

Appleton with Eaton Parish Council (AWEPC) Parish Council Meeting

held in the Village Hall

Monday, 9th June 2025 7:15pm

Minutes

Councillors present: Chairman Sue Sternberg (SS), Liz Gilkes (LG) and John Adams (JA), Liz Gilkes (LG) and Mary Carey (MC)

In attendance: Allison Leigh (Clerk), James Plumb (County Councillor) and Mark Coleman (District Councillor)

25/62: Signing of the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance Form: The Chair signed the Declaration of Acceptance form.

25/63: Apologies for Absence

- Valentina Brito-Marquez (VBM), Chris Mitty (CM)

25/64: Declarations of interest: SD declared an interest in item 25/79 c.1 with regards to the fees charged to the Table Tennis Club.

25/65: Public questions and statements: No members of the public were present.

25/66: Reports from District and County Councillors:

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

The County Councillor sent a report. See Attachment 1.

Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC)

The District Councillor sent a report. See Attachment 1.

25/67: Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 12th May 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

25/68: Clerk's report:

- a. The Clerk noted that she will continue to try and contact OCC regarding the surfacing of the path between Long Close and Besselsleigh.
- b. The Clerk noted she has been in touch with Besselsleigh Parish Meeting and that they were investigating their CIL position prior to wishing to contact VoWHDC about a merger of Councils.

25/69: Budget against spend for 24/25: The Council agreed and the Chair signed the budget against actual for the 24/25 financial year and the budget notes for the end of the 24/25 financial year .

25/70: Statement of Variances: The Council agreed the Statement of Variances between 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

25/71: Reserves: The Council agreed the Reserves at the end of 2024/2025.

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25/72: Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/2025: The Council noted the Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/2025.

25/73: Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025: The Council agreed the statements and the Chair signed the Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025.

25/74: Annual Accounting Statements 2024/2025: The Council agreed and the Chair signed the Annual Accounting Statements 2024/2025. The Clerk had signed this prior to the meeting.

25/75: Notice of Elector's Rights: The Council resolved the follow dates for the Notice of Elector's Rights 2024/2025:

Date of announcement: Tuesday, 10th June 2025

Commencement: Wednesday, 11th June 2025

End: Tuesday, 22nd July 2025

25/76: Chair's allowance: The Council resolved not to have a Chair's allowance.

25/77: Finance:

- a. **Finance Report:** The Council authorised the payments, noted the receipts and agreed the bank reconciliation. See Attachment 3.
- b. **Training Courses:** The Council resolved for the Chair and Clerk to attend Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils' Talking Tables course for £60 total.
- c. **Bank signatories:** The Council resolved to removed VBM from the bank mandate and add JA.

25/78: Planning: There were no new planning applications, decisions or amendments.

25/79: Working Groups:

a. *Friends of Jubilee Park (FOJP)*

1. The Council is concerned about the state of some of the benches as well as the hedge. The Clerk will meet with one of the members of the FOJP. The Council would also like to see if the FOJP would like to put something in the Advertiser seeking new volunteers.

b. *Pavilion Working Group:*

1. August event at the sportsfield: The Council resolved to spend up to £200 on refreshments for the event in August at the sportsfield. They also would like to consider having an ice cream van.

c. *Leisure and Recreation (L&R) Working Group*

1. **Fees:** The Council resolved to proceed with the following general fees for 25/26:
 - i. Base rate Pavilion: £10/hour; Residents £5/hour
 - Base rate Pavilion and Sportsfield: £15/hour; Residents £10/hour

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- ii. Appleton School Leavers event: The Council resolved for there to be no charge for this event.
- iii. Table Tennis fees: The Council resolved for the Table Tennis Club to pay the residents' rate.
- iv. The Council would like to consider an additional fee for anyone hiring the sportsfield for cricket purposes as well as consider an overnight fee.

2. ***Hiring of pitch by Appleton Cricket Club:*** The Council learned that Appleton Cricket Club is subletting the field to other cricket clubs. The Council asked the Clerk to follow up on any agreements between ACC and those groups to whom they are subletting.

25/80: Correspondence: The Council noted the correspondence received. The following was noted:

- The Council is working on a one-page document explaining the history of the crossing to the Thames Path for OCC.
- The Council would like to write to AHC informing them that they would need to communicate to individual residents where there are any issues.
- A discussion was had about the speed sign/bend signs at Oaksmere. The District Councillor noted that this is being discussed.
- The Council asked the Clerk to inform the resident concerned about dangerous parking to contact the PCSO.
- It was noted that the PC had had received information from the VoWHDC with regards to unitary authorities. The Council will advertise information on other suggested structures as received.

25/81: Advertiser: The Council resolved to put the following in the July Advertiser:

- Save the date for the Pavilion Working Group event on the 23rd August

The Council asked the Clerk to put the VE Day photos on the website. The Clerk noted she would as possible as it is a time-consuming activity with the number of photos.

25/82: Matters for report: None

25/83: Date of the next meeting: The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as the 14th July 2025.

The meeting closed at 20:30.

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Attachment 1

REPORT TO APPLETON WITH EATON PARISH COUNCIL

JUNE 2025

FROM CLLR JAMES PLUMB

COUNCILLOR PRIORITY FUND IS BACK

At the start of this new municipal year the Councillor Priority Fund is back allowing Councillors to grant local groups funding. £10,000 has been allocated to each councillor between May 2025-May 2027. Further information will be shared when this is made available.

GULLY CLEANING

Oxfordshire County Council has announced plans to clean and empty every highway drainage gully in Oxfordshire this year, and every year going forward. The £2.6 million programme is taking place after an additional £1.5m investment to improve highway drainage was approved in the council's 2025 - 26 budget. Gullies and drains in Appleton and Eaton will receive their first clearing as part of this new scheme between August and September this year. Drain clearing was previously carried out on a four-year cycle.

A420 RESURFACING

This is quite advanced notice, but I thought worth sharing that a temporary road closure will be in place from 21st August to 23rd August between 20:00pm and 06:00am to facilitate resurfacing, pothole repairs and the reinstalment of road markings on the A420.

The A420 will be closed in both directions during the works but will be limited to either the eastern or western side of the A338 roundabout at Tubney during a single shift. The eastern side closure will run from the roundabout to the Besselsleigh Road junction, whilst the western side closure will run from the Kingston Bagpuize roundabout up to the A338 roundabout at Tubney.

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Vale District Council – Member for Thames Ward Report to the Appleton with Eaton Parish Council – 9 June 2025

Inquiry about Vale grants for the Cricket Pavilion

The Parish Clerk asked me if I knew of any grants that the Parish might request to contribute to the refurbishment of the Cricket Pavilion. I made enquiries but I could not identify any. I asked officers if there was any S106 funding (funding provided by developers to improve the infrastructure in an area when there is a new development). Unfortunately, there is none available, and the Vale's Community Infrastructure Levy funding is already fully committed.

Local Government Reorganisation

The Vale District Council is seeking the views of residents from across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire to shape its Two Councils proposal to government. Details on the proposal are available at this link <https://twocouncils.org/home> and there is a survey available via that web page. There are also several engagement events across the county that are detailed via the Two Councils web page. In addition to the Vale's Two Council proposal, Oxford City will submit their Greater Oxford proposal for three councils across the region, and Oxfordshire County Council will submit a County unitary proposal.

Cllr Mark Coleman

Lib Dem Member for Thames Ward

Vale of White Horse District Council Deputy Leader

Member for Finance

Armed Forces and Veterans Champion

Mobile 07483 224436

Email mark.coleman@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

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Payments authorised

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Total</u>
16/05/2025	Council phone	Lebara	6.95
16/05/2025	Microsoft	Microsoft	1.99
16/05/2025	Mailchimp	Mailchimp	11.83
16/05/2025	Ink	Currys	34.99
16/05/2025	Lloyds fee	Lloyds	3.00
21/05/2025	Water at the Sportsfield	Castle Water	6.82
16/05/2025	Electricity at the sportsfield	EDF	69.48
01/05/2025	Scribe accounts subscription	Starboard Systems	42.00
01/05/2025	Sportsfield booking system	Starboard Systems	24.00
31/05/2025	Unity Service Charge	Unity Trust Bank	6.00
09/06/2025	VE Day glitter tattoos	Anna Antell	30.00
09/06/2025	Website hosting and WordPress Updates	Dark White Digital	30.00
09/06/2025	Mowing grass at sportsfield	Ady Podbery	116.40
09/06/2025	Mowing grass at sportsfield	Ady Podbery	357.60
09/06/2025	VE Day celebration music	Joe Carey	150.00
09/06/2025	Training	OALC	72.00
30/06/2025	Clerk salary	Allison Leigh	743.83
09/06/2025	Clerk expenses	Allison Leigh	26.00
09/06/2025	Mowing grass at sportsfield	Ady Podbery	426.00
09/06/2025	VE Day prizes	Appleton Community Shop	52.82
09/06/2025	Speed sign equipment	Elan City	97.94
Total			2,309.65

Receipts for May 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Total</u>
29/05/2025	VAT return	HMRC	2,290.98
Total			2,290.98

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**Bank Reconciliation at
31/05/2025**

	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025	62,162.59
	ADD	
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/05/2025	19,040.98
		81,203.57
	SUBTRACT	
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/05/2025	4,782.70
A	Cash in Hand 31/05/2025	76,420.87
	(per Cash Book)	
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements	
	Petty Cash 31/05/2025	0.00
	Unity Current Account 31/05/2025	15,273.74
	Unity Instant Access Account 31/05/2025	61,147.13
	Lloyds Card 31/05/2025	0.00
		76,420.87
	Less unrepresented payments	
		76,420.87
	Plus unrepresented receipts	
B	Adjusted Bank Balance	76,420.87

A = B Checks out OK