



## LISS PARISH COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025 in Liss Village Hall

#### Members

Mr K. Budden (Chair), Ms S. Baldwin, \*Ms R. Crane, \*Mr I. James, Mr D. Jerrard,  
\*Mr C. Olley, \*Mr C. Mort, \*Mr P. Payne, \*Mr A. Smith, \*Mr R. Smith,  
\*Mrs S. Stratford-Tuke, Mr D. Turner and \*Ms C. Williams.

\* Present

In addition to S. Smith (Clerk) and District Councillor Roger Mullenger.

*In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Paddy Payne chaired the meeting.*

#### 129/25 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs K. Budden S. Baldwin, D. Jerrard and D. Turner.

#### 130/25 Declarations of Interests

Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest they may have in any item of business, no later than when that item is reached.

#### 131/25 Chair's announcements

The Chair advised that Cllr Budden was due to have surgery the following day. Members wished him a speedy recovery.

#### 132/25 Adjournment for public participation

There were no members of the public present.

#### 133/25 Update from the County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer had submitted a written report at **Annex A**.

#### 134/25 Update from District Councillors

Cllr Mullenger presented his written report as at **Annex B**.

As regards councillor grants, Cllr Mort noted that the LFRA might like to apply for funds to extend the Pétanque Terrain at the Liss Forest Recreation Ground. Cllr Williams noted that any request would need to come through LPC in the first instance as landowner.

Cllr Mullenger noted that, contrary to previous advice, the EHDC garden waste collection is a profit-making service which is used to subsidise other services.

Cllr James presented his written report as at **Annex C**.

Cllr James expressed his discontent about being misled internally about the costs of the garden waste collection service.

The Clerk added that the agreement between EHDC and LPC for volunteers to work on the Riverside Walk had been signed.

Cllr Olley enquired as to where the profit from the garden waste collection service was going; Cllr Mullenger advised the profit was being used to offset other waste collection services.

**135/25 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Olley, with all in favour).

**136/25 Matters arising**

Cllr Payne and the Clerk would follow up on the issue of pitch costs for Liss Athletic Junior Football Club.

**137/25 Payments and receipts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Resolved:** That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex D** for the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Smith, with all in favour).

**138/25 Report of the Highways Committee of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025**

Members noted the report of the Highways Committee of 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025.

**139/25 Report of the Planning Committee of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Members noted the report of the Planning Committee of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**140/25 Report of the Charities Committee of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Members noted the report of the Charities Committee of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**141/25 Report of the Facilities Committee of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Members noted the report of the Facilities Committee of 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**142/25 External Audit 2024/25**

Members noted the outcome of the external audit 2024/25. Liss Parish Council had received a clean bill of health financially. In technical terms, the external audit confirmed that LPC's financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control, also that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return has been prepared in accordance with Proper Practices.

**143/25 Matters to report**

Cllr Mullenger added that he and Cllr James had met with LAFC and the EHDC Wellbeing Officer about the withdrawal of pitches previously used by Liss Athletic Junior Football Club at Hawkley. Cllr Payne noted that West Liss Pitch was now being used by the team.

Cllr Williams highlighted issues raised at the cllr surgery focused on the road closures and lack of trains whilst rail improvement works continued. There had also been some complaints about cyclists not respecting pedestrians on the Riverside Walk. Cllr Williams also noted that the kissing gate near the SANG was down (the Clerk would report to Hilliers), that the food bank getting busy with 13 Liss families currently making use of it; the Clerk offered to do some social media to encourage donations.

Cllr James noted the need to replace the flower bed at the end of the Riverside Walk; the Clerk confirmed that the works had been undertaken the previous week.

Cllr Payne noted that the keys to the tool shed on the Riverside Walk would be handed over at a meeting on Thursday and the work programme discussed. He added that the Riverside Rangers now had 25 volunteers and works to date included the refurbishment of two benches and a replacement bridge with hand rails on the lower path. Members expressed gratitude for the pro bono free legal representation on the agreement with EHDC which would now allow the volunteers to work on the EHDC owned section and access the tool shed.

*The Chair closed the meeting at 19.34 hours.*

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 7pm

Signed:.....Dated:.....

# COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS 1 OCTOBER 2025

## 1. Update on County Councillor Grant Scheme

On 24 September 2025, the HCC Cabinet approved the continuation of the grant scheme, but with some changes, to be phased in during 2025/26 and 2026/27. First, the good news, which is that the new scheme is opening today, 1 October 2025 and the hants.gov.uk web pages are now ready to accept applications.

One of the key changes is a reduction to the annual budget per Councillor from £8,000 to £5,000 which will be implemented immediately for the 25/26 grant window. This is a shame but, given the ongoing budget deficit, this is understandable. Officers actually recommended ceasing the grant scheme altogether but thankfully the Cabinet rejected this advice. The other approved changes are not too bad, in my view. I would like to draw your attention to these additional approved features of the new scheme:

- It has been agreed that the scheme will now include a maximum limit of £1,000 per application. Most Councillors had informally set this as their maximum limit anyway.
- Organisations cannot apply for grants over multiple years for the same purpose e.g. for the same event. Grant awards from the previous two years will be taken into account when applications are assessed.
- Grants will continue to be available for Parish Councils, however grants should not support normal business operation or projects that can be revenue funded or funded through alternative sources like the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Grants for time-specific activities, such as seasonal events, must be awarded before the event takes place, otherwise they will be automatically rejected.
- All projects supported through the scheme must clearly acknowledge County Council funding in all promotional materials. Appropriate branding will be provided to partner organisations at the time funding is awarded, ensuring consistent and visible recognition of the Council's contribution.

These changes will come into effect from today. The grant scheme will remain open until the end of March 2026. As I understand it though, in 2026, the grant window that year will run from June-December. In case you are interested to read more about this issue and the decision process, here is a link to the Decision report which Cabinet considered: [County Councillor Grants Review-2025-09-23-Cabinet](#)

## 2. Cabinet changes

You may be aware from press reports that I stood down from the HCC Cabinet on 19 September 2025, and so I am now back to being a backbench Councillor. The reason for my resignation from Cabinet was primarily in order to have more time during the day to focus on my other commitments, including running a property company and training to be a languages teacher. I feel

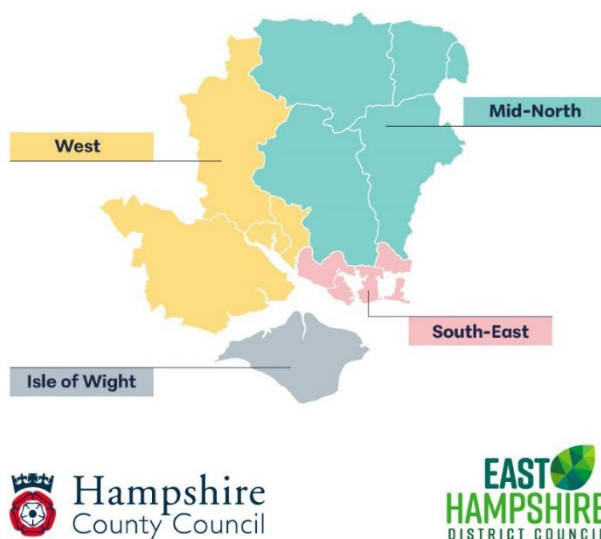
proud of many of my achievements during my five years in Cabinet, especially the creation of the Hampshire Forest Partnership and successfully saving the Petersfield tip from closure.

I still live in Petersfield and feel positive about the prospects for our area over the coming years. Devolution and LGR will bring more funding for infrastructure and regeneration projects. I remain 100% committed to my responsibilities as your local County Councillor, and I will continue to do my best to attend as many Parish Council meetings as I can. My successor as Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing is Cllr Stephen Reid and I wish him all the best.

### 3. Local Government Reorganisation -submission to Government

Following approval by the County Council's Cabinet last week, Hampshire County Council has submitted its [preferred model for Local Government Reorganisation](#) (LGR) to central Government.

#### **Proposed new councils**



This proposal, developed in partnership with East Hampshire District Council, sets out our recommendation for the establishment of four new unitary authorities across the Hampshire and Solent area - three on the mainland and a separate unitary authority for the Isle of Wight. See above diagram.

Our aim is to create a simpler, stronger, and more secure system of local government in future, enhancing services and outcomes for residents and communities.

This submission represents a significant step forward in shaping the future of local government in our area. As set out in the timeline included in my September report, we understand that the Government will undertake a public consultation on proposals for local government reorganisation in our area later this year. Their final decision is expected next spring.

### 4. Highways Winter Service – changes to gritting routes

The Priority One salting network - which receives the most frequent winter treatments - has been comprehensively reviewed to ensure it fully aligns with national guidance. Over time, the previous Priority One network had grown in a piecemeal way leading to inconsistencies, with some roads routinely treated that no longer meet the policy criteria. The review that has been undertaken by officers has adopted a robust, evidence-based approach that fully meets national guidelines and best practice. As a result, the Priority One network will be reduced in length with some roads

moved to the new Priority Two Community Route network. These changes will help the County Council make savings on vehicles, salt, and operational resources.

Improved weather-forecasting tools are also being introduced that will allow the Highways Team to more effectively and efficiently target those areas that are expected to freeze. This will reduce the number of unnecessary treatments (where roads remain above freezing), reduce carbon emissions, and will also free up staff resources to focus on other essential frontline tasks such as pothole repairs.

A new combined Priority Two and Community Route network will be introduced at a later date that will include roads removed from the Priority One network as well as routes serving more schools, additional bus routes, and access roads to more residential areas. This change also follows national guidance, which recommends maintaining either a secondary or community network, but not both.

There will continue to be a large stock of community grit bins across the network for roads that are not routinely gritted. However, the way salt bins are managed will also be changing. Of the 4,000 bins currently in place, around 500 have not been used since 2017. These will no longer be maintained going forward and will eventually be removed. Previously, all the bins were inspected and refilled annually by an external contractor. From now on, the inspections will be carried out by our own Highways Team and bins will only be refilled when they are less than half full. Requests from the public and parish/town councils to refill bins will still be fulfilled.

Ahead of the coming winter season, the County Council's website will be updated with new maps and travel advice, and information will also be shared via social media. Details of the new Priority One salting network can be found on the following link: [Road salt \(grit\) bins | Hantsweb](#)

I appreciate that any change to frontline services can raise concerns. However, the financial pressures we face at HCC mean that we must continually review how we deliver all our services so that we can continue to ensure that we meet our core statutory duties. These changes will allow us to maintain an effective winter service that reflects national best practice and will ensure that we continue to meet our obligations under the Highways Act.

**RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER**  
**County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers**

### **Councillor grants**

- There are two in the pipeline. I will have about £3,000 left at that point.
- The Climate Action Fund is now closed

### **Surgeries**

- Ian James & I continue our surgeries on the first Saturday morning of each month.
- We ran an LGR briefing session on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October at the Triangle. There was only limited interest, but some interesting questions.

### **Casework, Including**

- Blocked road drain in Andlers Ash. HCC has agreed there is an issue with fix being scheduled. I will follow this up when it has rained significantly.
- Fly tipping. (A fly-tipping task & finish group made various recommendation including some cameras in hot spots. That is being followed up.)
- The many road closures.

### **Planning**

- There is still a backlog in the planning system and temporary resource has been used. One pressure on resource is because the planning system installed for the non-SDNP area has had serious implementation problems, not all of which have been solved.
- Outside the SDNP area there is no effective local plan, not enough allocated sites and poor housing delivery performance which is causing a lot of resentment.

### **Other**

- Cala Homes are still proving to be completely hopeless. Ad nauseum. I suggest that if the signs are to be removed then perhaps a set of bolt-cutters be used. HCC did not want to get involved.

### **EHDC business**

- Full EHDC council meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September passed the HCC / EHDC option which was then submitted to Government. The Isle of Wight proposal is very weak and not fully supported in the IoW so it is not clear what that will lead to. Public consultation on all the plans will start in late Autumn.
- A question I raised in council about the garden waste collection service was disputed by the council leader. This is being followed up.

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

- It is not clear whether the county elections cancelled this year will be held next May, at the same time as the Mayoral election.

### **Devolution**

- Most parties have now selected their mayoral candidates, so expect some electioneering.

**Roger Mullenger, 20th October 2025**

**District Cllr Report to Liss Parish Council - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Plans for the Local Government Reorganisation have now been submitted to the government. In total four were submitted. The government will now hold a public consultation on them and perhaps a plan of their own. The final decision will be reached in last March next year. Then in May 2027 elections will be held for the new unitary councils. A 12 month handover exercise between the new unitary and the existing councils will then follow. EHDC will cease to exist in 2028.

It is highly likely that the district council elections due in 2027 will be abandoned and the current council will serve for that extra year.

I have been in conversation with EHDC officers regarding the Riverside Railway Walk . The cooperation agreement between EHDC and LPC is due to be signed – perhaps has already been signed. The tools in the tool shed will now be available for the Rangers to use. I would like to thank Paddy for his work with the Rangers.

It had been suggested to me that benches along the length of the walk would be desirable. I have taken this up with officers. Although they can see problems they are actively seeking solution. This may something that the Rangers would like to be involved with.

Roger and I continue to hold our regular monthly surgeries. Perhaps one of the more visible results of my casework is the road marking being repainted at the Jolly Rover junction.

I still have a small amount of money in my grants pot. I will be pleased to help local community groups if I can.

**Ian James, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025**



Receipts for Month 7				Nominal Ledger Analysis			
<u>Receipt Ref</u>	<u>Name of Payer</u>	<u>£ Amnt Received</u>	<u>£ Debtors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>£ Amount</u> <u>Transaction Detail</u>
Balance Brought Fwd :		16,792.46					16,792.46
Banked 17/10/1025		20,000.00					
Top Up	BUS Instant 07410075	20,000.00			205		20,000.00 Top Up
Total Receipts for Month		20,000.00	0.00	0.00			20,000.00
Cashbook Totals		36,792.46	0.00	0.00			36,792.46

Date: 11/11/2025

## Liss Parish Council Current Year

Page: 2

Time 15:04

## Cashbook 1

User: SARAH

Treasurers Acc. 00110939

For Month No: 7

## Payments for Month 7

## Nominal Ledger

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>£ Total Amnt</u>	<u>£ Creditors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>£ Amount</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
07/09/2025	Travis Perkins	BACS	320.19		53.37	4245	200	266.82	RW Bridge Replacement Supplies
02/10/2025	TJ Waste	BACS	343.14		57.19	6150	700	285.95	Skip for Allotment Waste
						363	0	-285.95	Skip for Allotment Waste
						6000	700	285.95	Skip for Allotment Waste
07/10/2025	Cloudy IT	DD	72.00		12.00	4080	150	60.00	Rialtas Cloud License - October
07/10/2025	U-Do DIY	BACS	21.56		3.59	4245	200	17.97	Lock for RW Gate
07/10/2025	BDO	BACS	1,008.00		168.00	4115	150	840.00	External Audit 24/25
07/10/2025	JRB Enterprise Ltd.	BACD	578.40		96.40	4245	200	482.00	Dog Waste Bags
07/10/2025	Hampshire Grounds Limited	BACS	444.00		74.00	4245	200	370.00	Grass Cutting NC/LF/MR - Sept.
08/10/2025	Pavillion	REC VAT	2,399.27			106		2,399.27	VAT Owed
09/10/2025	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055	150	1.20	Milk for Office
13/10/2025	Public Works Loan Board	DD	4,516.10			6005	600	4,516.10	Loan Repayment October
13/10/2025	The Petersfield Cobbler	BACS	10.00			4055	150	10.00	Keys for Notice Board
14/10/2025	Landall	DD	58.71		9.79	4100	150	48.92	Copier/ Printer - August
14/10/2025	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055	150	1.20	Milk for Office
16/10/2025	Sage	DD	20.40		3.40	4080	150	17.00	Payroll Software - October
16/10/2025	Travis Perkins	BACS	82.01		13.67	6150	700	68.34	Slabs for RW All. Water Butts
						363	0	-68.34	Slabs for RW All. Water Butts
						6000	700	68.34	Slabs for RW All. Water Butts
20/10/2025	LLOYDS BANK	BACS	8.50			4009	150	8.50	Bank Charges
27/10/2025	Timpson	DEBIT CARD	22.50		3.75	6150	700	18.75	Keys for RW Tool Shed
						335	0	-18.75	Keys for RW Tool Shed
						6000	700	18.75	Keys for RW Tool Shed
27/10/2025	His Knibbs Water Services	BACS	119.94			6150	700	119.94	RW All. Water Stop Cocks
						363	0	-119.94	RW All. Water Stop Cocks
						6000	700	119.94	RW All. Water Stop Cocks
27/10/2025	Royal British Legion	BACS	20.00			4065	150	20.00	Poppy Wreath
27/10/2025	Coomers	DD	164.31		27.38	6150	700	136.93	RW Planter
						336	0	-136.93	RW Planter
						6000	700	136.93	RW Planter
28/10/2025	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	DD	168.62		28.10	4250	200	140.52	NC Waste - September
28/10/2025	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055	150	1.20	Milk for Office
29/10/2025	Salaries	BACS	8,927.82			4000	150	8,927.82	October Salaries
29/10/2025	HMRC	BACS	2,788.28			4000	150	2,788.28	October Tax & NI
29/10/2025	Hampshire Pensions	BACS	2,847.62			4005	150	2,847.62	October - Pensions
<b>Total Payments for Month</b>			24,944.97	0.00	550.64			24,394.33	
<b>Balance Carried Fwd</b>			11,847.49						
<b>Cashbook Totals</b>			36,792.46	0.00	550.64			36,241.82	

## Receipts for Month 7

## Nominal Ledger Analysis

<u>Receipt Ref</u>	<u>Name of Payer</u>	<u>£ Amnt Received</u>	<u>£ Debtors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>£ Amount</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
Balance Brought Fwd :		171,198.31					171,198.31	
Banked 02/10/2025		1,654.10						
	CCLA	1,654.10			1081	100	1,654.10	CCLA Dividends - September
Banked 06/10/2025		12,670.58						
	Charities	12,670.58			4000	150	12,670.58	Staff Salary Charge VH
Banked 06/10/2025		1,196.09						
	Charities	1,196.09			4005	150	1,196.09	Staff Pension Charge VH
Banked 06/10/2025		13,473.29						
	Charities	13,473.29			4000	150	13,473.29	Staff Salary Charge WL
Banked 06/10/2025		4,785.50						
	Charities	4,785.50			4000	150	4,785.50	Staff Salary Charge All.
Banked 06/10/2025		5,135.00						
	Charities	5,135.00			4005	150	5,135.00	Staff Pensions Charge All.
Banked 06/10/2025		12,670.58						
	Charities	12,670.58			4000	150	12,670.58	Final Salary Charges - VH
Banked 06/10/2025		1,196.09						
	Charities	1,196.09			4005	150	1,196.09	Final Pensions Charges - VH
Banked 06/10/2025		13,473.29						
	Charities	13,473.29			4000	150	13,473.29	Final Staff Payment - WL
Banked 06/10/2025		4,785.50						
	Charities	4,785.50			4000	150	4,785.50	Final Staff Payment - All.
Banked 06/10/2025		5,135.00						
	Charities	5,135.00			4005	150	5,135.00	Final Pension Payment - All.
Banked 06/10/2025		-12,670.58						
	Charities	-12,670.58			4000	150	-12,670.58	Final Salary Charge - VH
Banked 06/10/2025		-1,196.09						
	Charities	-1,196.09			4005	150	-1,196.09	Final Pension Charge - VH
Banked 06/10/2025		-13,473.29						
	Charities	-13,473.29			4000	150	-13,473.29	Final Salary Charge - WL
Banked 06/10/2025		-4,785.50						
	Charities	-4,785.50			4000	150	-4,785.50	Final Salary Charge - All
Banked 06/10/2025		-5,135.00						
	Charities	-5,135.00			4005	150	-5,135.00	Final Pension Charge - All.
Banked 09/10/2025		2,568.55						
	Charities	2,568.55			1999	100	2,568.55	Funds for Mill Road
Banked 09/10/2025		59.06						
	Lloyds Bank	59.06			1080	100	59.06	Bank Interest
Banked 13/10/2025		1,552.41						

Receipts for Month 7				Nominal Ledger Analysis			
<u>Receipt Ref</u>	<u>Name of Payer</u>	<u>£ Amnt Received</u>	<u>£ Debtors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>£ Amount</u> <u>Transaction Detail</u>
	HMRC	1,552.41			105		1,552.41 VAT Reclaim Q2
	Banked 23/10/2025	39,037.78					
	South Downs National Park Auth	39,037.78			1077	100	39,037.78 CIL Payment Oct. 25
					339		39,037.78 CIL Payment Oct. 25
					6001	100	-39,037.78 CIL Payment Oct. 25
Total Receipts for Month		82,132.36	0.00	0.00			82,132.36
Cashbook Totals		253,330.67	0.00	0.00			253,330.67

Payments for Month 7				Nominal Ledger				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>£ Total Amnt</u>	<u>£ Creditors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>£ Amount</u> <u>Transaction Detail</u>
17/10/1025	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	Top Up	20,000.00			200		20,000.00 Top Up
Total Payments for Month			20,000.00	0.00	0.00			20,000.00
Balance Carried Fwd			233,330.67					
Cashbook Totals			253,330.67	0.00	0.00			253,330.67