need parish councillors to take responsibility for trees, the allotments, footpaths and to sit on the Wallops Parish Hall Committee. Some of these roles can be filled by parishioners who would like to contribute from outside the PC and we warmly welcome those offers. Please keep them coming. There's a lot to do but it's all positive, proactive stuff with measurable benefits.

I'll hand over to Richard to take us through the Financial Report. Thank you.

## **END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT.**

OVER WALLOP PARISH COUNCIL – Financial Report May 2023 AGM.

### INCOME

	£
Cash Brought Forward 2021/22	654.00
Precept	42,000.00
Hiring Fees	120.00
Bank Interest	19.10
Ins Village Hall + Supplies	947.21
Allotment Rents	350.05
VAT Refund	12,238.74
NDP Grant	8,000.00
SEB Payment	14.11
Total	<b><u>64,343.21</u></b>
Reserves used:	5,500.00
Total	<b><u>69,843.21</u></b>

### EXPENDITURE

Office Expenditure	1,657.66
Clerks Salary	6,000.00
Audit Fees	1,095.00
Insurance (PC 2,475.51. VH 850)	3,325.51
Street Lighting	8,904.72
Sports Field Maint + Trees	21,824.63

Village Maintenance	3,114.70
Pavilion Running Costs	6,130.53
Dog Bin Emptying	1,438.00
Allotments	46.71
Jubilee Celebrations	504.25
NDP	8,000.00
Defibrillator Pads and Batteries	469.99
VAT	7,017.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>£69,529.58</b>
Budget Surplus	313.63
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£69,843.21</u></b>

Reserves end of 2022/2023 Financial Year.

General Reserves	£12,000.00
Pavilion	£ 2,270.00
War Memorial M/F	£ 453.68
NDP (PC Contribution)	£ 718.29
Parish Hall	£ 500.00
OWCF	£ 1,496.00
Street Lights Replace	£ 1,000.00
Allotments	£ 675.95
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£ 19,113.92</u></b>

Adoption of Accounts for the Year 2022/2023 proposed by Cllr C Sanger, seconded by Cllr I Cleife.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH BDO LLP.

There were no Conflict of Interest with the external Auditor, BDO LLP recorded.

#### ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/2023

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 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 Mr C Sanger and seconded by Cllr Mr I Cleife. All agreed.

#### ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2022/2023

The Annual Accounting Statement 2022/2023 was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mr C Sanger and seconded by Cllr Mr I Cleife. All agreed.

#### MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Mr Peter Hope congratulated the Parish Council for the work they have done over the last 4 years and wished them good deliberations for the next term of office.

#### PLANNING.

23/00938/TPON – 3 Beech Trees - Reduce Crown by 3m and remove branches overhanging Beech View and neighbouring property to suitable grown points. – Beech View, Pound Road, Over Wallop. SUPPORT.

23/01043/FULLN – Erection of a garage – Walnut Tree House, Station Road, Over Wallop. NO COMMENT.

23/00929/CLPN – Application for a certificate of lawfulness for a proposed replacement gate – Land adjacent to Driftway, King Lane, Over Wallop – In accordance with the NDP – The following comment applies: Two parishioners have raised concerns that there was no gate previously in this location.

**URGENT MATTERS FROM THE APRIL MINUTES:**

There were no issues raised.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT.**

**CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS ISSUED IN APRIL and May 2023**

**INCOME.**

TVBC ½ Precept £21,000.00  
TVBC Grant £ 928.51  
**£21,928.51**

**EXPENDITURE.**

Standing Orders:

R.N. Waterman	Wages	560.00
Came and Company	Insurance	311.81
TVBC	Grass Cutting	185.95
SBPC	Storage	10.00
R.N. Waterman	Expenses and Website	14.00
VIXIT	Grounds Maintenance	198.00
	Total =	<b><u>£1,279.76</u></b>

Cheques Issued:

A Sherwood	MUGA Cleaning	170.00
G Lark	Tree Work	2,450.00
Kings Coronation Celebrations		500.00
The Wallops Parish Hall	Hire	30.00
Mrs K Dixon	Expenses	255.47
Richard Waterman	Expenses	35.00
Penton Grafton PC	FSS Share 2022/2023	575.00
TVBC	Election Expenses	48.00
Business Stream	Pavilion Water	14.27
Mr C Wilkins	Pavilion Cleaner	320.99
	Total =	<b><u>£4,398.73</u></b>

Total Expenditure = **£5,678.49**

**Bank Account Balances**

After above movements

Current Account = £26,064.40  
Premier Interest = £10,041.91  
Allotments = £ 675.95  
**£36,782.26**

**Breakdown of Funds held:**

**Working Balance = £17,668.34**  
**War Memorial = £ 453.68**

**Reserves:**

**General Reserves = £ 12,000.00**  
**Street light Replacement Fund = £ 1,000.00**  
**Over Wallop Community Fund = £ 1,496.00**  
**Pavilion Project = £ 2,270.00**  
**NDP (PC Contribution) = £ 718.29**  
**Parish Hall = £ 500.00**  
**=£ 17,984.29**

**TOTAL FUNDS HELD = £36,106.31**

**Allotments**                    = £    **675.95**  
   = **£36,782.26**

Proposed by Cllr I Cleife and seconded by Cllr C Sanger.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

Mr John Taylor Firth reported that the first phase of tree work on the AEMG has been completed. The contractor has to come back with a cherry picker to finish the job.

Mr Peter Hope asked if the Parish Council intend to clean the War Memorial as it has got dirty over the winter. The Chairman reported that this is in hand.

**CLOSE OF THE MEETING.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

1<sup>ST</sup> June 2023 at 7.30pm in the Wallops Parish Hall.

Cllr C Sanger gave his apologies for the June Meeting.

**PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE:**

[www.overwallopparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.overwallopparishcouncil.org.uk)