



ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Farley Green, Brook, Little London & Newlands Corner

PARISH OF ALBURY

NOTICE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Local Government Act 1972

The minutes of Albury Parish Council meeting held on

Monday 12th January, 2026 at 19:30 in the memorial library

for the transaction of the under mentioned business.

There will be an informal question time of up to fifteen minutes during which members of the public, who live or work in the Parish, may ask questions relevant to the work of the Council. The Council meeting will start immediately following public question time or at 7.45pm, whichever is the earlier.

MINUTES

Present: The Clerk, Cj Bishop-Wright

In attendance: Cllrs. G. Baker, N. Edwards, P. Gellatly, A. McCann, and G. Robinson (arrived 19:36)

Borough and County Cllr Hughes

001/26 **Open Forum**

Chris and Rob attended the meeting by invitation to discuss the chickens and the use of air rifles at the allotments. Estate approached and confirmed its up to us. Rat issues and the space at the bottom – will try to keep the rats issue as under control as possible. There are rats and vermin up there now. They all come up from the yard. Poison put down but to no avail. Is there a compost – yes, but its more like waste heap than for food. Advised to not put anything you would eat on there. Allotmenters perspectives – the rats are there and will either yet more and there will be more around the chickens. We'll raise the coup off the ground so they can't nest underneath. If there's any complaints they will move this.

Cllr Robinson arrived.

An effective way of keeping them under control is the air rifles. Peter – try chickens for some time, if no problems. Understand why they don't want guns there due to liability considerations.

Greg – trial period.

Neil – notes or pictures of exactly what they would like.

Chris – showed images.

Neil – put this on a map to indicate specific space.

Peter- how many chickens?

Chris – will have to register with APHA and will check the regulations.

Going to check with other allotmenters to see if they want to join.

Neil – I will send over the map and you can mark out where you want.

Andi – 6 month pilot suggested.

Cllr Gellatly proposed 6 month trial and look at the rifle after the 6 months has elapsed. 6 months to start after the chickens. Cllr Edwards seconded. All in favour. Chris – any objections to ducks? Would also like cockerells. Peter – if there are any complaints then will remove? Chris – yes.

Grahame – the rifle is below the threshold for a firearm.

Signed by Chair:

Dated:

- 002/26 **Apologies for absence**
Received from Cllr Bevan.
- 003/26 **Declarations of interest**
None received.
- 004/26 **Minutes of the meetings held on Monday 1st December; Annex 1**
Reviewed and approved as a correct record of the meeting.
- 005/26 **Brief from Borough Councillors**
a) Local Government Reorganisation
Difficulties with the transition for LGR. Changes in executives. Fall between the cracks between Guildford and Godalming & Ash. Not being communicated properly. Shere having to build a mobile consulting facility to help with GP appointments. Debt burden high – 10 x for West Surrey than East Surrey. Pool membership reopened as of 1st January.
- 006/26 **Brief from County Councillors**
Nothing to report.
- 007/26 **Action List; Annex 2**
- 008/26 **Clerks matters arising**
a) Review of air gun usage at the allotments
As above.
b) Review of request for tenants to rear chickens at the allotments
As above.
- Committee reports:
- 009/26 **Highways, Byways, Traffic, Open Spaces and Maintenance: Cllr Edwards**
a) Grit bin update
i) Replacement of grit bin at Westonfields
All full. Westonfields one is broken. Neil – can do this at a later stage. Peter – can we line this in plastic? Good idea. William IV one cannot find.
ii) Review of procedure for gritting roads
Estate have the responsibility for this – New Road and Park Road. 1 SCC problem of not delivering the grit and no one followed up. Someone needs to take up this responsibility to ensuring that the grit is received and the roads are therefore gritted. Who is helping Neil with ongoing maintenance tasks as an ever-growing list.
b) Removal of Christmas tree lights
This has been completed.
c) Farley Green costs updates year to date
Now ditch has been dealt with, costs will just be routine maintenance.
d) Allotment maintenance update
Neil has passed this onto Grahame now he's back.
e) Maintenance support for the church graveyard
Church provided update regarding costs of maintaining the graveyard. With most other PCs the church and PC share the costs of maintaining the graveyard. The costs are £4,400 for grass, hedges, and tree maintenance. Shere run this at a 50/50 basis. Church would take historic components, PC and church will share the current bits of the graveyard. This netted to a total contribution of £1,000 per year. Agreed to decide what its coming out from 2025/6 and 2026/7 budget toward graveyard. Needs to go on the agenda for next time as a cost on the agenda. Agreed to contribute to the graveyard and

Signed by Chair:

Dated:

put the £1,000 on the agenda for next time. Cllr McCann to circulate the information regarding the graveyard.

Communication costs for parish magazine – early view of results on the survey. 100 responses. What they want to see more of – interview, gardening section, and what's on and events. What do people want to hear about – parish council. Agenda – agree to combine Albury Matters with parish newsletter. Take £750 from this year's budget. Opportunity to use rest of this for the graveyard.

f) Neighbourhood Plan update

Cllr McCann update from Tim Wall – expecting the last piece of info from AECOM this week. This will result in a meeting where we decide which sites will make part of the proposal which will go to GBC and then come back where we need to communicate this to the parish.

g) Bus Shelter on Boundary Road

Is skewed due to hit from something large. It's solid and won't fall down. Don't need to spend money on this for now.

010/26 **Planning: Cllr Gellatly**

Nothing to report.

011/26 **Environmental projects: Cllr McCann**

a) Update

Due a response from John Baker regarding flooding at Westonfields.

b) FG Community Group

Hippo ponds cleared last week – all the water on FG which ends up in the hippo ponds now ends up in the track which can handle the water.

012/26 **Finance and Village Hall: Cllr Bevan**

a) Bank reconciliation end of December; Annex 3

Reviewed and approved against the December bank statement.

b) Invoice list end of December; Annex 4

Reviewed and approved against the December bank statement.

c) Summary Receipts and Payments end of December; Annex 5

Reviewed and approved against the December bank statement.

d) Bank Statement end of December; Annex 6

e) Ice at Village Hall

The steps to the VH have been reported to be icy and dangerous. This needs to be added to the gritting schedule.

f) Village Hall Committee

Conversations between the Parish Council, the Albury Estate, and the Village Hall Committee are ongoing. There will be a meeting with the village hall committee in February. Date to be confirmed.

013/26 **Councillor's business: for noting or including on a future agenda**

a) Interest from 3 residents to join Council

Councillors to work out portfolios for potential new councillors.

014/26 **New Correspondence**

015/26 **Dates of next meetings:**

Full Council: 2nd February, 2nd March

Planning: 2nd February, 23rd February

Meeting closed: 21:07

Dated this: 13th January, 2026

Signed by Chair:

Dated:

Signed: CJ Bishop-Wright

Parish Clerk & RFO

Signed by Chair:

Dated: