



Oliver's Battery Parish Council meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 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	Clerk – B Gibbs	Cllr Leigh-Jones
Cllr Blundell	Dist & County Cllr Warwick	Dist Cllr Laming
Cllr Ironside	Dist Cllr Brophy	
Cllr Gaster		
Cllr Kirkby		
Cllr Leach	One member of the public.	

Item		ACTION
25/119	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	
	Apologies had been received from Cllr Leigh-Jones. District Cllr Laming also sent his apologies. There were no declarations of interest at this time.	
25/120	To adjourn for public participation	
25/120.1	There was one member of the public present but he did not wish to speak.	
25/120.2	To discuss the progress of public comments from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	Nothing to report.	
25/121	To receive the County Councillor's report	
25/121.1	To discuss the progress of requests to the County Councillor from the last meeting: see Actions List. 25/106.2 Winter salting routes. The Clerk was asked to report a salt bin on Austin Avenue at the footway down to Parliament Place. Report made. Awaiting a response.	
25/121.2	Cllr Warwick had submitted a written report for the Parish Council that is available on the Parish Council website. Highlights include the following: HCC has unveiled plans for a new disruption charge scheme aimed at reducing delays on the county's busiest roads during peak times.	

	<p>HCC's plans to build a state of the art £50.5 million waste recycling plant based in Eastleigh will get underway later this year.</p> <p>HCC's three-year £500 million capital programme for schools includes 10 new schools, 3 special schools, 3 school expansions and 11 projects to increase special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision.</p>	
25/122	To receive the District Councillors' report	
25/122.1	<p>To discuss the progress of requests to District councillors from the last meeting: see Actions List.</p> <p>25/107.2 Cllr Laming was asked for advice regarding dog poo and agreed to check what services WCC Dog Wardens provide. Cllr Laming is unable to help with matters relating to dog faeces as this request is outside the scope of the WCC Dog Warden.</p> <p>25/107.2 Cllr Leach contacted a local resident regarding dog poo stencils but they did not have any.</p>	
25/122.2	<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> <p>WCC will invest £1.18m into parking improvements this year, including £305,000 improving CCTV provision, tackling anti-social behaviour at the Park and Ride sites and upgrade payment machines.</p> <p>Nominations for the annual Mayor of Winchester's Community Awards are now open. This offers an opportunity to recognise and celebrate those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help others. The closing date for nominations is Sunday 16th February 2025. The awards will take place on Thursday 13th March 2025.</p> <p>An additional year's Shared Prosperity funding by government has been confirmed for Winchester district to spend on projects that help support WCC priorities throughout the district until April 2026.</p> <p>WCC currently has two different community grants schemes that not-for-profits in the district may be able to benefit from – to learn more visit the grants pages at</p> <p>https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations</p> <p>Energise South Downs is running a series of renewable energy workshops for communities across the district, supported by the council's Go Greener Faster grants scheme.</p>	
25/123	To approve the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 10th December 2024.	
	RESOLVED – Agreed as a true copy and duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.	
25/124	Finance and Council matters	
25/124.1	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.</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> <p>25/108.4 To continue encourage more residents to take up the offer of a free survey this</p>	<p>All Clerk / Cllr Gaster</p>

	<p>winter - to identify heat loss. Post on FB.</p> <p>25/108.6 Oliver's Battery Parish Council would ask for a precept of £45,857 from Winchester City Council in 2025-26. Action complete.</p> <p>25/108.7 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. This is not feasible owing to the age of their equipment.</p> <p>25/108.7 To purchase replacement batteries for the existing SID. This will not be pursued. Action complete.</p> <p>25/108.8 Obtain quote for a A2 size (592 x 420 mm) PROW sign with clips. Ongoing on the understanding that there will be a fee for the work done to date by HCC.</p>	<p>Cllr Ironside.</p> <p>Cllr Kirkby Clerk</p>
25/124.2	To accept payments for January 2024 and agree the January 2024 bank transactions with the bank balance.	
	<p>The Clerk ran through the list of transactions for January 2024. Cllr Kirkby asked a couple of questions relating to payments. The Clerk also ran through the Bank Reconciliation for January 2024.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept payments for January 2024 and agree the January 2024 bank transactions with the bank balance.</p>	
25/124.3	To receive a grant application from the OB Countryside Group.	
	<p>RESOLVED: To approve a grant not exceeding £150.96 to the Oliver's Battery Countryside Group for the provision of signage celebrating their 20th anniversary.</p> <p>Cllr Kirkby agreed to liaise with them to clarify the wording on the signage.</p>	Cllr Kirkby.
25/124.4	To receive update from the Events Working Group (standing item)	
	<p>Cllr Kirkby had submitted a written report.</p> <p>The Easter Egg Hunt 2025 (EEH25) is still just under three months away. However, a lot of the organisation work for this is very much 'front ended'.</p> <p>St Marks Hall has been booked for EEH25 on Sunday 20th April. The event will take place from 1pm to 5pm with Trophies presented at 5:15pm.</p> <p>The EEH25 poster has been produced and is currently being printed and new banners are required (cheaper than patching existing banners).</p> <p>A flyer will be produced mid-February (as no OB Newsletter) - this will be both the details of what EEH25 is about and most importantly requesting gardens for control locations. The courses are much the same format as last year with the proposed additions of a new Three Generation Trophy and also a new Challenge Trophy.</p> <p>A sponsor is being actively sought for this year's event. The Three Generation Trophy will be part of this sponsorship.</p> <p>Securing the Easter Eggs at a good price is also a key early activity, as this allows the EEH25 entry price to be set.</p> <p>There may be a requirement for a new map background to be obtained through Parish Council's Parish Online.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Parish Council agrees to expenditure for EEH25 in this financial year of approx. £525 (Challenge Trophy £40, eggs £340, banners £60, posters £15, flyers £70).</p> <p>RESOLVED: Payment of receipted expenses within 14 days of submission of receipts.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Apply for closure of parking spaces on Oliver's Battery Road South, adjacent to substation, on Sunday 20th April.</p> <p>The events team made a request for a new venture spun off from our recent Christmas</p>	

	<p>Sarah Kiss who did the last survey was contacted. That last report was quite detailed and it is considered sensible to continue with this specialist.</p> <p>They have quoted: "To carry out a visual tree survey of the four sites would be £521.70 including travel and a written report with location plan and work schedule, as before".</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the quote.</p>	Clerk
25/125	Planning	
25/125.1	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". Still outstanding.	Cllr Laming
25/125.2	<p>To consider any planning reports and agree actions.</p> <p>No new Applications have been notified since the January 2024 PC Meeting.</p> <p>No updates on Enforcement.</p>	
25/126	Communications	
25/126.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	Nothing to report	
25/126.2	The Parish Council currently does not have an editor for the Oliver's Battery News. There are concerns locally regarding publicity of local events etc, Cllr Kirkby has spoken to the Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery Community News Editor (Ann Jury) and the Community Centre Manager (Ali Cochrane), with a view to finding a way to increase the	

	<p>publications of the Community News to four editions per year (it was reduced to 3 per year not that long ago).</p> <p>The Community News has just appointed a new editor. Ms Cochrane is very supportive of the idea and will need to discuss this with the newly appointed editor.</p> <p>Ms Cochrane will also be speaking to the Badger Farm Parish Council Chair about their Parish Council contributing to the additional cost.</p>	
25/126.3	<p>A discussion took place about the Parish Council's website administration after the Clerk's departure. The Current site uses WordPress and is relatively easy to manage.</p> <p>Cllr Ironside said she was happy to take a look at how the site is administered before the Clerk's departure.</p>	Cllr Ironside / Clerk
25/127	Recreation Ground, Wildlife Conservation Area and the Battery	
25/127.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List.	
	<p>25/96.3 Any issues relating to ongoing inspection of swing chains to be confirmed. On tonight's agenda.</p> <p>25/111.3 Tree experts should be consulted as to whether watering will be necessary during the 2025 season. Cllr Leach will report back in March.</p>	Cllr Leach
25/127.2	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 January and it was confirmed the checklist (along with the status of the Defib) comes up with no issues to report.</p>	
25/127.3	To receive reports on routine maintenance and ad-hoc tasks that have been completed (Standing Item).	
	<p>The ongoing inspection of swing chains completed. Most attachments are fine except for the carabiner attachments shown in the report.</p> <p>Cllr Leigh-Jones said he hoped to have carabiners purchased by the time of this meeting.</p> <p>Having received feedback from a member of the handypersons group who maintains the current Speed Device, it is advised that we do not purchase this battery. The device itself is increasingly defunct and the handypersons group believe it would be a waste of funds to purchase a battery for it.</p>	Cllr Leigh-Jones
25//128	Lengthsman Scheme	
25/128.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	Nothing to report.	
25/128.2	The Clerk commented 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.	
25/129	Items for Consideration Only	
25/129.1	No reports were received.	
25/130	To discuss correspondence received during the month and items for the agenda at the next meeting.	

25/130.1	<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>Cllr Kirkby referred everyone to a previous discussion that took place in July 2023. This brought some context to the current discussion. A decision was taken in July 2023 to provide the following response.</p> <p><i>“Regarding more noticeboards, more community noticeboards throughout the parish are not considered the way forward with publicising events and activities. For example, the PC and many, if not all, of the other community groups have email Contact Lists. There is also a multitude of lampposts and telegraph poles throughout the parish. The bus shelters are also conveniently placed in the parish to supplement noticeboards.</i></p> <p><i>However, there is support in principle for a larger replacement lockable noticeboard at the local shops. [St Mark’s Church subsequently installed a larger noticeboard, which includes community activities at the hall, so this was not pursued]</i></p> <p><i>Regarding the banner framework, there is support in principle to increasing banner framework near St Mark’s.” [an additional framework was installed]</i></p> <p>There has also been correspondence from the St Mark’s Church Warden on a new noticeboard on the St Marks site.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllr Kirkby will meet with the Church Warden to clarify what is intended.</p>	Cllr Kirkby
25/131	Date of next meeting – 4th March 2025 at 7.30pm	
25/132	<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 9.12pm	