OVING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting Held on Thursday 16 April 2026 at Jubilee Hall, Oving

Present Cllrs D Marston, Chair, B Hunt, A Smith, J Matcham, M Ridell, P Harding

In attendance: Tracy Predeth (Locum Clerk/RFO)

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was made by a Cllr D Marston as a trustee of Jubilee Hall in relation to Agenda Item 8.

No other declarations were received.

3. Requests for Dispensation

No requests for dispensation were received.

4. Public Participation

A representative of Jubilee Hall addressed the Council regarding:

- **Solar Panel Grant Application (Item 8):**
  The Trustees of Jubilee Hall requested that installation proceed as soon as possible to maximise summer energy generation. It was explained that additional panels and battery storage would reduce reliance on gas and improve long-term sustainability.
- **Public Works Loan:**
  The speaker clarified their understanding that the Parish Council had historically taken over for the loan and that no expectation had been placed on the Hall to repay the outstanding balance.
- **Governance and Structure:**
  The relationship between the Parish Council (as custodian trustee) and the Hall management committee (registered charity) was outlined.
- **Succession Planning:**
  Challenges in recruiting trustees were noted, although reassurance was given that the appointment of a Facilities Manager supports operational continuity.

Members asked questions regarding energy storage, future savings, and governance arrangements.

5. Approval of Minutes (19 March 2026)

The minutes of the Council meeting held in the 19 March 2026 were received and it was agreed that they were a true record of the meeting.

Resolved: Minutes approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Highways

The Council received an update on Highways matters from Cllr Smith.

- Community Highways Scheme application progressing.
- Bus shelter project underway with revised specification and cost clarity.
- Potential future need to budget for speed reduction measures.
- TRO for Colworth Lane speed reduction under consideration – members agreed to await further clarity from WSCC before proceeding.
- HGV signage and Highfield Lane barriers progressing; alternative contractors to be explored.
- Concerns raised regarding pedestrian safety at Shopwyke crossings.

Actions:

- Clerk/Cllr to follow up on TRO timing with WSCC.
- Contractor contacts to be shared.
- Crossing concerns to be explored further.

7. Financial Matters

Members received and agreed the Schedule of payments and receipts.

Members received and considered the Budget monitoring and agreed for the Chair to sign the bank reconciliation.

The Clerk commented that the new Scribe accounting system is functioning well.

Resolved:

- Payments approved.
- Bank reconciliation agreed.

8. Grant Requests

Jubilee Hall Solar Panels and Battery Storage

Members considered the deferred proposal, including whether grant funding should be conditional on repayment of the historic Public Works Loan.

Motion: That Jubilee Hall be required to take on responsibility for the outstanding loan.

- **Vote:** Not carried.

Resolved:

- Jubilee Hall **not required** to repay the loan.
- Grant of **£23,000** approved from Solar Farm funding for installation of additional solar panels and battery storage.

Oving Scarecrow Day

A request for financial support was considered.
Further information on previous contributions and requirements was requested.

Resolved: To Grant £500.

9. Policies

Members considered the following Policy Documents.

Co-option Policy

Considered but deferred due to document/version clarification.

FOI & Publication Scheme

Minor amendments required regarding ICO registration details and clarity of council identification.

Resolved: Approved subject to amendments.

Complaints Procedure

Considered.
Resolved: Adopted.

10. Co-option

The Council considered an application for co-option from Mr P Harding.

The candidate provided a summary of their community involvement, including:

- Establishment of Speedwatch
- Work on defibrillator provision
- Community safety initiatives

Following questions and discussion:

Resolved: Mr Harding be co-opted to the Council.

Cllr J Matcham took no part in the vote.

Mr Harding signed his Declaration of Office and joined the table but took no part in any votes.

11. School Bus Transport

An update was awaited regarding feasibility and costs of part-financing a school bus.

Resolved: Deferred to next meeting.

12. Motions

Parish Communication Strategy

A draft strategy was presented by Cllr B Hunt

Members agreed the document required further review due to its scale and implications (including website ownership, communications approach, and potential resourcing).

Resolved: Deferred for detailed consideration at next meeting.

Oving Parish Devolution / Future Planning

Initial discussion held regarding:

- Growth of Shopwyke
- Need for improved engagement and communication
- Potential future Community Governance Review (CGR)

Resolved: To be considered alongside communication strategy.

Jubilee Hall Succession Planning

Discussed during earlier agenda item.
Members noted need for:

- Ongoing dialogue with trustees
- Greater clarity on future governance arrangements

Action: Clerk to explore options for periodic liaison meetings.

Outstanding Policies / Governance

Noted that several governance documents remain in progress.

13. Meeting Dates

Proposal to move to bi-monthly meetings was considered.

Resolved: It was agreed to defer this matter until the Council is more stabilised.

14. Community Consultation

Initial discussion held regarding parish-wide consultation.

Resolved: To be progressed and developed alongside communications strategy.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is 21 May 2026.