MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE LIBRARY ROOM, THE BRIDEWELL, THE BURY, ODIHAM, RG29 1NB ON TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2026, COMMENCING AT 8pm

Present: Odiham Parish Council (OPC) Cllrs A McFarlane, L Cornall, C Greensides, E Ives-Wara, M Tate, H Tyler, P Verdon and L Wilmot-Sitwell.

In attendance: A Mann (Parish Clerk) and B Tate (Deputy Clerk).
Two representatives from Vivid Homes joined online.

131/26 To receive apologies for absence
Received and accepted from Cllrs Cooper and Woods.

132/26 To receive declarations of interests and requests for dispensation relating to any item on the agenda
Cllr Tyler declared an interest in agenda item 137/26 as director of The Bell community interest company. It was agreed that other members did not have an interest in this instance as the proposal was for a project to benefit the local area and members were not being asked to make a financial decision.

133/26 Approval of minutes
RESOLVED
The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2026 (110-130/26) were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the chair.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Greensides, all in favour).

134/26 Chair's announcements
The Chair reported:
i) The Deputy Clerk had tendered their resignation and would be leaving at the end of November. The chair expected there would be suitable opportunity to say farewell properly nearer the time.
ii) All members were reminded of the Budget Workshop taking place on 10th November at 7.30pm. The meeting would take place in person with Zoom available for those who were unable to attend in person. The chair asked for any comments and concerns to be forwarded to the Clerk as soon as possible to avoid last minute changes to the budget and precept when under consideration in January.

135/26 Public session
There were no members of the public present.

136/26 40 - 51 King Johns Road, North Warnborough
i) Two representatives from Vivid Homes presented their plans to replace homes at 40-51 King Johns Road and updated members on the project timescales.

Since the previous presentation earlier in the year, Vivid Homes said they had taken on board the comments received from OPC on the outline plans and responded to the three main areas of concern: quality of outdoor space, parking and the quality of design.

Vivid Homes had written to all homes within 250m of the site as part of their consultation and some feedback had been received. Vivid Homes hoped that the planning application would soon be submitted and the planning decision made by June 2027.

ii) Q&As:
- Cllr Verdon asked that, in light of the temperatures over the summer, how would the top floor flats be cooled? Vivid Homes said they had commissioned an overheating study.
- Cllr McFarlane asked about sight lines from the top floor, velux windows. Vivid Homes clarified there were further windows below the eaves.

137/26 Proposed 20-mile community run in the Parish – last weekend of March 2027

i) Helen Tyler presented on behalf of The Bell public house on proposals to hold a 20 mile run on the last weekend of March 2027.

The proposal was for a bi-annual event, timed to act as a training run for the London Marathon. The aims of the event were to increase visitors and support tourism, provide a local health and wellbeing event and fundraise for The Bell.

The proposed route and justification was explained, also the format of the event and other potential partner organisations.

ii) Q&As:
- Cllr Greensides said that a 20-mile distance was only likely to attract a small subset of local runners. H Tyler said that other distances had been considered but the logistics of offering other distances would make the event unviable eg marshalling of the runners and route.
- Cllr Verdon reminded the meeting of local opposition to the proposed road closures for a rally event in 2027 due to the event not truly benefitting local people.

Cllr Tyler left the room.

iii) Members were asked to agree whether OPC supported the principle of the event.

RESOLVED
To support the principle of an event which supports High St businesses and the local area but OPC expresses concerns on the breadth of the event offer and appeal to local people. OPC requests more detailed information on the level of local interest.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Greensides, 7 in favour, 1 abstention).

iv) Members were asked to agree whether OPC and/or the Parish Office could assist with the event planning.

RESOLVED
Agreed in principle but recognising capacity limitations in the Parish Office, especially in the short term.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, 7 in favour, 1 abstention).

Councillor Reports

138/26 Meeting reports from councillors

i) Cllr McFarlane reported from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) AGM which had focussed on local government re-organisation and awarded HALC's annual awards. Cllr McFarlane reminded all members of the training offered by HALC and urged members to sign up for relevant courses.

ii) Cllr Verdon had attended the recent Hart District Association of Parish and Town Councils (HDAPTC) meeting and reported news that HDC's publication of sites, as part of the Local Plan development, had been delayed one week and was now scheduled week commencing 26th October.

iii) Cllr Greensides had attended the Hart Youth Achievement awards on behalf of OPC and commented on the number of inspiring and worthy winners. Cllr Greensides would write a letter of thanks to the organisers.

139/26 Reports from other councils

HCC/HDC Cllr Dorn had provided a written report prior to the meeting which had been circulated to members (Appendix 1).

General

140/26 Meeting action points

Progress was noted, as presented with the agenda. No further comments were recorded.

141/26 Appointments to committees and working groups

RESOLVED

i) Cllr Greensides was elected to join the Planning & Development Committee.

ii) Cllr Ives-Wara was elected to join the Amenity Areas Committee and Planning & Development Committee.

iii) Cllr Wilmot-Sitwell was elected to join the Planning & Development Committee.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Cornall, all in favour).

142/26 Allocation of funds from the sale of Chapel Cottage

i) The Chair gave a verbal update from the Capital Projects working group meeting held on 6th October where members had reviewed OPC's list of agreed project priorities and drawn up a list of proposed focus for expenditure, as per agenda item 142/26ii).

ii) Members were asked to consider the proposal from the working group that the proceeds from the property sale should be strategically allocated across the following four key projects, each selected for its clear, tangible outcome and designed to maximise long-term benefits for the community.

The following list was noted and would be confirmed once estimates had been received:

1. **Traffic calming** - in line with proposals from the Parish wide review of road safety – to support road safety for residents, the highest priority shown by residents in community surveys.
2. **Re-configuration and improvements to communal spaces at The Bridewell** – in line with the Council's decision on the plans currently under development – to support OPC's strategic aim of delivering high quality community facilities and to maximise building income.
3. **Reserves allocation for play areas, for future upgrades** – in line with the Amenity Areas Committees' prioritisation of play area sites – to support OPC's strategic aim of delivering high quality community facilities.
4. **A new seating area at the northern/bottom end of the Recreation Ground** – in line with OPC's agreed list of projects suitable for S106 funding, previously submitted to Hart District Council – to support OPC's strategic aim of delivering high-quality community facilities.
5. **Public accessible toilet provision.**

3/26 Hart District Council – Community Asset Transfers (CAT)

Members received a response from HDC to OPC's resolution 18.08.26 (Item 101/26 refers) which expressed an interest in public open space land at Salisbury Close, asked for clarification on land at Priors Corner, and asked why car parks were not included in the CAT policy? The response further offered a small piece of land off Manley James Close.

RESOLVED
Not to progress the expression of interest for the verge at Priors Corner or express an interest in the small piece of land off Manley James Close.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

144/26 Performance review of OPC's website

An email from OPC's website provider Somerset Websites was reviewed, offering a website performance review and AI search optimisation.

It was decided that OPC should first do their own audit of the website and Cllr Ives-Wara offered to support the review.

145/26 New defibrillator at The Cross Barn

RESOLVED
To accept ownership and maintenance of a new defibrillator at The Cross Barn, funded by the Hook, Odiham and Hartley Wintney Lions Club. The new until would be inspected by the Amenities Officer as part of OPC's current inspection and maintenance regime
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

Financial Matters

146/26 To consider releasing grant payments in accordance with budget allocation

RESOLVED
To award grants as follows:
i) £1,000 to InOdiham towards the Christmas Extravaganza event.
ii) £1,000 to Citizens Advice Hart.
(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Tyler, all in favour).

147/26 Budget virements and investments

The Chair of Finance reported from the Finance Committee meeting held prior to the full Council meeting. The half year budget position was forecasted to be on track at year end and the committee was taking third party investment advice in preparation for two large receipts.

As proposed by the Finance Committee, it was

RESOLVED
i) To transfer an appropriate sum from the 2nd precept payment from the Unity Trust account to the CCLA account, to be advised by the Clerk/RFO following review of the accounts.
ii) To vire £5,000 from the play areas budget to a new road safety budget for professional fees.
(Proposed by Cllr Tyler, seconded by Cllr Cornall, all in favour).

148/26 Payments Listing

RESOLVED

The payments listing for the period 16th September-20th October 2026 (Appendix 2) was approved and Cllrs Greensides and McFarlane were appointed to complete the payment approval process for outstanding payments.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Tate, all in favour).

Planning Matters

149/26 Planning & Development Committee responses to applications

RESOLVED

The decisions of the Planning & Development Committee meetings held on 22nd September and 13th October which were submitted to Hart under the Clerk's delegated authority were ratified.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon, all in favour).

150/26 Date of next meetings

Full Council – 17th November 2026 at 7.30pm.

Confidential Matters

151/26 Resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press to consider confidential contractual matters where publicity might be prejudicial to the special nature of the business.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Tate, all in favour).

152/26 Chapel Cottage

i) The Chair updated members on the progress of the sale.

ii) There were no new matters arising.

153/26 Public open space at Montfort Place

i) Following a site visit and findings referred on to Persimmons for review, an email response had been received which explained that the financial offer made and accepted was based on the existing condition of the site, unless it was deemed as a health and safety issue.

ii) It was noted that the next action was for the Amenity Officer to measure the site for bollards to prevent vehicular traffic.

Cllr Tate, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk left the meeting.

154/26 Verbal report from the Staffing Committee

The Chair provided a verbal update from the Staffing Committee held on 19th October. A recruitment pack for the Administration Officer/Deputy Clerk and a salary increase for the Clerk and Amenity Officer were agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Defence ● Highways ● Schools

A brief summary of Hampshire County Council and related issues



Cllr Chris Dorn, Hampshire County Cllr

Hook Parish Council

I must start by congratulating Hook Parish Council for the Hampshire Association of Local Councils: "Best Recreational Facilities 2026" and "Village of the Year 2026" (runner up, but it sounds like there was nothing in it!). Fantastic work by the whole parish council team and councillors, these things don't happen by themselves, they need dedication and effort.

Focus on Defence

By the time you read this, National Cadet Week will have finished, but I took time to make sure it was properly recognised in our area. Hart raised a special flag to mark the week and I've visited a range of cadet units in the area. It was so impressive to see the range of activities on offer and huge personal and team achievements. And they were all so polite and enthusiastic. A real pleasure to meet them all and they do give me so much hope that they will make great citizens, a change from so much negative press.

Early October saw the first meeting of the pan-Hampshire Civil Military Partnership Board, co-Chaired by myself and Cllr Miller. This was a soft re-start of a body that hasn't been as active as we'd like over past years. It brings together civil organisations (councils, police, NHS etc) with local military to deal with strategic issues to support local serving personnel, their families and veterans. We'll be developing a work plan and looking at how we can best work with the Hampshire and Solent Combined County Authority (mayoral area).

I was also pleased to attend the Army Air Museum at Middle Wallop, to receive the Gold award for the Militar Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme, on behalf of Hart District Council (very much for our hard working officers).

Making the case for fairer highways funding

Hampshire has around 5,500 miles of roads to maintain, one of the largest local highway networks in the country. It the equivalent of London to Edinburgh 17 times! But we do not receive enough stable, long-term funding to keep that network in the condition we all want to see. The estimated maintenance backlog is now between £550 million and £600 million.

The County Council's Cabinet has agreed to strengthen our case to Government for a fairer share of Vehicle Excise Duty to be invested back into local roads, together with greater freedom to target highways funding where it will make the biggest difference.

We are not waiting for Government action. Since April, highways teams have

- Delivered 42 resurfacing schemes, with 101 planned during 2026/27
- Completed 122 preventative surface treatments
- 154 planned patching schemes covering more than 32,000 square metres.

- 17,590 reactive defects, including potholes repaired by teams between April and July.

The long-term answer is to move increasingly from reacting to potholes to planned, preventative maintenance. Hampshire's highway assets are valued at around £17 billion, and looking after them properly is basic asset management as well as being important to residents and businesses.

Hampshire County Council's Finances – Challenging Times

During September, the Government confirmed more than £90 million of in-year Exceptional Financial Support for councils facing serious financial pressures, including £6 million for the Isle of Wight and £5 million for West Berkshire. But not Hampshire.

Hampshire has not had to make a similar request because the County Council acted early. Over the past year, we delivered £95 million in savings, with a further £40 million of efficiencies built into this year's budget. That work enabled us to set a lawful, balanced £3.3 billion budget and manage this year's pressures without seeking exceptional permission to borrow or use capital resources for day-to-day costs.

That does not mean everything is fine. This year's budget relies on £108.5 million from reserves (almost twice the amount used last year) and those reserves can only be spent once. School transport costs, particularly for children with special educational needs and disabilities, have risen from £43 million to £83 million in four years, while demand for adult social care continues to increase.

In 2025/26 Hampshire received £91 per resident in general Government funding, compared with an English average of £205! The new funding formula reduces support by £10.9 million this year and by £42.9 million annually by 2028/29. Hampshire will continue pressing for a fair, long-term settlement that protects essential services without exhausting reserves or placing an ever-greater burden on local taxpayers.

Back-to-School Support

Hampshire's back-to-school resources bring together advice on preparing for the first day, walking, wheeling, cycling and school transport, before- and after-school childcare, SEND support, vaccination, mental wellbeing, attendance and free school meals.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch. Families receiving certain benefits may also qualify for income-based free school meals beyond those years. A successful application can unlock extra support for a child and additional funding for their school.

Family information and support: https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/family-information-and-services-hub-fish/best-start-in-life/toddler-to-pre-school/getting-ready-for-school/

No tricks, just three choices: apply for a secondary school place by Halloween

Parents and carers in Hampshire are being reminded not to let the secondary school application deadline give them a fright this Halloween

https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260904secadmissions

Hampshire Cllr Grants

Hampshire County Cllrs receive a modest £5,000 grant to be distributed through the year there's a little bit left. The details are here:-

https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor

Contact

I'm always happy to talk to people, but the best way to contact me is to email: chris.dorn@nehc.org.uk and follow my Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/Cllr.Dorn

Cllr Chris Dorn

Hampshire County Council for Odiham & Hook Division and District Cllr for Odiham Ward and Western Parishes on behalf of the Conservative Party

Just to caveat: Cllrs can't provide definitive planning or legal advice, but I'm usually able to share my personal thoughts on matters while asserting my open mindedness to any related future planning applications or formal council decisions.

<Ends>

Odiham Parish Council

PAYMENTS LIST

APPENDIX II

19 October 2026 (2026-2027)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
305	The Bridewell - electricity	17/09/2026		Unity Trust	305	Bridewell Electricity	nPower	L	298.10	14.90	313.00
306	The Bridewell - electricity	16/09/2026		Unity Trust	306	Bridewell Electricity	nPower	S	405.78	81.16	486.94
308	Bank Charges	30/09/2026		Unity Trust	308	Manual handling charge	Unity Trust	Z	0.40		0.40
309	The Bridewell - general lettings	30/09/2026		Unity Trust	309	Stripe Transaction Fee	Stripe	C	0.56		0.56
310	The Bridewell - general lettings	30/09/2026		Unity Trust	310	Stripe Transaction Fee	Stripe	C	1.11		1.11
311	Bank Charges	30/09/2026		Unity Trust	311	service Charge	Unity Trust	Z	14.65		14.65
312	Cemetery rates and water	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	312	Cemetery rates	Hart DC	Z	203.00		203.00
313	Rates	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	313	Parish Office Rates	Hart DC	Z	251.00		251.00
314	Rates	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	314	Bridewell GF LHS rates	Hart DC	Z	141.00		141.00
315	Rates	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	315	Library Room rates	Hart DC	Z	456.00		456.00
316	Chapel Cottage Maintenance	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	316	Chapel Cottage council tax	Hart DC	Z	266.00		266.00
317	Subscriptions	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	317	ICO Annual Data Protection Fe	ICO	Z	47.00		47.00
318	IT Support and Back up	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	318	IT Support Oct	BV Computer Solutions Ltd	Z	135.00		135.00
319	Subscriptions	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	319	Premises Licence High St	Hart DC/Basingstoke & Dea	Z	70.00		70.00
320	Toilets - Power and rates	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	320	King St Toilets electricity	nPower	L	65.84	3.29	69.13
321	War Memorial Maintenance	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	321	War Memorial Maintenance (Ph	MSF Historical Restoration	S	4,725.00	945.00	5,670.00
321	War Memorial Maintenance	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	321	War Memorial Maintenance (Ph	MSF Historical Restoration	S	1,245.00	249.00	1,494.00
322	The Bridewell - waste disposal	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	322	Bridewell waste collection	Suez	S	100.03	20.01	120.04
323	The Bridewell - cleaning & mat	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	323	King St Toilets cleaning	CJH Cleaning Services Ltd	S	515.18	103.04	618.22
324	Toilets - Power and rates	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	324	King St toilets water	Castle water	Z	38.38		38.38
325	Allotments - Water	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	325	Allotments water	Castle water	S	7.06	1.41	8.47
326	The Bridewell - gas	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	326	Bridewell gas	Total Energies Gas & Powe	L	196.61	9.83	206.44
327	The Bridewell - cleaning & mat	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	327	Bridewell cleaning	FS Cleaning & Maintenance	X	500.00		500.00
328	Benches and Noticeboards	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	329	Gardening/handyman services	FS Cleaning & Maintenance	X	262.50		262.50
328	Promotion of village	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	329	Gardening/handyman services	FS Cleaning & Maintenance	X	81.25		81.25
329	Postage and consumables	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	329	Hand towels and stamps	Viking	E	136.50		136.50
329	Postage and consumables	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	329	Hand towels and stamps	Viking	S	5.95	1.19	7.14
329	The Bridewell - cleaning & mat	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	329	Hand towels and stamps	Viking	S	39.99	8.00	47.99
330	IT Support and Back up	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	330	IT support Nov	BV Computer Solutions Ltd	Z	135.00		135.00
331	PR & Pub inc newsletter	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	331	Autumn newsletter printing	IC Printing Services	Z	959.00		959.00
332	Toilets - Maintenance	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	332	Plumbing repair to King St toile	SR Hall Ltd	S	60.00	12.00	72.00
333	The Bridewell - water	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	333	Bridewell water	Business Stream	E	20.12		20.12
334	Cemetery Maintenance	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	334	Cemetery maintenance	Scandor Landscape contrac	S	1,066.55	213.31	1,279.86
335	Chamberlain Gardens (SC Trust	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	335	Grounds Maintenance Septemb	Larkstel Ltd	S	322.50	64.50	387.00

Odiham Parish Council

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
335	Other amenity areas maintenar	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	335	Grounds Maintenance Septemb	Larkstel Ltd	S	401.67	80.33	482.00
335	Play Areas	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	335	Grounds Maintenance Septemb	Larkstel Ltd	S	585.42	117.08	702.50
335	Allotments - maintenance	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	335	Grounds Maintenance Septemb	Larkstel Ltd	S	33.33	6.67	40.00
335	Bin emptying	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	335	Grounds Maintenance Septemb	Larkstel Ltd	S	238.33	47.67	286.00
335	Speed Indicator Devices	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	335	Grounds Maintenance Septemb	Larkstel Ltd	S	79.16	15.83	94.99
336	IT Support and Back up	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	336	Office 365 acounts	Microsoft Ireland	Z	48.00		48.00
337	Toilets - Power and rates	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	337	King St Toilets electricity	nPower	L	61.73	3.09	64.82
338	Benches and Noticeboards	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	338	Materials for bench repairs	Wickes	S	27.67	5.53	33.20
339	Postage and consumables	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	339	Milk, coffee	Co-op	Z	7.30		7.30
340	Benches and Noticeboards	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	340	Screws for bench	Ebay	Z	4.93		4.93
341	Subscriptions	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	341	Canva subscription	Canva	S	10.83	2.17	13.00
342	Other amenity areas maintenar	20/10/2026		CCLA	342	Defib replacement batteries	Direct 365	S	220.00	44.00	264.00
343	Bank Charges	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	343	Fee for Multipay card	Lloyds Bank	Z	3.00		3.00
344	Telephone and internet	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	344	Phones & broadband	BT	S	242.41	48.48	290.89
345	Staff Salaries	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	345	Staff salaries - Oct 26	Staff salaries - Oct 26	Z	5,453.95		5,453.95
346	Staff Salaries	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	346	Staff PAYE & NI - Oct 26	HMRC	Z	993.90		993.90
347	Staff Salaries	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	347	Staff Pension cont - Oct 26	Hampshire Pension Fund	Z	438.68		438.68
348	Employers' NI	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	348	Employer NI - Oct 26	HMRC	Z	845.32		845.32
349	Pension Contribution	20/10/2026		Unity Trust	349	Employers Pension - Oct 26	Hampshire Pension Fund	Z	1,335.99		1,335.99
								Total	**23,803.68**	**2,097.49**	**25,901.17**