

## ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting held Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026, at 7.15 pm at the village hall

Present: Councillors Jolly, Kelly, Levell and Pope

In attendance: Mrs J Pettitt (clerk) and 4 members of the public

*The Chair opened the meeting 7.30pm*

**1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

None.

**2. To receive declarations of interest.**

a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests

c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

No declarations or requests for dispensation received.

**3. To confirm the minutes of the Albury Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026.**

**Resolved**, that these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Unanimously agreed.

**4. To receive reports on actions agreed at the last council meeting**

**Action:** Cllr Kelly to contact someone to make the fence (see point 14)

**Action:** Clerk to get quotes for the renovation and painting and liaise with a resident regarding the making the lettering (see point 14)

**Action:** Councillor Pope to speak to Highways about the overgrowth of trees and hedges along the verges of the access road to Patmore Heath (see point 15)

**Action:** Clerk to find out why footpath 9 has not been cut (see point 16)

**5. To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public**

A resident asked if it would be possible to have EV chargers at the village hall. **Action:** The clerk is going to look at available funding for this. A resident asked if he could change his rear garden fence to a solar fence. It backs on to the allotments. **Action:** The councillors agreed to consider this and provide an answer at the next meeting.

A resident raised the issue of the old broken fence along the footpath behind the village hall. Children place it in the river. It floats to the culvert in heavy rain and could cause blockages.

**Action:** The clerk agreed to contact the Access Project Officer to find out if a new fence should be put in place and the old one removed.

**6. To consider planning applications received by 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**APPLICATION:** 3/26/0131/HH and LBC **PROPOSAL:** Single storey side & rear extension following removal of conservatory, alterations to fenestration and rebuilding of external wall entry, rear terrace extension with steps and internal alterations **AT:** Gravesend Farm Gravesend Albury. **No comment.**

**7. To receive bank statements, bank reconciliation and financial summary**

These were received by the Council and found to be satisfactory.

**Balance at 13/01/26**

**£11,776.41**

Outgoings: 19/01/26 Lloyds Bank service charges

£4.25

23/01/26 Mrs J Pettitt clerk's salary

£422.62

13/01/26 HMRC Employee NICS

£50.04

Income: 13/01/26 Money from Albury Santa

£1350.07

**Balance at 10/2/26**

**£12,649.57**

**8. To agree payments due.** None

**9. To receive the clerk's report (for information only).** None.

**10. To hear from anyone interested in filling our parish councillor vacancy and co-opt if appropriate**

Allan Chapman who also attended last month's meeting expressed an interest in joining.

**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Kelly, seconded Cllr Pope, that Allan Chapman should be co-opted on to the parish council. Unanimously agreed.  
Acceptance of office papers were signed.

**11. To discuss the proposed closure of Albury Primary School and any further actions to take**  
On 30<sup>th</sup> January, Herts County Council's Education, SEND & Inclusion Cabinet Panel voted to recommend that Albury Primary School be put forward for closure. The voting was split 6 for and 6 against so the chair used his casting vote to support closure. This means the school will be put forward for closure at the next full cabinet meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February. Parish councillors, residents, parents and children, Chris Hinchliff MP and his team will be staging a protest against the closure at HCC's offices in Stevenage from 9am.

**12. To provide an update of Openreach's progress with installing faster fibre to all premises in Albury**

Openreach have been delayed by HCC Highways as they need road closure permissions at Clapgate and Patmore Heath. They are going to schedule the works out of hours. **Action:** the clerk and Mark Pope will follow up with Openreach and HCC.

**13. To discuss the progress of creating the information board**

Information and photos are being grouped and will be forwarded to Alex Jolly to organise as soon as possible.

**14. To discuss the progress of repairing the Patmore Heath finger post and renovating the one at Clapgate**

The contractor who quoted for the renovations previously is waiting for the weather to improve before starting.

A resident has 3-D printed the lettering for the Patmore Heath sign and may be able to make the finger. The PC will cover all costs. Before installation, the hedge will have to be cut back more. Councillor Kelly agreed to organise this when the finger is ready.

**15. To discuss the issue of the overgrown hedges and trees along the access road to Patmore Heath**

Highways wrote to all residents who own the verges along the access road and asked them to cut back the overgrowth. They missed out the Catherine Wheel but they have already cut back along the length of their boundary. Another property has made a start.

The parish councillors agreed the parish council should send a reminder to other residents to cut back their sections. **Action:** The clerk will write a letter to circulate to the councillors for approval before sending it to the relevant residents.

**16. To discuss any footpath issues in the footpath report**

Footpath 9 - The clerk has been informed that the non-mowing of footpath 9 has been reported many times. She has followed this up with the Access Project Officer at HCC and is waiting for a response. The farmer has erected a no right of way sign along a section of his track that the public are having to use as the footpath is no longer accessible. **Action:** Clerk to inform the Access Project Officer of this sign.

**17. To discuss any crime reports received.** None.

**18. To suggest agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting to be held Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.15 pm at the Village Hall**

Information board progress, locality budget grant, Stansted Airport Community fund grant, defibrillator fundraising, quotes for new signs at the village hall, Highways issues, solar panel grant for village hall, plans for precept spending, high interest account for reserve funds.

*The Chair closed the meeting at 8.50pm*

Signed.....

Date.....