



Oliver's Battery Parish Council meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 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	Locum Clerk – Brendan Gibbs	Dist & County Cllr Warwick
Cllr Blundell	Dist Cllr Brophy	Dist Cllr Laming
Cllr Gaster	Rev Marianne Foster	
Cllr Kirkby		
Cllr Leach		

Item		ACTION
26/33	Apologies for absence and declarations of interest. There were no apologies as all Parish Councillors were in attendance. District & County Cllr Warwick and District Cllrs Laming sent their apologies. There were no declarations of interest at this time.	
26/33	To adjourn for public participation and County and District Councillors reports.	
26/33.1	Rev Marianne Foster spoke about recent improvements to the Church Hall. These included the safeguarding of the foul drains by removing vegetation with significant roots. These would have eventually compromised the drains. Rev Foster sought guidance from the Parish Council regarding applying for a grant. Cllr Kirkby outlined the process for applying for a grant. RESOLVED: to provide a grant towards support for a community building (St Mark's Church Hall) not exceeding £1,900.	
26/33.2	To receive the County Councillor's report. A written report was received after the meeting had taken place.	
26/33.3	To receive the District Councillors' report. Cllr Brophy spoke about the following items. Local Government Reorganisation: The new Secretary of State for Communities, Housing and Local Government has now received the proposals for reorganising Local Government in Hampshire. A decision would be made in due course. Winchester District Council is proposing to conduct a Local Governance Review of the Winchester unparished areas with a view to forming a parish council to administer these areas in the future.	
26/34	To approve the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 1st July 2025.	

	Carried forward as the minutes were not available	Clerk/Cllr Kirkby
26/35	Finance and Council matters.	
26/35.1	The Clerk highlighted that he was still working towards bringing the accounts up to date to the 31st August. There were several bank reconciliations to complete meanwhile. The accounts had the following amounts in them as of the 31st August 2025. Unity Trust Treasurers Account £12,569.88 Lloyds Bank Community Account £373.13 Lloyds Bank Savings Account £39,626,30 The Parish Council has now received the 2nd tranche of the 2025-26 Precept. This has taken the Unity Trust account up to a figure of over £35,000. RESOVLED: to Transfer £25,000 from the Unity Trust account to the Lloyds Bank Savings account promptly. The Clerk reassured the Parish Council that all invoices received from April to August have now been paid or that account statements have been requested.	Clerk
26/35.2	To receive the Events group report (standing item).	
	Cllr Kirkby gave a brief verbal report. The new Events group are looking towards presenting a Christmas event in the form of Oliver's Battery Tree Lighting. They have also confirmed that the Easter Egg Hunt event will take place in 2026. It is expected the Scarecrow Event will also take place next year. Meanwhile, they were looking to re-constitute themselves as a community group with the aim of acquiring a corporate bank account.	
26/35.3	To receive the Sustainability group report (standing item).	
	Cllr Almond said that she was now the only active member of the group. She was working towards encouraging others to join her to work on sustainability issues.	
26/35.4	To receive the tree warden report.	
	Cllr Gaster presented a brief verbal report. He referred to the quote from Merritts Tree works to complete the removal of a number of dead trees in the Conservation Area. He also said that he was expecting the report from New Leaf Environmental regarding the tree survey that was undertaken back in April 2025. RESOLVED to accept the quote of £816 including VAT from Merritt	Clerk
26/35.5	Cllr Kirkby asked the Clerk to clarify the insurance arrangements involved in loaning the Parish Council's marquee to community organisations.	Clerk
26/35.6	Cllrs Kirkby and Leach outlined areas where the Parish Council could review and update its policies and procedures. Cllr Leach had previously circulated a document containing those policies that are in need of review or re-adoption. Cllr Leach will issue some policies for review at the next meeting. Cllr Kirkby spoke about the opportunities presented to the Parish Council as part of a review of its meeting schedule. One proposal was to meet every other month, create some standing committees and agree a scheme of delegation. This would greatly reduce bureaucracy, create a framework for decisions to be made between meetings as well as freeing up some of the Clerk's contracted hours that were used up in attending the meetings and compiling the minutes.	Cllr Leach
26/36	Planning.	
26/36.1	Cllr Blundell gave a brief report highlighting two current applications to review, 11 Compton Way (25/01454/HOU and 10 Crescent Way (25/01512/HOU). RESOLVED not to comment on the applications.	

26/37	Communications.	
26/37.1	The first edition of the new newsletter is well underway, which includes some local advertising. This will be delivered by the Distribution Team, managed by Chris Stride. RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Copyman amounting to £466.80. It is anticipated the December/January edition will be about the same price.	Clerk
26/38	Recreation Ground, Wildlife Conservation Area and the Battery.	
26/38.1	To consider the Groundsman's weekly reports and agree actions No issues were identified.	
26/38.2	To receive reports on routine maintenance and ad-hoc tasks that have been completed (Standing Item). A written report had been received, identifying the work carried out by the Handyperson Group and noting autumn tasks, including more non-slip stain. RESOLVED to buy another 5l of non-slip stain.	Cllr Kirkby
26/39	Lengthsman Scheme.	
26/39.1	It was NOTED that there were no outstanding matters on the Action list	
26/40	Items for Consideration Only.	
26/41	To discuss correspondence received during the month and items for the agenda at the next meeting.	
26/41.1	An existing dog bin had been relocated when the Fire Risk Assessment works had been carried out at St Marks. The bin was inappropriately located could not be emptied by WCC. It was subsequently noted by several residents as overflowing. With the assistance of District Cllrs, Cllr Kirkby arranged for the existing bin to be removed and two new multi-purpose bins installed on opposite sides of the Battery.	
26/42	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.	
	Date of next meeting – Tuesday October 14th at 7.30pm	
	Meeting ended at 9.05pm	