

# ITCHEN STOKE AND OVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Council held on  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
At The Lodge, Hampage Farm, Ovington, SO24 0HY  
at 7.30pm**

These minutes are draft until resolved as accurate at, usually, the following Council meeting

Council Members Present:

<b>Chair &amp; Vice Chair</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>In attendance</b>
Cllr David Cook Chairman	Cllr James Collins Cllr Peveril Bruce Cllr Laura Carney	Cllr Gordon-Smith Cllr Jackie Porter
Cllr John Harvey Vice-Chairman		Gemma Hunt (St Peter 'Church) Wendy Simson (Clerk)

Apologies from: Cllr Barry Norgate, Cllr Clare Pinniger, and Cllr Margot Power

26.01	<p><b>Parochial Church Council presentation</b></p> <p>Gemma Hunt, the Treasurer for St Peter's Church Parochial Church Council, was invited to join the meeting to give the Parish Council an understanding of the church in particular the heating system.</p> <p>Gemma explained that the heating in the church was failing. The current heaters are suspended from the ceiling and work like a toaster element, meaning they are very inefficient. The system is also on very old wiring meaning that the old devices can't be easily swapped out for a new system. The Parochial Church Council has identified an infared system which heats the person and not the air, making them much more efficient. The current system costs about £60 per service.</p> <p>Gemma explained that as the heating fails so the building can no longer be used in the winter months and as the only community building in the village it could be used for a variety of events if the issue is fixed. In the past the building has been used for talks, quizzes, concerts, etc.</p> <p>A group of volunteers are looking at funding options including grants. The Parish Council were asked if there would be an appetite to support the project. The new heating including changing the wiring was predicted to cost £30,000. The church did have some funds which were raised for a new roof some years ago and all funds raised are put into this account. General maintenance is funded from this account so there is a large shortfall from the value required.</p> <p>The Councillors asked if the Church of England could provide any support. Gemma explained that this was not an option.</p> <p>The Chair asked about the toilet facilities, Gemma explained that the current Portaloo was not due to be upgraded as this was predicted to costs a further £50,000.</p> <p>One of the Councillors suggested that as the Village Hall had been sold and the profit invested in the Ovington Village Hall Charity Fund, that perhaps some of</p>	
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	<p>this money should be used to protect the last community asset in the village. The Chair explained that Trustees had looked into being able to spend the asset and not just the interest generated but this is not allowed in the Charities current guidelines. Disposing of part of the asset would also reduce the interest generated each year which would decrease the number of families supported by the annual Christmas gift and in turn Westley Farm Shop.</p> <p>Cllr Gordon-Smith suggested speaking to other Parochial Church Councils who had needed to raise similar sum about the avenues they had used.</p> <p>Cllr Porter explained that there would be limited grants available as the costs were very high and the turnout for services very low.</p> <p>The Councillors suggested the National Lottery, WinCAN (Winchester Climate Action Network - for sustainable advice and grants), and the Boomtown grants. The Parish Council has not taken these grants recently and it was believed that £10,000 a year was divided between the local parishes affected by the event. It is unclear if the funding not drawn down by Itchen Stoke &amp; Ovington Parish Council has been kept or divided amongst the other parishes but it was agreed this may be a good source.</p> <p>The Councillors agreed that the terms of the Charitable Trust should be investigated to see if some of the capital invested could be released as this had grown significantly over the years and would continue with no facility for the Trustees to use it to support local causes Other than through the interest generated.</p> <p>Gemma also informed the Council that the parish is on the route of St James Way part of the Camino de Santiago. There is a stamp for pilgrims to collect in the church and Gemma asked if the Parish Council would support having a sign created to direct pilgrims to St Peters and St Marys. The Councillors agreed that this could be supported and asked that the Parochial Church Council provide costings.</p> <p>Gemma left the meeting at 8:20pm.</p> <p>The Councillors discussed the presentation and the majority supported offering a contribution to the project once quotes were collected. Cllr Porter suggested that any grant be given with a time limit to ensure that if all the funds were not collected and the project did not go ahead that the funds be returned.</p>	<p>Chair to write to Charity Commission</p> <p>PCC to provide quotes for new sign</p> <p>Chair to advise Gemma Hunt</p>
26.02	<p><b>Imagine This Charity</b></p> <p>The Chair had invited a representative from the Murray Parish Trust to attend the meeting to explain the change in the charity to Imagine This and going national. Any unspent vouchers given by the Ovington Village Hall Charity have been given to the Trust but trustees questioned if there was another local charity who could benefit from the funds.</p> <p>Cllr Collins, Cllr Harvey and the Chair have been invited to visit sara Parish to better understand the work of the charity and retains the local interests.</p> <p>It was agreed that a Grant Application Form should be created and put on the Parish Council website to allow groups to apply for support.</p> <p>A budget line to be included in the 2027/28 plans for grants.</p>	<p>Clerk to draft grant application form</p>
26.03	<p><b>Declaration of Interest</b></p> <p>Councillors had received a blank declaration form in their pack and asked to provide an update if required.</p>	
26.04	<p><b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	

	Cllr Barry Norgate, Cllr Clare Pinniger and Cllr Margot Power received in advance of the meeting.	
26.05	<p><b>Matter arising from the last meeting</b></p> <p><b>Maintenance work on Flood Meadows</b> – The Chair informed Councillors that he had not spoken to the landowner but had spoken to the estate manager. The work was not included in the current schedule.</p> <p><b>Insurance claim for marquee</b> – the Clerk informed Councillors that the claim has been made and a written quote for a replacement along with photographs of the damaged parts is required. The Chair has agreed to produce both these items.</p>	Chair to send photographs and quote to Clerk
26.06	<p><b>To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> The Chair, seconded Cllr Harvey.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> All Members present agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the above meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman</p>	
26.07	<p><b>Planning (to ratify the decisions of the Council)</b></p> <p>The Clerk informed the Councillors that an application had been made by SSEN to replace one electricity pole supporting an 11kV overhead line on the Alresford circuit requiring vehicle access and excavation on or by the River Itchen. The Clerk as requested additional details and will circulate when received.</p>	
26.08	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>The Clerk prepared and circulated the financial papers prior to the meeting. The six payments due to be made were all approved, they were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winchester City Council – empty dog bins (April to June 2024) - £65.00</li> <li>• Winchester City Council – empty dog bins (Oct to Dec 2025) - £65.00</li> <li>• Winchester City Council – empty dog bins (Jan to Mar 2026) - £65.00</li> <li>• Vision ICT – set up new Cllr emails - £24.00</li> <li>• Clerk’s salary (January to March) - £369.60</li> <li>• PAYE (January to March) - £92.40</li> </ul> <p><b>PROPOSED:</b> The Chair proposed that this payment be approved and Cllr Carney seconded this</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve all six payments.</p> <p>Cllr Bruce asked the Clerk to check details of the last invoice received by the Parish Council for storage of the marquee.</p>	<p>Clerk to make payments</p> <p>Clerk to check records</p>
26.09	<p><b>Assets Checks update from councillors (standing item)</b></p> <p>The Chair confirmed that all the assets were in good order with the exception of the marquee.</p>	.
26.10	<p><b>Correspondence (previously circulated)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Councillor reports</li> <li>b) M3 Junction 9 improvements</li> <li>c) Pension Regulator (3 year update) – Cllr Collins asked what was required for the pension regulator, the Clerk explained that all employees were auto enrolled every 3 years and the Council had to opt out where needed.</li> <li>d) Emergency Planning &amp; Community Resilience Workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026</li> <li>e) CIL Funding opportunities 2026</li> </ol>	

	It was agreed all the reports had been read.	
26.11	<p><b>Speed Watch Update</b></p> <p>The Chair reported he had written to the new Co-ordinator of the Speedwatch Training to book for the four new Volunteers to attend the online video training. Cllr Carney informed the Council that the Hampshire Police Speed Check Van was in the village earlier in the day.</p>	
26.12	<p><b>County, Ward and District Councillors Reports</b></p> <p>Reports circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The Councillors all confirmed that they automatically receive the updates on the M3 roadworks. Cllr Porter inform eh Council that of the 13 projects in Hampshire that this one is always 11 or 12, so one of the most dangerous.</p> <p>Additional signage has been placed on the A31 following a driver travelling the wrong way down the duel carriageway.</p> <p>Footpath 128 is very wet, work is planned to add more structural subbase when the area dries out.</p> <p>The decision about the Unitary Authority structure should be received mid-March.</p> <p>Cllr Gordon -Smith informed Councillors that a presentation on the regeneration of the City Centre is available to view at the Guildhall in Winchester.</p>	
26.13	<p><b>Members Questions –</b></p> <p>None</p>	
26.14	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026.</li> <li>• Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2026</li> <li>• Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2026</li> </ul>	
25.62	<p><b>Close of Meeting</b> – There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20pm.</p>	

**Confirmed as a true record:**

**Signed by David Cook (Chairman).....**

**Dated.....**