

ALBURY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of a meeting held on 11th March 2025, 7.15 pm at the Village Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs J Pettitt (clerk) and 3 members of the public

The chair opened the meeting at 7.20pm

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence.** No word from Councillor Jolly.
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 11th February 2025**

Resolved, proposed Cllr Kelly seconded Cllr Murdoch that these minutes are a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Unanimously agreed.
4. **To receive reports on actions agreed at the last council meeting**

Action: a quote for signage from Amazon amounted to £113.07 so was purchased and installed
Action: a quote for gate at the village hall cat park is in progress
5. **To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public**

A member of the public asked if he could volunteer as a litter picker in the village as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. The parish councillors were happy for him to do this as long as he only does it in safe areas away from roads.
A member of the public asked if it is permitted for residents at Patmore Heath to place objects along the boundary of the common land adjacent to the highway. The councillors agreed to investigate the legality of this.
6. **To consider planning applications received by 11th March 2025.**

None received.
7. **To receive statements, bank reconciliation and financial summary**

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

Balance at 11/2/2025	£11,568.23
Payments: 24/2/2025 J Pettitt February pay	£425.97
27/2/2025 EHC Election 2024 charges	£54.15
4/3/2025 J Pettitt for parking signs	£113.07
Receipts: None	
Available balance at 11/3/2025	£10,975.04
8. **To agree payments due.** None
9. **To receive the clerk's report (for information only).** None.
10. **To receive an update of the traffic and speeding meeting**

The committee has created a list of all works that need to be undertaken including replacing faded road markings and missing or damaged signage. They have submitted various fault reports to Herts County Council. The minutes will be circulated and filed.
11. **To receive an update regarding parking signs at Patmore Heath**

Signage has been installed but it has been noted that several people are still ignoring it and parking on SSSI areas. A local farmer has offered to help place large logs on the areas where parking has caused the most damage. The parish council has to have permission from Natural England to do this. **Action:** Councillor Murdoch will contact Natural England to discuss if this is acceptable.

- 12. To discuss concerns that have been raised since trees were felled at Patmore Heath**
 Concerns were raised concerning vehicles driving onto the heath. HMWT manage the heath and organised the tree felling. They explained that it was necessary to drive on to the heath with machinery to complete the tree felling and then to remove the felled trees. They stated the damage caused was minimal and the heath will soon recover. Various people not associated with HMWT came to collect wood and drove on to the heath without permission.
- 13. To discuss the progress of new play area equipment and obtaining monies from Albury Play Space towards the costs**
 Installation begins on 31st March and will take 1 week to complete. After installation, the equipment has to be inspected and passed as safe which can take up to 2 weeks - so until then it will be fenced off for safety reasons.
 As councillor Jolly was not at this meeting, an update of Albury Play Space monies will be given at the next meeting.
- 14. To discuss the progress of the UKSPF grant application for village hall car park improvements**
 The clerk is still waiting for an update from East Herts Council. Once we are offered the grant, the work will be scheduled.
- 15. To discuss the progress of the pétanque court installation**
 The pétanque court installation began today and should be completed within the next few days.
- 16. To discuss possible locations for a defibrillator at Upwick**
 A suitable site is under discussion with the residents. **Action:** the clerk will contact The Community Heatbeat Trust to ask if there is a way to power a defibrillator when there is no mains power available.
- 17. To discuss the progress of updating the village website**
Action: The clerk is investigating how to update the current site with a new theme and the cost of more pdf storage from our website host.
- 18. To discuss installing signs to remind people to pick up after their dogs**
 The councillors agreed it is unacceptable for people to let their dogs on the allotment gardens and signs reminding people to pick up after their dogs might help.
Resolved, proposed Cllr Kelly seconded Cllr Murdoch that some signs up to the value of £50 should be bought and placed around the allotments. Unanimously agreed
Action: the clerk will order signs to place around the allotments.
- 19. To discuss the sources of litter being dropped around the village and ways to prevent this**
 There seems to be a lot of extra litter along the path from the hall to the church and in the village hall car park and park.
 It's been noticed that a lot of prescription medications have been strewn along the road from Albury End all the way to the village hall area.
Action: the clerk will put messages on Facebook asking people not to drop litter and also to beware of these prescription medications.
- 20. To suggest agenda items for the next parish council meeting: 8th April 2025**
 Grant from UKSPF, village hall car park and drainage, Albury Play Space update, play area equipment update, defibrillator for Upwick, new accessible village website, parking on Patmore Heath, traffic/speeding update, fundraising fete at pub this summer

The chair closed the meeting at 9.05pm

Signed.....

Date.....