

LISS PARISH
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
21st March 2022

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 21st March 2022 in Liss Village Hall. 11 members of the Parish Council and 17 parishioners attended. Mr Keith Budden, Chair of the Parish Council, presided. Also in attendance was the Parish Clerk Mrs Sarah Smith. Apologies were received from Councillor Tordoff and County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer.

PRESENTATION OF THE GOOD VILLAGER AWARD 2022

The Chair presented the Villagers of the Year Award 2022 to Annie Coley and Sue Marriott, on behalf of all the work they have done for the Liss Food Bank.

Certificates were also presented to Peggy Dancy and Betty Tuffrey who were nominated for the award for all their work in the Liss Heart Trust Shop. Other nominations received were for Claire Kirby for her voluntary work at the Crossover Youth Centre and Jenny Spouse for her work for the Rosemary Foundation.

PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS

The following issues were raised:

- a) Public consultation on the future use of Longmor Ranges (raised by Angela Wright): Cllr Budden advised that a meeting with the MOD along with Whitehill & Bordon Town Council and Greatham parish Council had taken place at which concerns were raised. Attendees felt reasonably reassured from the discussions which noted the MOD's aim to bring the by-laws up-to-date, e.g, to consider cycling to be permitted. It was felt that there was a genuine intention to keep the Ranges open to the public, but the need for the public to respect the closures for training when the red flags were flying was highlighted. A further meeting would take place in due course at which some questions from MP Damian Hinds would be raised.

Mrs Wright asked about the heathland on the other side of the A3 were there was no love firing. Cllr Budden advised that he was no aware of any discussion about the land being split and the status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) would have an impact.

Cllr Hargreaves added that there were greater issues with the Ranges in the northern parts of Hampshire and that changes to the Longmoor Ranges were likely to be more light touch. As an SSSI the MOD had a significant duty to look after the land.

- b) Hospitality for Ukrainian refugees (raised by Annie Coley): Cllr Budden advised that EHDC had a meeting on the issue scheduled for the previous day with the Home Office but this had been cancelled due to the rapidly changing situation. EHDC was also considering reactivating some of the committee convened during covid. He noted that no more clothes or provisions were needed but financial support was now key.
Cllr Budden would report to the churches and interested organisations once more was known.
- c) Status and timetable of village gateways consultation (raised by Sue Halstead):
Cllr Smith advised that there had been a positive outcome to the consultation which was now closed with support for the proposals and helpful feedback. The finding was in place and LPC was now working with HCC on the timetable for delivery.
- d) Increase in Pavilion and Village Hall running costs in 20/21 (raised by Graham Burgess): Cllr Williams responded that a perceived increase was due to changes in accounting methods. Mr Burges noted that the public would have been interested to see the CIL receipt in the 2021 Finance Report (Clerk's Note: The first large sum arising from the Andlers Ash development was not confirmed until after the 2021 APM).
- e) Possible repayment of Pavilion loan (raised by Graham Burgess): Cllr Budden advised that the decision had been taken not to use CIL funding to repay part of the Pavilion loan as it did not make financial sense to do so as given redemption penalties gave rise to minimal savings.
- f) Process for CIL allocation (raised by Peter Coley): Cllr Hargreaves advised the process for CIL allocation to other organisations was under consideration; an update was scheduled for later in the meeting.
- g) Benefits of CCTV in the village centre (raised by Graham Burgess): Cllr Wilson advised that the current cameras were not of sufficient quality to capture all the detail that would be useful to inform police prosecutions and that more modern cameras were needed. Mr Burgess felt that the police should contribute to the costs of modernising the system and Cllr Wilson responded that LPC has a role to play in improving community amenities.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 17th MARCH 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 17th March 2020 had been circulated. Proposed by Graham Burgess and seconded by Cllr Linsley, they were agreed and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair, Cllr Budden, provided the following report:

It has been another challenging year. Covid-19 thankfully seems to be more under control and we, like communities across the UK, have adapted our ways to work around the Covid impact. We have a plan for all of our activities for the coming year, which is attached to this report.

Community Engagement

The Parish Council is committed to encouraging effective local community engagement, and to developing relationships between the Council, individuals, and voluntary and community groups. The Parish Office has now fully reopened. The Liss Parish Council Website at lissparishcouncil.gov.uk has been used to tell the community about the business of the council. A Covid-19 webpage was set up in March 2020 and has continued to provide up-to-date links to the latest information as well as sources of help and practical support for those who have needed it, making use of local links as well as more formal schemes. The Council has also continued to increase its social media presence during this time, such as Twitter and Facebook and most recently Instagram, to help keep parishioners informed.

We have carried out a number of recent consultations, including those on the village gateways, outdoor exercise equipment and the West Liss children's play area. An important form of engagement with the community is that Parish Councillors serve as representatives on a variety of local bodies, for example, the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust, The Triangle Centre, Crossover and the Liss Forest Residents Association. We have also supported the work of the Liss Speedwatch Group and the Liss Men's Shed. Each year we also give funding support to a variety of local initiatives and we would encourage local organisations to submit grant applications if you require additional funding. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

This year sees the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The weekend of 2nd – 5th June will see four days of events here in Liss to mark the Jubilee, with something for all ages, including a beacon lighting on the school playing fields as part of the nationwide chain of beacons to celebrate the Jubilee.

One highlight of the weekend, will be a pump track at West Liss Recreation Ground. The hire of the pump track has been funded with the help of grants from our District Councillors and the National Lottery, this will be a great fun facility – pop along and try it out.

Please keep an eye on social media, noticeboards and local media as the plans for the weekend develop further. It is really heart-warming to see so many groups across the parish wishing to take part and I thank Clayre Williams and the other volunteers who are working incredibly hard to bring all of this together.

Investing in Liss

The Parish Council has the ambition to provide better facilities throughout the village. Roger Hargreaves, the Chair of our Project Review Group will be giving you more details on some of the projects we have in mind in a few minutes time.

Nick Wilson, Chair of the Facilities Committee and Richard Baker have been working on a new recreation strategy for the village and they will also be updating us on their progress later in the meeting.

Facilities

Following the reopening of the Village Hall and the Pavilion after Covid, bookings for both have been picking up, with the Pavilion being extremely busy recently. All of our play areas are also now fully open.

We have carried out some external repairs and improvements to the Village Hall and our caretaker, Jed, is starting preparatory work for the redecoration of the interior of the hall.

While there is a regular usage of the Petanque terrain by the petanque club, we would encourage others to give it a try. We now have an accessible path to the Petanque court and it is open to residents of all ages to use.

Our allotments continue to be very popular with a high occupancy rate.

We have started work on the Mill Road Community Garden which will provide a small community park and play area on the green space along Mill Road next to Woodbourne Close. Agreement with EHDC who own the land over a licence to use it has not proved as smooth a process as we originally hoped, but we continue to dedicate our efforts to resolving necessary issues and are working with EHDC to proceed at pace with getting the licence agreed.

We unfortunately did not get the full grant we applied for to the South Downs National Park for improvements at West Liss, but we did receive sufficient funding to redevelop the West Liss children's playground. We held a successful consultation on Saturday at the Liss Pavilion to get the views of local children and parents and we hope to have a contractor starting work on the new playground before the summer.

Working with the Men's Shed and the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust, we now have a new garage and equipment store for our groundsman, while the old groundsman's hut has been converted into a great new facility for the Men's Shed. If you've not yet seen it, do pop along and have a look.

We continue to work with EHDC on the control of Himalayan Balsam growing along the Riverside Walk.

Roads and Traffic

Traffic through the village is a continuing concern for residents and the Parish Council has been promoting a number of measures to address concerns. We (with Hampshire County Council) have delivered a pedestrian courtesy crossing on Station Road by the Liss Pavilion and we continue to work on delivery of a further crossing at the Business Centre in Station Road,

The new village gateways have now been designed and will be installed at entrances to the village and Liss Forest in the coming year.

Work will also take place this year to deliver improvements to improve the environment and discourage speeding around the Liss Infant and Junior Schools.

We are aware that issues continue with traffic along Forest Road and we will work with Hampshire County Council to investigate possible solutions (and their funding) to improve the situation.

We thank Liss Speed Watch for their continued efforts across the village. We know the impact their work is making to make the village safer for drivers and pedestrians alike.

Village Centre improvements

We have commissioned Hampshire County Council to work up proposals for possible enhancements to the village centre to make it a more attractive place for residents and visitors alike. Please keep an eye out for various consultation events and questionnaires over the next year as HCC work with us to gather all of the information required and produce a vision for the village centre which has the support of the majority of the Liss population.

Andy Smith, Chair of our Highways Committee will be updating you more on this later this evening.

This is only the first step in what will be a major project for the village over the coming years. Please do take every opportunity to have your input to shape the future of your village.

Planning and Development

Andler's Wood, the new Cala Homes development on the former Hilliers land at Andlers Ash Road is now approaching completion.

We have continued to provide feedback to the local planning authority, the South Downs National Park, on planning applications across the Parish, and we are pleased that for the majority of decisions our views have been taken into account. As much as Covid-19 restrictions have allowed we have kept a careful eye on developments across the village and reported any concerns to the planning enforcement team at East Hampshire District Council for investigation and action where appropriate.

Looking ahead to the coming year, we anticipate plans coming forward for some of the other development areas identified in the Liss Neighbourhood Plan and taking up the planning issues arising from the Village Centre proposals.

Changes to Councillors

During the year due to changing personal circumstances we were sorry to say farewell to Ginnette Lowe, Rob Finn and Jenny Bennett. We thank them all for the time they devoted to the Parish Council.

We have successfully co-opted three new councillors, Richard Baker, Karen Tordorf and Phil Deacon. We welcome them all to the council.

Nick Wilson has been my able vice-Chair and Chair of our Facilities Committee, Clayre Williams as Chair of the Finance Committee, Andy Smith as Chair of our Highways committee, and Liane McDonald as Chair of the Review Committee, and I have continued to chair our Planning Committee. Due to the CIL funding and number of projects, our previous Chair, Roger Hargreaves, has kindly taken the Chair role for a new Project Review Group.

District and County Councillors

Since elections in May 2019 Liss has been represented on East Hants District Council by two councillors, Russell Oppenheimer and myself. Russell is also our County

Councillor with Hampshire County Council. We are both fully committed to Liss and the Parish Council and we look forward to continuing to work together in the coming year.

Running the Council

The work of the Parish Council is totally dependent on our Parish Clerk, Sarah Smith and the support within the Parish office. The office team consists of Sarah, Lizzy Keeling the Assistant Clerk, and Sandra Humphrey our Responsible Finance Officer. Due to the number of projects planned for the next couple of years, they will also soon be joined by our new Project Support Office. The whole team have been under enormous pressures over the past year, having to adapt their way of working and carry on serving the community from their homes and then adapting to our new hybrid method of working. Sandra has smoothly implemented a new financial planning and accounting system for the Council and I'm sure all of my colleagues on the Finance Committee will agree that the new Financial Reports give us a much clearer view of the Council's finances than was possible from our previous system.

All have worked extra hours to keep the Council going and to support initiatives to improve our services and I am so impressed by their commitment and enthusiasm and particularly by Sarah's continued leadership during this year.

They have been supported by Jed Deane, our caretaker for the Village Hall and Julie Ryan, our caretaker for the Pavilion. Also, Michael Jarman, who will be familiar to many as he litter picks around the village and Paul Knibbs our invaluable groundsman. We are very fortunate as a village and I am very fortunate as their Chair to have such an excellent team of councillors and officers.

Thank you.

LISS PARISH COUNCIL DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR 2022/23

During the Council year 2022/23 Liss Parish Council will undertake the following actions:

- Maintain, improve and promote the use of recreation grounds and facilities such as the Village Hall and Liss Pavilion.
- Comment on all planning applications which fall within or impact on the Parish.
- Represent the views and promote the interests of the parish of Liss, particularly in relation to East Hampshire District Council, the South Downs National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council.
- Engage with the community, including parishioners, local businesses, community groups and organisations in Liss, including by maintaining an up-to-date website and social media presence in the village, in line with the Community Engagement Policy.
- Listen, investigate and respond to issues identified by the parish of Liss and, if appropriate, to signpost to the correct person/ organisation for resolution/ further progression.
- Work with key local groups for the benefit of residents.
- Deliver speedy and transparent decisions through full meetings of the Council, supported by appropriate committees and working groups.
- Maintain good financial practices, ensuring transparency and value for money, building on the reporting capacity of the new finance software.
- Identify and secure sources of funding to advance LPC priorities.

- Promote training and induction and ongoing support for members of staff and councillors.
- Maintain good governance, including adhering to relevant benchmarks to achieve Quality Status of the Local Council Award Scheme.

Key projects for 2022/2023 include:

- Covid-19: helping the village recover and learn from the experience of Covid-19, in consultation with the community, using our services and funding and through support to and from other organisations, such as the district and county councils and local voluntary groups.
- Funding: Deciding priorities for the use of CIL funds allocated directly to Liss Parish Council, using extensive community engagement, and accessing other sources of investment.
- Highways priorities:
 - Delivering the village gateways project;
 - Delivering the school zone proposals.
- Facilities priorities:
 - Delivery of the refurbished children’s play area at West Liss Recreation Ground;
 - Complete the Mill Road Community Garden;
 - Pursue options and funding for creating provision for teenagers and adults at West Liss Recreation Ground;
 - Work with partner organisations and local residents to develop and implement a village wide strategy for recreational facilities.
- Developing proposals for enhancement of the village centre with Hampshire County Council.
- Exploring opportunities with local groups and organisations for enhancing the social welfare of the village.
- Liss Neighbourhood Plan: working with the SDNPA to set up arrangements for the implementation and monitoring.

The Chair welcomed any comments on the proposed Action Plan which would be considered for approval at the April meeting of Council on 25th April 2022.

PRESENTATIONS ON KEY PROJECTS

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding

Cllr Hargreaves, Chair of the project Review Group, gave a presentation on CIL as follows:

Due to development in Liss a large sum of CIL funding had been received with approximately £331,000 currently being held by LPC. This amounted to 25% of the levy paid by developers with the other 75% going directly to the SDNPA for allocation across the Park which LPC could bid into. For example, £50,000 had been awarded following a successful application for funds to replace the children’s play area at West Liss Recreation Ground.

As the LPC budget provided running costs alone, all projects would be funded from CIL and other external grant funding.

Current projects being developed included village centre improvements, projects arising from the recreation strategy, highways related schemes, social infrastructure and anti-social behaviour projects.

Local groups and organisations would also be able to bid for CIL funding. Details on how to apply for CIL funding would be placed on the website in due course.

Consultation was key in allocation of CIL, from a broad level down to a more detailed level for individual projects. A new Project and Community Engagement Officer had been appointed on a two-year fixed term contract to help manage that process.

Update on village gateways and school zone.

Cllr Smith, Chair of the Highways Committee, updated the meeting on the implementation of both sets of proposals, which had been the subject to recent consultation with residents.

The consultation responses on both gateways and school zone had been positive – with residents supporting the improvements.

Funding for both from S106 developers' contributions had been secured. Work was underway to commission Hampshire County Council to install the gateways and implement both schemes. It is difficult to pin down an exact timeline due to supply issues – but there is optimism that the improvements can be made asap.

Village Centre Design work – next steps

- Village Centre improvement is a priority for residents in Liss, and for Liss Parish Council. The Liss Village Neighbourhood Development Plan, which was approved by referendum in the parish on 9 November 2017, with 87.2% in favour, on a turnout of 30% said:

“Much of the centre is within a conservation area. It is an area well used by the local community. However, some of the more recent development within the centre is unattractive and not in keeping with the character of the village. Some of the area of Station Road is cut off by the level crossing from the main part of the centre and is rundown and in need of sympathetic redevelopment. **The street scene is poor, with a clutter of posts and signs, some poor pavements and a lack of green planting.** Parking for the centre is increasingly difficult with car parks close to capacity. **Not all of these problems can be tackled through the development process. The Parish Council is committed to working with the community to enhance the vitality and viability of the centre.**”

- At Full Council 15 Feb 21 (25/21) **Village Centre redesign brief approved (brief available on our website)**
- **Developing proposals for the enhancement of the village centre** is a priority in Liss Parish Council's 2021/2022 Action Plan, adopted by Full Council on 5 May 2021.

Principles LPC has adopted:

- **Deliverable:** what is designed must be deliverable – while proposals can be ambitious – LPC must be confident that relevant authorities (ie Network Rail, Highways England, Hampshire County Council as Highways Authority) will agree to the schemes.
- **Ambitious:** nothing is off the table. Partners should be ambitious for Liss, seeking to deliver the ambition for a thriving village centre contained in the Neighbourhood Development Plan and design brief, not piecemeal. This isn't a project about highway improvement – it is about the vibrancy of the village centre (including seeking to design out opportunities for anti-social behaviour)
- **Owned by the community:** Residents and businesses are involved and feel ownership for the proposals, key partners (Network Rail, Local Enterprise Partnership, SDNP, EHDC, Police, HCC, etc) are bought in
- **Value for money:** any delivery partner will have a track record, and can evidence how development of a master plan has leveraged in funding for delivery of infrastructure projects; Liss Parish Council will need to be assured that it is getting value for money for residents

Next steps

- We are partnering with Hampshire County Council – and are just finalising the detailed timetable to engage with the residents, community groups, businesses and other stakeholders to kick off this work.
- The work will be developed using the Healthy Streets Approach, which is a human-centred framework for embedding public health in transport, public realm, and planning.
- The Healthy Streets Approach has 10 Indicators that inform transport and public realm design:
 - Everyone feels welcome
 - Easy to cross
 - Shade and shelter
 - Places to stop and rest
 - Not too noisy
 - People choose to walk and cycle
 - People feel safe
 - Things to see and do
 - People feel relaxed
 - Clean air

(more at www.healthystreets.com)

- The process will last several months – and community engagement and feedback will be key as we develop detailed proposals – so we'll be asking for everyone's contribution and views soon!

Recreation facilities in Liss – a strategy for the 2020s

Cllr Nick Wilson, Chair of the Facilities Committee, gave a presentation on the recreation strategy for Liss as follows:

Liss Parish Council (LPC) is committed in its 2022-23 Action Plan to work with partner organisations and local residents to develop and implement a village wide strategy for recreational facilities. Following discussions with key partners, including Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust, the Crossover Youth Centre, 1st Liss Scouts, Liss Athletic Football Club and Liss Forest Residents Association, we have prepared this summary for wider consideration.

A strategy is needed because:

- A prime objective of the Liss Neighbourhood Plan is to enhance community life through community and sports provision.
- With 150 planned new households, we must provide for a growing and changing population.
- More housing in the village means a chance to invest from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which housing developers pay to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA).
- Some of this CIL funding comes to the Parish Council and we need to prioritise how to invest this on behalf of the village - on both recreational and other improvements, including particularly improvements to the village centre.
- Most of the CIL funding stays with the SDNPA and the strategy will help LPC and partner organisations compete to receive some of this funding.

We think that the strategy should be based on the following principles:

- We will achieve more if key partners work together, rather than each working in isolation.
- We should aim for a fair balance between each area of the village and different groups in the local population, and for inclusivity and sociability.
- New facilities must be consistent with the design principles set out in the Village Design Statement and the Liss Neighbourhood Plan.

Things are already happening:

- Renewal of the dilapidated children's play area at West Liss is about to get under way (paid for from SDNPA and LPC CIL funding).
- A new Petanque terrain has been created at Liss Forest Recreation Ground.
- Moveable football goals have been installed at West Liss Recreation Ground and are on offer to Newman Collard Playing Fields.
- Liss Athletic Football Club have put together a funding package to replace the floodlights at Newman Collard.
- A new sports wall for basketball and football is about to be installed at Newman Collard.
- Installation of a Trim Trail as phase 1 of creating Mill Road Community Garden, with a play tunnel to follow.

- Existing recreation facilities and open spaces are being publicised and promoted and we plan to do more of this.

Projects in the pipeline - all subject to consultation, funding and more detailed planning - include:

- **A Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)** for people of all ages being planned by the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust to include a multisport pitch for football, basketball and hockey, 'free-game' equipment for the younger age range (3+) with a 'surprise basketball goal' and fenced pitch area with goals for all-age football and hockey, 'Sunshine Cricket', outdoor activities for nursery children, walking football and other reablement activity for elderly and disabled people.
- **Outdoor fitness equipment areas** for adults and older teenagers at both West Liss Recreation Ground and Newman Collard Playing Fields to include to include 'workout' equipment such as a vertical climbing wall/net, hurdles, monkey bar, balance beam, over/under bars, double turbo challenge and suspension multi training system.
- **Informal recreational facilities for teenagers** at West Liss Recreation Ground to be co-designed with young people themselves with support from the Crossover youth centre, informed by people's reactions to a pump track which LPC is hiring for the Platinum Jubilee weekend.
- **Extending Liss Forest Recreation Ground's basketball area** which has been proposed by the Residents Association.
- **Improving playing fields drainage** at both Newman Collard and Liss Forest.

This pipeline of projects reflects what we've previously heard from the community:

- Outdoor exercise facilities for both adults and young people were identified as a gap in provision during consultation to inform the 2013 Liss Parish Plan.
- Consultation in 2016 to inform recreational provision in the village identified lack of provision for teenagers, and also opportunities for social interaction.
- Recent discussions with key stakeholders have confirmed the need to fill gaps in provision for both teenagers and adults. In particular, discussions with the Crossover, Bohunt School, family support services, the police and others have identified a need for more informal recreational facilities for young people.
- In a recent poll of local residents, an overwhelming 88% supported installation of provision of outdoor fitness equipment, with 75% of those saying they would use it.

Both Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust and LPC have put in applications to the SDNPA for this year's allocation of CIL funding. We should hear the outcomes in October and LPC will then decide what to invest from the village's own CIL funds to create the necessary funding packages. Projects which get the go-ahead will be the subject of more detailed consultation. **In the meantime, we would welcome views on the strategy as it is evolving.**

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Williams, Chair of the Finance Committee, provided the following report:

The precept for 2021/22 was £224,250. Contributions were made to the Village Hall, West Liss Recreation Ground and Pavilion and the parish allotments. These are all registered charities, which are accounted for separately in accordance with financial regulations.

Estimated expenditure for the year is anticipated to be largely in line with budget.

Local organisations and associations supported by Liss Parish Council grant funding during 2021/22 include:

East Hants Area CAB
The Triangle Community Centre
Crossover
RVS Luncheon Club
Liss Historical Society
1st Liss Scouts
Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust
Liss AFC – Juniors
Rake Village Hall
LUPIN
HIOW victim support
St Mary's Church
King's Arms Young Carers
Liss Village Club
Liss Mens Shed
Liss Heart Charity Trust

Contributions from S106, community organisation grants and Councillor grants of £21,786.51 have been received to be invested largely in the development of the Mill Road Community Garden. Community Infrastructure Levy funding in respect of the Andlers Wood development of £162,171.53 has been received and will be used on various projects in consultation with the community.

The audit of all 2020/21 accounts was carried out in April 2021 by Lightatouch, the independent internal auditor and approved at the Council meeting on 5th May 2021. PFK Littlejohn Legal Law Practitioners, the Council's appointed external auditor signed the final clearance of the accounts in September 2021.

Budgeted expenditure for 2022/23 is as follows:

	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	% change
Budget:				
Staff cost	102.3	105.7	127.7	17.2%
Insurance	7.2	7.2	7.2	0.0%
General administration	16.8	19.9	14.9	-33.8%
Grounds maintenance	23.3	28.6	30.5	6.2%
Village Hall running cost	11.4	8.8	21.6	59.4%
Liss Pavilion running costs	14.9	17.3	21.1	18.0%
Grants to local associations	15.8	15.7	10.1	-55.4%
Liss pavilion loan servicing	27.5	27.5	27.5	0.0%
Capital projects and provisions	14.2	4.1	0.0	
	233.4	234.8	260.6	
Funded by:				
Precept	218.2	224.3	237.4	4.3%
Interest and other receipts	0.2	0.2	0.0	
Rental incomes	17.1	12.5	23.2	46.3%
Transfer to/from reserves	(2.1)	(2.1)	0.0	
	233.4	234.8	260.6	

Staff costs include all salary, employer's NI and employer's pension cost as well as a new post at 20 hours per week to co-ordinate project work. Staff costs also include an increase to staffing cost in accordance with guidelines for public sector pay rates.

Rental incomes at the Village Hall and Pavilion are expected to return to pre-Covid levels.

Liss Parish Council is expected to make grant payments of £10.1k to local organisations and associations – a decrease of £5.6k or 55% from the previous year.

All capital works are expected to be funded with Community Infrastructure Levy receipts in accordance with the Liss Neighbourhood Plan and in consultation with the community.

The Council has set a precept of £237.4k for 2022/2023 and the charge per Band D dwelling will therefore be £90.40 compared with £86.69 in 2020/2021. This is an increase of £3.71 or 4.26%.

REPORT ON ATTENDANCE OF COUNCILLORS

The Clerk, Sarah Smith, reported that since the last scheduled Annual Parish Meeting on 17th March 2021, the Parish Council has met formally a total of 10 times.

Cllrs Budden and Williams attended all 10 meetings.

Cllr Baker attended a total of 8 meetings out of 9 meetings since his co-option in May 2021.

Cllrs Baldwin, Hargreaves, McDonald and Wilson attended 8 out of 10 meetings.

Cllr Linsley attended 7 of a possible 10 meeting, Cllr Jerrard a total of 6 out of 10 meetings and Cllr Smith a total of 5 out of 10 meetings.

Cllr Deacon attended both meetings and Cllr Tordoff 1 of 2 meetings since joining the Council in February.

Cllr Bennett attended 3 out of a total of 9 meetings prior to her resignation this month.

Cllr Lowe attended a total of 3 out of a total of 5 meetings and Cllr Finn a total of 2 out of 5 meetings, prior to their resignations in October.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO PARISHES 21-22

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangars, Russell Oppenheimer, had submitted the following report.

As I write this, and as you commence preparations for your Annual Parish Meetings, Hampshire County Council has pivoted amazingly swiftly from pandemic mitigation to refugee preparations. We are working closely with local authority partners, businesses and residents to identify suitable homes for Ukrainians over the coming weeks and months. Hampshire will play a proactive part in supporting the people of Ukraine, as we did for Afghan refugees last year. More information is available on the Ukraine pages of our website at hants.gov.uk/Ukraine

Over the last two years I was very conscious that working from home was difficult for those still struggling with slow broadband. The good news is that most of East Hampshire has been included in the government's £5bn Project Gigabit. This means that many of us will get a subsidised superfast fibre connection in the second half of 2023. The contracts will be tendered this year and a contractor appointed early next year. I will keep Parish Councils updated on progress with this procurement process in my newsletters.

The Levelling Up White Paper was published on 2 February 2022 and has presented an opportunity for Hampshire. We now have clarity on the models of devolution which will be acceptable to the Government. And it is clear that all areas in England will have a devolution deal by 2030. As we move towards a County Deal, it should mean more powers and more resources for Hampshire's elected politicians, which should translate into better placemaking initiatives and better services for residents.

The financial position at Hampshire County Council is not easy at this time. We have been cutting costs for 12 years now, but we still have an annual budget gap (from 2023) of £92m. This is largely a result of price increases in the care sector and growing demand in adult and children's services. The Government is currently reviewing Local

Government Finance and we are lobbying to make sure that Ministers and Civil Servants fully understand the pressures on services. Without an improved financial settlement we will face very difficult choices next year. Hampshire is in a better position than many counties: we still have considerable reserves which enable us to invest in building new schools, expanding existing schools and creating new places for children with special needs.

I have nearly completed my first year as Executive Member for Highways Operations. The pandemic was challenging for the Highways teams and for our contractor Milestone but I am proud that we kept people moving and maintained the roads in good condition. In 2021 Hampshire Highways fixed 49,462 road defects and resurfaced 336,500 square metres of carriageway. We also cleared 173,562 drainage assets. The South saw unprecedented rainfall and flash flooding in 2021 and I am keeping my fingers crossed that 2022 will be more of a normal year for precipitation!

This year Hampshire Highways has brought new innovation to the service; battery-powered vehicles such as an electric excavator, an electric telehandler, a battery-powered plate compactor, as well as new materials such “non-crete” sugar-cane bollards have all contributed to the reduction in our carbon emissions. Significantly, the Highways service opened a new materials recycling facility, based at Micheldever. We won a prestigious Green Apple award for this facility in November. Within 12 months, the Micheldever facility aims to deliver a net reduction in CO₂ of around 67,500kg by reducing the use of scarce aggregates, replacing some traditional hot mix asphalts with cold lay materials and reducing the total miles travelled for material supply. The cold recycled road surface uses a fifth of the energy of traditional materials and saves 40 per cent of CO₂ emissions.

At Hampshire County Council we are investing in walking and cycling schemes through our £500m Capital Programme, as well as developing innovative Active Travel schemes. “Modal shift” away from private cars has been a priority for us since our climate emergency declaration. Modal shift is also good for air quality and the health and wellbeing of communities. We will shortly be consulting on our new draft Local Transport Plan which puts walking and cycling at the top of the hierarchy – a substantial shift in priorities. I hope communities will support this plan in their responses to the consultation.

On decarbonisation, Hampshire County Council has made substantial progress. We are installing solar panels on 300 schools in a £80m scheme following a successful bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. We have also launched the first Solar Together Campaign in Hampshire – a scheme that offers high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage to help residents generate their own green energy - maximising on bulk buying power to offer competitive prices for the purchase of panels. The County Council is also working with Community Energy South to build a network of community energy projects around the county and has invested in the first Community Energy scheme in Overton.

Additionally, in supporting households to reduce transport emissions, the County Council secured Government funding for the installation of 50 on-street residential

electric vehicle charge points (in Winchester and Eastleigh) and, there are plans to extend this. We are also investing in tree-planting with our mission to plant one million trees by 2050. This year we are planting a new woodland to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee as well as thousands of new Highway Trees and School Trees.

With all this activity there is a chance for Hampshire to gain a reputation for being the greenest County in the UK. Parishes can play their part by stimulating local retrofit of homes and I am delighted that some Parish Councillors are engaging with PeCAN on this. If anyone else would like to learn more about retrofit, please do not hesitate to contact me or visit petersfieldcan.org . The spike in energy prices makes this the perfect time to reduce those energy bills!

I am really pleased that so many Parishes in Petersfield Hangers have taken advantage of the Community Funded Highways Infrastructure Scheme. I am aware of work completed or underway in Ropley, Sheet, Steep, Froxfield, Liss, Greatham and Hawkey. The priority is usually traffic-calming and these schemes can make a real difference. If anyone would like to learn more about the scheme please visit the website at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/sharedexpertise/cfhi-scheme>

For transparency I always like to use my annual report to share a table of all my County Councillor grants made during the financial year – see below.

SUMMARY OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR GRANTS AWARDED IN 2021-22

Organisation	Project Title	Project Description	Amount
Liss Athletic FC	Replacement Floodlights	The floodlights at the clubs were deemed unsafe. The club need to replace them in order to continue training	£500
Sheet Village Community Trust	Printing and distribution of Sheet News	Sheet News is a local six monthly newspaper produced entirely by volunteers and distributed to the 2000+ residents.	£500
Sheet Primary School	Interactive Screen	The funding will be put towards buying an interactive screen for children in our new library.	£1,000
Flat Spaces Foundation	Mobile Hoist	Replace a 24-year-old mobile hoist, which is on loan	£375
Liss Parish Council	Traffic Calming	Interactive Speed Indicator Device that will be hung in various locations for traffic calming purposes.	£385
Home-Start Butser	Home-Start Butser	To be able to continue our vital work with local families who are facing unprecedented challenges	£750
Petersfield Musical Festival	Petersfield Musical Festival 2022	Ten concerts in March, involving local choirs, orchestras, bands and schools,	£500
S.O.S from the Kids	S.O.S from the Kids	S.O.S from the Kids write and perform songs as a wake-up call for climate action.	£1,000
Petersfield Open	To provide a	To provide a bin store outside the	£600

Air Swimming Pool	bin store for the Pool	swimming pool area	
Petersfield Walking Festival	Petersfield Walking Festival	The festival will be a week-long event offering a wide variety of free walks in the local area	£750
Sheet Association	Sheet Village Jubilee Big Lunch	A Jubilee Big Lunch to be held in Village Street, Sheet, followed by games, charity stalls etc.	£450
Hawkley/Priors Dean PCC	Restoration of church bells	Hawkley's church bells are in urgent need of repair & restoration.	£390
Hawkley Parish Hall	Hawkley Playground Rennovation	The Village Hall needs to replace the swings and play structures otherwise the playground will be condemned	£800

I look forward to working with you all over the coming year as we continue to build our community infrastructure.

UPDATE ON EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Budden, District Councillor for Liss, advised the following:

Covid: EHDC had been able to distribute Covid grant funding to businesses quicker than any other council in England, even before the funds had been received from central Government. A small amount of the large sums distributed remained in a ring-fenced pot awaiting guidance from HM Treasury as to what this should be used for.

Penns Place: The property was on the market for sale as office premises but had attracted no real interest to date. In the meantime, the premises had been offered for rental purposes which had generated some interest. Should neither avenue yield a satisfactory outcome an application for planning permission for a residential site might be considered; there was one bid on the table for a part residential/ part sports facility.

New offices: Cllr Budden advise that working patterns had changed post covid to a hybrid model with park office working and part home working for 290 of 300 members of staff. EHDC were looking for a premise which could accommodate 150-200 employees. Options currently included two properties in Bedford Road - parking was a possible issue although the proximity of the station had been noted. In addition, there would be DHDC hubs elsewhere, possibly Whitehill & Bordon, Alton and Horndean.

De-merger from Havant: Cllr Budden advised that the project to de-merge from Havant Borough Council after a 12-year partnership had commenced in Autumn 2021. This was the result of a decision to split due to Havant facing financial difficulties and the two councils going in different directions; Havant likely to move towards approved port status post Brexit and EDHC likely to merge with councils with more similarities in more rural areas. The cost of the split had to be borne in mind with future savings. The original aim was for the split to be completed by May 2022 but September 2022 had since been agreed, with a possibility of this slipping to January 2023. Any loss of

staff would be minimalised with natural turnover and possible voluntary redundancy. Senior personnel was a key issue with the need to fill some posts which would become vacant.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman thanked residents for attending and the meeting was closed at 21.42hrs.