13. 2026/ 2027
RC.12.10.26

OWSLEBURY & MORESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
12th October 2026
COMMENCING AT 6:00 IN THE OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL

Present: Parish Councillor Chris North (in the Chair).
Parish Councillors Mark Egerton, John Foster, Astrea Hurlock, and Paul Simmons

In Attendance: Juanita Madgwick (Clerk), District Councillor David Ablitt, and Jerry Pett

Also in Attendance: 40 members of the public were present.

53/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Smith.

54/26 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr North declared an interest in agenda item 57

55/26 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PAVILION MEETING ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2026

The Committee resolved unanimously that the minutes of the Pavilion Committee meeting held on 14 September 2026 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

56/26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Three residents addressed the meeting regarding the proposed pavilion and sports field development. They expressed support for replacing the existing pavilion but sought clarification on several matters, including anticipated traffic levels, potential noise impacts, and the environmental sustainability of the new building.

The Chair advised that any questions raised would be considered and answered in writing. The Chair thanked the speakers.

Cllr North made the following statement as a resident:

I'd like to make a short personal statement and ask that it be included in full in the minutes.

There have been questions raised about my involvement in this project and, more recently, a formal complaint concerning my conduct as a councillor. I've responded to that complaint through the appropriate process.

I'm Chairman of Owslebury Sports Club and Chairman of this Committee, both voluntary roles. Neither I nor my family have any personal financial interest in this project.

I've given my time because I care about Owslebury and genuinely believe that better sporting and community facilities would benefit our village, particularly our children and future generations.

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I fully respect that people have different views about the proposals. That's absolutely their right. But I hope that, whatever those differences, people can recognise that my involvement comes from a genuine desire to contribute something positive to the community in which we live.

Cllr North left the meeting
Cllr Egerton took the chair

57/26 CONSIDERATION OF THE PRE-APPLICATION FEEDBACK AND LEGAL ADVICE, WHERE AVAILABLE, AND TO IDENTIFY AND AGREE TO ANY RESULTING CHANGES OR FURTHER WORK REQUIRED

Cllr Hurlock advised that the Council had not received any feedback from the Planning Department, despite having chased this several times and having been assured that a response would be provided before the meeting.

She reported that she had met with a solicitor to refine the questions intended for counsel, reducing them from 28 to a more concise and focused set, although the final wording is still being drafted. Cllr Hurlock thanked the solicitor for volunteering their time.

Cllr Hurlock clarified that the solicitors assistance in reviewing and consolidating the questions for counsel had been provided voluntarily and without charge. Any subsequent appointment of Reed Smith to formally instruct counsel would be a separate engagement, with any fees subject to the resolution below.

The solicitor has spoken with a Village Green barrister, who has expressed interest in advising the Council. No instruction has yet been issued, as the questions are still being finalised.

Cllr Hurlock further noted that, in some cases, a barrister cannot be instructed directly by a Parish Council and must instead be instructed through a solicitor. As such, the Council may need to proceed via a solicitors' firm.

Cllr Hurlock proposed the following resolution:

To confirm the authority to obtain specialist counsel's advice pursuant to Pavilion Committee resolution 45/26 and to authorise the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Parish Council, to arrange that instruction directly or, if an instructing solicitor is required, to appoint Reed Smith, subject to a satisfactory written fee proposal and compliance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

The total expenditure on this instruction, including solicitors' fees, counsel's fees, clerking fees and necessary disbursements, shall not exceed £7,500 excluding recoverable VAT, payable from the Planning Application Costs budget.

The instruction shall remain within the previously approved scope. No further approval of the appointment or fees shall be required within this authority.

Councillor North shall take no part in selecting or appointing the firm, agreeing its fees or authorising payments to it.

Cllr Foster seconded this resolution.

The Committee **Resolved** unanimously to the above resolution proposed by Cllr Hurlock.

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Cllr North returned to the meeting

58/26 TO DISCUSS INVOLVEMENT OF THE SCHOOL, PUB, LOCAL CLUBS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS, ORGANISE THE APPROVED PUBLIC EXHIBITION AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION, AND RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE RESIDENT SURVEY BEING PREPARED UNDER EXISTING DELEGATED AUTHORITY

As no feedback has yet been received from the Planning Department, the resident survey has not been initiated. This feedback will form the basis of both the survey and the subsequent public exhibition. The Council will formally engage with the school, local clubs, community groups, and the pub as part of this project.

59/26 TO RECEIVE THE LETTER FROM GROWS AND DETERMINE THE COUNCILS RESPONSE

The Clerk had circulated GrOws letter to the council to all prior to the meeting (Appendix 1)

The Committee thanked GrOWS for their helpful feedback and confirmed that a written response will be provided. The Committee also expressed its wish for GrOWS to be involved in the project.

60/26 CONSIDERATION OF THE CONTENT OF THE FRIENDS OF OWSLEBURY VILLAGE GREEN WEBSITE, THE ATTACHED FACTUAL REVIEW SCHEDULE AND ANY RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM THE WEBSITE ORGANISERS; AND TO DECIDE WHETHER TO REQUEST CORRECTIONS AND INVITE THE GROUP TO PUBLISH THE COUNCILS CURRENT PROPOSALS

The Clerk had circulated the schedule of review of the Friends of Owslebury Village Green website to all prior to the meeting (Appendix 2).

Councillor Hurlock reported that further changes to the website meant some wording in the circulated meeting papers were no longer reflected its current content. She noted that many of the matters raised on the website had already been addressed in published minutes and written responses.

Councillor Hurlock proposed addressing factual inaccuracies and misleading descriptions of Council decisions by referring to the published record. She emphasised the distinction between questions referred for legal advice, proposals under development and final decisions. While concerned about the Council time involved in responding repeatedly to changes on an independent website, she considered it necessary to draw attention to the inaccurate and misleading information published there.

Cllr Hurlock shared the facts, but no resolution was made.

61/26 AGREEMENT TO INSTALL TWO COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES ON THE PICNIC BENCHES IN THE RECREATION GROUND, ONE IN MEMORY OF JOHN CHAPMAN AND ONE RECOGNISING PAUL AND PENNY BOWES

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The Committee **Resolved** unanimously to install two plaques on the picnic benches in the recreation ground in memory of John Chapman and one recognising Paul and Penny Bowes.

The committee agreed that the wording would be agreed by email.

62/26 TO NOTE THAT THE OWSLEBURY RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN ITS CIL GRANT

The Committee noted that they were not successful in the CIL grant.

The Clerk advised that the next round of CIL funding will open in November.

63/26 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Clerk advised that the next meeting would be held in the committee room which would not hold as many people as the hall.

64/26 TO NOTE THE DATE FOR THE NEXT RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Recreation Ground Committee meeting will be held on Monday 9th November 2026 at 6.00pm in Owslebury Village Hall committee room

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 6.41pm.

Chairman: Date:

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