Oving Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 25 June 2026 at 6.45pm at Jubilee Hall, Oving

Present

Cllrs Duncan Marstan (Chairman), Cllrs M Mcphail, A Smith, P Harding and B Hunt

Remote attendance: Tracy Predeth, Locum Parish Clerk

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Riddell and J Matcham which were accepted by Council.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Requests for Dispensation

No requests for dispensation were received.

4. Public Participation

Cllr Chichester District Council introduced himself and provided an update on his recent appointments and committee roles. Members received an update on current County and District matters, including local government reorganisation, highways issues and transport initiatives. No decisions were taken.

5. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 May 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Resolved: That the minutes of 12 May 2026 be approved.

6. Highways

Members received updates on ongoing highways matters.

The Council noted that the temporary 20mph speed restriction on Colworth Lane remains in place following winter damage to the road. Repairs are expected to take considerable time due to County Council programming.

Members also received an update regarding the Community Highway Scheme to reduce speed limits through parts of the parish. It was noted that the application remains under consideration by West Sussex County Council and that the process is likely to take many months before any decision is reached.

The Clerk was asked to continue monitoring progress on outstanding highways matters.

7. Speedwatch

Members received an update on the Community Speedwatch initiative.

The Speed Indicator Device continues to record excessive vehicle speeds, with one recent reading exceeding 60mph. Members noted that additional volunteers are required to enable more regular Speedwatch sessions.

It was agreed that an appeal for volunteers should be included within the next parish newsletter.

8. Financial Matters

Schedule of Payments and Receipts

Members considered the schedule of payments and receipts.

Resolved: That the schedule of payments and receipts be approved.

Budget Monitoring

The budget monitoring report was considered.

Members queried several budget headings and requested clarification regarding allocations for the community garden and other expenditure lines. The Clerk/RFO will review the coding and report back where necessary.

The Council also received an update from the Youth Club. Members heard that attendance remains high and discussed whether future grant payments should continue quarterly or revert to an annual payment. No decision was made at this meeting.

Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation was received and noted.

Members discussed the Council's CIL balances and the importance of identifying suitable projects before funding deadlines expire.

The Clerk agreed to continue progressing the establishment of an additional investment account with CCLA.

Members also discussed the remaining Public Works Loan Board loan and requested a detailed report on the financial implications of repaying the outstanding balance early.

Resolved:

- That the bank reconciliation be approved.
- That a report on early repayment of the PWLB loan be presented to the next meeting.
- That the Clerk continue progressing the CCLA investment arrangements.

9. Civility and Respect Pledge

Members considered adopting the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge.

The Clerk explained that adoption supports the Council's commitment to respectful working relationships and forms part of the Local Council Award Scheme requirements.

Resolved: That Oving Parish Council adopts the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge.

10. Grant Requests

The Council considered three grant enquiries.

Chichester District Foodbank

Members supported the principle of considering the request but agreed that further information should be obtained. The Council also recognised the need to adopt a formal grants policy before determining future applications.

CARE (Shopwyke Pathways Project)

Members requested additional information regarding the project, including how local residents would benefit, before determining the application.

Jubilee Hall 25th Anniversary

Members welcomed the proposal to celebrate the Hall's 25th anniversary but felt the suggested event should have a stronger community focus rather than being primarily for invited guests.

It was suggested that consideration be given to a wider community open day showcasing the Hall, its users and local organisations.

Resolved:

- That the Clerk prepares a Grants Policy for consideration at the next meeting.
- That further information be requested from the Foodbank and CARE before determining the applications.
- That comments be provided to Jubilee Hall Trustees encouraging a more community-focused celebration before any funding decision is made.

11. Insurance Renewal

Members considered the annual insurance renewal.

The Clerk confirmed the Council remains within a three-year long-term agreement which continues to provide good value.

Resolved: That the Council renews its insurance in accordance with the existing long-term agreement.

12. School Bus Transport

Members received an update regarding proposals to part-fund a school bus service to Chichester Free School in order to reduce morning traffic congestion within the parish.

Further information regarding costs, possible funding arrangements and operational requirements is still being obtained.

Resolved: That consideration be deferred until further information is available.

13. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **23 July 2026**.

The Clerk was also asked to prepare a programme of meeting dates for the next six to twelve months to assist with hall bookings.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed at approximately 9.00 pm.