



Oliver's Battery Parish Council meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 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	Dist & County Cllr Warwick	Cllr Blundell
Cllr Gaster	Dist Cllr Laming	Cllr Ironside
Cllr Kirkby		Dist Cllr Brophy
Cllr Leach		
Cllr Leigh-Jones	One member of the public	

Item		ACTION
25/148	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest	
	Cllrs Blundell and Ironside sent their apologies. District Cllr Brophy sent his apologies. There were no declarations of interest at this time.	
25/149	To adjourn for public participation	
25/149.1	The member of the public was here to take part in the discussion around agenda item 4.9 and did not wish to speak in the public session.	
25/149.2	It was NOTED that there were no outstanding matters on the Action list.	
25/150	To receive the County Councillor's report (this is the link to the report on the Parish Council website)	
25/150.1	Cllr Kirkby said that Hampshire Highways would be publicising their proposals for the junction improvements at Oliver's Battery Road South and Badger's Farm Road. These may be available in time for the Annual Council Meeting.	
25/151	To receive the District Councillors' report (this is the link to the report on the Parish Council website) The Parish Council noted the report without comment. Cllr Laming spoke about the recent planning appeal decision at 6 Pine Close.	
25/151.1	It was NOTED that there were no outstanding matters on the Action list.	
25/152	To consider a request to use the area adjacent to St Mark's Church Hall for outdoor fitness classes	
25/152.1	An application has been received from Ms R Withers in order to run a series of outdoor	

	fitness classes at the Battery. She briefly explained how this process will work and how she was hoping to operate if she received permission. The following questions and statements were made. • Music would be played but this would not be at a high level. • Nothing needed to be “spiked” into the ground. • People arriving on foot or by bike would be encouraged. • It was hoped that this initiative would not lead to further parking issues. RESOLVED: To approve the request.	
25/153	To approve the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 4th March 2025	
	RESOLVED – Agreed as a true copy and duly signed by the Chairman of the meeting.	
25/154	Finance and Council matters	
25/154.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	25/124.3 The grant of £150.96 had not been paid to the OB Countryside Group. Cllr Kirby has spoken to the OB Countryside Group regarding the wording of the signage and is waiting to hear back. 25/124.6 It was reported that Kiss Tree Management Ltd had yet to receive a formal acceptance of the tree survey quote. This has now been completed and a date of the 9th June is confirmed. 25/138.6 A post to be made on the Council's Facebook page to highlight no dogs are permitted in any area of the recreation ground including the wildlife area. 25/138.7 Appoint Wellers Law group as the Parish Council's solicitor in the matter and obtain an indication of their fees. 25/138.7 Seek the full cost from SSEN of Wellers Law Group fee for undertaking the Lease renewal work. 25/138.7 Obtain advice from Wellers Law Group on any changes they would recommend to the Head of Terms.	Cllr Kirkby Cllr Ironside Clerk Clerk Clerk
25/154.2	To accept payments for March 2025 and agree the March 2025 bank transactions with the bank balance.	
	The end of year accounts spreadsheets are still being prepared by Brendan Gibbs and will be made available to the Internal Auditor.	
25/154.3	To receive the Events Working Group Report (standing item) (this is the link to the report on the Council website)	
	Easter Egg Hunt 2025. The Chairman confirmed availability of entry forms at three shops. The Council recorded its thanks to Colin Stride and the Events team for their ongoing work on the event. Sponsorship has been received from the Eclipse Foot Clinic. Some additional expenditure was required for the February Flyer. All arrangements are now in place for the EEH 25 on Sunday 20th April.	
25/154.4	To receive the Sustainability Working Group Report (standing item) (this is the link to the report on the Council website)	
	Sustainable Olivers Battery organised the Big Outdoor Swap in March 2025. This event appeared to be bigger and more popular than previous events and we have received positive feedback. We were also involved with the local Brownies Sustainable Fashion Show. This was an enjoyable and successful event, with the Brownies embracing the concept of sustainable fashion.	

	Litter Pick. This was arranged by Isabel Mack who lives in Winchester Village, good turnout, approximately 20-25 people gave an hour last Sunday to pick up litter in the village. Future Plans: Home Energy- Sustainable Oliver's Battery will be promoting 'My Homes Made Better'- WINACC's new Home Energy Advice project. Cllr Almond will write an article for the next OB/Badger Farm Newsletter explaining more about the project and how to access. Wildlife Event at St Marks in September- Martin Keys from Olivers Battery Countryside Group is arranging a wildlife and environment fair at St Marks, Sustainable Oliver's Battery plan to support this event and hope to run a stall which will provide information regarding what we do and encourage residents to sign up/ join Sustainable OB. Active Travel: Winchester Mass Bike Ride on April 26th. A feeder ride will be starting from Olivers Battery Primary School at approximately 09:40am. Details to be announced and confirmed. Event to be publicised in due course. Waste Prevention: Plans for next Swap to be held early Autumn- Eve to set up an interactive map (supplied by Colin Stride who organises the Scarecrow Competition and the Easter Egg hunt) so swappers can see which houses are participating.	
25/154.5	To receive the Tree Warden report (this is the link to the report on the Council website)	
	An order has now been placed with Sarah Kiss for the tree survey and 9th June has been agreed. The tree work on the Battery is still scheduled for 15th April and Merritts are organising the no-parking issue with HCC. I have noted some extra work to cut back the hedge near the sub-station which is over growing the footpath. It's not a major task to add to what's already being done.	
25/154.6	To consider the updated NALC Financial Regulations	
	NALC had published a fresh draft of its model financial regulations in April 2024. It was promoting these as a new standard for parish councils to consider adopting. Since these were published, we have received further recommendations to adopt new procurement regulations to take account of the fact that the UK has left the European Union. The Parish Council originally adopted these regulations on October 2025. Regulations 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11 now require further amendment. RESOLVED – To add the agreed amendments to the text and adopt the new Financial Regulations.	
25/154.7	To consider a request to assist with remedial works to the footpath from Mount View Road to Oliver's Battery Road South	
	A report was presented by Cllr Kirkby regarding the condition of a footpath between Old Kennels Lane and Oliver's Battery Road South. A request has been received from a parishioner for the Parish Council to agree to maintain this path. RESOLVED – The Parish Council declined to get involved in this matter.	Clerk
25/155	Planning	
25/155.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	25/66.2 24/00109/BCOND – 3 Downlands Road. There is still no update on this enforcement case so it remains outstanding. Cllr Laming will continue to pursue an answer.	Cllr Laming
25/155.2	New Applications notified since the March 2025 meeting. 3 Austen Avenue, Oliver's Battery 25/00462/HOU	

The proposed works will see the construction of a new two storey side extension, single storey porch extension, internal alterations and associated works. Orange Notice - displayed. See attached for further information.

There have been no comments from members of the public.

111 Oliver's Battery Road South, Oliver's Battery 25/00466/HOU

Retrospective application for a single storey side extension. Orange notice displayed. See attached for further information.

There has been one public comment in support of this – stating it is modest and hidden from public view.

Update of applications previously reviewed by the Parish Council

39 Old Kennels Lane, Oliver's Battery 25/00226/HOU

Proposed front, side and rear extension. Hips to gable and alterations to main roof. New detached annex off existing garage footprint. Orange notice was displayed.

There had been one detailed objection from an immediate neighbour. The main concern is the scale of the proposal, covering loss of light/overshadowing amenity; overlooking; scale, mass and design with a large increase of size; domination of street scene. They also mention that there is no apparent indication of use of the 2-storey annex. Since preparing the March report a second neighbour has objected.

The Parish Council has objected as discussed at the March meeting.

11 Mount View Road, Oliver's Battery 22/00621/FUL.

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.

Current position: There has been amended plans submitted since the March meeting. However this does not seem to address the majority of concerns already expressed.

In February 2025, WCC Ecology has contacted the case officer and stated that there is still some further information they consider necessary including agreement from 9 Mount View and an update of the proposed plan regarding the western boundary.

They advise that 'no site work should commence until the reptile and dormouse mitigation has been undertaken' and the proposed site plan must be updated with respect to the need for this mitigation. (Copy attached gives more detail)

There have been 3 further public comments as well as the PC's additional comment regarding the need to remove the temporary spoil heap.

REF SPOIL HEAP: (More detailed information was attached to the November Planning Report)

The PC contacted WCC planning as decided at the November meeting, believing it is potentially an enforcement issue and stressing the need for removal of the spoil heap as soon as is possible.

A copy of that document was attached to the December Planning Report for information. There has been no response to date.

There is an addition of 'Habitat Regulation Assessment' which notes requirements on soil nutrients and impact on water quality. Winchester City Council has adopted a Grampian condition for nitrates which requires a mitigation package addressing the additional input to be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA'.

25/156	Communications	
25/156.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List	
	25/140.2 Further investigation is to take place regarding an announcement only WhatsApp group. Cllr Ironside has tested the app to see if it will perform the functions required. Meanwhile, it remains a work in progress.	
25/157	Recreation Ground, Wildlife Conservation Area and the Battery	
25/157.1	To discuss the progress of resolutions from the last meeting: see Actions List.	
	Nothing to report.	
25/157.2	To consider report based on Groundsman's weekly reports and agree actions.	
	Cllr Leigh-Jones had submitted a written report. Agenda Item 7.1 • New battery for Speed Indicator Device now in use (see handypersons report). • Damaged Bollard replaced by Infinity Playgrounds. • Several cable ties have separated from goal posts. Fortunately, most areas are double tied. • Cllr Leigh-Jones will seek to replace these ties by the time of April's meeting. Agenda Item 7.2 • I have received the checklists from Grass and Grounds for the month of March and can confirm the checklist (along with the status of the Defib) comes up with no issues to report. Agenda Item 7.3 • Speed Device: New battery delivered by Cllr Leigh-Jones fitted and working well. Two older batteries continue to be used but are much less long lasting, and battery replacement has been carried out as required to keep the unit operational. The Council may wish to discuss alternative positioning of the unit as it has been in its current position in Old Kennels Lane for 12 months. • The unit itself is now in a poor state with the battery box corroded and likely to fail at some point, the cover securing screws only holding if padded and the insides of the unit no longer protected completely from rain ingress. • PROW Sign: Attempts to mount this on the existing pole were not successful as the fittings provided are for a pole of slightly smaller fixing distance. The brackets supplied could be made to work if longer specialist bolts could be provided. The supplied bolts are 35mm long but to secure the brackets with nut and washer, the bolts need to be at least 45mm (as are the bolts in the existing signage on that pole.). • It was suggested that the smaller of the two existing signs could be lowered down the pole leaving room for the new PROW sign to be fixed between the two existing signs. This is physically possible but when moved as a trial it was noted that the sharp edges of the lowered sign would be at a height hazardous to a small child entering that area. • Recreation Ground Trees: Routine monthly inspection of the trees has been carried out. All are flourishing with buds/leaves now showing. The ground surrounding the trunks will be weeded again and new mulch added. Watering will commence during dry periods. • The PCC is requested to purchase 2 x 70/80 litre bags of mulching bark. Planned Works for April: • Continue tree maintenance, watering as required • Fit PROW sign when suitable position and fixings are available	

	• Continue servicing Speed device • Reactionary tasks as required by PCC.	
25/158.3	To receive reports on routine maintenance and ad-hoc tasks that have been completed (Standing Item).	
	No reports had been received	
25//159	Lengthsman Scheme	
25/159.1	It was NOTED that there were no outstanding matters on the Action list	
25/160	Items for Consideration Only	
25/160.1	The Parish Council noted the fact that SSEN will be doing work at the Conservation Area.	
25/162	Date of next meeting – 6th May 2025 at 7.30pm	
25/163	Exempt Business: RESOLVED 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. At this meeting the item to be discussed will be the formal appointment of a Parish Clerk/RFO.	
	Meeting ended at 9.05pm	