

**CANDOVERS PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**Date:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Venue:** Candover Valley Club

**Present:** Jonathan Moseley  
Adam Willmott  
Antonia Cunningham  
Wendy Simson

Chair  
Vice Chair  
  
Clerk

**Apologies:** Juliet Henderson  
Emily Martin  
Edwina Curtis Hayward  
Alex Rowley

County Councillor

**1759 Public Forum**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**1760 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.

**1761 Any additional Agenda Items**

No additional agenda items were suggested.

**1762 Apologies**

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Cllr Curtis Hayward, Henderson and Alex Rowley all sent their apologies. Cllr Martin message at the meeting to inform the Council that they were not available.

**1763 Minutes of the last meeting**

The Minutes for the last meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 were reviewed and agreed by the Council as an accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting.

**1764 Matters arising**

**Chairman to introduce Simon James, Director of Upper Itchen Restoration Community Interest Company to the Oxdrove editor** – completed.

**Quotes for work on bus shelters** – Cllr Cunningham informed the Council that she did not have a suitable contact for this work. The Chairman suggested the two builders who have quoted for the work at CVC.

**Action:** Clerk to speak to both about quotes.

**Grant application** – an application has been received from CVC including quotes for repairs to the two garages at the rear of the main building. The roof on both garages needs to be replaced and the quotes cover the cost of removing the existing metal roof, installing new wooden joists where required and installing a new flat roof including fascias and guttering. The quotes were £4,720 and £5,995. Replacement garage doors are not included in the price, but it was suggested that they were about £1,000 each.

In addition to the repairs to the garages the following items also need attention:

- The boiler is 20 years old.
- Minor plumbing leaks
- Annual scalpings for the carpark
- Front door needs replacement

The Councillors agreed to support the garage repairs to the value of the lower quote of £4,720 and suggested that once the quotes were available for the replacement doors that this be presented to Council for consideration.

The Parish Council currently has £9,903.70 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) remaining. Cllr Cunningham suggested that speeding in the valley was becoming more of an issue and that there had been several accidents since the last meeting, some with life altering consequences. The cyclists that visit the valley are vulnerable with blind bends, potholes and limited visibility when joining the main road for example when leaving the Yard. Candovers Parish Council share a Speed Indication device with the neighbouring parish, and it was suggested that an additional unit be purchased for the parish. The Clerk explained that an application would need to be made to Hampshire Highways for additional sites for the devices, this costs £300 and the parish can ask for multiple sites on one application. If there isn't a road sign at the selected location then a new post can be added by Hampshire Highways, this will be chargeable.

**Action:** Chair to identify suitable locations for the devices and bring to next meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to report on prices of new speed indication devices

**Action:** Clerk to add to next agenda.

The Council discussed reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph, the Chairman explained that an application has been made in the past but there was no data showing a fatality at that time. The recent spate of accidents may be used to open discussions with Hampshire Highways.

**Action:** Clerk to speak to Cllr Henderson about reducing the speed limit.

## **1765 Financial update**

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

The following invoices were presented for payment:

- Website domain - £187.06
- Lengthsman admin - £550.00
- Clerk salary (October to December) - £320.00
- PAYE (October to December) - £80.00
- CVC Grant - £1,500.00
- Grass cutting at burial ground - £81.00.
- Grass cutting at bus shelters - £99.00.
- Donation to St Peters for grass cutting in churchyard - £339.00.

Council approved all payments.

#### 1766 Candover Valley Club (CVC) Update

The Chairman informed Councillors that the Committee are working through the buildings and identifying all the areas that need work so this can be planned in.

The Saturday evening drinks continue, and some have been watching the Six Nations Rugby.

#### 1767 Flooding

The water levels have risen quickly following the heavy rain in recent weeks. The culverts are being monitored and cleared where needed which means the water is flowing through to the water meadows.

Cllr Willmott has been speaking to the Upper Itchen Restoration Community Interest Company about adding a silt trap to manage the water through to the meadows as quickly as possible.

The Chairman confirmed that he has some empty sandbags. The Clerk suggested that there may be some at Church Lane Dairy, Cllr Cunningham agreed to hold a stock in case they are needed.

#### 1768 Lengthsman

The final date for 2025/26 is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, it was agreed that the final date would be used to check and clear the grips and ditches where needed.

#### 1769 Planning

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

- **Breach Farm (25/02104/FUL)** – Proposed ground mounted 200.2kW solar PV system comprising of 440 x solar 445w modules. – [the Clerk forwarded this to Dummer Parish Clerk](#)
- **Chilton Manor Farmhouse (5/02805/FUL)** – Erection of play equipment and change of use of land to recreational land. - [Granted](#)
- **1 Moth Farm Cottages (25/02661/HSE)** – Erection of a two-storey extension, a new porch, the insertion of a window into the side elevation, replacement windows and doors throughout and movement of the existing oil tank. – [Awaiting outcome](#)

The Clerk explained that the last of these applications is for her property and so did not process the application when it was sent to the Council for comments.

#### 1770 Website

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

#### 1771 General correspondence

Cllr Henderson circulated an email from the Leader at Hampshire County Council, Cllr Nick Adams-King, about potholes, it reads:



**THE BRUTAL TRUTH ABOUT HAMPSHIRE'S POTHOLES — AND WHY WE CAN'T JUST "SPEND MORE"**

Hampshire's roads have taken an absolute battering this winter. Weeks of relentless rain and violent freeze-thaw cycles have ripped open the surface across the county. Potholes are appearing faster than crews can fill them.

Here's the blunt truth:

We simply don't have the money to maintain the roads to the standard we all want.



### **The scale of the problem**

Cost to bring roads up to the standard I'd want: £600 million Highways budget this year: £60 million.

£540 million shortfall

No amount of "efficiency" fills a gap like that.



### **Why the money isn't there**

Social care and education costs are exploding — and Hampshire is hit harder than most:

- By 2030, nearly 5% of residents will be over 80
- More children with Special Educational Needs than average
- Rising demand for disability support
- These services are **legally required**. If someone qualifies, we must provide care.

- And now Government 'Fair Funding' is removing almost £40million from our budgets and sending it to mostly Labour run councils in London and the midlands and north.



### **Council Tax reality**

Band D Council Tax paid to Hampshire: £1,609

Surrey: £1,846

West Sussex: £1,800

Oxfordshire: £1,911

We've had lower Council Tax for years — but that means less money for roads.

You can't run a high-maintenance network on a low-tax budget.



### **Why repairs feel slow**

Here's how the system actually works:

- 1 Every report triggers an inspection — councillors and residents use the same system.
- 2 Safety defects come first — A-roads and B-roads before residential streets and country lanes.
- 3 Temporary repairs are often unavoidable — asphalt won't bond in cold, wet weather.
- 4 Permanent repairs take 7× longer — so crews make more locations safe first.
- 5 Non-safety defects are queued — tackled when weather and resources allow.

And yes — some temporary repairs fail in this weather. If they do, please re-report them.



### **Why this winter has been so brutal**

We've had 156% of our average January rainfall February's average rainfall was exceeded in the first week alone Repeated freeze–thaw cycles Some potholes appear overnight. Others worsen within hours.



### **The national picture**

Hampshire faces a £500m highways funding gap Government funding this year: £30m We matched it — still nowhere near enough.

Only a tiny fraction of road tax and fuel duty goes to road maintenance.

Hampshire's roads are better than many neighbours, but roads across the Southeast — and even motorways — are in dire condition.

This is a national crisis, not a local failing.



### **What we're doing right now**

We've secured extra resources:

- More Jet/Dragon Patchers
- Extra patching gangs (started 12 Jan, more added end of Jan)
- More drainage jetting machines
- A dedicated flooding response team
- Extra white-lining crews

Temporary infills will be used where needed to keep roads safe. Permanent repairs will follow when conditions improve.

We're funding this by using underspends in other areas.



### **What's coming next**

We're reshaping the 2026/27 budget to move every possible penny into road maintenance — likely £10m extra for summer repairs.

And we've launched plans for a lane-rental disruption charge:

Companies pay a daily fee for roadworks on key routes Encourages shorter, better-planned works Could raise up to £5m a year for road maintenance.



How you can help

Please report potholes — especially worsening ones — via the official system:



<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes> ([hants.gov.uk](https://www.hants.gov.uk) in Bing)

Accurate locations and photos help enormously.

Finally, huge thanks to all our highways staff, they are doing an amazing job in really terrible conditions (would you want to stand in driving rain all day assessing or fixing potholes?) Please remember that when you come across them.

And thanks to you for your patience, it's a very difficult situation and we are doing our absolute best.

**1758 Date of next meeting**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 6:30pm.

The meeting closed at 7:40pm.