



MINUTES OF OLIVERS BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL HELD 3RD MARCH 2026 AT 7:30PM, ST. MARK'S CHURCH HALL, OLIVERS BATTERY, SO22 4EZ.

PRESENT: Cllr C. Leach (Vice Chair, *Presiding*) Cllr E. Almond, Cllr S. Ironside, Cllr R. Blundell, Cllr K. Lakin, Cllr T Gaster (*arrived 19:53pm*)

Also Present:

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

ITEM		ACTION
94	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies for absence were received from Cllr David Kirby due to illness and Cllr Gaster who would be late to the meeting.	
95	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	There were no declarations of interest.	
96	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	
	<p>There were 5 members of the public in attendance.</p> <p>A member of the public raised a question about the closure of Badger Farm Road. It was confirmed that there would be access for residents to Oliver's Battery. The Chair suggested a notice be placed on the the website and social media.</p> <p><i>Cllr J. Warwick entered the meeting.</i></p> <p>The Chair asked Cllr J. Warwick to clarify the situation. An error in the Traffic Regulations Order was pointed out by a resident.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the clerk and Cllr Blundell would respond mentioning this and supporting the proposal.</p> <p>A general discussion then followed concerning the local plan and potential development of the golf course, with the site not being included in the current emerging local plan. Individuals were welcome to submit their own comments about the outline plans on Bushfield Camp</p>	<p>Cllr Leach Clerk</p>

97	COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH	
	<p>The Chair introduced Mr James Batho from Community Speedwatch, a community-based initiative, working in conjunction with the police. Local volunteers are trained to record information on local speeding concerns which is used by the local police force to identify potential enforcement. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)</p> <p>Campaigns were focused on reminding drivers of the dangers of speeding and educating drivers on why speeding is dangerous.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Mr. Batho for his engaging and informative presentation and contribution to local speeding concerns.</p>	
98	DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS	
	<p>Members received Cllr Warwick's report. It was noted that £50m had been given for bus improvements. Cllr Leach and Cllr Warwick would liaise on possibilities for Oliver's Battery.</p> <p>Cllr Brophy reminded members of the current recycling consultation that was open for responses and encouraged those in attendance to engage.</p>	Cllr Leach Cllr Warwick
99	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 10TH FEBRUARY 2026	
	<p>Members received the minutes of the previous meeting and subsequently:</p> <p>RESOLVED to confirm the minutes as a true and accurate record.</p>	
100	ACTION LIST	
	Members reviewed the previous resolutions and actions as a standing item.	
101	FINANCE REPORTS	
	<p>Members received the bank reconciliation up to 31st January 2026.</p> <p>Cllr Gaster raised a motion to discuss budgeted expenditure and to review long term expenditure at the next meeting.</p>	Clerk
102	GRANT APPLICATIONS	
	<p>It was RESOLVED to make a grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau of £350.00.</p> <p>Members commented on the high quality of the grant application and supporting information provided.</p>	
103	PLANNING REPORT	
103(a)	Members received Cllr Blundell's planning report. Attention had been drawn to the golf course development.	

103(b)	<p>Members reviewed the SHELAA site report noted concerns about the SHELAA sites raised in public discussion. The Parish Council would survey residents once future SHELAA sites were known.</p> <p>Cllr Lakin was exploring software, Smart Survey, to facilitate this. It was estimated that this would entail a 2-month subscription of around £700. It was suggested that this come from the earmarked £10k in the 2026/27 budget.</p>	
104	COMMUNITY EVENTS WORKING GROUP	
	Members noted the upcoming elections and that new parish councillors may be needed to fill vacancies for those members who would not be returning to the parish council.	
105	SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP	
	<p>Cllr Almond notified members that a grant application had been made for improvements to local bus stops which would be determined in approximately six weeks' time.</p> <p>A community swap event was taking place on 21st March 2026.</p>	
106	TREE WARDENS REPORT	
	There was no report on this occasion.	
107	POLICY REVIEW	
108(a)	Members reviewed the council's list of policies that had been adopted. The parish clerk advised members that additional work needed to be undertaken to get all council policies up to date and fit for purpose, and the policy review sheet would aid in tracking progress.	Clerk
109(b)	<p>Members received the memorial benches policy.</p> <p>RESOLVED to adopt the memorial benches policy.</p>	
110(c)	<p>Members received the updated complaints policy.</p> <p>RESOLVED to adopt the complaints policy subject to minor amendments.</p>	Clerk
111	FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT	
	<p>Members received the financial risk assessment for FY 2025/26. Members reviewed the internal control objectives for this financial year.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to review the financial risk assessment in six months' time to ensure the risk scheme remained fit for purpose.</p> <p>Cllr Leach thanked the parish clerk for producing the financial risk assessment.</p>	Clerk

112	RECREATION GROUND, WILDLIFE & THE BATTERY	
	<p>Cllr Gaster noted a large pile of wood on the battery next to the substation that could be cleared. It was suggested the countryside group may have placed the wood intentionally for wildlife. Cllr Almond would liaise with the countryside group.</p> <p>Cllr Gaster had received detailed information from Grass and Grounds and the Handyperson Group. There did not appear to be any issues.</p>	Cllr Almond
113	LENGTHSMAN VISITS	
	Members agreed the lengthsmen list and supporting information to be sent to them and the Parish Clerk of Hursley.	Clerk
114	BUS SHELTERS	
	Cllr Eve Almond had submitted a grant application on behalf of the parish council for the provision of new bus shelters.	
115	NEW WEBSITE & EMAILS UPDATE	
	The parish clerk reported that the new .gov.uk domain was now live with the parish clerk inbox being transferred to in time for the end of the financial year. Members would be set up with new .gov.uk domain emails with a website due to go live shortly upon completion of the external consultant's document checklist and policy compilation for upload.	Clerk
116	I.T POLICY	
	<p>Members reviewed a new I.T policy to set out roles and responsibilities and council wide use of I.T and associated security.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to adopt the draft I.T policy.</p>	Clerk
117	LEASE NEGOTIATIONS	
	<p>Members reviewed a draft lease for the battery sub-station. Members agreed any new lease should not come at a net cost to the parish council and that the council's legal costs should be paid by the other party.</p> <p>The parish clerk advised that only one solicitor had provided a quote to act for the parish council and that it would be preferable to have more quotes for the work.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to continue to seek competitive quotes from solicitors and for the lease item to return to the Council in May.</p>	Clerk
118	DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING	
	19 th May 2026 to be set for Annual Parish meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council.	

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:39pm.

Chairman _____

DRAFT