



Appleford-on-Thames Parish Council

Minutes of the Appleford-on-Thames Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday 14 May 2026 from 19.00 to 20:19 hrs in the Village Hall

This version is DRAFT until signed as a true record at the next Annual Parish Meeting

Present: Cllr Greg O'Broin, Cllr Claire Rees, Cllr Victoria Shepherd (from 19:30 hrs),
County & District Cllr Peter Stevens and 22 members of the public.

In attendance: Judy McCarthy, Parish Clerk

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Manu Mavrikis.

2. Convening the meeting and appointment of Chair

The meeting was convened at 19.00 hrs. Cllr O'Broin agreed to chair the meeting.

3. To accept the Minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting

The Chair signed as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2025.

4 Matters arising from the previous minutes

None.

5. Residents' satisfaction survey: next steps

Cllr Rees updated that a village survey to seek residents' feedback on the activities and priorities of the Parish Council together with feedback or preferences for community events will be published shortly.

6 Annual Report of the Parish Council 2025/26

Cllr Shepherd had submitted a report as Chair of the Parish Council 2025/26 and this is attached. Cllr O'Broin presented the report to the meeting.

7. Planning matters affecting the Parish

Cllr O'Broin gave an update on planning matters, including the HIF1 new road, closure of the B4016 between Appleford and Sutton Courtenay, and the Parish Council agreement for an easement across council land adjacent to Appleford level crossing to the BESS development.

8. Village Organisations and Community events

- i. Mr W Finch gave an update on behalf of St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, regarding services and church events.



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ii. Village Hall

Cllr O'Broin updated on the establishment in September 2025 of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), with the Parish Council as sole Trustee, and ongoing arrangements for the management of the hall led by the Village Hall Management Committee. The CIO will become operational on the transfer of the existing Village Hall Charity, which is expected to take place in September 2026.

A full-fibre broadband connection will be installed in June.

Bookings are steady and the committee currently holds funds of £16,000 at the bank. The HIF1 works and temporary B4016 road closure in 2027 may affect bookings for the duration of the closure.

iii. Appleford Community Project

Cllr Rees, as Chair of the ACP, gave an update on the community events during the year. The Fireworks event in November 2025 had proved popular and made a £500 profit. Cream teas will be served on the Recreation Ground on 7 June. The assistance of volunteers over the past 12 months was much appreciated, reminded all that Volunteers are always needed to support and sustain these village organisations.

9. Report from County and District Councillor

Cllr Stevens updated on matters affecting the village including the HIF1 road and the planned 2027 B4016 road closure between Appleford and Sutton Courtenay. Thames Water has agreed measures for the reinstatement of Hobbyhorse Lane between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford. Local liaison continues about noise and smells at the sidings and landfill site. A zebra crossing to the Europa school is planned by next March.

10. Playground and Recreation Ground improvements

D Walsh gave an update on options for replacement of the Children's climbing frame and options for new play equipment around the Recreation Ground, in particular providing facilities for teenagers and adults. Plans include removing the adult gym equipment, which is not well used. Grant funding will be applied for in order to finance selected scheme(s) in addition to parish council funds set aside as earmarked reserve. The village survey will include questions to gather residents' views and preferences.

11. Update from Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

Mr Barber updated on relevant local issues affecting the Parish including:

- Policing numbers and types of crime;
- Re closure of road between Appleford and Sutton Courtenay; attended a meeting called by the Principal of the Europa School and OCC Highways -



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proposal for a mini bus for school transport and additional trains to assist with journeys during closure period.

- will enquire further about the speeding issue in the village, could suggest some some police checks / presence.
- suggested policy may inform the safety of the T junction (with no traffic lights).
- the Police and Crime Commissioner has access to funds for various crime prevention initiatives, including provision of property marking systems.
- re HGVs breaching routing agreements Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology may be feasible.

Cllr Stevens will liaise with Mr Barber on ANPR and speeding.

12. Open Forum

Traffic speeding through the village, attitude of drivers, and seeming lack of action taken by the County Council after reporting.

The HIF1 road has real safety concerns for Appleford traffic with the planned right-hand turn onto the road and the Parish Council has stressed the need for traffic lights to ease joining the road from Appleford direction.

13. Chair's summary

The Chair reminded the meeting that volunteers are always needed to help the Parish Council and to support community events.

Strong engagement with planning issues can produce results and has made a real difference with the HIF1 road.

Cllr Shepherd thanked the Chair for all his work with the large number of planning applications over the year.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20:19 hrs