

ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting held Tuesday 10th March 2026, at 7.15 pm at the village hall

Present: Councillors Chapman, Kelly, Klimowicz, Levell and Pope

In attendance: Mrs J Pettitt (clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting 7.20pm

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Councillor Jolly sent apologies.

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 10th February 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: The clerk followed up with Openreach regarding road closure issues holding up FFTTP installations, and they have found a workaround

Action: Letters were sent to residents regarding overgrown hedges (see point 15)

Action: The clerk informed the Access Project Officer about issues with footpath 9 (see point 23)

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

None.

6. To consider planning applications received by 10th February 2026

3/26/0131/LBC and 3/26/0130/HH at Gravesend Farm, 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 10/2/26 **£12,649.57**

Outgoings: 11/02/26 J Pettitt for Land Registry plans £14.00

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17/02/26 Lloyds Bank service charges £4.25

23/02/26 Mrs J Pettitt clerk's salary £422.82

02/03/26 J Pettitt printer paper and ink £46.97

Income: None

Balance at 10/03/26 **£12,147.53**

8. To agree payments due. None

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

10. To discuss the proposed closure of Albury Primary School and any further actions to take

A final consultation on the proposed closure will run until 24th March 2026. Residents can object here <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/75HU0M/>

The parish council is also making Freedom of Information requests to HCC and sending in further letters.

A final decision will be made at the HCC cabinet meeting of 22nd April.

11. To discuss how to spend precept money over the next financial year

Some of the precept will be used for essential maintenance including replacing the cracked glass on the Itch Lane noticeboard, refurbishing finger posts, strimming the allotments and various verges, mowing at the village hall and play area. Approximately £6,000 will be kept in reserves for emergencies.

12. To discuss litter picking in the village and how this should be managed going forward

Our current litter picker is stopping on 31st March. As it feels too dangerous to pick up litter along the 60mph roads, a quote was sought from a litter picking company. They quoted £1400 per visit which would cover all roads and side turnings, and recommended 6 visits a year amounting to £8,400. There are far better ways to spend this amount. Other villages have volunteer litter pickers so the clerk is going to look at the liabilities of this. In the meantime, the parish council asks residents who see litter to please pick it up if it is safe to do so.

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

Information and photos need to be collated. The clerk will do this during the next month.

14. To discuss the progress of repairing the Patmore Heath finger post

Councillor Chapman is making a new finger to attach lettering he has already made to.

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

Letters were delivered to residents along the accessway on 19th February. One resident has queried the fact that it's a conservation area and has been asked to discuss this with Herts County Council. Another resident has contacted Land Registry to confirm exact boundaries and ownership of trees. **Action:** The clerk is to get a quote for the hedge cutting but not the tree works necessary.

16. To discuss reasons to apply for a locality budget grant and Stansted Airport Community Fund grant

Ideas put forward so far are solar panels at the village hall and turning unused allotments in to orchards.

17. To discuss play area equipment to buy with Albury Santa donations of £3,660.77

One idea is to replace all swing seats and include an all-ability swing seat. Another idea is to install a sandpit. **Action:** the clerk will get quotes for these.

18. To discuss progress of buying equipment storage and new benches for the village hall using the £1,000 grant received from the locality budget

This money is to be used for benches and equipment storage. **Action:** the clerk will get quotes for these.

19. To discuss the benefits of installing solar panels at the village hall

This seems to be a good idea to raise funds as excess energy can be sold back to the grid. **Action:** the clerk will see if a grant from the Stansted Airport Community Funds would cover the cost.

20. To discuss the pros and cons of installing EV chargers at the village hall

Investigations and experiences of other village halls showed these can be quite a liability, with maintenance costs and the possibility of being an expense to the parish council if not used enough. It was decided not to install any for the time being.

21. To discuss new signage for the village hall

Action: The clerk will measure up and ask local companies for quotes.

22. To discuss any footpath issues in the footpath report

The footpath officer is following up with the land owner where footpath 9 is blocked. We have had several complaints that Footpath 32 (also known as Itch Lane) has been damaged by builders. **Action:** the clerk will raise a fault report for footpath 32 with Herts County Council and inform the footpath officer.

23. To discuss any crime reports received. None.

24. To suggest agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting to be held Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7.15 pm at the Village Hall

Locality budget grant application, Stansted Airport Community Fund grant application,
Signage at village hall, fingerposts, Patmore Heath access road, litter picking, sandpit and
swings, village hall benches and storage, precept spending. footpath issues, crime reports

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.10 pm

Signed.....

Date.....