



MINUTES OF OLIVERS BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL HELD 13TH JANUARY 2026 2025 AT 7:30PM, ST. MARK'S CHURCH HALL, OLIVERS BATTERY, SO22 4EZ.

PRESENT: Cllr D. Kirkby (Chair), Cllr. C. Leach, Cllr E. Almond, Cllr. T. Gaster, Cllr. S Ironside Cllr. K Lakin

Also Present:

Cllr. J. Warwick (Hampshire County and Winchester City Councillor)
 Cllr. B. Laming (Winchester City Councillor)
 Cllr. A. Brophy (Winchester City Councillor)
 J. Sheehy (Parish Clerk)

ITEM		ACTION
64	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Cllr Rona Blundell sent her apologies for absence.	
65	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & COUNCILLOR REPORTS	
	There were four members of the public in attendance.	
	A member of the public raised a concern over the quality of the current website and the publications available to members of the public. The Chairman explained the parish council was aware of the need to update its website to become fully compliant with modern audit arrangements and that this item would be addressed later in the meeting.	
	The Chairman also confirmed that the parish council would now be meeting on the first Tuesday of every other month, apart from January when it is the second Tuesday.	
66	DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE	
	It was RESOLVED to accept the declaration of acceptance of office from Cllr K. Lakin.	
67	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 13TH DECEMBER 2025	
	Members received the minutes of the previous meeting.	
	RESOLVED to confirm the minutes as a true and accurate record.	
68	PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS	
	Members reviewed the previous resolutions and actions. An up to date action list would continue to be produced for every meeting.	Clerk
69	DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS	

	Members were reminded of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which sets out priorities for nature recovery across Hampshire. The strategy can be viewed at https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/nature-recovery-hampshire/hampshires-strategy	
	Cllr. Gaster raised a question about the slow progress of the proposed yellow lining in the parish and asked Cllr Warwick if she could lobby to speed up the proposed Traffic Regulation Order.	Cllr Warwick
	Cllr. Gaster also raised overgrowing vegetation from properties adjacent to the highway.	
70	PARISH CLERK'S REPORT	
	Members asked about local government reorganisation.	
	The Chairman raised the issue of the dangerous condition of some bus shelters when responsibility was handed to the Parish Council from the Town Forum. The Parish Council seeking a contribution from Winchester City Council towards the cost of repairs and refurbishment to the electrical apparatus.	
	The parish council had surveyed the bus stops and the parish clerk and chairman to review the survey reports.	Clerk / Chair
	RESOLVED to seek costs for urgent remedial works in January 2026.	Clerk
71	FINANCE	
	Members were informed the parish clerk would provide a regular receipts and payments report.	Clerk
	Members noted the budget report to 30 th December 2025.	
	Members reviewed the draft budget for financial year 2026/27 which proposed an approximate 6.45% increase in the precept, taking note of the fixed costs for the year.	
	RESOLVED to reduce the tree fund budget from £1,000 to £500.	
	RESOLVED to bring forwards car park white lining in this financial year, reducing the budget by £500.00.	
	RESOLVED to include funding for a new website and email addresses, amount to be confirmed at next Parish Council meeting.	
	It was RESOLVED to set the Precept at £48,500 increasing the precept by approximately 6.00% equating to £???? at Band D.	
72	COMMUNITY EVENTS WORKING GROUP	

	Members were informed that costings for the Christmas tree event were still outstanding. The outline programme of events in 2026 are Easter Egg Hunt (5 th April), Summer (date TBC), Scarecrow Competition (date TBC) and Christmas Tree (5 th December).	
	The next event would be an easter egg hunt on easter Sunday which would require approximately £500.00. A grant application form must be submitted but the community events group was yet to achieve a dedicated bank account for the deposit of funds.	Cllr Almond
	It was RESOLVED to apply for a parking suspension for the Easter event on 5 th April 2025 for Oliver's Battery Road South, adjacent to the Battery as in previous years.	Clerk
73	SUSTAINABILITY GROUP	
	Members were updated on the work of the sustainability group. Thermal imaging surveys had been taking place following interest from local citizens. Dates were to be confirmed for the next Big Outdoor Swap to be advertised in the next newsletter with a copy date of 14 th February.	
	It was hoped to achieve a grant for bus shelters to be repainted and cleaned.	Cllr Almond
	Members were also informed that a volunteers recruitment evening would also be taking place with dates to be confirmed.	
74	TREE WARDEN'S REPORT	
	Members received the tree warden's report.	
	It was RESOLVED to confirm an order to H W Tree Surgeons Ltd (Quote PHW37/25) for £1,296.00, works to be completed before the end of March.	Clerk
75	POLICIES & PROCEDURES	
	Members reviewed the following policies for Oliver's Battery Parish Council and:	
	RESOLVED to adopt the Press & Media Policy.	
	RESOLVED to adopt the Freedom of Information Policy.	
	RESOLVED to adopt the Complaints Procedure.	
	RESOLVED to adopt the Health & Safety Policy.	
	RESOLVED to adopt the Equality & Diversity Policy.	
	Members noted that policies would be marked with review dates and the minute number of adoption and the website updated.	Clerk / Chair

	It was noted that the memorial bench policy should be reviewed at the next meeting.	Cllr Leach
76	LOCAL PLANNING MATTERS	
	A report had been prepared by Cllr. Blundell. There were no new planning applications. Members noted that an appeal had been made following a refusal of permission for works to trees subject to two TPOs.	
	Cllr Leach informed members that a repeat of the residents' survey seeking responses to potential sites for development would be prepared and sought assistance.	Cllr Leach
77	COMMUNICATIONS	
	Members were given an update on the newsletter, including publication dates.	
	RESOLVED to publish another Ob-server at the end of February, at an approximate cost of £500.	Cllr Leach
	Members discussed the need for a new website and reviewed a quote from Aubergine to provide new inboxes. It was suggested the quote should be refined and the amount of content to be transferred from the existing to the new website.	
78	RECREATION GROUND, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & THE BATTERY	
	Members were informed the groundsman continued to provide weekly reports and no issues had been reported.	
	The handyman group had been inspecting trees and service the local speed indicator device.	

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:48pm.

The next meeting would be on 3rd March 2026.

Chairman _____