Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on

Thursday 3rd September 2026 at 6.30pm in Awbridge Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Gordon Piper (GP)
Cllr J Whiteley (JW)
Cllr Tony Byrne (TB)
Cllr Grahame Jackson (GJ)
Cllr Christopher Wheeler (CW)
Cllr Kelly Seymour (KS)

Apologies:

None

In attendance:

Tracy Sansome (Clerk), 9 Members of the Public, Cllr Nick Adams-King, prospective candidate for councillor vacancy Charlotte Wheatsone.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Welcome

Vice-Chairman Cllr Gordon Piper thanked those for attending.

1. **Apologies**
   None recorded. It was noted that Chairman K Seymour and Cllr N Adams-King would be arriving shortly.

2. **Declarations of Interest**
   Cllr K Seymour declared that she has a personal interest in item 11.2 as she rents the field. Cllr C Wheeler also declared a personal interest in item 11.2 as he is related to the owner of the field.

3. **Governance – Councillor Vacancies**
   Cllr Gordon Piper introduced candidate Charlotte Wheatstone. It was noted that the second candidate due to the meeting has pulled out. C. Wheatstone was invited to share why she feels she could be a suitable candidate as a councillor for Awbridge. She explained her connections, interest in community affairs and voluntary roles she has undertaken. She has also been part of the Neighbourhood Planning group for Awbridge for the last few years and feels she has good local knowledge and understanding of Awbridge as a community.
   The clerk explained the role and support available to take up the position.

Co-option vote was undertaken.
It was agreed by all that C Wheatstone would be co-opted as a parish councillor with immediate effect. **RESOLVED**
A declaration of Office was duly signed and witnessed by the clerk.
DPI's and other materials will be emailed at a later date.
Cllr Kelly Seymour arrived at 6.50pm.

It was agreed to delay Item 4 until arrival of Cllr N Adams-King

5. Clerk Report and Correspondence

Acknowledged.
It was agreed that both the clerk and Chairman K Seymour would undertake a training course on making 'Effective Planning Representations' ONLINE NOV 2nd 2026 18:30-21:00 Clerk to book this. **RESOLVED**
Map of Defibrillators – it has been noted that two of the defibs (Church and School) are not registered with the Ambulance service. Clerk to ask both parties to register the defibs. Clerk will also put this map and info into the next newsletter.
External Audit has been passed. Details to be on agenda next month.
Cllr C Wheeler gave an update on his meeting with Sports Officer. This is an ongoing initiative that will help support the development of sport and activities in the village.
Cllr N Adams-King arrived at 7.20pm.

4. Public Observations and questions on the agenda items.

4.1 Resident from Fairhaven has expressed that there are issues with the fact that her property Fairhaven is being misunderstood as being part of the land mentioned in item 11.2 planning. Other neighbours expressed their concern at potential new building applications on this site being entirely unsuitable for the village. N Adams-King advised residents to object individually to planning department.

Chairman Kelly Seymour reiterated that we can only discuss items on agenda.

4.2 Cllr Nick Adams-King gave a short report:
Planning and Development

- Planning is a major challenge due to increased housing targets by government, with an **80% increase** in required housing in Test Valley.
- Local plan updates are delayed due to landowner withdrawals and government policy changes.
- Parish council is not the decision-maker but plays a role in objecting and commenting on planning applications.
- Emphasis on using the **Neighbourhood Development Plan** to influence planning decisions and object to inappropriate developments.
- Concerns about specific planning applications, including issues with drainage, access, and impact on local amenities.

It as agreed to move to item 9 as Cllr Nick Adams-King would be an advisory.

9. **Traffic Limitations** – request for application to reduce speed limit in the village to 20mph. The formal process for this is complicated and expensive as well as taking a disportunate amount of time. There is also some criteria the village may not meet.
Cllr Adams-King suggested that the use of speed awareness signs being planned for the village are likely to be effective in bringing down speeds in locality. Other areas have shown a reduction with the use of this equipment. Therefore, it would be prudent to wait and note the impact of these once the work has been completed. The use of traffic surveys by HCC may be useful. It was agreed that the clerk would investigate costings for survey and the PC will continue the plans for 4 speed awareness signs. **RESOLVED.**

6. **Minutes**
The minutes from the meeting of 23rd July 2026 were agreed by all and accepted as a true record of business conducted. These were signed by Cllr K Seymour as final. **RESOLVED**

7. **Financial and Administrative**
7.1 Invoices were agreed for payment. Proposed by Cllr C Wheeler and seconded by Cllr T Bryne **RESOLVED**
7.2 Bank reconciliation to bank statements were agreed and signed by Cllr T Byrne.
7.3 Monthly budget report was noted. No comments.

8. **Lengthsman**
Cllr K Seymour continues to liaise with the co-ordinator. An update is expected soon. It would appear that the signs are still outstanding for cleaning. Clerk to contact Stockbridge Clerk about the schedule of works.

10. **Maintenance**
We are awaiting the quote for the refurbishment of the main notice board.

11. **Planning**
11.1

APPLICATION NUMBER:	26/01661/FULLS
PROPOSAL:	Erection of single storey side and rear extensions, porch a addition of window
SITE:	The Cottage, Danes Road, Awbridge, Romsey

It was agreed NO OBJECTION. RESOLVED

11.2

APPLICATION NUMBER:	26/01873/PIPS
PROPOSAL:	Application for permission in principle for the construction of 4-6 No. residential dwellings
SITE:	Land To The Rear Of Fairhaven, Danes Road, Awbridge, Romsey

It was agreed to OBJECT based on

1.Non-compliance with Emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan:
2. Preservation of Green Spaces:
3. Backland Development Concerns:
4. Unsafe Access Along Danes Road:
5. Objections from Neighbouring Properties:
6. Storm and Flood Risks:
7. Overdevelopment concerns on village
RESOLVED

12. NDP
Cllr Gordon Piper gave an update. The NDP group and PC are delighted to see that a referendum will be held on 12th November 2026 which is the last stage of the emerging plan. It is hoped that the plan will then be officially recognised as this will carry weight at planning discussions and outcomes.

Resignation of Councillor
Cllr Grahame Jackson announced his resignation from Awbridge Parish Council.
The PC accepted this and thanked Grahame for all his hard work, input, time and experience that he has offered the PC over the years. We wish him well.

We now have a vacancy for a councillor which we hope we can fill in due course.

Closure of Meeting : 8.45pm
Date of next full council meeting is 22nd October 2026

Tracy Sansome
Clerk/RFO

Signed Chairman …… Date ……..