



Oliver's Battery Parish Council meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2025 at 7.30pm at St Mark's Church Hall, Oliver's Battery.

<u>Present</u>	<u>In attendance</u>	<u>Apologies/Absent</u>
Cllr Almond (from 7.40pm)	Clerk – B Gibbs	Cllr Blundell
Cllr Gaster	Dist Cllr Laming	Cllr Ironside
Cllr Kirkby		Dist Cllr Brophy
Cllr Leach		Dist & County Cllr Warwick
Cllr Leigh-Jones		

Item		ACTION
25/104	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	
	Apologies had been received from Cllrs Blundell and Ironside. District Cllr Brophy also sent his apologies alongside County and District Cllr Warwick. Cllr Almond apologised for her late arrival There were no declarations of interest at this time.	
25/105	To adjourn for public participation	
25/105.1	There were no members of the public present.	
25/105.2	To discuss the progress of public comments from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	Nothing to report.	
25/106	To receive the County Councillor's report	
25/106.1	To discuss the progress of requests to the County councillor from the last meeting: see Actions List. Nothing to report.	
25/106.2	Cllr Warwick had submitted a written report for the Parish Council that is available on the Parish Council website. Highlights include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter salting routes. Cllr Kirkby noted that Oliver's Battery Road South (to the junction with Old Kennels Lane), Compton Way, Southview Road, Momford Road, Sunnydown Road and Old Kennels Lane were a Priority One Salt Route. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt bins, available for anyone to spread on local roads and pavements. <p>The Clerk was asked to report a salt bin on Austin Avenue at the footway down to Parliament Place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution and local government reorganisation. • Southern Water outage in December. • Enhancing school meal provision. • Expanding Special Educational need provision. 	Clerk
25/107	To receive the District Councillors' report	
25/107.1	<p>To discuss the progress of requests to District councillors from the last meeting: see Actions List.</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
25/107.2	<p>Cllr Brophy had submitted a written report for the Parish Council that is available on the Parish Council website.</p> <p>Highlights include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution and local government reorganisation. • Community Grant Schemes. <p>Cllr Laming was asked for advice regarding dog poo and agreed to check what services WCC Dog Wardens provide, for example providing stencils and spray paint.</p> <p>Cllr Leach also agreed to contact a local resident to find out if they had stencils for this purpose.</p>	Cllr Laming Cllr Leach
25/108	To approve the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 10th December 2024.	
	<p>RESOLVED – Agreed as a true copy and duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Gaster spoke about 25/93.1. He asked about the action highlighted in the minute as he was not available on the date arranged. Cllr Gaster was asked to liaise with the contractor to agree a suitable date.</p>	Cllr Gaster
25/108	Finance and Council matters	
25/108.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	<p>25/49.2 WCC currently have four different community grants schemes. Cllrs were encouraged to check whether any would be suitable for local community projects and initiatives. Ongoing to include a contribution towards a new Speed Indicator Device.</p> <p>25/37.4 Cllr Almond is working with the OB Countryside Group to apply for a CPRE grant. Cllr Almond asked for this item to be removed from the agenda for now.</p> <p>25/65.5 Our approved supplier has supplied a quote to remove a Cherry Tree and cut back branches overhanging Oliver's Battery Road South from the Battery. Cllr Gaster will now contact Merritts to agree a new date.</p>	All Cllr Gaster
25/108.2	To accept payments for December 2024 and agree the December 2024 bank transactions with the bank balance.	
	The Clerk ran through the list of transactions for December 2024. Cllr Kirkby asked a couple of questions relating to payments. The Clerk also ran through the Bank Reconciliation for December 2024.	

	<p>It was seen that the reconciliation figure of £48,358.46 matched the closing figure on the December 2024 bank statement.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept payments for December 2024 and agree the December 2024 bank transactions with the bank balance.</p> <p>The Clerk also spoke about the Lloyds Bank account that had been opened in February 2024. Both Cllr Kirkby and the Clerk said that the benefit of this account would be the fact that a Debit Card facility will be available. It will also enable the Parish council to put money into a savings account earning interest.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To transfer £20,000 from the Unity Trust Treasurers account to the Lloyds account and then transfer the bulk of this to a Commercial Savings Account.</p>	
25/108.3	To receive update from the Events Working Group (standing item)	
	Cllr Kirkby commented that there was no report this month due to the fact that no events were planned before Easter 2025.	
25/108.4	To receive update from the Sustainability Working Group (standing item)	
	<p>Cllr Almond had submitted a written report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thermal imaging surveys- ongoing during winter months. To continue encourage more residents to take up the offer of a free survey this winter- to identify heat loss, no strings attached. Action- Post on FB. Cllr Almond has been in contact with Hampshire Greening Campaign to explore option of Sustainable Olivers Battery joining the programme (the campaign offers guidance and support to help communities engage residents on how to tackle climate change). <p>Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Almond collaborating with Kate Fletcher, Brownies leader, organising a 'sustainable, upcycling fashion show' for Brownies and parents to attend. St Mark's Church Hall has been booked for event- Tuesday 18th March. Mass Cycle ride- with feeder ride from Olivers Battery- date TBC. Local family friendly bike bus event possibly around Easter- date TBC. 	Cllr Almond
25/108.5	To receive an update from Tree Warden on visual inspections carried out.	
	<p>There was no report to receive.</p> <p>It was noted that a Tree Safety Audit was required this year and a specialist needs to be appointed. Details of the previous audit were on the website.</p>	
25/108.6	Budget / Precept 2025-26	
	<p>The Clerk said that it was not essential for the budget to be agreed this evening. Instead, the discussion could focus on fine tuning cost codes and line items within the budget. However, the 2025-26 Precept had to be agreed this evening.</p> <p>The outstanding line items in the budget were discussed and agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £13,850 was agreed for staff salary, NI and pension costs. £900 was agreed for subscriptions. £500 was agreed for Lengthsman, including removal of rubbish. £300 was included for legal expenses. £100 was agreed for training. £8,000 was agreed recreation spaces improvements (including the tennis court re-surfacing). £600 for Sustainability initiatives. £2,500 for Events within the Parish. 	

	<p>This would result in an overall budget of £45,885 (taking into account slight adjustments after the meeting).</p> <p>RESOLVED – To approve the draft budget for 2025-26.</p> <p>The Parish Council had received a total sum of £42,870 from Winchester City Council in 2024-25.</p> <p>The Clerk said that the 2024-25 Tax Base for Oliver’s Battery Parish was 785.07 and the Band D rate was £54.61. Multiplying the tax base by the Band D rate resulted in the figure of £42,870.</p> <p>The Clerk then said that Winchester City Council had published the tax base in early December and that the figure for 2025-26 of 785.02 was a slight decrease on the previous year.</p> <p>Cllr Kirkby said that the Parish Council considers a rise in the precept for 2024-25. He explained that a major factor in increasing the precept would be to take account of increased Staff costs including employer NI and Pension costs.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Oliver’s Battery Parish Council would ask for a precept of £45,857 from Winchester City Council in 2025-26.</p>	Clerk
25/108.7	Speed Indicator Devices in the Parish	
	<p>In a report to the September Parish Council meeting, it was highlighted that the Council’s Speed Indicator Device (SID) is aging and one of its batteries no longer hold a charge for a suitable period of time. It was also highlighted that the management system within the device was at end of life.</p> <p>Having spoken to Hursley Parish Council about their device, the following information has been gathered which may be of help to OBPC. The device was purchased from Elan City. The current cost is approximately £2,500-£3,000 ex VAT. Hursley move their device every two weeks.</p> <p>The cost for purchasing the device is significant. Cllr Leigh-Jones has contacted Elan City, the company from whom Hursley PC purchased their device, but they are yet to get back with a quote.</p> <p>HCC provide guidance for the use of a SID by a parish council. There are costs associated with the setup of the scheme, parameters associated with correct installation (location, height etc), and the regular moving of the device to improve effectiveness.</p> <p>Cllr Leigh-Jones believes that the only location that would genuinely benefit from the deployment of such a device is Old Kennels Lane, as it is an area where motorists are known to exceed the speed limit. A simple question is whether such a device will bring a significant reduction in speed or if the only answer is speed calming measures.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To ask Badger Farm Parish Council if it is possible to borrow their SID to gather information on the volume of motorists exceeding the speed limit.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To purchase replacement batteries for the existing SID.</p>	Cllr Kirkby Cllr Leigh-Jones
25/108.8	To consider a sign showing different types of Public Rights of Way	
	<p>At the November 2024 meeting correspondence was received from a local resident regarding issues experienced with riding horses on the Public Rights of Way (PROWs) in Texas Field.</p> <p>It was felt that most of the issues probably related to lack of understanding that some of the PROW were bridleways.</p>	

	<p>County Cllr Warwick was asked if the County Council could help by providing a high-quality image for the PROW around “Texas Field” (at a larger scale than the one on the website) as well as the legend and definitions of uses for “Footpath” and “Bridleway” explaining and distinguishing these the two types.</p> <p>It is possible to add another sign to the existing post near the vehicular entrance to the Recreation Ground if the other signs were adjusted. This would avoid the cost of a new post. Installing the new sign and any adjustment of existing signs will be undertaken by the Handyperson Group, as it is only fixing and adjusting clips to the existing post.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>If the County Council cannot provide the required sign at an economical price, Mint Signs Ltd have been asked to quote for a A2 size (592 x 420 mm) sign with clips.</p> <p>RESOLVED: If the price is less than £100 an order should be placed for the sign or if over £100 the price is brought back to the next meeting for consideration.</p>	
25/109	Planning	
25/109.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	25/66.2 24/00109/BCOND – 3 Downlands Road. The Chair has asked Cllr Laming for clarification of the reason given for closure of the enforcement case as “not expedient to pursue”. Ongoing	Cllr Laming
25/109.2	<p>To consider any planning reports and agree actions.</p> <p>New Applications notified since the November 2024 PC Meeting</p> <p>24/02529/HOU 17 Austen Avenue Olivers Battery Winchester Hampshire SO22 4HP. Conversion of 50% of the existing garage into a utility room with internal alterations.</p> <p>The application will not change external appearance of garage or affect current parking space. There have been no public comments.</p> <p>No comment.</p> <p>Update on applications previously reviewed by the Parish Council</p> <p>22/00621/FUL 11 Mount View Road, Oliver’s Battery - The erection of a pair of semidetached houses (1 x two bedrooms and 1 x three bedrooms), one 4-bedroom house and one 5-bedroom house, together with access, parking and landscaping. (amended application).</p> <p>This application will be considered at a future Planning Committee and, once the date has been confirmed, the PC can write to that Committee if they wish to request that a site visit be arranged.</p> <p>The Case Officer will notify the Parish Council when the relevant Planning Committee will take place so a site visit can be requested before that date.</p> <p>Enforcement – none of the enforcement cases in the November report are shown as closed on the WCC Planning Website.</p> <p>23/00402/WKS 5 Downlands Road, Oliver’s Battery – Alleged unauthorised fence over 2 metres in height. This does not appear to be current but no information on WCC website ref.</p> <p>24/00109/BCOND 3 Downlands Road – Alleged unauthorised breach of conditions 2 and 3 from Planning Permission ref23/00248/HOU. This is shown as closed as ‘not expedient to pursue’. The Parish Council still awaits a response from Cllr Laming.</p>	

	<p>Bushfield Camp – Outline Planning Application. Ref 23/02507/OUT Discussions are still ongoing with the applicant regarding transport issues.</p> <p>South Winchester Golf Course – Potential Development. Details of an email exchange with Adrian Fox (Strategic Planning Manager at WCC), were shared.</p> <p>It was confirmed that:</p> <p>South Winchester Golf Course was not included in the Reg 19 Local Plan was submitted for examination.</p> <p>WCC will need to start a review of the Local Plan straight away after the new Local Plan is adopted. WCC are waiting for the new NPPF to be published, when the level of housing requirement will be confirmed. It is anticipated to be a significant challenge.</p> <p>WCC cannot stop developers submitting an application at any point and obviously cannot pre-determine the outcome. However, WCC have confirmed they do have a 5 year Housing Land Supply.</p>	
25/110	Communications	
25/110.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	Nothing to report.	
25/111	Recreation Ground, Wildlife Conservation Area and the Battery	
25/111.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List.	
	<p>25/40.5 Ask if Handyperson Group will cut back overhanging foliage. No action required and action complete.</p> <p>25/40.5 Monitor support chains to various play equipment and report when 40% worn and replace missing caps and inserts and tighten loose nuts and bolts. Ongoing.</p> <p>25.54.1 One joist on the wooden equipment is loose and needs repairing/replacing. Handyperson group will not repair/replace the loose joist. Work to be clearly identified so a quotation can be obtained. No action required and action complete.</p> <p>25/81.3 Any issues relating to ongoing inspection of swing chains to be confirmed. On tonight's agenda.</p>	
25/111.2	To consider report based on Groundsman's weekly reports and agree actions.	
	<p>Cllr Leigh-Jones had submitted a written report.</p> <p>The checklists have been received from Grass and Grounds for December and it was confirmed the checklist (along with the status of the Defib) comes up with no issues to report.</p>	
25/111.3	To receive reports on routine maintenance and ad-hoc tasks that have been completed (Standing Item).	
	<p>Ongoing inspection of swing chains completed. Most attachments are fine except for the carabiner attachments shown in the report.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllr Leigh-Jones to check sizes and purchase new carabiners. Replacements to be installed by Cllrs Leigh-Jones and Kirkby</p> <p>A report was received for the month of December from Handypersons group:</p> <p>The following activities have been carried out during December:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed Device serviced and Battery changed every 7-8 days (see note 1 and minute ref 25/108.7 above). • Recreation Ground new trees checked for security after storm winds. 	Cllr Leigh-Jones

	<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SID is now not considered fully operational. One of the two batteries is producing only a few days of operation. • The tree watering bowser remains secured to a tree in the allotment grounds. When this placement was negotiated with the landowner it was on the expectation of it being there only during the period when the trees required regular watering. If it has not been done already it is proposed that the Parish Council negotiates again with the landowner if the intention is that the bowser remains in this site. • Tree experts should be consulted as to whether watering will be necessary during the 2025 season. If not, perhaps the bowser could be offered to the allotment holders for their use? • Leaf clearance of the paths adjacent to the school was largely cleared by the Lengthsman. Some piles have accumulated and these will be swept aside when the weather permits. 	
25//112	Lengthsman Scheme	
25/112.1	<p>To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List</p> <p>25/97.1 Cllr Kirkby expressed his frustration with the scheme as it does not appear the Lengthsman has visited the parish at the scheduled time. The Clerk was asked to investigate. Having spoken to the scheme administrator, she confirmed that the scheme is progressing as expected.</p>	
25/112.2	The Clerk confirmed that the scheme administrator confirmed that there would be an invoice raised to cover the expense of extra work undertaken by the Lengthsman outside the terms of the existing contract.	
25/113	Items for Consideration Only	
25/113.1	No reports were received.	
25/114	To discuss correspondence received during the month and items for the agenda at the next meeting.	
25/114.1	<p>Mr Colin Stride had written to the Parish Council requesting the provision of alternative sources of information in the light of the demise of the OBPC Newsletter.</p> <p>During the discussion the following points were raised.</p> <p>WhatsApp business groups could be used by those signing up for a scheme. Email distribution groups could be used. There are two notice boards already in existence. The Parish Council owns no land other than the Battery and the Recreation Ground. Notice boards cannot be installed elsewhere without landowner permissions.</p> <p>Additional notice boards were included in a previous proposal. Response to this earlier proposal to be shared with Cllrs.</p>	Clerk
25/115	Date of next meeting – 14th January 2025 at 7.30pm	
25/116	<p>Exempt Business: To pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from the discussion of the following matters where publicity might be prejudicial to the special nature of the business.</p> <p>To discuss a personnel matter and a property matter.</p>	
	Meeting ended at 9.28pm	