

Over Wallop Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm Thursday 1st October 2026, at the Parish Hall, Over Wallop

Present at Meeting: Chairman Cllr Meek, Cllrs Hunt, Cleife, Chamberlin Crump, County Cllr Drew and Clerk Heidi Easton

In attendance: 5 members of public.

10/261 - Welcome and Apologies. Chairman Cllr Meek opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Formal apologies were received from Cllr MacDonald and John Chitham, who was out of the country. Cllr Bunche was also noted as unable to attend.

10/262 - Declarations of Interests. No declarations of interest were made.

10/263 - Approval of minutes from previous meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were approved as a true and accurate record.

10/264 - County and Borough Cllr Reports The reports had been circulated and were available on the Hub.

County Cllr Drew summarised his published report. He highlighted Hampshire County Council's campaign for a greater share of Vehicle Excise Duty for highways, current road repair activity, support for medically ready patients leaving hospital, business and employment initiatives, and the Connect to Work and Connect to Support portals. The Chairman added that the issue concerned hypothecation: Vehicle Excise Duty is paid into the central government fund rather than allocated specifically to roads. County Cllr Drew also stressed the need for parish councils to scrutinise larger planning proposals at an early stage, particularly in light of proposed national planning changes, so that impacts, infrastructure improvements and Section 106 contributions could be addressed.

10/265 - Chairman Cllr Meek's Report. The Chairman reported that repairs were under way at Evans Close Play Park following heavy use, including work to address protruding nails, worn rubber matting and uneven ground. The Council agreed that the safety work, repainting and purchase of topsoil should proceed. A future visit by Test Valley Borough Council's Community Engagement Officer was welcomed to discuss available grants, with refurbishment of the play area identified as a potential project. The Chairman later stated that the play area was approaching the stage at which replacement should be considered.

For the Pavilion, Starlink was identified as the preferred broadband solution, with equipment expected to cost approximately £300–£400 and a monthly subscription of about £40. A suitable installer was to be identified before ordering, and Mark Lovell would be asked to attend the installation to check connectivity with the alarm, CCTV and electricity systems. The Chairman would also prepare draft household resilience guidance, including encouraging residents to check on neighbours and vulnerable people during electricity outages.

10/266 - Finance Report. The Clerk reported receipt of the second £25,000 precept instalment, bringing total precept receipts to £50,000. A VAT reclaim of approximately £4,000 relating to the Alan Evans project was to be submitted. There had been no significant expenditure during the month. Closing balances were reported as follows: business account, £6,032.60; current account, £1,831.06; saver account, £53,978.03; total funds, £61,841.69. The monthly financial report was approved. The Council also unanimously approved an

additional payment of £250 to Mr Waterman, the previous Clerk, in recognition of the substantial extra work required in connection with the external audit.

10/267 - Planning. The Council considered the following three applications:

26/02019/LBWN Retention of works carried out to include reinstatement of internal partitions in existing door openings, replacement and details of ground floor front three light casement window and underfloor heating Brockhurst Cottages Salisbury Lane Over Wallop Stockbridge Hampshire. **No Comment**

26/01966/LBWN Retention of minor internal alterations including a ground floor study partition, first floor shower inserted into linen cupboard space and limited damp proofing on an internal wall in kitchen Freemantle King Lane Over Wallop Stockbridge Hampshire. **No Comment**

26/02110/VARN Variation of conditions 02 (approved plans) and 04 (rewording of condition) of 26/00715/FULLN (part conversion and part retrospective change of use of vehicle repair garage, Class B2, to veterinary practice, Class E). **No Comment**

The Council unanimously resolved to raise no objection to all three applications.

10/268 - Councillors' Reports. Cllr Chamberlin-Crump reported that she would meet Mrs Birch the following week regarding Community Speedwatch and would investigate the location of the equipment, including contacting the clerk at Grateley and Cllr MacDonald. Cllr Hunt reported that internet service at The Wallops Parish Hall had been intermittent throughout the day. The wider internet service across Over Wallop and neighbouring areas was also reported to have been unreliable.

10/269 - Clerk's Report. External Audit 2025/26: The Council received and fully discussed BDO's report dated 21 September 2026, including its findings concerning the accounting basis and Governance Assertions 1, 7 and 10. Members noted the move to council-domain .gov.uk email accounts and the need to ensure their use for Council business. The accounting requirements for 2026/27 and the importance of addressing all outstanding audit recommendations were discussed. The Council acknowledged the findings and the corrective work reported by the Clerk. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been posted.

The Clerk had been unable to contact the previous tree survey contractor and would seek an alternative qualified arboricultural surveyor, including contacting Tree Technique.

Mark Lovell had been asked to quote for scarifying the cricket area; treatment of the football pitches would depend on Hampshire United providing its fixture list. The Clerk would again request that information.

For rabbit control, the Council approved the all-inclusive quotation of £400 from an insured contractor, who would undertake the work at night and notify the police.

Work to retrieve data from the speed indicator device remained ongoing.

10/2610 - Correspondence. Representatives of the Palestine and Grateley Futures Group reported on a Test Valley Association of Parish and Town Councils briefing. The emerging local plan was in abeyance and a new gateway process was anticipated, with the replacement plan expected around April 2029. Test Valley Borough Council would need to demonstrate both a five-year housing land supply and delivery over a rolling three-year period. Changes to planning decision-making thresholds and call-in arrangements were also discussed. Parish councils would remain able to engage directly with designated planning officers. The Group

was updating the Character Appraisal and Design Code following comments from Test Valley's planning department and was preparing for public consultation, likely in November. A meeting with representatives of Over Wallop and Grateley was arranged for 29th October 3rd November to discuss the process.

10/2611 - Public Participation and Points from the Floor. Representatives of the Palestine and Grateley Futures Group requested funding for six backing plates for dog-fouling signs at locations around Palestine, including Streetway Road, Mount Road and the adjoining lanes. The Council unanimously approved expenditure of up to £100, subject to any necessary permission for attaching signs to lamp posts. County Cllr Drew advised that his councillor grant scheme might support a fundraising campaign connected with the longer-term refurbishment or replacement of Evans Close Play Park and invited the Council to submit an application.

Cllr Cleife reported that persistent parking in Orange Lane and King Lane had improved. It was suggested that affected residents contact the housing provider about possible use of available residents' parking at Pound Close. Cllr Hunt agreed to email a parishioner with this suggestion.

The Chairman Cllr Meek closed the meeting at 8.24pm

Date of next meeting - Thursday 5th November 2026 at 7.30pm in the Over Wallop Parish Hall

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman: Date: