



Parish Council

**Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7.30pm in Awbridge Village Hall**

Present:

Cllr Kelly Seymour (KS)
Cllr Janet Whiteley (JW)
Cllr Tony Byrne (TB)
Cllr Nick Adams-King
Cllr Gordon Piper (GP)
Cllr Grahame Jackson (GJ)
Cllr Peter Allen (PA)
Cllr Christopher Wheeler (CW)

Apologies:

In attendance:

Tracy Sansome (Clerk)

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. Welcome

Chairman Cllr Kelly Seymour welcomed all and thanked those for attending.

2. Apologies

None to record

3. Declarations of Interest

None noted.

4. Public Observations/questions on Agenda Items

None recorded.

Report from Councillor Nick Adams-King to the Parish Council

Nursery Provision – Awbridge and Wellow Schools

Hampshire County Council indicates that there will be no county support at the present time for nursery applications at Awbridge and Wellow schools. This decision is based primarily on the rural location of the schools and concerns around affordability and transport, particularly the cost and practicality of accessing alternative nursery provision further afield.

The impact of this decision, especially for families without access to private transport, has been recognised. Meetings are planned with relevant officers and stakeholders to discuss these issues further and to explore any potential mitigations or alternative approaches.

Gritting Routes and Winter Service

Cllr Adams-King offered an apology regarding recent gritting arrangements, as some routes have changed and this has understandably caused concern. Due to a combination of staff shortages and the challenging weather conditions, a number of roads were not gritted to a satisfactory standard.

There is now an agreement in place to review gritting routes, with a particular focus on rural roads, and to ensure these are treated as a higher priority going forward.

Flooding and Drainage Issues

Several flooding issues have been brought to attention, including concerns regarding drains covered by gravel, such as by Hansards. These matters have been raised with the relevant teams, and follow-up action is expected to ensure drainage systems are functioning as intended.

Village Signage and Traffic Management

With regard to signage within and around the village, proposals are being developed to review and improve signage, particularly in connection with Southern Water works. The intention is to help mitigate and reduce heavy traffic passing unnecessarily through Awbridge, improving safety and reducing disruption for residents.

Elections and Devolution

Hampshire County Council's position is that local elections should not be postponed in May 2026. HCC will be pressing central government to ensure that elections proceed as planned in Hampshire, despite the fact that devolution is expected to go ahead in 2028.

Budget Position and Council Tax

While the County Council has identified £136 million in savings, these have been offset by significant and continuing increases in costs, particularly in adult social care and SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) education support. As a result, it is expected that council tax may need to rise by approximately 5% to help manage these pressures.

5. Clerk Report and Correspondence

Acknowledged

The final amended list of meeting dates for 2026 were agreed and will be posted on boards and on the website by the clerk.

6. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting of 27th November and minutes from the planning meeting of 8th December 2025 were agreed. These were signed by Cllr K Seymour as final and correct. Proposed by Cllr G Piper and seconded by Cllr G Jackson. **RESOLVED**

7. Governance

7.1 Assertion 10 training (for AGAR) was delivered by the clerk. All four areas for compliance were explained and discussed. These are Council owned domain names and email addresses, Website accessibility, IT Policies and GDPR practices.

There was some discussion around accessing the IONOS platform for dedicated PC email addresses, however the clerk will support this going forward. All seven councillors and the clerk have dedicated Awbridge PC email address.

7.2 Draft Budget

This was shared and amended on three lines. The clerk updated the budget sheet to reflect this. The Councillors agreed to option 2 provided by the clerk and apply for a precept of £15000. Our budget shows we could apply for a higher amount but given the reserves the Parish Council hold and prudent budgeting – it was agreed by majority vote to apply for the lower amount which equates to around £ per property. **RESOLVED**

7.3 Grants Policy

The new policy was accepted and agreed. Proposed by Cllr G Piper and seconded by Cllr G Jackson. Clerk to update the website.

8. Financial and Administrative

8.1 Invoices were agreed for payment. Proposed by Cllr G Piper and seconded by Cllr J Whiteley. **RESOLVED**

8.2 Bank reconciliation to bank statements were agreed and signed by Cllr T Byrne.

9. Lengthsman

It was agreed that Cllr K Seymour would complete the monthly requisition sheet and send to the co-ordinator. Outstanding work to be completed. **RESOLVED**

10. Grant Allocations

The Parish Council is awaiting invoices from the Village Hall in order to transfer the first of grant payments.

11. Maintenance

It has been suggested that a QR Code plaque be part of the works which would allow visitors to scan and look up the history of the War Memorial. Cllr C Wheeler has this work in hand and it was agreed to reimburse him £60 which will come from the residue of the ADVA donated funds to the PC. Payment to be listed on the next meeting's financials.

RESOLVED

Cllr G Piper presented quotes from Orchards Groundcare for regular grass cutting around Saunders Lane/Romsey Road. One off payment of £168 and monthly care for £136 month. This was discussed alongside the quote from Maine Garden Services. It was agreed to proceed with Orchard Groundcare. Cllr Piper to arrange this. **RESOLVED**

At 9.30pm Chairman K Seymour paused the meeting to ask if all would be happy for an extension to 10pm as time was becoming short. All agreed. Cllr J Whiteley gave her apologies left at the meeting at 9.40pm.

12. Planning

**12.1 APPLICATION
NUMBER:
PROPOSAL:**

25/02849/FULLS

Demolition of bungalow and erection of 6-Bedroom dwelling including, change of use of land to garden, associated landscaping and adjustment of existing access and formation of new access

SITE:

Oaklands, Danes Road/Church Lane, Awbridge, Romsey

The PC would like to highlight a serious concern regarding the access point to this proposed building. Whilst we do not object in principle, the access point to Church Lane is considered potentially dangerous and ill-advised. We would ask that this be noted with regard to closing off this access to ensure safety at this point.

Clerk to respond to application as above.

RESOLVED

**12.2 APPLICATION NO:
PROPOSAL:
LOCATION:**

26/03069/TPOS

T1 - Oak - Fell (TPO.24.TVS.2)

Awbridge Lodge, Danes Road, Awbridge, AWBRIDGE

The PC are happy to accept the recommendations of specialist tree surgeons and are guided by this professional expertise.

Clerk to respond to application as above.

RESOLVED

13. Speed Signs

The clerk updated the meeting with the support of Cllr Nick Adams-King who advised that he has requested a meeting with traffic management in order to clearly identify that the PC are requesting permanent posts and not relocatable ones as this is not practical for the local contractor that moves the signs around. We then hope that we can move forward with the project.

Closure of Meeting : 10pm

Date of next full council meeting is Thursday 19th February 2026

**Tracy Sansome
Clerk/RFO**

Signed Chairman Date

