



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 17th February 2025 in the 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, and *Ms C. Williams

* Present

In addition to S. Smith (Clerk), County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer, District Councillor Roger Mullenger, Nichola Court from the Liss Area Historical Society and one member of the public.

01/25 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs James and Mort.

02/25 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.

03/25 Chair's announcements

The Chair advised the following:

- 1) Sadly former Liss Parish Council employee Richard Whatley, Groundsman for many years, passed away 19th January. His funeral was due to take place the following day. LPC expressed condolences to Richard's family.
- 2) Welcome to Rebecca Crane as this is her first meeting of Council as a councillor and also Nichola Court, Chairperson of the Liss Area Historical Society who was attending the meeting to provide LPC with an update.
- 3) The Cllr vacancy is still open and one application has been received with a further expression of interest, so informal interviews will take place shortly.
- 4) Sandra Humphrey is leaving LPC as RFO at the end of March. A change around in staff roles (detailed in Staff Committee minutes) means there is a vacancy for an Admin Officer to look after bookings and allotment and other administrative areas.
- 5) The Annual Parish meeting will take place on Wednesday 19th March 2025.
- 6) That the level crossing at Liss rail station will be closed from 22:00 Friday 21st March to 06:00 Monday 31st March 2025 as part of the railway improvement plan to replace the signalling between Farncombe and Petersfield. There will be a road closure in place on Station Road throughout the duration of the works, with a signed diversion in place. Pedestrians will be able to cross the railway via the station footbridge and a free shuttle service to be provided to transport pedestrians with reduced mobility from one side of the railway to the other. In addition there would be no train services operating on either of the two weekends; a bus replacement service would be in operation.
- 7) The Chair also provided a brief update on devolution and local government reorganisation. Hampshire had been accepted onto a fast-track devolution process meaning there would be mayoral

elections for a new strategic authority in May 2026. The government consultation on the Hampshire and Solent devolution proposal is open: [Hampshire and the Solent devolution - GOV.UK](#)
Further details on the process for local government reorganisation will be forthcoming.

04/25 Adjournment for public participation

No issues were raised.

05/25 Presentation from the Liss Area Historical Society

Nichola Court from the Liss Area Historical Society gave a presentation, including the background and purpose of the society. She thanked LPC for its financial support by way of a grant and highlighted the need for a new chairperson to come forward for the society to be able to continue to operate.

Nichola Court (LAHS) left the meeting at this point.

06/25 Update from the County Councillor

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

07/25 Update from District Councillors

Cllr Mullenger had provided a report as at **Annex B**.

Cllr Payne asked about the publication of the Riverside Walk maintenance plan and the extensive tree felling (not Ash) onsite and the negative effect that vehicles used for this purpose were having on the track. Cllr Mullenger advised that he thought the tree felling was to open up the glades to allow undergrowth to flourish under reduced shade but would check. He suggested that LPC write to EHDC. The Clerk added that key issues had been raised in a meeting with Chris Patterson (EHDC Community & Engagement Manager) the previous week. This included the need for improved communication from EHDC on management issues, the timeframe for bridge works, the use of the track by vehicular maintenance traffic and possibilities as regards a joint approach to enable volunteers to operate on the entire Riverside Walk.

Members discussed the proposed Hampshire and Solent devolution proposal, including the powers of the elected mayor and the possible implications for LPC, EHDC and HCC.

08/25 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 16th December 2024

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 16th December 2024 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

09/25 Matters arising

No issues were raised.

Cllr Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

10/25 Payments and receipts for the period 12th December 2024 to 31st January 2025

Resolved: That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex C** for the period 12th December 2024 to 31st January 2025, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

11/25 Report of the Charities Committee of 27th January 2025

Members noted the minutes of the Charities Committee of 27th January 2025.

12/25 Report of the Facilities Committee of 27th January 2025

Members noted the minutes of the Facilities Committee of 27th January 2025.

13/25 Report of the Staff Committee of 10th February 2025

Members noted the minutes of the Staff Committee of 10th February 2025.

14/25 Report of the Planning Committee of 10th February 2025

Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee of 10th February 2025.

15/25 Draft Liss Parish Council Action Plan 2025/26

Members noted the draft Action Plan for 2025/26. This would be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting and would then be open for a period of public consultation prior to approval by the new Council in May.

16/25 LPC response to the draft South Downs National Park Local Plan.

The Chair advised that the LPC response to the proposed South Downs National Park Local Plan consultation had been referred by the Planning Committee to Full Council given its significance and the potential impact on the parish. The main difference proposed for the parish was Policy SDXX: Land at Farnham and Station Roads, West Liss.

The Chair had circulated a draft with three possible outcomes which were discussed. Members agreed to object to the proposed development as follows:

Liss Parish Council is against the development. The proposed development raises significant concerns regarding its potential impact on the character and integrity of the Neighbourhood Plan designated Protected Gap and the semi-rural setting within the South Downs National Park. Despite policy requirements to safeguard this landscape, the introduction of up to 30 flats or a 60-bed care facility would likely intensify built form in an area valued for its open, green qualities. There is a risk that vehicular access and infrastructure movements along Farnham Road (B3006) could further erode this sensitive landscape. Moreover, increased pressure on local wildlife sites and the proximity to the Wealden Heaths SPA raise questions about the long-term effectiveness of mitigation measures. In light of these concerns, it is considered that this development would compromise the purposes of the National Park and the local community's vision for the area, and should therefore not proceed.

Members also noted the loss of the working farmland and questioned why other brown and infill sites were available in the village and far more suitable as well as the need for yet more care homes in Liss, particularly with disused care homes on the Old A3. The impact of four potential sites in the West Liss area was also thought to be a real issue for an already struggling sewage system which served the area. Members expressed deep concern about the proposal undermining the Neighbourhood Plan in which the parish has invested significant time and effort and which explicitly ruled out development in this area.

Resolved: That LPC submits an objection to the proposed development under Policy SDXX: Land at Farnham and Station Roads, West Liss, as above, and expresses an interest to engage and work with the South Downs National Park to establish more suitable areas for development (proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Smith with all in favour).

17/25 Asset register and insurance cover

Members approved the asset register and level of insurance cover, subject to the addition of the shed at the Lower Green allotment site (the Charities asset register would be put to the Charities Committee in due course).

18/25 Schedule of policy revisions 2025

Members noted the schedule of policy revisions for the forthcoming year. The Clerk invited any councillors who had a specific interest or knowledge in any of the areas to put themselves forward to take part in the review process.

19/25 CIL update and allocation

Members noted the total sum of LPC CIL unallocated stood at £12,695.

20/25 Newman Collard car park remedial works

Cllrs Williams and Olley declared a personal interest in this item as trustees of the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust.

The Clerk advised that three quotes had been received for resurfacing the entrance area to the Newman Collard car park. Maintenance of the car park was deemed a shared area of responsibility under the Memorandum of Understanding between LPC and the Trust.
Cllr Williams advised that the Trust had agreed to contribute up to half the sum in the lowest quote.

It was resolved that LPC allocate the sum of up to £3,000 for remedial works to the Newman Collard car park from the EMR 350 Newman Collard Recreation Improvements (proposed by Chair and seconded by Cllr Payne with all in favour, aside from abstentions from Cllrs Williams and Olley).

21/25 Matters to report

Cllr Jerrard had attended a meeting on East Hampshire BOATS in East Meon. The meeting was not well attended but positive, discussing amended draft Policy Statements and the Byways Operation Procedure.

Cllr Payne advised that he hoped to be able to get the Riverside Walk volunteer group up and running in the spring.

Cllr Mullenger asked whether LPC would consider using CIL funding to make the entrance from the Andlers Wood estate onto Hill Brow Road accessible as it was supposed to be (CALA had declined to invest further funding). Cllr Smith urged caution and noted issues such as permissions, HCC specifications and long-term maintenance would need to be considered before making any commitment.

Cllr Mullenger and the member of the public left the meeting at this point.

22/25 EXEMPT Session

Resolved: That the following item be take in exempt session as the recipient of the award would not be announced until the Annual Parish Meeting on 19th March 2025 (proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

23/25: Villager of the Year Award 2025

Members agreed the recipient of the Villager of the Year Award; this would be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on 19th March 2025.

The Chair closed the meeting at 20hrs 48.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 17th March 2025, 7pm

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

3 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Devolution and Council Tax Update

We are still waiting to hear from the Government as to whether Hampshire will be included in the Devolution Priority Programme, also referred to as the Fast Track. This decision will potentially affect the May elections. The decision will also have an impact on the County's projected financial position. Hopefully we will get the announcement in the coming days.

The Government has today refused a request from HCC for Extraordinary Financial Support in the form of a council tax rise higher than 5% (without a referendum). This decision means that HCC cannot effectively plan beyond the coming municipal year of 2025-26. That makes service delivery extremely challenging and puts the wellbeing of communities at risk.

2. Love Lane Space for Nature: Project Update



The Hampshire Monday Group have done a fantastic job of removing invasive cherry laurel and scrub from the Love Lane Space for Nature. I would like to send my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who came out in cold weather and did an amazing job. The verges and paths have been restored, and heritage features and superb native trees are now visible.

The Hampshire Monday Group also undertook a litter pick as they went which is much appreciated. Hampshire Highways kindly removed eight piles of cuttings last week which creates space for the final laurels to be removed.

Cherry Laurel leaves and berries contain poisonous cyanide. It will be fascinating to see what growth comes up now that some light is getting into the copse and the cherry laurel has been removed. I am optimistic that we will see a rapid improvement in biodiversity and in the local amenity value of this prominent green space. The project also aims to discourage anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping in this copse.

It is especially pleasing to note that the Love Lane footpath width has almost doubled as a result of the clearance. This route is used by visitors to the nursery, the community centre and the recreation ground so it is heavily used by people of all ages. Safety and accessibility have been substantially improved for all users.

There is still some thinking and consultation to do about the ongoing maintenance and management of the copse. I will be arranging a site visit with all stakeholders to take place in March. In the meantime, here are some more photos.



3. Pulens Lane Traffic Calming Scheme Update

The Pulens Lane scheme is getting closer to implementation. A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes. The scheme webpage has now been updated with the current position and a public slide pack. The first phase is focused on the Durford Road crossroads. I remain optimistic that we can secure funding for the remaining phases.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportschemes/petersfield-pulens-lane>

Construction of Phase 1 is now targeted for the first quarter of 2026.

4. Construction poised to commence at Bulmer House

I am pleased to be able to report that the rebuilding of Bulmer House will get underway this month. It has been a long planning process to get to this point. I feel that the imminent commencement of works is good news for Petersfield. The extra-care apartments will provide much-needed downsizing opportunities for people across the area and the day-care facilities will also be a welcome addition to the town. The schedule is now as follows:

- February 2025: Start on site (demolition and tree works)
- April 2025: Construction commences
- Spring 2027: Practical completion
- Summer 2027 onwards: Scheme occupied

The below images show the approved tree works alongside the eventual footprint of the new building.



5. New Lane Rental Scheme, also known as “Disruption Charging” outlined by HCC

Hampshire County Council has set out proposals to introduce a new disruption charge scheme designed to reduce delays on the county’s busiest roads whilst raising extra revenue for highway

maintenance. The plan, which would complement the existing permitting scheme, would incentivise any companies or agencies needing to carry out work on busier parts of the public highway to improve their planning, work outside of peak times wherever possible, and reduce the duration of their work.

This would be achieved by charging a daily fee for the duration of the work, including any delays. Surplus revenues received over and above the basic scheme operation costs would be ringfenced towards funding innovative projects that reduce the disruption of streetworks and roadworks and, subject to new national legislation that is expected later this year, a proportion of the income could be re-invested back into highway maintenance.

The plans were approved by the County Council's Cabinet Lead for Highways and Waste, Councillor Lulu Bowerman, on 28 January 2025. The draft proposals will now be subject to wider consultation this year. Final recommendations would subsequently be developed by the County Council before formal approval is sought from the Department for Transport. The aim would be for the scheme to become operational in 2026.

Disruption charging – or 'lane rental' – is already in operation in several parts of the UK and local schemes must comply with national legislation. Rental charges can only be applied on the most congested, strategically important local roads under the management of the highway authority. The County Council would be able to apply a 'rental' charge of up to £2,500 per day, the maximum that can be charged under the legislation. For more information, you may wish to read the [Decision Day report](#).

6. Helping Hampshire children get healthy and active

At HCC we are expanding our initiatives to reduce ill-health and improve the wellbeing of Hampshire's children. Getting kids into good habits early on can make a big difference. Helping children maintain a healthy weight is essential for long-term health.

In Hampshire, almost one-third (32%) of Year 6 students and one-fifth (21%) of Reception-aged children are overweight or very overweight. We also know that 30% of children aged five to 19 in the county do less than 30 minutes of physical activity daily, with those from disadvantaged backgrounds facing further barriers to accessing activity.

A new set of initiatives across the County includes one in East Hants: Community engagement and child-friendly elements have been added to the Horndean Green Trail project, which aims to improve access between Horndean and surrounding areas.

HCC has also given funding to children's charity Barnardo's to launch a new programme to help families stay healthy, called Hampshire Healthy Steps. It is a flexible, community-based programme for families with children aged 2 to 12 years, enabling them to get more active, sleep better, eat healthily, and connect with their local area. Find out more here:

<https://www.hampshirehealthysteps.org.uk/>

Parents and carers worried about their child's weight can get help and guidance from the County Council commissioned health visiting team or school nursing team. Details can be found on the Hampshire [Healthy Families](#) website.

7. South Downs Local Plan Review

The consultation on the South Downs Local Plan Review is underway. The consultation can be accessed at this link:

<https://sdnpalocalplanreview.commonplace.is/>

It was good to see so many Parish Councillors at the engagement session at the Festival Hall on 29 January. Many Councillors will want to comment on the new site allocations for housing and nature. There are also policy changes and the four which caught my eye are:

- Rural Exception Sites: 20% market housing to be allowed when community-led, with the rest affordable. It will be interesting to see whether more sites come forward.
- A favourable New Policy on Viticulture, Winemaking and Wine Tourism.
- Policy SD23 is being changed from Sustainable Tourism to “Regenerative Tourism”
- A new concept of Regenerative Design.

8. South Downs CIL round has opened

The SDNPA CIL process opened for applications on 16 January. The bidding window remains open until 25 April. In the last CIL round, there was welcome funding for upgrading the Petersfield Heath toilets and boosting Butser’s butterflies through chalk grassland restoration. QE Country Park is also getting a new accessible shower and toilet block. It would be great to get funding later this year for some Hangers projects so I hope Parish Councils will seriously consider developing a bid. Here is a link to the CIL page.

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy/revision-of-spending-cil/applying-for-cil-funds-for-an-infrastructure-project/>

9. Consultation on BOATs

The revised Byways Operating Procedure is getting closer to adoption. I have attended a couple of meetings behind the scenes and we are making some progress. A Parish consultation session has been arranged at 2.00pm on 12 February at East Meon Village Hall. Hopefully you have received an invitation to that meeting. If not, please let me know.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Report to Liss Parish Council - Monday 17th February 2025**Councillor grants**

- The draft EHDC budget, proposes an amount of £7,000 per councillor, plus £3,000 per councillor into a central climate pot, making a total of £129k in that climate pot.

Surgeries

- Ian James & I have continued our surgeries on the first Saturday morning of each month. The February surgery was busy with a variety of topics. In fact a queue at one point.

Casework

- One community resident had collected up various discarded road signage, hoping that it would make the collection by HCC contractors more likely. I contacted HCC Highways asking questions about the never ending problems with non- or late collection of signage. The answer is attached, but summarised says that the contractor should remove signage at the end of the works, and there is a daily charge for over-run. However the lateness may not be found out for a long time. I think reporting by the public and others would be a prompt.

Planning

- I attended the planning committee last week, and note that I have been asked to request that the LAFC application be brought to committee if the officer recommendation is to approve.
- Also a site visit about the planning application for the Newman Collard MUGA.

Other

- I have been in communication with Cala Homes for them to remove their Andlers Woods. They have proved to be both difficult and incompetent, including asking me to tell them where their signs are.
- Enquiries about that management of the Riverside Walk and bridge repairs.

EHDC business

- The EHDC budget will be debated on Thursday 27th February.
- The county council elections have been postponed by one year, or more, because Hampshire is on the priority list. There are on-going discussions about local government reorganisation and devolution which are two different topics.
- The mayoral election will be same system as is used for the police commissioner. A lot of power for mayors with a small minority of voters voting for them.
- The Overview & Scrutiny committee has asked that it be involved in reviewing the decision making about unitary authorities, and all councillors to be kept informed.

Roger Mullenger
17th February 2025

Appendix:

Signs placed for Hampshire County Council (HCC) works are usually removed, unless they are required for a safety reason, at the end of the works, when the contractor leaves site. Occasionally signs may be overlooked especially if they are on a diversion route. Due to pressures on resource and budgets, officers are unable to check every site where works take place to ensure signs have been collected but if they are noticed when an engineer is carrying out routine enquiries, a request to collect them is made to the contractor or the party responsible.

However, these are not classed as safety defects under our Highway Safety Inspection Policy and therefore generally have a target completion date of the end of the financial year and as such are usually programmed in when other safety works are taking place in the vicinity. Whilst we understand it is frustrating to see signs on the network that are not required, we must prioritise our available resource on dealing with safety defects on the network even more so as we move towards minimal legal service levels. I can also confirm that uncollected signs are not classed as littering.

If the signs are placed for utility or third-party works, our Streetworks team must try and determine who they belonged to. If they do this, they can then make contact and ask for them to be collected which is typically the most successful course of action. If the signs are related to a site set up and we can prove who they belong to, we can issue an informal overrun warning which can lead to a daily charge provided they have been there for less than three months, and HCC have known about it for less than two working days. This however is a labour-intensive process that requires an officer to keep visiting the site and accounts to be sent in writing within certain time scales. Even after all this, the utility companies can argue the impact of the signs being left so charges can't always be justified. If they are unable to determine which company was responsible for their implementation, the local area office will arrange collection as per the information related to HCC works.

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