



TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

You are hereby **summoned** to a meeting of the Full Council to be held on 19th February 2026 commencing at 8pm at the Council Offices, Bansons Way, Ongar. The Public and Press are welcome to attend. Note: This meeting may be recorded by the Clerk for the purposes of minute taking.

D Murray

Debra Murray
Town Clerk

AGENDA

- 15.26 Those present and apologies for absence**
To report, approve & record apologies for absence (and the reasons) from members
Motion: The council to record and accept apologies for absence.
- 16.26 Vacancy for Councillor Co-option**
Applicants for co-option have been received by the council for outstanding vacancies. Details of the applicant's resume are within the councillor's folder. The applicants will attend this meeting, Councillor's will be asked to review the resume's and make a decision on co-option at this meeting.
- 17.26 To agree the Full Council Minutes of 15th of January 2026**
Motion: to Agree the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15th January 2026.
- 18.26 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**
To RECEIVE any Declarations of Interest by Members.
Members of the Council are subject to paragraphs 6 (DPIs), 7 (Other Pecuniary Interests) and 8 (non-pecuniary Interests) of that Code. Members are also subject to paragraphs 9-11 of that Code as regards declarations of interests and participation in the meeting insofar as any item of business involves such an interest.
- 19.26 Questions from Members of the public and public participation**
To RECEIVE questions from members of the public for a period determined by the Chair of the Meeting. The maximum time allowed for this item is 15 minutes. A member of the public shall not speak for more than three minutes. **Please NOTE if the Clerk of the Meeting has not been previously notified of the Question, Council may have to note questions and respond to them after the Meeting.**
- 20.26 Clerks Report**
Councillor's will be updated by the Clerk of correspondence and information received and actioned.
- 21.26 Reports & Members Reports**
-Chairmans Report
-Town Councillor's reports and for those that attend on committees on behalf of the town council.

It is understood that a number of Cllrs, have attended meetings in their positions as Councillor's and will give a brief resume of their attendance.

-District and County Councillor's

To receive a five-minute report from District and County Councillor's on matters relating to Ongar.

(The Chairman may bring any Report including the Reports from District & County Councillor's to earlier in the meeting if all Councillor's are agreeable)

-Details of Consultations

a) Cllr's will advise by either the chair or vice chair of the planning committee on the numerous Consultations that have been held with Developers on the Planning Development sites in Ongar

The clerk will advise of any other consultations that have been received and are not covered separately in this Agenda.

22.26

Financial Reports

Finance reporting

a. To receive a summary of receipts and payments up to the end of January 2026.

b. To review a list of budgetary information on all accounts.

Motion: The Council notes the budgetary information and confirms that the account balance of current account as at 31st January 2026 at £23,087.70 agrees with the reconciliation.

Motion: The Council notes the budgetary information and confirms that the account balance of deposit account as at 31st January 2026 at £581,941.05.

Motion: The Council notes the budgetary information and confirms that the account balance of Nationwide account as at 31st January 2026 at £29,638.73

Motion: The Council notes the budgetary information and confirms that the account balance of allotment account as at 31st January 2026 at £2,486.62

To NOTE the CCLA balance is £50,118.16

23.26

Police Report

A police report for the area will be submitted in writing or person. The clerk has requested a report be submitted if attendance is not possible.

24.26

Assertion 10

Members are informed that currently the town council does not meet the current standards which would allow the council to confirm they were compliant with the new AGAR 2025/26. The areas of assertion 10 are the

1. Domain based email
2. GDPR compliance i.e. data retention policy
3. IT policy
4. Accessible Website

The website is not currently accessible compliant and as such we will not be able to meet the new standards. The clerk to ensure compliance has met with a complaint website provider and proposes that to ensure compliance we move from Vision ICT to Aubergine which will ensure the website meets the new compliance. The website will be easier to navigate, look better and be user friendly. The company provides websites to town and parish councils as one of the owners is a town councillor and clerk who had listened to feedback to ensure the website is what local councils need to be compliant. The new website can go ahead as this falls within the clerks delegated budget.

If the Council does not resolve to do this then they will not be compliant on their external audit.

The council RESOLVES to move to a complaint provider to meet Assertion 10 requirements.

25.26 Memorial Bench Request

The clerk has been approached by Ongar Sports and Social Trust for a memorial bench to be placed in memory of Terry Thurley who passed away in November 2025.

Terry had been associated with the Ongar Sports Club for almost 70 years, having first played football at Love Lane in 1956, aged 14.

Having founded Ongar United F.C. in 1966, he was their secretary for 57 years.

Terry was continuously employed at the Club until last summer when his health deteriorated.

26.26 CCTV Update

Councillor Reay has requested this item to be placed on the agenda for discussion, to see following the updated works, is there an appetite for the working group to continue.

27.26 Councillor Meeting Attendance Policy

Members will have reviewed the Councillor's Meeting Attendance Policy which the clerk has placed in their folder. The policy gives clear guidelines for absence from meetings and how to report the absence along with long leave procedures. Members are asked to adopt the policy. The Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 states that A councillor automatically ceases to be a member if they don't attend any meeting of the authority (or its committees/sub-committees) for a continuous period of six months from their last attendance.

- Pre-Approval is Key:

The local authority must approve the absence before the six-month period ends for the member to remain in office.

- Exceptions & Dispensations:
- Attendance at committees, sub-committees, or joint bodies counts as meeting attendance.
- Authorities can grant dispensations for absence, often for health reasons or other significant circumstances, preventing disqualification.
- Military service during emergencies/war can also be a valid exception.
- Purpose: It ensures active participation and accountability of elected local government members.

28.26 Exclusion of the Public and the Press

In the event that the agenda contains Exempt (pink) pages, or an item needs to be discussed confidentially, to CONSIDER the following motion to be proposed by the Chairman: "That the public and the press be excluded from the meeting, the Council believing that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be discussed. However, an item may be placed in the Confidential part of the meeting so long as it is accordance with the Statutory Guidance.

There is currently four items to be considered

29.26 Staffing Committee Update

Cllr Eydmann to report back on the staffing committee meeting.

30.26 Jubilee Park Pavilion EICR

The clerk will give an update regarding the EICR inspection.

31.26 Jubilee Park Fencing Quote

The clerk has put the quotes for the fencing at JPP in the folder for members to view and discuss.

32.26 Jubilee Park Lease

Councillor Reay has requested this item to be put on the agenda. To discuss the previous motion 114.24 for the clerk only to communicate with the current chairman of the Ongar Sports and Social Trust.

33.26 Items for Future Meetings

Various Leases*

Disability Access – Look at Lease and Contact EFDC*

Strategic Development Plan*

- **Clerk is aware of these**