



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 17th March 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

R. Lawrence (Assistant Clerk) was also present.

24/25 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs S. Baldwin, C. Mort, A. Smith and R. Smith. It was also noted that District Cllr R Mullenger and County Cllr R. Oppenheimer had sent apologies.

25/25 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.

26/25 Chair's announcements

The Chair advised the following:

- 1) Hannah McIntyre will be joining us in April in a new role as Admin Officer, which will enable the Clerk, Sarah Smith and the Assistant Clerk, Rebecca Lawrence to move in to their revised roles.
- 2) The Annual Parish meeting will take place on Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall and would expect to have a good turnout of councillors present.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Interviews would be held shortly for the Councillor vacancy.

5 Adjournment for public participation

No members of the public were present

28/25 Update from the County Councillor

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

29/25 Update from District Councillors

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

Cllr James delivered the report to the members and briefly discussed the proposed Hampshire and Solent devolution proposal. The Isle of Wight is to be considered an individual case and parish councils will remain unchanged.

Cllr James mentioned the oak and ash trees that had been felled along the Riverside Walk. Cllr Payne mentioned that the oak was damaged during the recent storms. Cllr James said he had been promised an update on the volunteers. Cllr Payne reported that the clerk had advised that a risk assessment would need to be completed and agreed in order for the volunteers to commence work at the Riverside Walk; there are 16 potential volunteers at present. An initial discussion has taken place about the possibility of the Riverside Walk volunteers undertaking some work on the EHDC section in due course under LPC the insurance policy.

30/25 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 17th February 2025

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 17th February 2025 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Jerrard and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

31/25 Matters arising

No issues were raised.

32/25 Payments and receipts for the period 1st February 2025 to 28th February 2025

Cllr Williams declared a conflict of interest, as a Trustee of The Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust, in payment 3, the grant payment to The Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust.

Cllr Williams also wanted to note her thanks to Sandra Humphrey for her service as RFO.

Resolved: That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex C** for the period 1st February 2025 to 28th February 2025, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Payne and seconded by Cllr Stratford-Tuke with all in favour).

33/25 Report of the Finance Committee of 24th February 2025

Members noted the minutes of the Finance Committee of 24th February 2025.

34/25 Revised Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment and Grant Policy & Procedure

Cllr Williams gave a brief overview of the revised Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment and Grant Policy & Procedure which had been reviewed by the Finance Committee:

- Financial Regulations - are in a new format and presented differently.
- Financial Risk Assessment - no major changes.
- Grant Policy & Procedure - grants need to be spent within the year that they are issued.

Resolved: That the revised Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment and Grant Policy and Procedure be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

35/25 Report of the Planning Committee of 10th March 2025

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

36/25 CIL update and allocation

Members noted the total sum of LPC CIL unallocated stood at £12,694.75.

37/25 Appointments to committees, external bodies and champions

Cllr Crane requested to join the Planning, Highways and Charities & Facilities committees.

Resolved: That Cllr Crane's request to join the Planning, Highways and Charities & Facilities committees be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Payne with all in favour). It was agreed that Cllr Stratford-Tuke would take on the role as business link.

38/25 Matters to report

Cllr Jerrard had attended a meeting regarding the Cricket Pavilion. The Chair commented that we hope that the planning application is called in by the SDNPA.

Cllr James advised that there is a new interface in place for District Councillor grant applications.

Cllr Payne reported that the Riverside Walk volunteer group were meeting on Thursday 20th March and will be up and running soon.

Cllr Payne also mentioned that the new SANG pond, which is a clay filled biodiversity pond with a post and rail fence, will be going ahead. The pond will measure 20 metres x 10 metres and will vary in depth from 0.8 metres to 1.5 metres. The estimated cost is £27,000 and three quotes will be required.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19hrs 37.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 28th April 2025, 7pm

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

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ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

3 MARCH 2025

1. The Hampshire Pledge

The Hampshire Cabinet have developed a “Hampshire Pledge” which we are launching this month. I would like to share the pledge with you – see below. The intention is to set out what people can expect from the County Council whilst also encouraging people to take pride and interest in their local community and in their own health and wellbeing. I hope you agree that this is a worthwhile initiative, I would welcome any feedback.



2. Highways Update

Despite another wet winter with unprecedented rainfall and several severe storms, Hampshire Highways have kept our road network in relatively good condition. We have not seen an overload of defects as happened two years ago. Over 1,000 fallen trees were cleared from roads overnight during storms. I appreciate that Parish Councils have had to show patience at times. But the roads are noticeably in a much worse state in West Sussex! Now that we have some drier weather I am confident that the Highways teams will quickly address all the outstanding issues.

Despite the funding challenges at HCC, I am pleased to say that an extra £7.5m funding went into Highways in the 2024/25 year. This funding made a difference because it meant that more crews were on standby and more resources were available to those crews. For the coming year, starting on 1 April, national funding for Hampshire Highways has increased by an extra £14,099,000. This puts us in a strong position for the next 12 months. In addition, £4.25m of HS2 money from the Network North scheme is being used each year to resurface 19 main routes across Hampshire, including the A272 through Stroud, over the two-year period 2024-26.

The Highways Engineers have a difficult job and I think they deserve huge credit for their professionalism. The greatest difficulty this year has been surface flooding. The high water table and the heavy rain have caused many localised problems. The reality is that the flooding teams are stretched. The best advice I can give is to keep [reporting flood problems on the website here](#) and also make use of the tips in the [Community Toolkit](#) on flooding.

3. Hampshire Forest Partnership

The Hampshire Forest Partnership which I launched in 2022 continues to go from strength to strength. Over 60,000 trees have now been planted. The winter planting season is just now ending, which makes this a great time to start planning for the next planting season in November 2025 – February 2026.

Free trees and free advice are still available from the HFP team. It would be great to get some more mini-forest projects underway following the success of the mini-forest in Sheet, next to the Adhurst allotments. If you would like to discuss a potential site please drop an email to: treeplanting@hants.gov.uk

4. Standing up for Hampshire

Over the last year, HCC has taken a prominent role in standing up for Hampshire. In our view, Hampshire has been disproportionately affected by Government decisions which were not part of the Labour manifesto.

We have pushed back on the family farms tax which will affect several hundred farms in Hampshire. Hampshire is a county which depends on its family farms for our food, economy, landscape and environment. So in my view it is right that we are taking this stand. We have also written to the Government to protest about the scrapping of winter fuel payments to pensioners. This policy decision will affect Hampshire more than other counties due to our demographics. Finally, we have also led the protests against the Chancellor's increase to Employers National Insurance. This will push up costs for the Council and for care homes by tens of millions, and these costs will ultimately be borne by local taxpayers. We hope that the Chancellor reverses course in her March budget.

5. Year of Health and Wellbeing

In September 2024 HCC launched a Year of Health and Wellbeing. By coincidence I also took on the role of Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing that month. This initiative comes under the auspices of the Hampshire 2050 Partnership: a partnership of local government, business, universities and the voluntary sector. The aim is to integrate health and wellbeing into our workplace policies and day-to-day working practices. It is an opportunity for cross-sectoral working focussing on the health and wellbeing of Hampshire's residents. The three core priorities of focus during the Year of Health and Wellbeing are:

- Physical activity
- Mental wellbeing
- Childhood obesity

I see this as crucial to improving our quality of life in Hampshire. A healthier workforce will also be good for the local economy and will relieve pressure on the NHS. The priorities also intersect with the partnership's other key strategic drivers including impact on economic prosperity, climate change and the natural environment. A toolkit is available at this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/visionforhampshire2050/health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing-toolkit>

6. Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs)

Following years of sustained lobbying by Councillors across East Hampshire, we are getting closer to a new HCC policy on management of our BOATs which will reduce conflict, damage and nuisance caused by vehicles.

I am optimistic that the new policy will be approved by the Summer. In future, the intention is that the County Council will seek to maintain its unsurfaced road network as natural unsurfaced corridors for all users to use and enjoy; it will not surface routes to cater for vehicle use. Instead, the County Council will seek to sustainably preserve the physical character of the route and may seek to reduce levels of usage to allow for fluctuations in the condition of the route.

The County Council may then take action to limit or prevent access by motor vehicles, to prevent damage, to ensure that non-motorised users are able to use the routes, and to protect and preserve the nature and character of the route. A new Byways Operating Procedure will give greater weight to environmental designations. Seasonal Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) will be applied to a wider range of byways thanks to a new High Amber category. Signage and barriers will continue to be implemented and further TRO measures may also be considered. I feel that this is definitely a step in the right direction which will benefit local communities and the environment.

7. Beavers return to the South Downs after 600 years

In December 2024 a pair of Beavers named Willow and Wilson were introduced to the River Meon near Petersfield, having been transported from Scotland by the Beaver Trust.



The semi-aquatic mammals, which were hunted to extinction in the 16th Century, create wetlands and wildlife habitats. The impact they have on their new environment will be tracked by a team of academics from Southampton University. They have been busy beavers and have almost chewed their way through this crab apple tree! You can follow the adventures of the Beavers on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Meonsidemeads/>

8. Government consultation on Devolution underway

Hampshire residents are invited to have their say on devolution proposals for Hampshire and the Solent region in a Government consultation which is ongoing. The consultation runs until 13 April 2025 and I would encourage everyone to respond. The consultation can be found here: [Hampshire and the Solent devolution consultation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution-consultation)

Commenting, Leader of Hampshire County Council Leader, Councillor Nick Adams-King said: “Devolution represents the biggest change to local government in a generation and as such, it is really important that local people across the wider Hampshire area have the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Collectively, alongside our three partners, joining the Government's Devolution Priority Programme is a fantastic opportunity for Hampshire to self-determine and shape devolution proposals in the best interests of our residents and communities.”

HCC has also developed its own web pages about devolution, including Q&As, which can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/devolution.

9. Summary of grants awarded by me

For transparency, every year I publish my list of grants awarded. Here is the list for the year ending March 2025.

Applicant	Project	Grant (£)
Ropley Parish Council	Installing Kissing Gates to improve access to Ropley footpaths	800
Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust	Bulb and wildflower Project	800
Greatham Parish Council	Community Minibus – purchase of 17 seater to support primary school and the village.	900
Steep War Memorial Club	Potted flowers to improve look of the Village Hall	250
Home-Start Butser	Nurture Parenting Puzzle Training	800
Froxfield & Privett Parish Council	Parish Verge Cutting	800
Steep and Stroud Newsletter	Keeping communities informed and engaged	800
Steep Film Society	Installation of Induction Loop, PA system and professional tuning	500
Petersfield Shakespeare Festival	Production of Twelfth Night	750
Petersfield Twinning Association	Exchange Visits from Warendorf and Barentin	800
Sheet Parish Council	Speed Reduction measures	800
	TOTAL	8,000

Normally, this year's grant round would reopen on 1 June 2025. But the delay to the elections and the budget gap at HCC have complicated matters for this coming year. No decisions have yet been taken on the availability or not of County Councillor grant pots for the year 2025-26. I am expecting that the decision will be taken in September 2025. I am afraid that this means that I will not be able to consider any new grant requests until September.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

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LPC Annual Meeting

Report from District Councillors, Ian James & Roger Mullenger

The key points for the year

- We have held surgeries every month. The issues raised varied significantly, but many relate to services provided by Hampshire County Council, particularly speeding, parking, pavements and potholes.
- The EHDC budget in the current year (2024/25), passed in February last year ran into serious problems at an early stage, resulting in staff redundancies and reduced services.
- There has been a reorganisation of the departmental directors from five to three, with new staff just joining, so the effect is not known.
- We have tried to deal with all casework, sharing it for many items to avoid duplication.
- Organising volunteers for the Riverside Walk management has been frustratingly slow.
- All planning applications have been reviewed and commented upon for key issues.

Looking forward

- The new budget has just been passed, with the EHDC element increasing by £5 per year for a band D house. The EHDC part is 8.39% of the total for Liss residents.
- The revisions to the SDNP Local Plan and SDNP Partnership Management Plan have been consulted on. The local plan for the non-SDNP area is also going through a revision which is contentious because of the doubled housing numbers.
- Devolution means there will be a mayoral election next year. This will put a heavy work load local councils. As a result the county elections due in May have been postponed.
- Local Government Reorganisation is in progress and Hampshire has accepted for the fast tracking process.
- The initial outline plan will be submitted this month.
- The reorganisation will merge the county tier and district tier of councils into one layer called unitary councils. The current district (and the small current unitary) councils of the Hampshire area will be grouped into, perhaps, four new unitary councils. So district councillor will disappear.
- The process is understood but the timescale will be challenging and there are differences in opinions between the various district council, borough councils and councillors.
- An outline plan of the process of arriving at the final proposal of the area of Hampshire be structured will be presented to the government on the 21st.
- The final plan will be presented in September.
- Parish councils will be unchanged.

PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS

ANNEX C

Date: 10/03/2025

Liss Parish Council Current Year

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Time: 09:25

Cashbook 1

User: SANDRA

Treasurers Acc. 00110939

Payments made between 01/02/2025 and 28/02/2025

Nominal Ledger Analysis

Date	Payee Name	Reference	£ Total	£ Creditors	£ VAT	A/c	£ Amount	Transaction
03/02/2025	Public Works Loan	DDR50	3,278.94			6005 600	3,278.94	Public works loan
04/02/2025	tesco	DCARD	1.20			4055 150	1.20	milk
05/02/2025	Newman Collard	FPO114	2,300.00			6107 700	2,300.00	Newman Collard Grant payment
05/02/2025	Rebecca Lawrence	FPO114	6.00			4055 150	6.00	expenses
05/02/2025	Cross Fire	FPO115	136.00	136.00		500		Fire extinguisher service
05/02/2025	JRB Enterprise Ltd	FPO116	578.40	578.40		500		Dog waste bags
05/02/2025	Coomers Ltd	FPO117	80.92	80.92		500		Building sand
05/02/2025	Viking Direct	FPO118	57.34	57.34		500		Stationery for office
06/02/2025	Cloudy IT Ltd	DDR51	72.00	72.00		500		RBS licence fee
06/02/2025	Charities	TRANS	54.74			540	54.74	allotment cash banked
10/02/2025	Sodexo Motivaton Solutions UK	DDR52	0.72	0.72		500		Salaries
10/02/2025	Charities	TRANS	50.00			540	50.00	transfer to charities
11/02/2025	tesco	DCARD	1.20			4055 150	1.20	milk
17/02/2025	Liss Community Association	FPO119	5,040.00			6111 700	5,040.00	Grant payment
						372	-5,040.00	Grant payment
						6000 700	5,040.00	Grant payment
18/02/2025	Sage UK	DDR53	18.00	18.00		500		Payroll software fee
26/02/2025	Salaries	BACS	7,006.96			4000 150	7,006.96	Salaries Feb mnth 11
26/02/2025	Hampshire Pension	BACS	2,427.79			4005 150	2,427.79	Pension Feb mnth 11
26/02/2025	HMRC	BACS	1,124.00			4000 150	1,124.00	HMRC Tax Feb mnth 11
26/02/2025	hmrc	BACS	1,007.00			4000 150	1,007.00	HMRC NI Feb mnth 11
28/02/2025	tesco	DCARD	1.20			4055 150	1.20	milk
28/02/2025	Veolia ES UK Ltd	DDR54	466.70	466.70		500		Waste bins for NC & Pavillion
28/02/2025	Natural Playscapes Ltd	FPO120	57.60	57.60		500		Replacement swing seat
28/02/2025	Coomers Ltd	FPO121	74.54	74.54		500		Ballast/cement mill rd bench
28/02/2025	Rebecca Lawrence	FPO122	26.90			4055 150	26.90	Mileage
Total Payments:			23,868.15	1,542.22	0.00		22,325.93	

Treasurers Acc. 00110939

Receipts received between 01/02/2025 and 28/02/2025

Nominal Ledger Analysis

<u>Receipt Ref</u>	<u>Name of</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>
	Banked 04/02/2025	10,000.00						
tfer	BUS Instant 07410075	10,000.00			205		10,000.00	transfer funds
	Banked 05/02/2025	54.72						
cash banke	allotment cash banked	54.72			540		54.72	allotment cash banked
	Banked 06/02/2025	96.00						
charities	Charities	96.00			540		96.00	receipt from charities
	Banked 06/02/2025	270.00						
	Liss model railway cash in	270.00			540		270.00	Liss model railway cash in
	Banked 13/02/2025	5,040.00						
transfer	BUS Instant 07410075	5,040.00			205		5,040.00	transfer of funds
	Banked 24/02/2025	11,500.00						
transfer	BUS Instant 07410075	11,500.00			205		11,500.00	transfer funds
	Banked 26/02/2025	89.89						
	Zurich Insurance	89.89			4070	150	89.89	Zurich Insurance receipt
	Total Receipts:	27,050.61	0.00	0.00			27,050.61	

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BUS Instant 07410075

Payments made between 01/02/2025 and 28/02/2025

Nominal Ledger Analysis

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>£ Total</u>	<u>£ Creditors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>£ Amount</u>	<u>Transaction</u>
04/02/2025	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	tfer	10,000.00			200	10,000.00	transfer funds
10/02/2025	Charities	BACS	1,250.00			540	1,250.00	charities
13/02/2025	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	transfer	5,040.00			200	5,040.00	transfer of funds
24/02/2025	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	transfer	11,500.00			200	11,500.00	transfer funds
Total Payments:			27,790.00	0.00	0.00		27,790.00	

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BUS Instant 07410075

Receipts received between 01/02/2025 and 28/02/2025

Nominal Ledger Analysis

<u>Receipt Ref</u>	<u>Name of</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>
	Banked 04/02/2025	2,002.87						
CCLA Int	Public Sector interest	2,002.87			1081	100	2,002.87	CCLA dividends recd
	Banked 07/02/2025	11,949.24						
VAT	hmrc vat	11,949.24			105		11,949.24	VAT refund council
	Banked 10/02/2025	79.96						
int recd	Lloyds Bank	79.96			1080	100	79.96	bank interest rec
Total Receipts:		14,032.07	0.00	0.00			14,032.07	

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