

THE MINUTES OF THE AGM OF DURLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 5th MAY, 2026 IN THE KEN STAINER SUITE OF DURLEY MEMORIAL HALL, DURLEY AT 7.30 p.m.

Cllr Delmege (Chair), Cllr Watts, Cllr Pitter, Cllr Rappini, Cllr Rutherford, Cllr Gillett and the Clerk (Mrs Anne Collins) were present. County/District Councillor Williams, District Councillor Miller and 1 resident also attended.

1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Election of Chair – Cllr Delmege was proposed by Cllr Pitter and seconded by Cllr Rutherford. Cllr Delmege was duly elected.

Election of Vice Chair – Cllr Watts was proposed by Cllr Rutherford and seconded by Cllr Pitter. Cllr Watts was duly elected.

Election of Hall Management Committee Chair – Cllr Ellen was proposed by Cllr Pitter and seconded by Cllr Delmege. Cllr Ellen was duly elected.

Election of Hall Management Committee Vice Chair – Cllr Pitter was proposed by Cllr Delmege and seconded by Cllr Rappini. Cllr Pitter was duly elected. Cllr Gillett was also proposed to be added to the Hall Management Committee.

Election of Highways Officer – Cllr Rappini was proposed by Cllr Rutherford and seconded by Cllr Gillett. Cllr Rappini was duly elected.

Election of Footpaths Officer – Cllr Rutherford was proposed by Cllr Rappini and seconded by Cllr Delmege. Cllr Rutherford was duly elected.

Election of Recreation Ground Chair – Cllr Watts was proposed by Cllr Delmege and seconded by Cllr Pitter. Cllr Watts was duly elected. Cllr Gillett was also proposed to help Cllr Watts.

Election of Sawmills representative – Cllr Rutherford was proposed by Cllr Pitter and seconded by Cllr Delmege. Cllr Rutherford was duly elected.

Election of Transport representative – Cllr Gillett was proposed by Cllr Pitter and seconded by Cllr Watts. Cllr Gillett was duly elected.

2. Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received from Cllr Ellen and DC Latham.
3. Any Declarations of Interest under the Code of Conduct. There were no Declarations of Interest made. Adoption and signing of Code of Conduct and Declaration of Office and Register of Interest Forms. The revised Code of Conduct will be duly signed by Councillors and returned to the Clerk.
4. The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 14th April, 2026 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.
5. Matters arising:
 - (a) Report on any updates from Southern Water and Danny Chambers regarding Pumping Station and Heathen Street/Stapleford Lane works. Cllr Delmege has been chasing SW for a response to his e-mails, but no response has been received. Danny Chambers MP has asked for any updates, but as we have not received any update there is nothing new to report. Danny will be asked if he can escalate this issue again with HCC Highways and

SW. Letter to residents – as agreed at the last Meeting a letter will now be circulated to all Durley residents asking for flooding information and locations so that we can follow this up. This has been printed and will be delivered in mid-May.

- (b) Progress of Planning Application for Change of Use at The Sawmills. The Clerk reported that an Ecology Study will be carried out.
 - (c) Bus Shelter refurbishment Grant Application. The Clerk reported that this is now being processed. Legal Agreement – The Clerk has signed this so it is hoped that the work on the bus shelters will be started shortly.
 - (d) Noticeboard outside of The Robin Hood repairs. Cllr Pitter said that the Mens Shed at BW have been asked, but we do not know what they want to do.
 - (e) Any matters arising from the Annual Parish Assembly. There were no matters arising from the Annual Parish Assembly.
 - (f) The Clerk has received a response from the Rights of Way Officer and they are going to clear the footpath leading from Manor Road to Durley Street. Councillors agreed that the landowner should be written to asking them to maintain the footpath once it has been cut back.
6. County Councillor's Report – CC Williams reported that there is not much to report at the moment only that HCC might go to Judicial Review after the Elections as they are not happy with the new Unitary Authority HCC will be in.
7. District Councillors' Report – DC Miller, DC Williams, DC Latham. A District Councillors' Report was given by DC Miller and DC Williams. There was nothing new to report at the moment. The Elections will be held on 7th May.
8. Public Participation items by invitation of the Chairman. 1 resident was in attendance to hear a Planning Application later on Agenda.
9. Correspondence:
- (a) E-mail asking for a 20 mph speed limit through Durley. Councillors discussed this and after discussion with our County and District Councillors it was agreed that this would not be a viable solution for Durley Street/Durley Brook Road and it would be a huge cost.
 - (b) E-mail regarding low water pressure in Sciviers Lane/Durley Hall Lane area. It appears that the water pressure in other areas of Durley who have Portsmouth Water are fine so we were not sure why Sciviers Lane and Durley Hall Lane are so low. 8 property owners need to write and complain to Portsmouth Water and then Durley Parish Council will write and also put in a complaint to support those residents. Cllr Pitter will let the Clerk know when there have been 8 complaints made by residents.
 - (c) Street lighting new energy rates. This was noted.
 - (d) E-mail from Tom Gurd, Botley PC regarding Non-Native Invasive Species (Himalayan Balsam) from the river catchment. Councillors agreed that a donation would be made to try and clear this plant from the part of the river which runs through Durley. A donation of £100 was agreed.
10. Recreation Ground Report: Cllr Watts/Cllr Gillett. There was nothing to report. It was reported that a stile appears to have been taken out behind the pavilion, but it was agreed that this is not a problem provided the footpath is still there.

11. Sawmills Report: Cllr Rutherford said that the 2 new swing seats have now been fitted and everything else is fine.
12. Neighbourhood Watch Report: Cllr Watts reported on incidents which have occurred during the month. Doorstep crime is on the rise and there is a new website called Buy with Confidence. This information will be put onto the Parish Council website. The Bishops Waltham Police Station is now open on Thursdays and Fridays from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.
13. Highways Report: Cllr Rappini said that some pot holes in Durley have had white lines put around them so presumably this means that they will soon be repaired, other pot holes have been filled in. Cllr Pitter said that a fridge is still in the side of the road in Durley Hall Lane. This has been there for 3 weeks at least, despite being reported.
14. Financial transactions: Councillors agreed invoices presented by the Clerk and agreed BACS payments. The Clerk said that the majority of the Hall kitchen refurbishment has now been paid for so once the final payment is made the Grant payment will be made. Internal Audit for 2025-26 is completed and satisfactory.
 - (a) Agree for the Chair and the Clerk to sign the Annual Governance Statement for 2025-26 for the External Audit Annual Return. This was agreed and signed by the Chair and Clerk.
 - (b) Agree for the Chair and the Clerk to sign the Accounting Statement for 2025-26 for the External Audit Annual Return. This was agreed and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.
 - (c) Agree and sign Register of Interest Form from External Auditor. Councillors agreed that there were no Declarations of Interest to register, so this was signed by the Chair and the Clerk.
15. Hall: Cllr Pitter – Progress of 3rd section of car park. The Clerk has received a response from our Solicitor, and he is happy to transfer the land. The Clerk will obtain the information required from Mr Reeves to send onto the Solicitor. Hall kitchen refurbishment update – Cllr Pitter reported that the kitchen refurbishment is now complete and it was completed on time ready for the bookings this week. Councillors and Hall hirers were impressed with the new kitchen and the facilities that we can now offer. Thanks were given to Cllr Pitter and the Clerk for all their hard work on compiling the Grant Application and for over-seeing the project. Quote for painting work at Hall – Cllr Ellen was obtaining a quote for the Hall kitchen painting work and the back stage rooms. No quote has been received yet. Report from Hall Management Meeting (22.4.26) – The Meeting mainly compiled of items mentioned above, along with revising the Hall hire charges. Revised Hall Hire Charges from 1.6.26 – it was agreed to raise the Hall Hire charges across the board by a minimal amount as they have not been raised since 2022 and all costs have increased since that date. Cllr Delmege and the Clerk met with the Licensing Officer and discussed revisions to the Hall Licence we have in place. These revisions will be sent to us in due course which we can accept or decline as we wish.

16. Planning:

26/00748/HOU. Mr & Mrs Clarke. Conversion of the existing 1 and a ½ storey garage into a office/gym to include a double roof dormer to the south elevation. Demolition of the existing utility room and erection of a single storey side extension to connect the proposed office/gym to the main property to include 1 roof lantern. An additional single storey rear/side extension and the erection of a detached single storey garage to the south east corner of the site. Mistletoe Downe, Kytes Lane, Durley. Councillors had no comments to make apart from as the glass extension will be right behind the pavilion at Durley Recreation Ground it would be advisable to use reinforced glass as it is so near to the pavilion and Recreation Ground.

O/25/99534. Outline Application for up to 150 dwellings including 40% affordable housing, with vehicle and cycle accesses from Snakemoor Lane, pedestrian/cycle access from Botley Road, sustainable transport hub, public open space and play area, and associated infrastructure and

landscaping (all matters reserved for access). Land at Denhams Corner, Snakemoor Lane, Durley. Councillors agreed that their previous Objection still stands, and a further written Objection will be submitted to the Appeals Officer.

25/00053/COU and APP/L1765/C/26/3378042. Mr Mark Hepburn. Appeal against Enforcement Notice at Cupressus, Durley Brook Road, Durley. Without planning permission, the material change of use of Land to a mixed use of residential and agricultural; together with any operational development associated with the material change of use of the Land. It was agreed that a further Objection will be made as the circumstances have not changed.

17. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10 p.m.