



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 18 MAY 2026 AT 7.30PM

Present: Andrew Marchant
David Oxley
Simon Bagnall
Cllr David House
Amanda Parker
Jan Pledger

Members of the Public: Angela Adamson
Robert Caldwell
Michael Davidson
Gemma Fry
Caroline Hazel
Rod Hart
Kate Oxley
Tony Pledger
Mark Parrott

District/ County Councillor: CC Terry Smith

Police: None Present

Apologies: Councillor Simon Bagnall
PCSO Leon De Bruyn
Jenny and Gus Goymour

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

67.1 Appointment of Chair Person for the ensuing year 2026-27.

Cllr House nominated Andrew Marchant to be Chair for the ensuing year, this was seconded by Cllr Oxley.

67.2 Appointment of Vice Chair for the ensuing year 2026-27.

Cllr Oxley was nominated by the Chair/Cllr Marchant and seconded by Cllr Parker.

67.3 Apologies received: PCSO Leon De Bruyn, Councillor Simon Bagnall, Jenny and Gus Goymour.

67.4 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : None raised.

67.5 County / District Councillor Comments

67.6 County Council Update

CC Terry Smith attended the meeting and apologised for not having been able to attend previous Parish Council meetings due to prior commitments.

Active Travel Fund (ATF) – Buntingford (Phase 2)

It was reported that Phase 2 of the Active Travel Fund concerns the London Road cycle route, following completion of Phase 1. A 20mph speed limit had been considered acceptable; however, some councillors supported extending this across the whole town, reflecting an online petition. Traffic lights on the High Street are also being considered.

School Closures

Buntingford Town Council is due to discuss the proposed closure of Albury School at its meeting on 19 May 2026. Efforts to prevent the closure are ongoing, with support from Chris Hinchliffe. Although the proposal to retain the school was narrowly rejected, it was referred to Cabinet, which agreed to proceed with closure. The matter has since been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children's SEND Committee and will return to Cabinet for further consideration. It was noted that Sandon School has been granted a one-year extension. Concerns



were raised that no update had been received on pupil numbers, with an annual intake of 60–80 required for financial viability. It was also noted that previous class arrangements, involving three age groups per class, would no longer meet current standards.

Highways

Highways meeting is scheduled for Wednesday (20.05.26), during which issues such as potholes and speeding can be raised.

Amwell View School Development

A new SEND school is planned for Amwell View on the A10, linked to Haileybury in Ware. The project has been designed and approved but not yet commenced. A new football pitch at Freman College will be located adjacent to the site.

District Council Update

Development Control

Concerns were raised regarding proposed developments at Colliers End (36 and 96 dwellings), which were considered unsustainable given the limited provision of facilities. It remains unclear whether additional amenities will be included.

Stocking Pelham Developments

Multiple development applications have been received in the Stocking Pelham area due to grid connectivity, including solar panel and battery farm proposals extending into Essex. It was noted that seven such developments have been approved by committee.

Buntingford Library

Buntingford Library will celebrate its 100th anniversary on 1 June. Funding from the County Council locality budget has been allocated to support this event.

Freman College – New Sports Surface

A new sports surface at Freman College will be developed as a community facility, to be used by the Cougars football club and equipped with floodlighting. Concerns were raised regarding access, as the current bus turning circle is unused and the football entrance is located opposite, creating potential logistical challenges.

Village Speeding

The possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit, alongside extending the 30mph limit through the village was discussed. CC Terry Smith advised that Anstey could be added to the assessment list. A three-stage process applies beginning with a survey and eligibility criteria must be met—particularly relating to transitions from higher speed roads to lower speed areas. It was noted that a similar application in Cotttered was refused. It was noted that Cotttered had presence of a footpath, whereas Anstey does not have one. Further information on the process can be obtained from CC Terry Smith.

Anstey Quarry

Concerns were raised about ongoing activity at Anstey Quarry, which had closed 5–6 years ago following significant illegal tipping. The previous operator went into liquidation, and enforcement action required trading to cease, buildings to be removed, and site levels to be reduced; the site remains approximately 4 metres too high. It has since been acquired by Castle Wren, and unauthorised activity was reported to be continuing, including waste burning, heavy vehicle tipping, and use of buildings that should have been removed. It was noted that enforcement action had been taken against individuals rather than the site, and that current activity appeared to breach planning conditions. Concerns were expressed about the lack of enforcement by East Herts, and Terry Smith agreed to review the matter.

67.7 Public Comments :

Clerk to request a brief description of the 2 x commercial burglaries.



67.8 Minutes from meeting held July 16th March 2026

Following the amendments listed, the minutes from the meeting held on 16th March were approved as an accurate record, with the amendment of January and item 66.5 which should read ‘two commercial burglaries were noted from the February crime report, clerk to request further information.’, together with 66.14 which was amended to ‘a village-wide litter pick was carried out approximately one year ago. Most areas/roads remain in good condition. Lincoln Road and main roads were noted to be less satisfactory. A request for volunteers to support litter picking along Lincoln Hill will be included in the newsletter for a suggested litter pick to be held in the autumn.’

67.9 Planning

67.9.1 Snow End House SG9 ODN : 3/26/0270/CLPO and 3/26/0147/LBC : installation of 24 solar panels behind high hedges and trees, batteries storage in shed. No comments / objections raised. Awaiting decision.

67.9.2 Cherry Tree House SG9 ODX : 3/26/0181/HH : s/s rear extn, 2-strey side ext, roof alterations and rear dormer – no comments / objections raised. APPROVED 08/05/26.

67.9.3 Land at St George’s End : 3/25/1204/FUL : 2 x 2-bed / 2x3-bed homes – Awaiting Decision.

67.9.4 Land off Flinthall Road / Anderson Lane : 3/26/0333/FUL :

A proposal to widen the existing concrete pad, reconfigure the hardstanding, and install 3m bund walls with drainage (comments due 19.05.26) was discussed. Concerns were raised by a nearby resident (within 100m) who had not been aware of the application. Issues highlighted included increased heavy vehicle movements along a single-track road (including up to four articulated lorries per hour, 7am–5/6pm, including weekends), current unsafe driving behaviours were highlighted and damage to verges. Further concerns related to noise and odour from biofuel storage and the potential for material to ferment or decompose, with reference made to relevant environmental regulations (SR2021) and proximity to residential properties (within 250m). It was also noted that the use is changing from agricultural grain storage to biofuel-related activity and would operate year-round. It was agreed that the Parish Council would submit an objection, incorporating regulatory considerations and resident concerns. The Clerk to submit the response.

67.9.5 No other applications discussed.

67.10 Finance

67.10.1 Summary of funds for this financial year approved and accepted.

67.10.2 Bank Reconciliation dated 11th May 2026 was accepted and approved.

67.10.3 Payments for May and June 2026 were approved. Sharpe Print’s next payment will be due, less £6 for an overpayment.

67.10.4 AGAR Audit Forms : Forms were approved and were signed at end of the meeting : Certificate of Exemption, Internal Audit Report, Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2025/26.

67.11 Highways / Vegetation

Verges will be cut periodically throughout the year.

A request has been made for Lincoln Hill repairs to be undertaken by Andrew Marchant (via Pretoria Energy).

Pothole repairs were noted as acceptable; however, a rut at the main entrance to the playing field was noted.

67.12 Flooding

67.12.1 Silkmead – This appears to be satisfactory, although limited heavy rainfall has occurred during the period.

67.12.2 Cave Gate – appears to have improved.

67.13 Playing Field

A serious accident involving the play equipment at the playing field was reported and shared with members.

The Chairman confirmed that annual safety inspections are undertaken; however, the most recent report will be reviewed to identify any potential improvements. A site visit identified the configuration of the equipment, including an elevated access point (approximately 4–5ft) leading to the slide, with an open access area and adjacent slide bar. It was noted that modifying the equipment to eliminate risk would likely require removal of key features.

It was acknowledged that the equipment was not inspected last year due to a lapse in the annual safety programme; the latest review confirms no change from the 2024 inspection. No further alterations to the equipment are currently proposed. It was recommended that the next safety inspection report be shared with the complainant.



67.14 Sewerage Charges Update

Responses from Clarion have been very unsatisfactory, follow-up information on charges haven't been forthcoming from the company. Discussions are ongoing.

67.15 Church – no update provided.

67.16 School / Parking – no change / update provided.

67.17 Village Hall

Friends of the 398th USAF Bomber Group will be returning for a commemoration service.

67.18 Newsletter

Latest edition is ready to be sent to the printers for the June/July edition.

67.19 Anstey Quarry

CC Terry Smith will now progress this with East Herts.

67.20 Anstey Village Mobile Mast

No further progress has been made. Whilst no commitment has been given, the matter will be kept under consideration, ensuring that any decision does not detract from the village setting.

67.21 Defibrillator

All tested and working as of today's meeting, 18/06/2026.

67.22 Correspondence Received

67.23 Any other Business

67.2.1 It was noted that an unauthorised visibility mirror had been installed on the bridge but it was convex and didn't improve the visibility.

67.24 Future Items /Matters Carried Forward :

60.22.1 Laptop performance continues to be monitored – to be cleaned/checked by Oops! IT if needed.

60.23 Next Meeting : to be held at the village hall on Monday, 13th July 2026 commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 20.35.