

Over Wallop Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm Thursday 3rd September 2026, at the Parish Hall, Over Wallop

Present at Meeting: Chairman Cllr Meek, Vice chairman Cllr Bunche and Cllrs Hunt, Cleife, Borough Cllr MacDonald, County Cllr Drew and Clerk Heidi Easton

In attendance: 9 members of public.

09/261 - Welcome and Apologies Chairman Cllr Meek opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the public. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Liz Chamberlin-Crump.

09/262 - Declarations of Interests. No declarations of interest were made.

09/263 - Approval of minutes from previous meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman, subject to one correction: the date of the village litter pick should read 2026 rather than 2025.

09/264 - County and Borough Cllr Reports Both reports can be found on their respective websites and on the Hub.

Cllr Drew's written report had been circulated and was noted. He outlined significant central-government changes affecting local planning, including increased housing targets, a three-year completions test and proposals to remove committee referral rights for applications of fewer than ten dwellings. These changes were expected to increase the risk of speculative development.

Cllr MacDonald advised that Local Government Reorganisation was likely to result in Test Valley being merged with Winchester, New Forest and North East Hampshire. In consequence, work on the present Local Plan was expected to cease and preparations begin for a joint plan with neighbouring authorities. Members expressed disappointment that substantial work already undertaken would be lost.

County Cllr Drew's report was noted. He advised that highways work was increasingly prioritised according to safety risk and referred to speeding concerns at Jacks Bush, where further measures, including road markings and gateway-style treatments, were being considered.

09/265 - Chairman Cllr Meek's Report, The Chairman reported that the Parish Council stand at the village fete had been well received and had generated new volunteers. Two prospective councillors remained interested but were unable to attend.

The tree survey was due this year. Members agreed that the previous surveyor should be appointed because of their existing knowledge of the site and trees; separate tree surgery work would be subject to quotations as required. The Clerk would contact the previous surveyor.

Repairs to Evans Close play park had been booked. Both baby swing seats were to be replaced because of wear, rust and safety concerns.

BT had confirmed that neither fibre nor standard broadband could be supplied to the Pavilion and would refund sums already taken. Starlink would be investigated and progressed as an alternative, with the security provider consulted regarding connection and checking the alarm batteries.

The new street-lighting maintenance contract had been signed. Three lamps were not working and could now be reported for repair; this had not previously been possible because there was no active contract and no contractor contact details were available. The Clerk would arrange the repairs.

Marion Short had stepped down after many years of service looking after the footpaths. A new volunteer is to take over.

A quotation of £980 had been received to clean staining from the War Memorial pillars before Remembrance. RESOLVED: The expenditure was approved. The Chairman would instruct John Taylor-Firth to proceed.

09/266 - Finance Report

Members reviewed the August 2026 financial report. The total opening bank balance as at 31 March 2026 was £17,239.10.

The total current bank balance as at 31 August 2026 was £24,981.68. Internal transfers between Council accounts were excluded from the receipts and payments figures.

09/267 To consider Planning Application permission for:

Application 26/01671/FULLN – Lyndale, Mount Hermon Road, Palestine – Demolition of the existing dwelling and erection of a replacement self-build dwellinghouse with associated parking, turning, landscaping and works.

RESOLVED: No comment.

09/268- Cllrs Reports to the Village Hall and Pavilion

The Pavilion had experienced lower use during the recent hot weather. Tai Chi bookings had ceased. A new class will use the Pavilion on Sunday mornings, and a personal trainer had expressed interest in weekday sessions.

Cllr Bunche reported that the Hub had been updated.

Cllr Chamberlin-Crump was not in attendance.

The recent village litter pick had attracted more than 20 volunteers and was considered successful. A further litter pick would be arranged by Cllr MacDonald. The Pavilion play park works had been completed in mid-July. Members also discussed possible grant applications for resurfacing the multi-use games area and providing outdoor gym equipment and agreed that enquiries should be made.

09/269 Clerks Report.

The Clerk reported that Mulberry had provided one-year and three-year internal-audit contract options, including an interim review. Members noted that neighbouring councils used the firm and unanimously agreed the Clerk's proposal that Mulberry should be appointed, with the Clerk to finalise the contract term.

The new website, www.overwallop-pc.gov.uk, was live and being populated. The old website would remain until completion of the External Audit and a notice directing visitors to the new site would be added.

Updated Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Risk Management, Risk Assessment and Scheme of Delegation were approved, adopted and signed. They would be placed in the meeting folder and published online.

Councillors' gov.uk email accounts had been created, and members were asked to complete setup. Personal email accounts were not to be used for Council business.

09/2610- Correspondence/Members of Public:

A quotation of £440.42 had been received for three replacement Palestine village signs. Local volunteers would install them. RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the purchase at £440.42.

The Palestine and Grateley Station Futures Group provided an update on the proposed housing-needs survey and concerns about including a question on the former A17 site. The Character Appraisal and Design Code had been submitted to Test Valley and comments were being considered with planning consultants. The Group requested a dedicated Neighbourhood Development Plan tab on the new Parish Council website. The Clerk would arrange this once the website was operating as desired and the relevant documents had been supplied. The Parish Council remained supportive of the Group as required.

Concerns were raised that the Wallops Parish Hall AGAR and accompanying balance sheet were not readily available online. The Chairman would speak with Cllr Hunt about publishing them on the Hall website.

Obscured drains were reported in the Wallops Parish Hall carpark and would be followed up.

Points from the Floor:

A resident described parking difficulties at King Lane Cottages arising from limited space and competing requests from neighbours. Ownership of a wall that might affect parking capacity remained unclear. The Chairman would follow up the matter.

A parishioner offered assistance in re-establishing Community Speedwatch. The Chairman would ask Cllr Chamberlin-Crump to progress the matter.

A Parishioner raised concerns about Section 106 developer contributions that may not have been collected by TVBC, Cllr MacDonald agreed to seek an update.

Concerns were raised about bare areas on the playing field, and a request was made for the playing surface to be scarified and reseeded. Before any work was commissioned, the Clerk would ask the grass-cutting contractor for an estimate and indicative timeframe.

Numerous rabbit holes and scrapes were reported as a potential safety risk on the sports area. Several possible control methods were discussed, but no clear course of action was agreed.

The Chairman Cllr Meek closed the meeting at 8.43pm

Date of Next meeting- Thursday 1st October 2026 at 7.30pm in the Over Wallop Parish Hall

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman: Date: