

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on
Thursday, 10th July at 8pm**

Attendees – Councillors:	Apologies:
Victoria Shepherd (Chair) (VS)	Dom Grigg (DG)
Greg O’Broin (GoB)	
Claire Rees (CR)	
Manu Mavrikis (MM)	
	In Attendance:
Members of the public: 7	Judy McCarthy – Clerk Cllr Peter Stevens (PS) – District & County Cllr

Item	ACTION
1. Welcome, Apologies and Quorate VS welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from DM. The meeting was quorate.	
2. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest VS & GoB declared an interest in Appleford Parish Trust. GoB is also involved in the management of the Village Hall, Trustee of the Village Hall.	
3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th June 2025 Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 th June were amended on page 2 to update s.8 Appleford representatives to FCC Liaison Committee and APPROVED and signed by the Chair.	APPROVED
4. Public Participation	

The council was updated on village traffic concerns and proposals for traffic calming measures, including installing Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) at the white gates at both ends of the village; a chicane at the south entrance to the village; belisha beacon crossing on Main Road to the recreation ground; and the County Council provisioning a further traffic survey using temporary traffic counter strip across the road. Peter Stevens joined the meeting at 8.11 pm. PS was requested to follow up villagers' concerns and proposals with the Highways Safety Officer at Oxfordshire County Council.	
5. Update from Peter Stevens Councillor Stevens informed the meeting on various matters, including: • BESS – the County Council has approved – application for a second BESS is being considered. GoB requested PS to call it in. Applications treated differently at OCC and VOWH. GoB again raised serious risk of fire. • HF1 road building (business case not yet approved), should go to full council • Local authority reorganisation options • Reporting perceived poor enforcement of planning conditions (see under Planning) • Thames Water Hobbyhorse Lane, FCC is doing a walkaround with OCC • Thames Water has stood up a project manager to upgrade the path, FCC needs to ensure water level doesn't affect it • SESRO - went to high court in June • Use of water by data centre	
6. Planning GoB updated the meeting on the following: • Responses submitted on behalf of the Parish Council since the last meeting: ▪ OCC - R3.0046/25 - HIF1 Planning Condition 28 (Archaeological Survey) of planning permission no. R3.0138/21 Response: no objection ▪ OCC - MW.0053/25 - Planting Scheme Heidelberg Response: no objection ▪ P25 / V0149 / FUL BESS APPLICATION (Appleford) to VOWHDC: response - Objection	

• GoB attended the Vale of White Horse Oxfordshire District Council's Planning Committee meeting on 25 June 2025. The Parish Council noted concern about the decision to approve, in particular regarding statement by planning officer and chair of the incorrect distance of BESS from the village and that no statutory objections had been received. GoB will prepare a complaint to send to VOWHDC. • OCC - MW.0052/25 - BESS application west of rail line near Waste Transfer Site – has been approved. • Ongoing Monitoring of commercial sites (FCC/Heidelberg) ○ Lack of consistent monitoring of conditions and ongoing planning applications by OCC Planning department. GoB updated ongoing work with Sutton Courtenay Parish Council to prepare joint complaint to OCC re insufficient monitoring of planning applications and conditions. • Noise at Appleford Sidings – complaints received from villagers and forwarded to the site manager. Restated that the noise survey had reported that noise level was not considered a nuisance, but the Council accepts it is annoying. PS left the meeting.	ACTION: Clerk to send complaint from APC re BESS decision at VOWHDC ACTION: Clerk to send a letter of complaint as drafted by GoB to the County Council.									
7. Finance • Notice of Electors' Rights was published on website and on Village Noticeboard on 16 June, rights commencing Tuesday 17 June, ending on Monday 28 July. • The following payments were approved: <table><tr><th>Supplier/Invoice</th><th>Purpose</th><th>£</th></tr><tr><td>APC Garden Services INV 06717</td><td>Grounds maintenance - May 25</td><td>398.40</td></tr><tr><td>Pet Waste Solutions Inv 46078</td><td>Dog Bin collection - June 25 (6 collections)</td><td>102.96</td></tr></table>	Supplier/Invoice	Purpose	£	APC Garden Services INV 06717	Grounds maintenance - May 25	398.40	Pet Waste Solutions Inv 46078	Dog Bin collection - June 25 (6 collections)	102.96	
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Scribe - Direct Debit Inv 10788	Accounts software	14.40
Clerk's Salary July 25	1-31 July 2025	499.50
Village Hall Manager's Salary July 25	1-31 July 2025	325.00

- The following receipts since the June meeting were noted

Receipts		£
SSE wayleave registry	Wayleave payment – level crossing	11.47
Interest	Instant Access Account	27.12

- **Balances at bank as at 6 July 2025**

Current Account	£7,862.24
Instant Access Account	£20,027.12

- The Epson Printer has been added to the council's Asset Register

8. Governance

a. Noise Taskforce (GoB)

Noise survey: level of noise was not as high in March, could not report as a real issue. We have a base measure going forward for HF1, FCC Heidelberg is more of an issue. A lot of noise is occurring after 7pm, there is a lack of monitoring of how much of allowance of evening work is being used.

A solution could be to spend up to £10,000 to buy a noise meter, could buy from a supplier for a period and then sell back, or could rent for £600-£800 per month.

The Council agreed that as Appleford Parish Trust has earmarked some money, to defer decision to buy/rent the noise metre and see if can get funding from the Parish Trust. Item for discussion to be timetabled for the Council's meeting in September.

Villagers are asked to contact GoB if interested to join noise survey work.

b. Playground & Recreation Ground Working Group (VS) Southern Electric – damage caused to gate lock recently has been made good by them. Barrier to entrance to car park – estimate has been received of £2500. Playground checks; professional inspections are being completed quarterly, a volunteer from the village is completing weekly checks. Playground refurbishment: rocking horse paint and climbing frame bolt tightening – no progress, still need volunteers playbark surround, and to fill beneath zip-wire – estimate of materials has been received from villager. The wooden surround has come apart in places, volunteer will make good any exposed hazards but the Council requested the Clerk to source quotes to complete the repairs. Application to FCC Communities Fund for Multi-use Gym Area (MUGA) – no progress to date c. Village Hall Working Group (GoB) Charity incorporation is progressing but update received from Charity Commission that it may need a further 4 months to complete. Two villagers may be joining as Trustees for the interim period. Defibrillators have been checked every month as working. Abingdon Town FC has expressed an interest to hire the hall and ground at Appleford, this use would not affect St Edmunds fixtures or training. Council approved of this use of the recreation ground. Hall keylock combinations have now been changed and will change regularly for increased security. d. Staffing Committee (GoB) Village Hall Manager has fully taken up the role e. Traffic Calming (VS) Further to the useful discussion under Public Participation, the County Council may need more supporting data. MM will forward a report from the SID data to the Clerk to share with the County council, County and District Councillor, and Traffic officer at OCC responsible for the SIDS. It was agreed to request a police speed check presence along Main Road, near to the Recreation Ground (OX14 4PF), where the car park offers a safe place to park, monitor traffic, and pull in	ACTION: Clerk to source quote for repairs to Zip Wire surround and bark infill ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Football Club ACTION: MM to share SID data with Clerk. Clerk to contact OCC and Thames Valley Police
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speeding cars; Appleford SID data to be shared to justify the need for this. f. Community Action (CR) To include as item on agenda from September. Thanks to CR for valuable work on The Pressings to date. g. Hedge at the Recreation Ground The council reviewed options to in-fill the gaps at the base of the hedge or provide additional fencing at the Main Road edge of the recreation ground. It is now agreed that temporary installation of wire fencing between gaps in the hedge is not suitable as will interfere with contractors needing to cut the hedge. The Council wishes to recognise and acknowledge villager efforts to research possible solutions and costs involved, and apologises for confusion around communication of the proposal. A temporary picket fence has been approved previously to cost up to £250. The Clerk to obtain an up-to-date quote from a fencing company. but will not proceed with the wire fencing through the gaps. The hedge will be cut back strongly later in the year to encourage growth in the lower limbs which will resolve gaps between.	ACTION: Clerk to send appreciation for assistance in this matter. ACTION: Clerk to obtain further quote
9. Date of future meetings The next Parish Council meetings will be held on: Monday 8th September Monday 13th October Monday 10 November	

The Meeting ended at 9.35 pm