

## CANDOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

<b>Date:</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025	<b>Time:</b> 6:30pm
<b>Venue:</b>	Candover Valley Club	
<b>Present:</b>	Jonathan Moseley Adam Willmott Edwina Curtis Hayward Emily Martin Simon James  Alex Rowley Wendy Simson	Chair Vice Chair  Director of Upper Itchen Restoration Community Interest Company  Clerk
<b>Apologies:</b>	Juliet Henderson Antonia Cunningham	County Councillor

#### 1744 Public Forum

Simon James was invited to join the meeting to give the Councillors an overview of the working being carried out by the Upper Itchen Restoration Community Interest Company. The work carried out is:

*“Three chalk streams – the River Alre, the Candover Brook and the Cheriton Stream – form the headwaters of the River Itchen in Hampshire. Rising on chalk and fed by springs, the headwaters of the Itchen meet at Ovington to form one of England’s iconic chalk rivers. Our chalk streams have been compared to the Amazonian rainforest for their biodiversity. There are fewer than 300 in the world, most of them in southern England.*

*However, our chalk streams are **clear, but not clean**. Their water contains excess nutrients (phosphate and nitrate at higher than natural levels), which impact the health of the river ecosystem. This was most visible during the drought of 2022, when an algal bloom impacted the Upper Itchen watercourses. Long-time residents have observed that river life is much reduced over the last few decades.*

*The Upper Itchen Restoration Community Interest Company (CIC) is a not-for-profit organisation which exists to improve the quality of the aquatic environment in the Upper Itchen catchment.*

*By monitoring regularly to understand what is in the water, we can identify pollution incidents and identify sources of nutrients, providing evidence to help improve the health of our river.”*

A project with the Watercress and Winterbourne Trust over the last 5 years has monitored the water quality across the three rivers including having sites in the

Candover Valley. The project was funded through a National Lottery grant and had a fixed lifespan of 5 years which is coming to an end in March 2026. The study has shown the presence of micro-particulates in the water which is predominantly tyre particles, fibreglass and man-made fibres.

A major project in conjunction with the University of Southampton will continue this work but include a broader scope including predicting drought in the Itchen catchment, an executive summary of the initial reports shows:

*"This report highlights the need for early identification and public notification of drought periods in order that water supplies, particularly those stored in Hampshire's chalk aquifer, can be conserved.*

*The report outlines a proposed approach for early prediction of potential droughts and associated damaging low flows occurring in August, September and October using cumulative rainfall analysis. This analysis sums rainfall occurring between 1st September and 31st May and compares the total cumulative figure with the lowest flow levels and duration of low flow periods.*

*Analysis of data from known drought years, including the severest drought on record in 1975-76, show cumulative rainfall to be a good indicator of upcoming drought periods on the Itchen. Analysis of the cumulative rainfall from 1st September 1975 to 31st May 1976 was found to be only 395 mm, well below the cumulative rainfall ranging from 500-994 mm in adjacent years. It was clear by late May 1976 that there were a high likelihood of a severe drought and low flows occurring later in the year. The analysis also showed that not only was the low flow lower than normal in 1976, but the low flow period was also longer at 265 days. This was 3-5 times the duration of low flow periods during adjacent years.*

*Similar analysis of the 2021-22 drought using data for years either side of this period show that by the end of May 2022 it was clear from the cumulative data analysis that a potential drought was looming. Lacking this analysis Southern Water, who rely on groundwater records to predict potential droughts did not take action until 2 months later in August when a hosepipe ban was introduced and a Drought Order application submitted to the Environment Agency. This was too late. There was a 2-month period (June-July) when Southern Water should have been warning water users of the potential for a drought and encouraging water users to cut back water use to conserve water in the aquifer. This was a significant failure that must be avoided in future.*

*The analysis in this report shows that there is a high likelihood of a drought this year, in 2025."*

In the Candover Valley some landowners are installing silt traps and creating wetland areas which help to remove the micro-particulates from the water. The Chairman explained that the Lengthsman Scheme was used to clear grips which removed the water from the road surface but took with it the tyre particulates, Simon explained that the Group were engaging with the Environment Agency and Hampshire Highways but no substantial work is planned in the Candover Valley until 2027.

Campaigns to encourage the use of environmentally friendly household product and also to upgrade septic tanks are also planned.

The Chairman asked how Candovers Parish Council could best support the group, Simon asked for tools to get the message out to the community, including the Parish Council website and newsletters. The Chairman agreed to pass on contact details for the editor of the Oxdrove along with Hills & Vales which is the Parish magazine for further up the valley.

**Action:** Chairman to make the introduction to the Oxdrove editor.

The website for the Upper Itchen Restoration Community Interest Company is:

[www.upperitchenrestoration.org.uk](http://www.upperitchenrestoration.org.uk)

Cllr Cutis Hayward suggested that the County Councillor Juliet Henderson could include the Chalk Streams in the motion submitted to protect the landscape and country parks, this reads:

*Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor Mocatta regarding the protection of natural landscapes.*

*Protecting Our National Landscapes Hampshire is home to beautiful and nationally important landscapes, including the South Downs National Park, the New Forest National Park, the Cranborne Chase National Landscape and the North Wessex Downs National Landscape.*

*These landscapes play a vital role in protecting wildlife, biodiversity, combatting climate change, promoting public health and wellbeing, and sustaining local economies through tourism and sustainable land management.*

- The Government's independent Landscapes Review (the 'Glover Review') recognised the need to strengthen protection and management of these special areas.*
- Continued national protection is essential if these landscapes are to thrive and continue to benefit future generations.*

*This Council therefore resolves to:*

- 1. Urge the Government to maintain strong legal protection for National Parks and AONBs (now known as National Landscapes).*
- 2. Support the implementation of the Landscapes Review recommendations, where appropriate, to strengthen the role of protected landscapes in nature recovery and public access; and*
- 3. Continue to work to promote and protect Hampshire's unique natural heritage.*

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Cllr Henderson had been invited to the next meeting to discuss this process and how the Parish Council can be involved.

Alex updated the Councillors on the consultations currently open; they are:

- Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan - [Local Plan Draft Spatial Strategy Regulation 18 Consultation \(November 2025\) | Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Online Consultation Portal](#) (open until 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 at 5pm)
- Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire – [consultation webpages](#). (open until 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026)
- Proposed development at Farnborough Airport  
<https://publicaccess.rushmoor.gov.uk/online-applications/>

The Local Government Reorganisation is due to be completed in 2028 with a decision from Central Government on the approval model in early 2026 and elections for the new roles in 2027 which will shadow the existing model for 12 months.

There are three candidates for the new Hampshire Mayor role, election are due in May 2026.

The Market Town at Upper Swallick has been included in the Basingstoke & Deane Local Plan. Until the Local Plan is approved any speculative application will not have to conform to the allocated locations.

The revised Local Plan will be adopted by the new Unitary Authority to provide consistency in planning decisions.

**1745 Declaration of Public Interest**

The Chairman asked if any of the Councillors had an interest in any of the agenda items, it was confirmed that there were none.

**1746 Any additional Agenda Items**

No additional agenda items were suggested.

**1747 Apologies**

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Cllr Cunningham and Cllr Henderson sent their apologies.

**1748 Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes for the last meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were reviewed and agreed by the Council as an accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting.

**1749 Matters arising**

**Clerk's salary increase data** – The Clerk was asked to report when the Council has increased the salary attached to the role. The Clerk informed Councillors that it was last reviewed in 2023/24 and was increased from £1,200 to £1,600 per year.

**Thanks to EA for work completed in the Valley** – Cllr Curtis Hayward informed Councillors that an email had been sent.

**Clearing of the Rights of Way** – Cllr Martin informed the Councillors that the Right of Way from the Church up to Lone Barn has been cleared. The Chairman also reported that a maintenance team had been working on the Oxdrove.

**Cllr Henderson's monthly report in Oxdrove** – The Clerk reported that the editor of the Oxdrove published an abridged version of the report in the Hills and Vales magazine and would include in the Oxdrove.

**1750 Financial update**

The Clerk circulated the financial statement prior to the meeting along with posting on the Parish Council website.

The Clerk informed Councillors that two invoices have been received, the annual subscription for the CPRE and the invoice for the Lengthsman's last visit, both payments were approved.

The Clerk visited the Archive Office in Winchester to drop off the signed minutes. As part of the acknowledgement of the records the officer mentions:

*"I also asked whether you thought the Councils might consider making a modest donation to help support the work we do. Sadly, our financial footing is much less secure than it has been in the past, and nowadays we are obliged to fund a proportion of our core budget from income generation. As you can imagine, the service we provide comes at considerable cost, both in terms of staff time and materials – in this case, for example, the records will be packaged in archive-quality packaging, itemised on our online catalogue, stowed in the archive strong room and retrieved again for residents/Councillors, etc., as required."*

The Councillors approved a donation of £50.

The Councillors discussed possible projects for the CIL funding held by the Parish Council, they included:

- Information Board as part of the Watercress and Winterbourne Project
- Renovation of the two garages at the CVC including new rooves.
- Extending the patio at the CVC
- Decorating the phone box in Chilton Candover
- Signage
- Bus shelter roof work.

The Vice Chair suggested that the grant opportunity circulated by the Clerk for Bus Shelters could be used to replace the roof where needed.

**Action:** Clerk to apply for grant

Cllr Henderson's grant fund is also available.

The Vice Chair suggested that a contribution from S137 allocation towards the Christmas drinks should be made by the Parish Council. Councillors agreed that £150 be given for the event.

## **1751 Budget**

The Clerk circulated a report showing the Council's current financial situation and predicted closing balance for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 of £8,215.33, this does not include the £9,903.70 of CIL funding.

The Clerk produced a list of expenditure items for 2026/27, these are:

### **Estimated expenditure for 2026/27.**

Internal Audit	£300.00
Insurance	£300.00
PAYE	£320.00
Clerk's salary	£1,280.00
Grass cutting	£350.00
Hedge cutting	£950.00
HALC subscription	£300.00
CPRE membership	£36.00
Defib pads & battery	£200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,036.00</b>

Basingstoke & Deane provide £760 towards the costs of maintaining the cricket pitch, this along with any interest and the precept make up the income for the Parish Council.

The Councillors asked the Clerk to leave the room to allow a discussion on the Clerk's salary, it was agreed that an increase to £1,800 per year would be approved from 1<sup>st</sup> April. The Councillors asked that the Parish Council's appreciation for all the work the Clerk does for the community.

The Councillors agreed to maintain the precept at £4,120 for 2026/27.

**Action:** Clerk to complete the precept request.

#### **1752 Candover Valley Club (CVC) Update**

The Chairman informed Councillors that the CVC remains well used and there was a good turn out at the Remembrance Service and drinks.

Membership numbers remain solid.

There are a number of maintenance projects which are being started as detailed in the list of possible CIL projects.

The Clerk suggested that there may be an opportunity for the CVC to bid on CIL funding. The Parish Council are passed a percentage of the CIL funding generated within the Parish, but the remaining funds can be applied for by other groups for projects.

**Action:** Clerk to check if this is the case and if so the application process.

#### **1753 Flooding**

The water levels have risen quickly following the heavy rain in recent weeks.

The Clerk confirmed that Alresford Builder Merchants are able to deliver sand if required to fill sandbags.

#### **1754 Lengthsman**

The dates for 2025/26 are:

- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March

The Chair asked if there were any particular jobs which need to be completed at the next visit.

Councillors agreed on the following work:

- clear grips along B3046,
- picking litter on verges,
- cleaning road signs of algae

#### **1755 Planning**

The Council received two applications since the last meeting; it is for:

- **Barn at Moth Farm (25/02463/AGPD)** – prior determination for general purpose agricultural building.
- **Pelican House (25/00822/HSE)** – Conversion of existing barn and ancillary staff facilities, with removal of first floor. Erection of open sided car barn, and a further three bay outbuilding with one enclosed bay. Resurfacing of existing drive and paths linking to main house and associated landscaping. The Councillors had no comments about this application.

The Chairman informed the Council that new gates have been installed on Spybush Lane to prevent vehicles following their SatNav and using this route. Residents are still able to walk along the route, and it is planned that the gates will be open most of the day.

#### **1756 Website**

The Clerk informed Councillors that the website is all up to date.

The Chairman agreed to send some photographs from the Remembrance Service for the website, these have been approved by all those included in the photographs including any parental consent.

**Action:** Clerk to add the photographs to the website.

**1757 General correspondence**

The Chairman asked about the Mayor's Christmas activities, the Clerk reported that the Mayor's Carol Service is on Saturday 6 December 2025 at St Michaels Church, Basingstoke.

**1758 Date of next meeting**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6:30pm.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.