



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 21st September 2026 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,
Dr D. Turner and *Ms C. Williams

* Present

In addition to Katrina Burns (Projects and Funding Officer – clerking the meeting), District Councillor Roger Mullenger, County Councillor Nick Drew and 1 member of the public were in attendance.

110/26 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Dr D Turner, Cllr A. Smith, Cllr R Smith, Cllr Stratford-Tuke, Cllr C Olley, Cllr D Jerrard, Cllr I James, and Sarah Smith (Clerk).

111/26 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.

112/26 Chair's announcements

The Chair advised the following:

The Government has withdrawn plans for the reorganisation of local government in Hampshire, meaning there will be local elections in Hampshire in May 2027.

An application for the Inwood Road development has been deferred for a month to enable a revision in the number of affordable housing within the scheme.

113/26 Adjournment for public participation

There was one member of the public present.

114/26 Update from the County Councillor

Cllr Drew presented a written monthly update (see **Annex A**) and informed members of the following:

- the Community Climate fund is open for grant applications until 5th October 2026.
- he could chase up outstanding pot hole repairs with the Head of Highways provided they had been reported and had a job number.
- speeding and dangerous drivers could reported to the police via the 101 non-emergency number so that Highways could obtain evidence as to what were priority/dangerous roads.
- Local Government Review – this was taken to a judicial review and withdrawn – waiting to hear what the next stage is on this.

- he was looking at ensuring that BOATS (Byway Open to All Traffic) are damaged as little as possible, and that officers were looking at which ones needed a temporary closure over the winter period due to wetter ground conditions.
- he has a county councillor grant available to apply for.
- there is a 'squaddie box' charity which offers veterans a permanent mail box they can use if they do not have a permanent home address.
- that the disabled car parking bay outside Tesco's was going to be painted in the next 2 months to ensure it was more obvious that it was for disabled people only. He has also requested that enforcement checks on it are carried out more frequently.
- he is requesting that Highways ensure they share information with parish councils regarding road closures, and that if a utility company leaves the highway in a bad way once they have finished their works, they will be fined.

115/26 Update from District Councillors

Cllr James (not in attendance at the meeting) provided a written report, set out at **Annex B**. Cllr Mullenger also provided a written report, set out at **Annex C**. Cllr Mullenger informed members that he would be asking about budget setting now that the local government reorganisation was not going ahead, and that councillor grants would continue for the next 2 or 3 years.

116/26 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 20th July 2026

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 20th July 2026 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Crane and seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour).

117/26 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

118/26 Payments and receipts for the period 1st July to 31st August 2026

Cllr Williams highlighted that the main items of expenditure of note during this period were the new Village Hall windows and 2 new table tennis tables.

Resolved: That the receipts and payments for the period 1st July to 31st August 2026, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Mort, with all in favour).

119/26 Reports of the Planning Committees of 1st July and 31st August 2026

Members noted the reports of the Planning Committees of 1st July and 31st August 2026.

Cllr Williams pointed out that the number of illuminated signs had increased by 1 (from 3 to 4) in the Village Centre.

120/26 Report of the Finance Committee of 10th August 2026

Members noted the report of the Finance Committee of 10th August 2026.

121/26 To note the conclusion of the external audit 2025/26

Members noted the conclusion of the external audit 2025/26.

Cllr Williams thanked the Responsible Finance Officer for their work to ensure that finances were given a clean bill of health.

122/26 Allocation of CIL for improvements at the Newman Collard Pavilion (£3,000)

The Chair thanked Cllrs James and Mullenger for grant monies contributed towards fold up tables at the Pavilion.

Resolved – it was agreed to allocate £3,000 from CIL to pay for improvements at the Newman Collard Pavilion (proposed by Cllr Budden and seconded by Cllr Mort, with all in favour).

123/26 Consideration of quotes for works to the Riverside Walk path and allocation of CIL funds accordingly

Resolved – that item be taken in exempt session (proposed by Cllr Budden and seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour)

124/26 Approval of the new policy for memorials in public spaces, proposed by a working group (KB, PP, CW and SB) in line with the procedure set out in Resolution 125/23

Resolved – that the policy for memorials in public spaces is agreed (proposed by Cllr Williams, and seconded by Cllr Mort, with all in favour).

125/26 Matters to report

Cllr Payne reported that the informal bmx track which the Inwood Road developer had raised concerns about could be fenced off to prevent ingress on to the developer's land.

Cllr Williams offered her congratulations to Liss resident Jay Sarker on winning gold at the 2026 Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships.

Cllr Drew stated he would be happy to support any applications for equipment or coaching for runners as there was no public running track in Liss or the surrounding area.

Cllr Williams reminded members that the East Hampshire District Council Volunteers' Festival is taking place in Liss on Saturday 26th September at the Liss Royal British Legion.

Cllr Williams stated that she had had several residents complaining to her about the state of the layby outside Hillyer's following the completion of gas works there.

Cllr Budden informed members that he had raised concerns with Network Rail about an incident on the level crossing in Liss in which the barriers came down when 2 pedestrians were crossing.

Cllr Budden reported that there was some dispute that HALC was not representing the East Hants and Winchester Associations of Parish and Town Councils and that NALC were looking into the matter.

Cllr Mort informed members that the Whistlestop pub would be closing temporarily in October prior to a change in management.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20:15.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 19th October 2026, 7pm

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

Hampshire County Councillor Update 62

Highways Information**New Forest wildfire and the A31 closure**

A vehicle fire near Poulner Hill on 9 August spread into the central reservation and surrounding New Forest heathland. The A31 was closed in both directions between the M27 and Ringwood while firefighters tackled the incident and National Highways assessed and repaired the road.

More than 120 firefighters were involved during the response. A five-mile water pipeline supplied around 1,300 litres of water a minute, while police drones helped crews monitor hotspots and flare-ups. Residents and motorists were repeatedly asked to keep access clear, avoid narrow Forest lanes and follow the official diversion via the A326, A35, A3060 and A338. After almost two weeks, the A31 reopened. National Highways resurfaced the carriageway, installed 800 metres of new safety barrier and replaced 1,500 metres of boundary fencing. Temporary speed and lane restrictions remained while fire-damaged structures were protected and the emergency compound was cleared.



The reopening was a major relief for residents, businesses and motorists. My sincere thanks go to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, the crews who came from across the country, National Highways, Forestry England, the police, council teams, commoners, volunteers and everyone who supported the response. More than 100 hectares were affected, and the recovery of heathland, habitats and ancient trees will take many years.

In order to avoid a similar disaster in Petersfield Hangers I did ask officers to temporarily close the BOAT's in our area to motorized vehicles however HCC Officers felt there was no risk and this request was refused. I will be working with Officers further to see if future pro-active programme can be put in place for future summers to reduce risks in our area.

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving>

Broken or missing signs: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensigns>

Faulty street lights: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight>

Faded or missing road markings: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report.

If you would like me to follow this up for you, please forward that message to me and I will chase it for you.

Children and Young People

A new three-year plan for SEND support

Hampshire County Council and NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight have developed a new three-year plan with parent and carer forums, schools, education settings, health and social-care professionals and voluntary organisations. The aim is that every child receives the right support at the right time, wherever they live in Hampshire.

The plan includes:

- Earlier access to locally based specialists, including educational psychologists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and specialist teachers.
- More SEND provision in mainstream schools and greater consistency from early years through to age 25.
- Investment in local provision so more children can attend school in their own communities.
- A stronger voice for children, parents and carers in shaping services and resolving issues earlier.

Government funding of £9 million will help launch the new Experts at Hand service, giving education settings faster access to specialist support and advice. The plan is an important starting point, but success must be measured by the real experiences and outcomes of children and families.

Read more: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260624sendreformplan>

Results-day support through Hampshire Futures

I wished everyone receiving A-level and GCSE results well and shared Hampshire Futures advice for anyone whose results were not what they expected. A disappointing set of grades does not close off the future: careers advice, employment, apprenticeships and alternative routes remain available, and Plan B is still a plan.

Careers information: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hampshirefutures>

Waste and Recycling Safety

Please recycle batteries and vapes safely

A recent fire in a Test Valley refuse-collection vehicle is believed to have been caused by a vape placed in household waste. Nobody was injured, but Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service had to attend. Lithium-ion batteries can ignite when crushed during collection, putting crews at risk and damaging vehicles.

- Never put batteries, vapes, mobile phones, laptops or other electrical items in household bins.
- Recycle batteries at participating supermarkets, retailers or Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- Take vapes to participating retailers or Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- Take phones, laptops and other electrical items to a Household Waste Recycling Centre.

Find local recycling options: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling>

Local Services and Business

Business-rates relief for pubs and live music venues

Eligible pubs and live music venues can receive 15% business-rates relief from 1 April 2026. EHDC has tried to identify and apply the relief automatically, but any business that believes it qualifies and cannot see the relief on its bill should check the criteria and apply. The Government has also announced 20% relief from 1 April 2027, with detailed eligibility expected in the next Budget.

Check eligibility and apply: <https://www.testvalley.gov.uk/business/land/business-rates/reliefs/pubs-and-live-music-venues-relief>

General Updates from HCC:

Explore the best of Hampshire on board the bus this summer with free travel for 5–15-year-olds
Children aged 5-15 travelling on local bus services can travel free throughout August, making it easier and more affordable for families to enjoy days out in Hampshire, visit friends and relatives, or simply get around during the summer holidays

[Explore the best of Hampshire on board the bus this summer with free travel for 5–15-year-olds | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire students receiving exam results offered free advice and support on next steps

Our level 2 and 3 exam results helpline is ready to take calls

[Hampshire students receiving exam results offered free advice and support on next steps | Hampshire County Council](#)

Help available for Hampshire households facing urgent costs

Hampshire residents who are struggling with urgent household costs are being encouraged to check what support may be available through the Crisis and Resilience Fund

[Help available for Hampshire households facing urgent costs | Hampshire County Council](#)

Queen Elizabeth Country Park celebrates 50 years with summer festivities

Queen Elizabeth Country Park near Petersfield is marking its 50th anniversary with an exciting programme of events this summer, including the opening of a brand-new children's play area

[Queen Elizabeth Country Park celebrates 50 years with summer festivities | Hampshire County Council](#)

Funding available for local organisations helping Hampshire residents with money worries

Community and voluntary organisations across Hampshire are being encouraged to apply for funding to help residents build financial resilience and reduce the risk of future crisis

[Funding available for local organisations helping Hampshire residents with money worries | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire GCSE students praised for their achievements as results day support continues

Students across Hampshire receiving their GCSE results are being congratulated for their hard work and determination, as Hampshire County Council continues to offer free advice and support to help young people plan their next steps

[Hampshire GCSE students praised for their achievements as results day support continues | Hampshire County Council](#)

District councillor report September 2026

Big news, which will almost certainly have cover, Local Government Reorganisation put on hold. A new district council will be elected on May 6th 2027.

There is a very strong rumour that the mayoral election for Hampshire and the Solent may be brought forward for this date too. (as of 14th so it may have been announced by now).

The new LGR situation means that the work for a new local plan for East Hampshire will be restarted. As this process can take over 2 years to complete work is also being done on producing a Supplementary Plan. This is a new planning tool introduced by the Government, which gives the opportunity to bring forward important planning policies much more quickly while the new Local Plan is being prepared. But of course this does not directly affect us as we come under the SDNPA in regard to planning

Grant applications for the Community Climate Action Fund was opened on Friday 4th September and will close on Monday 5th October. There is a pot of £129,000 available with a maximum of £10,000 per project. Full details and guidance can be found on the council web site <https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate/community-climate-action-fund> Councillors can help by providing letters of support.

My councillor approved grant pot is now empty with all available funds committed. The last £50.00 went towards the Newman Collard refurb.

Our monthly councillor surgeries continue on the first Saturday of every month at the Triangle centre

SGN has notified me that they will be surveying the condition of their gas pipe network throughout East Hampshire from now into 2027. The actual work will be carried out by a company called Picarro. The equipment used is carried in a white 2026 Skoda Karoq. The vehicle will also be identifiable through being branded with both SGN and Picarro livery. It involves several passes along the same pipe. As this work is mainly at night it appears very suspicious. But if it is the survey vehicle they ask you not to report it to the police as this just increases their work load.

Ian James

Report to Liss Parish Council - Monday 21st September 2026

Councillor grants

- Allowing for grants given and discussions with potential applicants, all allocated (except £18). Casework, Including
- A resident in Abri flats in Inwood Road asked about cycle storage. Ongoing. It has been very difficult trying to speak to anyone at Abri since the person previously involved has moved.
- Potholes in Hatch Lane. HCC agreed that the work needed doing, and now some repairs done.
- Trees belonging to HCC & EHDC overhanging gardens

Planning

- The new NPPF has come into force. Fewer planning application will come to the planning committee, and there are not very many currently
- EHDC constitution is being changed with councillors no longer able to request a “call-in” of a planning application. Also, number of councillors on the planning committee reduced.

EHDC business

- Under and community asset transfer several assets and being transferred to Whitehill Town Council, and one to Grayshott Parish Council. Transfer of assets, with the associated liabilities.
- The cancellation / deferment of LGR will give more time for this programme for EHDC.

Local Government Reorganisation

- LGR has been cancelled or postponed and will not know which until the review has been done.
- A lot of time and money has been expended which may or may not have been wasted.
- Council staff were moved and projects changed, which will have to be reviewed, and a major change to the budget.
- It is not clear how budget will be set. I will be asking that question at the council meeting.

Questions?

Roger Mullenger, 20th September 2026

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