

ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 7.15 pm at the Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs J Pettitt (clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.20pm

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence.

An apology from Councillor Klimowicz was received and accepted

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 Annual Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2026

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

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

The clerk renewed the insurance policy. Hirers' liability cannot be removed but street furniture cover has been added

Councillor Kelly submitted an expression of interest to the UK Government's Local Power Plan for solar panels at the village hall.

The clerk ordered replacement fly tipping signs

The clerk raised another fault report regarding the low tree branches along the Patmore Heath access road.

Councillor Kelly found a suitable option for a new flowerbed under the village sign

Councillor Levell plotted areas for maintenance on a map

The clerk followed up on the footpath 32 fault report

5. To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public. None.

6. To consider planning applications

APPLICATION: 3/26/0656/VAR. PROPOSAL: Variation of Conditions 4 (approved plans), 5, 6 and 11 (highways access) pursuant to planning permission (ref: 3/25/1068/VAR/Dated 28/10/2025) for (Variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) pursuant to planning permission 3/23/2340/FUL for Demolition of existing bungalow; erection of two detached, five bedroom dwellings with garages, carparking and landscaping; installation of solar roof panels; chimneys and external BBQ area for Plot 1: The amendments include repositioning of the dwellings and garages, alterations to external hardstanding areas and associated landscaping works and alteration to access point. AT: Christys, Albury End, Albury. **No comment**

APPLICATION: 3/26/0526/HH. PROPOSAL: Demolition of shed and construction of detached outbuilding AT: Blockmoor Cottage, Clapgate 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 12/05/26

£18,008.93

Outgoings: 13/05/26 J Pettitt (St Elizabeth's Donation)	£50.00
13/05/26 HAGS-SMP Ltd (new swing seats)	£2,205.86
13/05/26 A Chapman (Finger post wood)	£42.00
18/05/26 Krystal Hosting (domain hosting)	£84.00
20/05/26 Lloyds service charges	£4.25
20/05/26 HAPTC (councillor training)	£17.00
26/05/26 J Skidmore Agricultural (hedge flaying)	£480.00
26/05/26 J Pettitt, salary	£439.62

01/06/26 Community First Insurance	£276.26
02/06/26 J Pettitt (No fly tipping signs)	£43.96
04/06/26 Z Kelly (New planter, soil and plants)	£211.52
08/05/26 E-scapes (May mowing)	£200.00
Income: 08/05/26 Albury Village Hall, mowing contribution	£100.00
Balance at bank 09/06/26	£14,054.46
To be held in reserve:	£6,000.00
Available balance:	£8,054.46

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

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

10. To discuss ideas for the National Grid grant for local community projects

Ideas discussed include refurbishment of the village hall accessible toilet, refurbishment of the village hall ladies and gents toilets, a community orchard on vacant allotments and village fete. We could also apply for support for the Albury Newsletter so need some input from the editor. The Dole Field Trustees could also apply for any projects necessary there.

11. To discuss Herts County Council's decision to close Albury Primary School

The school will be closing at the end of this school year despite overwhelming local support. Thank you to everyone involved with the Save Our School campaign. The school leadership team and local diocese representatives did not endorse or support the local campaign. The school's Parent Teachers Association has funds in their account which are due to be made available to spend on educational facilities in the village.

12. To discuss any progress with the UK Government's Local Power Plan funding solar panels at the village hall

Councillor Kelly expressed an interest on 28th May 2026, and we are awaiting a response. Chris Hinchliff MP is happy to support this project.

13. To discuss the quote for tree and hedge works at the village hall and play area

Our regular arborist quoted as follows: Section of hedge cut back to fence line, 4 Maples crown raised and crown reduced and shaped, Oak Tree limbs over benches reduced and merged into upper crown with dead wood removed, Overhanging Field Maple located in car park reduced £1260 +VAT. We have applied for £1000 from the Locality budget. £480 of this will cover the Patmore Heath hedge works, leaving £520. The village hall will donate the remaining £740.

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded by Cllr Pope to accept the quote and contribute £520 with the village hall donating £740. Unanimously agreed.

Action: The clerk will contact the arborist to arrange the works.

14. To discuss the progress of renovating the railings at Itch Lane and the fingerpost at Clapgate

The contractor is hoping to begin the fingerpost renovation this month. He will paint the railings once local building work is completed.

15. To discuss any quotes received for village litter picking

Prior to seeking quotes, Councillor Kelly researched litter picking contracts and costs.

Health and safety aspects mean a fully insured contractor should be used. Historically, we have paid for 5 hours per month of litter picking and will now seek quotes for this number of hours.

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

Work is ongoing.

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

The post is rotten so Councillor Chapman is going to repair it before installing the new finger.

18. To receive an update on the installation and new swing seats

The Albury Santa team are to set a date to carry out the installation. **Action:** Councillor Kelly to ask when they can do this.

19. To discuss the replacement of the planter under Albury village sign

Councillor Kelly removed the old sleepers, added a corten steel ring, new soil and plants. The total cost was £211.52.

20. To review and prioritise a list of areas in village for maintenance, clearance and renovation

We need to establish ownership of certain areas of land that are in need of attention.

Action: the clerk will find out the price of land registry searches to establish land ownership.

Action: Councillor Kelly will refine the list and see if there are any grants available for necessary works.

21. To discuss the progress of new signage for the village hall

Work is ongoing.

22. To discuss any footpath issues in the footpath report

The clerk has emailed Right of Way twice but is getting no response. **Action:** Councillor Pope will follow up.

It has been noted that many rights of way are overgrown. As reporting these doesn't seem to work anymore, we will ask our pathway volunteer for help.

23. To discuss any crime reports received

None.

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

Areas requiring maintenance, footpath 32, village hall signs, the Patmore Heath fingerpost, painting of Itch Lane railings, painting of Clapgate fingerpost, National Grid funding projects, UK gov power plan application, tree and hedge works at the village hall, litter picking, low tree boughs over Patmore Heath access road, swing seat installation, village fayre, 20 MPH limits

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm

Signed.....

Date.....