

OCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
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MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of Ockley Parish Council was held on Monday 12 January 2026 at 7 pm at Ockley Village Hall.

1. Councillors present

Mr J Wright	Chairman
Mr C Calvert	
Mr B Thorne	
Mr G Swindle	
Mr V Trefry	
Mrs L Fletcher	Temporary Clerk

Apologies had been received from Mr J Lee-Steere.

Six parishioners were present at the meeting.

Noted: items are minuted as on the published agenda
but may not have been discussed in that order

2. Declaration of interests and notification of changes to members' interests

GS and VT amended their completed Declaration of Interests forms. These would be submitted to MVDC. They would be put on the MV and OPC websites.

3. Public session (allocated time of 15 minutes at the discretion of the Chairman)

Parishioners had input to agenda items but also raised queries / concerns on the following matters:

- Cracks in wall running alongside A29 by Elderslie Lodge – enquiries to be made as to whose responsibility to repair
- Noted high business rates will affect one remaining pub in village. Would OPC consider making donation to this village amenity. Events to be arranged by parishioners to support pub. Suggested not appropriate for OPC funds to support.
- Several stiles in parish in need of repair. Noted volunteer had expressed interest in becoming warden but training required and SCC not followed up. Damaged stiles can be reported online.
- Speedwatch data for 2025: 187 hours recorded from volunteers.
17 December 306 cars went past with only 2 offenders
- Closure of Inn on the Green – barriers being installed at entrance to car park. Used as overflow at village hall events – would it still be made available?
- Waste matter dumped just inside field by footpath on Coles Lane – fly tipping?
Whose responsibility?
- Loss of amenities in village – villagers need to support to retain
- WOOF magazine – articles to continue: next article to include information on precept
- MVDC/Surrey ALC meetings available for parish clerks to attend

4. Approval of minutes of meeting held on 3 November 2025

Councillors agreed that these minutes could be signed as correct.

5. Resignation of Clerk / Recruitment process

LF continues to cover as Temporary Clerk. Parishioners had been made aware of the need for recruitment in the WOOF magazine and also through the agenda / minutes of parish council meetings (on the notice board, website). An application pack is available.

6. Vacancy for parish councillor

There was still a vacancy for one further councillor. JW commented that he would like this vacancy to be filled by a younger parishioner who would have a vested interest in the future of the village.

7. Correspondence / diary dates

Mole Valley Community Governance Review (CGR)

An issue identified by another Surrey council also going through a CGR relating to the transitional arrangements had been brought to MV's attention. An Extraordinary MVDC council meeting to be held on 13 January so that members can consider the issue.

Surrey Hills National Landscape (AONB) Boundary Variation Project

The Notice period for the proposal to extend the AONB by 129 sq kilometres to close on 14 January 2026.

21 January 2026 SurreyALC Councillors Forum

8. Planning matters

The planning list dated from 7 November 2025 to 9 January 2026. Information had been circulated to councillors on a weekly basis. The list had been made available on the website. No comments had been received regarding any of the applications / decisions. It is shown at the end of the minutes.

9. Finance

a) Councillors approved the following accounts for payment:

already paid not yet authorised

Mrs L Fletcher	month 8	
Temporary Clerk – hours worked October with allowances		£1078.30

HMRC		
Tax, NI on Clerk's salary	month 8	£397.97

Helpdesq		
Cloud backup, security protection		£117.00

<u>yet to be paid</u>			
LexisNexis			
Arnold Baker LCA 14 Edition		£180.00	
WelMedical Ltd			
Defibrillator supplies		£443.15	
Mrs L Fletcher			
Allowances, expenses December 2025	month 9	£71.64	
HMRC			
Tax on Clerk's salary	month 9	£7.80	
Mrs L Fletcher			
November/December hours to be authorised 72.5			
Mulberry and Co			
Payroll services quarter end 31 December 2025		£144.00	

b) verify bank statements to spreadsheets

GS /VT checked documents 1 October 2025 to 30 November 2025 and verified all figures as correct.

c) audit of accounts 2024-25: internal audit reports for approval

The reports had been circulated and 'points carried forward' noted. Action had been / would be taken to resolve any issues. Councillors agreed approval of the reports.

d) internal audit January 2026 – year end 31 March 2026

It was noted that the first internal audit was to take place on 27 January 2026.

e) precept 2026/27

The clerk had prepared a spreadsheet with accompanying notes; giving indications of income/expenditure for the year. This had been circulated to councillors for comments. Amendments had been suggested and a final amount for the precept had been suggested as £22,500. This indicated amount had been forwarded to MVDC by the requested date of 6 January 2026. Councillors agreed this amount, the precept form was completed, signed and would be submitted to MVDC.

10. Crime figures: 1 October to 31 December 2025

The Chairman read through the report for the attention of parishioners.

The fire by Ockley Cricket Club, School Lane was of note. A representative from OCC stated that this was a clear case of vandalism. Chairs outside the building had been burned together with other items. As the building was of a wood construction this was of particular concern. OCC were to look at having CCTV installed. The Police were unable to take the current case any further as there was no evidence that could be followed up.

Males on mopeds showing off had also been seen on Station Approach. The bikes had no number plates so again difficult to follow up.

11. OPC website

It was noted that the OPC website will be in need of an update soon in order to keep the site secure. The person looking after the website had suggested an alternative aimed at

government bodies. He would be able to adapt the current content onto a new website which would cost in the region of £100. It was agreed that this work should be undertaken. The Chairman suggested that all the FB pages relating to Ockley could be linked.

12. Ockley NDP

Parishioners present requested an update re. the NDP.

CC now had all documents already prepared regarding the NDP.

JW stated that a delay in taking the NDP forward had been due to the Mole Valley Local Plan being approved, change of parish councillors, change in funding.

Funding – local bodies had been asked to provide ‘wish lists’ regarding parish council funding. An extensive list of requests had been received. Funding had now been allocated in the precept for paying for consultancy fees to complete the NDP. There was no longer any grant funding for paying towards the completion of the NDP.

CC stated that the old plan of 2018 had been too ambitious so with the consultant’s input it would be taken forward. Next step he would set up Teams meeting with consultant and OPC / Steering Group / other volunteers. Consultant to drive forward with OPC Steering Group. Parishioner present had offered support in the past.

JW noted that funding for the NDP was now the first priority for OPC – wish lists incorporated in to the NDP when appropriate.

It was noted that it was now six years since a presentation regarding the NDP had been made to the village. A questionnaire had been prepared / responses analysed by Surrey Community Action prior to the presentation.

Once an NDP had been approved then CIL funding could be allocated to the village.

Rebooting the work on the NDP would be publicised in the village – any support being welcomed from parishioners.

13. Model Financial Regulations 2025, Standing Orders 2025, Risk Assessment

The Clerk was to update the current documents to the 2025 documents which would be circulated for approval at the March meeting.

14. School Buildings, School Lane

JL-S had updated JW on this matter prior to the meeting.

JW stated that JL-S, alongside members of the Ockley School Building Committee, had met with the Diocese to discuss options for the school buildings. The buildings are owned by Trustees of the School Buildings, but can only be used for specific educational purposes. To widen the use would require a Section 554 Agreement, which requires Secretary of State agreement. If the Section 554 were successful, the Diocese has explained that the ownership and management of the site would be transferred to them. Previously, the Diocese confirmed a nursery school would be within the use terms, but legal advice needs to be obtained to confirm this. SCC owns the land on which the new classrooms were built. SCC confirm they would not release the land unless it was clearly within the strict use parameters. SCCouncillor H Clack is also investigating regarding the SCC land.

Enquiries regarding the legal side of matters relating to the Charity Commissioners are also being made.

It was queried by a parishioner present as to whether The Bishop / Chairman of Diocesan Board of Finance were aware of this situation. It was suggested that letters to those people, with copies to local press may be useful.

JW to discuss with JL-S.

15. Land south of Coles Lane

JW reported that JL-S and SCCouncillor H Clack had met with SCC representatives regarding the construction / finishing off of the footpath at the end of Station Approach. SCC had stated that the footpath was not as it was meant to be. Concerns were raised regarding pedestrians walking out on to Coles Lane from under the bridge. Two accidents had already been reported as traffic had collided with the footpath. Currently area very wet right across the road.

Outcomes – HC continuing to talk to SCC.

JL-S – looking at historical plans with SCC to investigate width of Coles Lane / use of land owned by Jayes Park Estate.

16. Kerbs – Stane Street

JW stated that there was nothing to report on this matter. Parishioner reported that no work had been carried out.

Work had been carried out on the culverts, drains on Cathill Lane junction – A29 to Randhawa Farm. However a blocked drain on Cathill Lane meant that excess water was running down side of A29 creating a large expanse of water at the entrance to Randhawa Farm.

All correspondence was to be put together by parishioner and sent to SCC Highways with copies to HC and OPC.

17. The Green maintenance – trees on A29 verge

The Clerk reported that three contractors had been contacted to provide quotes for work to be carried out. She had met with two who had responded and quotes had been obtained. Further clarification was to be obtained regarding one of the quotes:

The work on the trees will be carried out all round the trunk – not just on the path side. The crown lift to 14ft will be sufficient to ensure a tractor can get under the branches for mowing.

18. Randhawa Farm

A court date had been secured for a further extension of the current court order (barriers at entrance). Order may not be granted – village support needed to ensure officials realise Order needed. Clerk to forward on details to parishioner. Parishioner reported that waste on the site liable to be toxic.

Noted SCC, MVDC, Environment Agency all visited site since last OPC meeting.

19. Date of next meeting

Monday 2 March 2026