



**MINUTES OF OLIVERS BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL HELD 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 AT 7:30PM, ST. MARK'S CHURCH HALL, OLIVERS BATTERY, SO22 4EZ.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr D. Kirkby (Chair), Cllr. C. Leach, Cllr. R. Blundell, Cllr E. Almond, Cllr. T. Gaster, Cllr. S. Ironside.

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)
	B.	Gibbs	(Locum Parish Clerk)

**43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence, although Cllr S. Ironside had advised she would be late and arrived at 8:00pm.

**44. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

20 Members of public were in attendance.

Mr Robinson a parent governor at Oliver's Battery School and responsible for the local travel plan addressed the meeting. Mr Robinson explained that local route safety was a high priority particularly around school drop off and pick up times where instances of dangerous driving had been noted by concerned faculty and parents. Mr Robinson appealed to the parish council to consider engaging with this local issue and work with local parents to assess community-based solutions to improve children's safety to and from school.

Mr James Batho, representative for the local community Speedwatch was invited to address the meeting and raised awareness of the local community Speedwatch data that was gathered and shared with the police. It was proposed to include Speedwatch on the agenda at the January meeting, to allow a more detailed presentation.

Members received a representation from a local cycling group requesting that the cycle club could use the recreation ground on Thursdays throughout the winter for off-road cycle training between 6:30pm – 7:30pm. It was agreed to raise this item at the January meeting.

The County Cllrs report provided an update on the Mayoral elections.

The District Cllrs report provided an update on the Local Government Review and Community Governance Review consultations.

**45. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Chairman moved forwards Item 4.14 Community Governance Review.

Cllr C. Leach updated the meeting on the Council's position towards the community governance review and the parish council's resistance to being merged into a larger town or parish council to serve the whole of the Winchester Town area.

Members of the public discussed the strong local representation that had been made to the community governance review public consultation, with a further consultation yet to come. A discussion was held over the benefits of parish councils and the ability to raise a local precept.

Members received the county councillor's report. Members were informed about the cancellation of local mayoral elections anticipated for May 2026 with local government reorganisation taking place. Members were also informed about M27 closure between junctions 9 and 11 over the Christmas period.

WCC members gave their reports, with the consultation deadline for LGR (creation of Unitary Authorities in Hampshire) noted as 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The consultation deadline for CGR was noted as 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.

Members of the parish council discussed the unique identity of Oliver's Battery and the well forged community links that existed amongst local residents and stakeholders. In debating the potential for a merger of parish councils or creation of a new, singular parish council, members discussed the benefits of localism and the benefits of local representation for Oliver's Battery. It was subsequently:

**RESOLVED** clerk to complete the consultation to oppose the merger of Oliver's Battery Parish Council to create a larger parish council for the Winchester area and support the independence of the other local parish councils, before 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.

#### **46. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**

Members received the minutes of the previous meeting.

**RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes as a true and accurate record.

#### **47. ACTION LIST**

Members reviewed the action list from the previous meeting. Attention was drawn to the need for the events group to open its own bank account.

Members were advised that the registration system and the trail map proposal will be completed before the next swap.

#### **48. CO-OPTIONS**

Members considered an application to co-opt a new member to Oliver's Battery Parish Council.

**RESOLVED** to co-opt Kay Lakin to Oliver's Battery Parish Council subject to the declaration of acceptance of office being completed at the next practicable opportunity.

#### **49. FINANCE REPORTS**

Members received the finance report of locum clerk Brendan Gibbs with reconciliation statements noted for three accounts. Members also received an up to date budget report with attention drawn to a current underspend on open spaces budgets.

Members noted Mr. Gibbs would be departing the service of the Council on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and that a final precept figure would need to be agreed before the end of January 2026.

#### **50. COMMUNITY EVENTS GROUP REPORT**

Members received the community events group report and noted the next event would be taking place in Easter.

#### **51. SUSTAINABILITY GROUP**

Members were updated on the work of the sustainability group. Articles had recently been written for the local newsletters.

Members were also updated on works concerning sustainable travel, with a discussion currently being held with Winchester City Council to promote safer cycling in the local community. In the springtime a big outdoor swap would be taking place with a trail map to be produced.

#### **52. TREE WARDEN'S REPORT**

Members received the report of the tree warden on recent works that had taken place. Members were informed that a tender exercise had been conducted with three varied prices received. Tenders were still being reviewed as works were viewed as non-urgent, with works scheduled for the November – March period as advised by contractors to conform with practices and regulations concerning the bird nesting season.

Members were also informed that new trees that had been planted on the battery had not yet been included in the council's tree survey, with the next survey to ensure that these new plantations were included.

The Chairman's report recommended that H W Tree Surgeon's quotation be accepted. It was subsequently:

**RESOLVED** to defer the appointment of contractors until January 2026 to allow more time for Cllr Gaster to compare the quotations and provide a recommendation.

#### **53. BUS STOPS IN OLIVER'S BATTERY**

The locum clerk updated members on the Council's bus stop shelters. It had been noted that a pane of glass at the bus stop in Badger's Farm Road had been damaged, with quotes for repairs sought. Attention was drawn to electrical connection inspections taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at each OBPC bus shelter with any remedial works to make connections safe to be completed without delay.

Members discussed HCC's grant process for new bus shelters and whether the parish council could seek a share of costs from. Members directed the clerk to write to the leader of the city council to seek a share of costs for remedial works on the basis that the assets handed to the parish council were not given in a good state of order.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of G W Shelter Solutions of £243.50 for a solid panel insert.

**54. POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

In view of the time, the review of policies was deferred until the next meeting.

**55. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER: OLIVER'S BATTERY ROAD SOUTH/OLD KENNELS LANE**

Members noted the ongoing TRO process with the draft order now with the HCC legal team for drafting. A public consultation by HCC would follow details of which would be posted on lampposts in the street areas affected. Cllr J. Warwick advised the parish council that the TRO process was lengthy with the HCC legal department managing many outstanding applications.

**56. DRAFT BUDGET 2026/27**

Members received the draft budget for financial year 2026/27. Members discussed the current general reserve balance and the funds required for the forward year. The locum clerk suggested a precept figure could be agreed with a subsequent budget to be drafted thereafter before March 31<sup>st</sup>. Members debated the principle of a precept being a balancing figure arising from a budgeting exercise, and it was:

**RESOLVED** to earmark £10,000 as a 'fighting fund' for Community Governance Review purposes.

**RESOLVED** to consider the final agreed budget and corresponding precept & 2026/27 'Band D' calculation at the January 2026 meeting.

**57. PROPOSALS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN HAMPSHIRE**

Members discussed the current reorganisation of local government taking place in Hampshire with a series of options out for consultation. It was noted that Local Government Reorganisation was being undertaken across the remaining 3 tier county and district areas across England & Wales, with many outstanding options still yet to be completed. It was noted that the final reorganisation model may be dictated by financial expediency over local democratic representation.

**58. PLANNING**

Members reviewed resolutions from the previous meeting in respect of planning and applications received for consultation.

It was **RESOLVED** not to comment on the applications of 6 Mount View Road and 3 Lake Drive.

**59. COMMUNICATIONS**

Members noted the publication of the November newsletter and the WhatsApp community channel, called Oliver's Battery Announcements, had gained nearly 100 followers since launch.

It was agreed to bring an item to the January meeting to review the ".gov.uk" domain requirements for the upcoming audit under the new 'Assertion 10' requirements and transfer to an appropriate regulated domain for all future parish council business.

**60. RECREATION GROUND, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION & THE BATTERY**

Members received the groundsman's weekly report, noting that an error message had been received on a defibrillator cabinet. Replacement consumables were sourced and installed. A missing post was also noted as posing no health and safety risk on assessment. It was considered the post required fundamental replacement at a time when it was economical to do so as part of a wider project.

Members received the handyperson group report, with speed monitoring device batteries having been replaced and devices cleaned, leaf sweeping having taken place at the school perimeter footpath and inspecting. It was noted that a purchase of ten-year wood stain was needed for sundry items.

It was **RESOLVED** Cllr Kirkby to purchase 2.5l of woodstain and bolt plugs/covers requested by the handyperson group.

It was also **RESOLVED** to fund gifts to the value of £5.00 each for members of the handyperson group utilising the Chairman's Allowance in the budget.

Members received the report on recent Groundsman's tenders and:

**RESOLVED** to accept the quote of Grass and Grounds for the years 2026 and 2027.

#### **61. LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**

Members noted the most recent lengthsmen visit which included cleaning of bus shelters for the first time and further leaf removal on footpaths.

#### **62. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

#### **63. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS**

**RESOLVED** to note the appointment of James Sheehy as parish clerk & RFO.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:26pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_