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**LISS PARISH COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the Village Hall

Members

\*Mr K. Budden (Chair), \*Ms S. Baldwin, \*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,  
Ms K. Tordoff and \*Ms C. Williams

\* Present

In addition to S. Smith (Clerk) and District Councillor Roger Mullenger and two members of the public.

**123/24 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Tordoff. Members noted that Cllr Oppenheimer had also sent apologies.

**124/24 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.

**125/24 Chair's announcements**

The Chair advised the following:

- Thanks to those who attended the Remembrance Sunday parade and service. It was a very well attended event this year with all three armed services represented and as usual Liss Band made a big contribution.
- Congratulations to Liss Band for its very successful 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert which was held in the Petersfield Festival Hall.
- Congratulations also go to LPC for being awarded Council of the Year 2024 at the Hampshire Association of Local Councils AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> November.
- That EHDC had declared the land adjacent to Dennis Way surplus to requirements which meant it would be disposed of. It was noted that we were awaiting confirmation as to which parcel(s) of land this concerned, prior to considering an LPC position.
- There was still a vacancy for a councillor; anybody interested should speak to the Chair or the Clerk.

**126/24 Adjournment for public participation**

The resident from Mint Road who had attended the last meeting again raised the issue of traffic on Mint Road which had been exacerbated by the various road closures in the village. She was concerned that this would be even worse during Christmas season with increased traffic to Wyld's (Christmas Tree) Farm. She enquired as to whether there had been any progress in an assessment by planning of the conditions that Wyld's Farm were required to comply with, noting in particular the number of events which was limited to 30 per year but was thought to be much higher.

The Chair noted the need for the effect on neighbours to be considered and undertook to chase feedback from the planning officer. It was unfortunate that the road works in Liss had not helped the situation.

Cllr Mullenger suggested an alternative diversion route (via Rake Road) might be an option.

**127/24 Update from the County Councillor**

Cllr Oppenheimer had submitted a written report (**Annex A**).

Cllr Payne asked about the £140m of developers contributions held by HCC for projects - Cllr Oppenheimer had undertaken to check whether the funds could be used for Liss projects, including the

railway extension. The Chair undertook to pursue this.

### **128/24 Update from District Councillors**

Cllr Mullenger provided a report as at **Annex B**. He ran through this and added the following:

- The District Councillor grant pot would not run after this year.
- There is no longer a waiting list for garden waste (brown) bins in Liss.
- Possible car parking charges might be introduced to larger car parks in Liss and Liphook.
- That the area of land at Dennis Way declared surplus to requirements would most likely be sold for commercial purposes. The smaller plots of land might be open to community transfer for tree planting etc. but urged caution as that due diligence should be undertaken first to check for liabilities such as underground sewers etc., as taking on an asset meant also taking on a liability. He was due to attend a meeting on Community Asset Transfer imminently.

Cllr Payne added that some works had been undertaken to improve conditions at the SANG.

The Chair noted that Penns Place had also been declared surplus to requirements but plans for the land were not yet clear.

Cllr Mort noted that four areas had been highlighted for housing development in the district. Cllr Mullenger clarified that one area in West Liss on Hilliers land (some land to the left of the track to Kippences) had been identified as a proposed site for housing allocation. It was noted that areas outside of the Park were to be more heavily affected as they would be subject to a much higher housing allocation.

Cllr Payne again requested that the postal vote issue be investigated with a report back in due course. He also asked why the recycling centres could not house glass bottle recycling banks to allow for overflow to be got rid of appropriately. Cllr Mullenger noted that a new waste strategy was forthcoming.

Cllr James and a second member of the public joined the meeting during this item.

The member of the public was invited to raise any issues at this point and she enquired about EHDC management of the Riverside Walk, noting she was aware that EHDC are having issues using volunteers and asked whether anything could be done to move this forward.

Cllr James advised that the volunteers are not able to operate at the moment due to a lack of training required. He noted that some of the management plan had fallen by the wayside and he had struggled to get answers on the issue.

The Clerk added that some restructuring of the EHDC team concerned may change things and also noted that (as part of the asset based community development process being launched by EHDC) some top up of services might be an option.

Cllr Mullenger advised that some public pressure might help and the member of the public took this onboard.

One member of the public left the meeting at this point.

### **129/24 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Council meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 be approved as an accurate record, subject to one small amendment (proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr Payne with all in favour).

### **130/24 Matters arising**

Cllr Payne advised that the Riverside Walk site visit had taken place and that a proposed management plan would be put to the next Council meeting. Council were happy for Cllr Payne to seek quotes as required.

Cllr Payne also reported that he had a meeting with SDNPA about the SANG pond issue. They suggested that double pond of varying depths at an alternative location would be advised and noted that funds might be available from 'Pounds for Ponds'. SDNP advised Cllr Payne of a potential contractor, that could be contacted to quote for the work, which has been actioned.

### **131/24 Payments and receipts for the period 12<sup>th</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Resolved:** That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex B** for the period 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr A. Smith with all in favour).

Cllrs Olley and Williams noted a non-pecuniary interest as one of the recipients of a payment was the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust for which they were LPC appointed representatives.

### **132/24 Report of the Staffing Committee of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Members noted the minutes of the Staffing Committee of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### **133/24 Mid-year review of the LPC Action Plan**

The Chair noted that the LPC Action Plan had been adopted in May so we were now half way through the Council year. An update of actions against key projects had been circulated which demonstrated that all actions were either completed, well on their way to being completed or being progressed. He felt fully confident LPC would deliver against all key objectives.

Cllr Olley highlighted a few additional actions completed against environmental issues – the Clerk would add these and then upload the document to the website.

Cllr Olley also congratulated Cllr A. Smith on bringing in both additional revenue streams and services to Liss residents through the use of the Pavilion car park which now hosted food vans and an In Post parcel locker.

### **134/24 Proposal that LPC sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge**

**Resolved:** That Liss Parish Council signs up to the Civility and Respect Pledge (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

### **135/24 CIL update and allocation**

Members noted that CIL update which had been circulated.

### **136/24 Matters to report**

Cllr A. Smith advised that, now the HCC Village Centre report ('Placemaking: Liss Village Centre – Pre-feasibility Study') had issued, he would bring an update and proposals for next steps to the December Council meeting.

Cllr Williams advised that the Triangle's Warm Hub had commenced for the winter period and that a Christmas Market would take place there on 7<sup>th</sup> December. On Newman Collard, she advised as follows:

- That the new signage for Newman Collard Park was in production.
- That 10,000 bulbs had been planted at the site with a further 10,000 to go!
- That the last phase of tree works around the Newman Collard pond would take place shortly.
- The Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust/ Park would soon have its own website.
- That the planning situation with the MUGA was ongoing.

She also advised that the Liss Food Bank were seeing 20 families a week, a figure which would likely rise in winter. She called for everyone to keep an eye on friends and neighbours who might require assistance.

Lastly, Cllr Williams had held a Councillor surgery as usual earlier in the day at the Triangle and advised that the resident who had requested a bike shed on the Inwood Road estate for the flats was very appreciate to Cllr Mullenger who had taken up the issue.

Cllr Payne offered to look into options for an LPC Christmas get-together.

Cllr Baldwin enquired about buses in Liss Forest and the Chair responded that the bus service would continue, contrary to a rumour, and that the number 38 will continue to operate in some form.

Cllr James advised that all of his District Councillor grant pot had now been spent.

Chair closed the meeting at 20hrs 08.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 7pm

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

DRAFT

# COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS 1 NOVEMBER 2024

## 1. Cabinet Decisions on spending

I am sure you will all be aware that the HCC Cabinet decided on 14 October 2024 to keep all of Hampshire's HWRCs open. I was pleased to play my part in this decision and I am certain that it was the right decision.

I am also pleased that school crossing patrols will be retained where they are currently in place. When it comes to homelessness support, which is not a legal responsibility of the County Council, I am pleased that we will be able to honour the current contracts that are in place and protect funding to March 2026.

I hope that Councillors will feel that we have listened to the feedback submitted by you during our public consultation. I would now like to report on some of the other decisions impacting Parishes that we took at the October Cabinet meeting.

### **Highways maintenance**

Cabinet noted the additional anticipated uplift funding of £13.76 million for the 2025/6 financial year (HS2 funding) and the proposals for raising money through the emerging Disruption Charging schemes. As well as tackling congestion, Disruption Charging could bring in significant new funds which would be ringfenced for Highway Maintenance. Cabinet therefore approved the reduction in the annual budget for planned maintenance activity by £7.5 million from April 2025. This budget reduction will only affect large-scale planned maintenance activities, it will not affect pothole repairs.

### **Highways winter service**

Cabinet agreed to undertake a review and then update the County Council's Highway Winter Services in consideration of changes to travelling behaviours and recent updates to national guidance. The review and subsequent implementation would provide annual budget savings of £1 million from April 2025. This would be achieved through the revision and implementation of revised winter service treatment routes developed in accordance with current national guidelines and assessments of the way in which people in Hampshire travel during periods of winter weather, as well as through operational efficiency savings arising from the changes.

### **Competitive (one-off) grant schemes**

With regret, Cabinet agreed to withdraw three competitive grant schemes which provide one-off funding grants to a range of community groups and organisations, Parish and Town Councils, namely:

- Leader's Community Grants
- Rural Communities Fund
- Parish and Town Council Investment Fund

### **Passenger transport**

Cabinet approved a revised approach in which both community transport and school transport are jointly commissioned and delivered together, thereby maintaining a level of service to meet the transport needs of older and disabled people whilst reducing the funding required for school transport. This would generate a further approximate saving of £500,000 per annum for the County Council.

Cabinet agreed that a review should be undertaken alongside consideration of the effect on all services to ensure social care service users are not adversely impacted, especially those with special needs and disability, but also considers the effect of withdrawing these services on mental health, loneliness and rural communities.

### **Rural countryside parking**

Cabinet agreed to implement charging at rural countryside car parking sites wholly owned by the Council with 20 or more spaces where commercially viable from April 2025, with a phased introduction to allow supporting infrastructure to be put in place.

Implement charging at rural countryside car parking sites in joint ownership with the Council and/or under 20 spaces where commercially viable. This may include consolidation of sites within a local area, or expansion of existing sites. Where implemented, charges at rural countryside car parking sites will be reviewed annually in line with the current pricing policy as amended from time to time. Income from car parking charging would contribute to the costs to Hampshire County Council of managing Hampshire Countryside sites.

### **Street lighting**

Cabinet agreed that on residential streets where streetlights are already switched off between 1am and 4am, this period is extended by two hours per night so that lights are switched off from midnight until 05:00, excluding the night of 24 December into 25 December, and the night of 31 December into 1 January, when the lights would remain on all night. Dimming levels will also be increased to reduce costs and energy usage.

## **2. Government Budget analysis**

As I write this, we are still assessing the implications of the Budget statement on 30 October 2024. It is becoming clear that the measures announced will not help Hampshire at all and will cause substantial harm in some ways. The extra employer NICS and increase to wages will add millions to our costs. The extra funding for local government is being allocated according to a deprivation basis which means that Hampshire's portion will be much smaller than normal, despite the fact that we have many deprived areas within Hampshire. Abolishing the agricultural property exemption for inheritance tax will be hugely detrimental to farmers and will damage Hampshire's economy.

We continue to press our case to Government for crucial additional funding and greater freedom to make our own decisions. We will keep focusing on driving down costs across all areas of the County Council – working differently and more efficiently across services, streamlining our back-office functions, generating income, and sharing our resources with other public sector organisations, as well as disposing of land and buildings we no longer need.

## **3. Joint Letter to the Chancellor about Winter Fuel Payments**

Hampshire County Council has been campaigning against the proposal by the Government to cut the Winter Fuel Allowance for all pensioners, other than those who are in receipt of Pension Credit. The Leader of HCC wrote to the Chancellor on 28 October along with twelve of

Hampshire's community and voluntary organisations asking the Government to reconsider their decision to means test the Winter Fuel Payment. Over 208,000 households were eligible in Hampshire last year for these payments. Figures show that the vast majority of these will lose the payment, affecting over 273,000 older people.

The following Hampshire community and voluntary organisations signed the County Council's letter: Action Hampshire, Age Concern Hampshire, Basingstoke Voluntary Action Citizens Advice Hampshire, Citizens Advice New Forest, Citizens Advice Rushmoor, Citizens Advice Solent East and Citizens Advice Gosport, Citizens Advice Test Valley, Community First, Health & Independent Living Support, One Community, Unity.

#### 4. Survey on barriers to walking and cycling

HCC has launched a survey aimed at identifying issues with accessibility and connectivity for walking and cycling. This is part of Hampshire County Council's commitment to improving accessibility and encouraging more people to walk and cycle for short journeys.

The survey went live three days ago and closes just before midnight on 22 December 2024. You can access the survey here:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/fa4d56dd7f5c4be4a6b51bee478f516f>

#### 5. Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) program

As part of the County Council's [connect4communities programme](#), this Christmas almost 120 sites across Hampshire will be running HAF schemes, offering free enriching activities and wholesome food each day for those receiving benefits-related free school meals during term time and other vulnerable school-age children. As well as enjoying hot nutritious meals, children are encouraged to be active by participating in sports and spending time outdoors, and to try their hand at a range of activities such as arts and crafts and cooking.

Among those delivering schemes as part of the Holiday Activities and Food programme are schools, childcare providers, community groups and sports activity providers. The upcoming Christmas itinerary follows a successful summer programme, which saw almost 6,500 individual children accessing schemes across the county.

It is likely that some eligible families will not be aware of this free opportunity – so any extra comms you can put out would be much appreciated. The full list of activities will be available at this link next week:

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/advice.page?id=XRITDNF8hhM>

#### 6. BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic) update

The Countryside Service team are currently writing the Committee Report and finalising the scoring matrix of the revised BOP (Byways Operating Procedure). It is expected that these will be finalised by the end of November. The team are seeking legal advice on the level of consultation that is legally required prior to adoption. The revised policies include a number of new elements such as:

- Including the principle of 'dynamic assessment-based decisions' within policy.
- Applying proactive restrictions when damage is initially identified, rather than later after routes are damaged.
- Promoting lower speeds from motorised users.
- New summer closures to prevent access during and after severe weather.

- Establishing a new BOP category of ‘High Amber’ for byways at risk of major damage – these will be included within seasonal closures.
- It has also been agreed that public safety and environmental factors need to be included revised BOP.

I shall share the final Report to the Universal Services Select Committee when it is available. There will be an opportunity for Parishes to make representations to the Committee and to the Executive Member should they wish to do so.

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

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**Report to Liss Parish Council meeting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024****Councillor grants**

- I have a £256 left and unallocated.

**Surgeries**

- Ian James & I have continued our two-hour surgeries on the first Saturday each month. One case highlighted the problems that disjointed fostering services cause.

**Casework**

- One case of a resident not being able get a garden waste collection is now resolved and this should not be an issue in Liss. That department is very understaffed at present.
- The resolution of the damage caused by contractors laying a power cable along Reeds Lane is on-going.
- On the subject of residents asking for a cycle shed at the Inwood Road, Abri flats. I wrote to the eight residents and received three positive replies and no objections. I am about to write to Abri requesting action.
- I received a complaint about the lack of planning of road works in Forest Road, which I will forward to HCC.
- The access to and on the SANG in wet weather has been raised as an issue.

**Planning**

- I have looked at all planning & tree applications. For a TPO which LPC objected to, I stated that the information provided was insufficient to make a sound decision.

**Other**

- None

**EHDC business**

- I have attended the Overview & Scrutiny and Audit committees
- There will be an across the board 10% increase for most services, including car parking, although green waste is about 4%. With rounding some increases are 15%. There are higher increases for commercial types of services. One service has gone up by 1,900% in two years. Reason stated is that wage & NI inflation is about 6%.
- The new Parking Strategy paper was withdrawn before the last O&S meeting, and seems in disarray. It was mentioned in passing that parking is likely to be charged in car parks outside of Petersfield & Alton, ie Liss & Liphook.
- Land at Dennis Way has been declared surplus to EHDC requirements. There is a Community Asset Transfer policy but I believe that Dennis Way will be dealt with commercially. EHDC assets (and other information) can be found here. <https://maps.easthants.gov.uk/easthampshire.aspx>

Roger Mullenger  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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