



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 21st July 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 County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer.

97/25 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Crane, Payne, R. Smith and Turner. It was noted that District Cllr Roger Mullenger had also sent apologies.

98/25 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.

99/25 Chair's announcements

The Chair advised the following:

- a) The Mayoral elections for Hampshire and the Solent Strategic Authority would take place on 7th May 2026.
- b) A Zoom session would take place at 6pm Thursday 24th July 2025 on Local Government Reorganisation to help inform the LPC response to the EHDC and HCC consultation and the consultation being conducted by the 11 District, Borough and Unitary councils..

100/25 Adjournment for public participation

There were no members of the public present.

101/25 Update from the County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer presented the written report at **Annex A**.

102/25 Update from District Councillors

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

Cllr James had submitted a report as at **Annex C** and a Report on Local Government Reorganisation as at **Annex D**. In response to a question on the latter Cllr James advised that the Mayoral election would be first past the post as the legislation to change this would not be effective in time.

103/25 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 16th June 2025

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 16th June 2025 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

104/25 Matters arising

No issues were raised.

105/25 Payments and receipts for the period 1st June to 30th June 2025

Cllr Williams and Olley noted a personal interest as Trustees to the Newman Collard Playing Field Trust as some of the transactions involved the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust

Resolved: That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex E** for the period 1st June to 30th June 2025, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr Stratford-Tuke with all in favour).

106/25 Report of the Highways Committee of 23rd June 2025

Members noted the report of the Highways Committee of 23rd June 2025.

106/25 Report of the Planning Committee of 7th July 2025

Members noted the report of the Planning Committee of 7th July 2025.

106/25 Report of the Charities Committee of 14th July 2025

Members noted the report of the Charities Committee of 14th July 2025.

107/25 Recommendation from the Charities Committee

The Chair proposed that this item (allocation of reserves for structural surveys for all LPC buildings) be taken in the exempt session at the end of the meeting and Members agreed.

108/25 Report of the Facilities Committee of 14th July 2025

Members noted the report of the Facilities Committee of 14th July 2025.

109/25 CIL allocation

Resolved: That the sum of up to £500 be allocated for the provision of wildlife boxes and the remaining sum of CIL (£10,355.13) be allocated for the provision of table tennis at Newman Collard Park and Liss Forest, as recommended by the Facilities Committee (proposed by Cllr Olley and Cllr Williams with all in favour).

All LPC CIL funds had now been allocated.

110/25 New policies

Resolved: That the IT Policy and the Policy on Appointment of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen and Freemen/ Freewomen be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

111/25 Appointments to committees, outside bodies and champions

Resolved: That Karen Tordoff be appointed as Orchard Champion to recognise her continued role in looking after the Mill Road Orchard (proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Mort with all in favour).

112/25 Matters to report

Cllr A. Smith reported that a meeting had taken place the previous week on the Village Centre Project. He noted that HCC were working on detailed proposals which they would present to LPC in September in order to move towards the next phase.

Cllr Williams advised that the Triangle AGM would take place on 23rd July 2025.

The Chair advised that he had attended the Hampshire Rail Partnership AGM in Southampton and highlighted the following:

- The Hampshire Rail Partnership had passed on thanks to the Liss In Bloom team for their work on the station planters.
- The re-signalling project would be coming to an end but there would be a further 10 day line closure before then. The footpath across the level crossing would also be closed on the South

side for a number of weeks. Finally there was a possibility of a 5 day closure for traffic at all 3 level crossings; Cllr Budden was attempting to persuade Network Rail that this was impractical. Cllr Olley suggested free use of the station car park might assist during this period.

Cllr Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

113/25 Exempt session

Resolved: That the following item be take in exempt session due to commercially sensitive information (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr A. Smith with all in favour).

114/25 Exempt item

The exempt Charities minutes of 14th July were noted.

Members discussed the recommendation from Charities Committee to request funds for structural surveys of LPC buildings and it was noted that Charities reserves could be used for this purpose.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19.43 hours.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 15th September 2025, 7pm

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 JULY 2025

1. Detailed Plans for disruption scheme (lane rental) announced.

Plans for a disruption charging scheme in Hampshire were approved by the Executive Member for Highways Cllr Lulu Bowerman on 23 June. Following this landmark decision, a consultation with the public and industry will follow shortly. The scheme will not apply to every road; in line with government guidance the scheme will apply to around 10% of the network, focusing on key routes.

I was very pleased to see that the plans include within the scope the A272 through Stroud, the “old A3” through Petersfield (B2070) and the A325 including the Petersfield Road through Greatham. Here is a snip of our area from the larger map of included roads:



Any work undertaken by utility contractors on a disruption charging (lane rental) street at a designated charging time will incur a charge, up to a maximum of £2,500 per day as allowed under the regulations. The Council proposes two different charge bands: (1) £2,500 per day for work under a road closure and (2) £1,500 per day for work where the traffic control reduces the number of lanes of a carriageway which can be safely used or there is any impact which reduces the traffic flow capacity or operation of a junction. These charges seem like a lot to me! I am optimistic that the charges will force the utility companies to be more considerate with their works once the scheme is operational.

Analysis shows that funds raised could rise to around £2.2m per year. It all depends on whether contractors alter their behaviour, which is difficult to predict. Modelling suggests that no alteration in behaviour would raise as much as £9m but this is unlikely. Current regulations state that the surplus funds, after deduction of ongoing costs and costs of carrying out scheme evaluation, should be used to reduce the disruption or other adverse effects arising because of street works. This use could include areas such as investment in innovation and developing new products or

disruption-saving techniques; trials of new techniques and products; or implementing extraordinary measures to mitigate congestion caused by works, especially major works projects.

In December 2024 the Government announced that it will amend regulations to require authorities to spend at least 50% of surplus disruption charging (lane rental) funds on road maintenance. It is expected that this change will come into effect later in 2025. The Decision Day decision report contains some interesting context. If you would like to read the whole report it is available at this link.

[Disruption Charging \(Lane Rental\) Scheme Consultation-2025-06-23-ELMUS Decision Day](#)

2. Food waste collections to commence by next year

Plans to enable Hampshire residents to recycle household food waste from April 2026 have been confirmed. Hampshire County Council has agreed to progress with arrangements that will see an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 tonnes of food waste from Hampshire households recycled through anaerobic digestion – a process where bacteria breaks down organic matter producing valuable by-products such as renewable gas and organic fertilizer

This follows the approval by HCC of plans to build a £50m facility in Eastleigh to enable residents to recycle a much wider range of plastics, including pots, tubs, trays, cartons, and soft plastic film for the first time, as we overhaul our approach to waste in Hampshire.

The introduction of separate food waste collections from every Hampshire household will ensure that food waste can be sent to anaerobic digestion facilities and used to create new products rather than lost to disposal. It will also help keep contamination of dry waste materials down.

Currently, food waste collections are operated by Eastleigh Borough Council, Rushmoor Borough Council, and Portsmouth City Council, with New Forest District Council currently phasing in this new service. All other Hampshire Waste Collection Authorities will be introducing food waste collections between now and April next year.

Taking steps to prevent food waste in the first place delivers greater environmental impacts than recycling. It is estimated that, on average, a quarter of the waste put in household bins is food that could have been eaten. Residents can visit Hampshire County Council's [Smart Living](#) and [Kitchen Food Heroes](#) webpages for practical tips and advice to help use more of the food they buy.

3. Extra support for vulnerable East Hampshire households

The County Council's [connect4communities programme](#) supports low-income households with necessities like food and fuel. We have announced that £12.5m extra funding will be used to provide both immediate crisis support, and longer-term preventative measures to households in need, including families with children, unpaid carers, care leavers, people with disabilities, pensioners, and those facing unexpected financial shocks.

The package includes funding to Citizens Advice East Hampshire to provide utility support and eligibility checks, aiding approximately 3,000 households struggling with their energy bills. This is great news for our area. I would be very grateful for your support with publicising this opportunity for energy bills advice within communities.

Hampshire's network of community pantries – alternatives to supermarkets that provide cheap essentials and reduce food waste – will receive more than £1 million.

The County Council will work closely with schools, borough and district councils and voluntary organisations to deliver the support. Other elements of the package worth noting are:

- A portion of the funding will be available through an application-based scheme, ensuring residents can come forward to request help. Rollout of food vouchers, essential items, and help with bills to support families and households involved with children's social care services.
- Support with fuel and energy costs for adults who receive social care (but are not living in care homes), and vulnerable adults who don't currently receive care or who come to adult social care services in crisis.
- £1.5 million for preventative support, such as financial advice, digital inclusion services, and community wellbeing initiatives.

For more information on how to access support, visit: www.hants.gov.uk/connect4communities.

4. Increased risk of wildfires

Given the increasingly dry weather we are having each Summer, I am advising all Parish Councils and PTC to consider taking preventative action to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Wildfires are devastating to wildlife and reduce the amenity value of our green spaces. Smoke from wildfires can cause severe health problems for residents up to a mile away.

You may be aware that Chapel Common, just north of Petersfield Hangers Division, suffered a terrible wildfire in May. The Fire Authority has now established that a campfire was the cause of the wildfire. Around 8 hectares of SSSI-protected heathlands has been totally destroyed and it will take many years to recover. I am advocating for collective action now to prevent such a devastating occurrence happening in our area.

Actions which Councillors may want to consider are:

- Place solid weatherproof warning signs on all commons and green spaces saying "Strictly No Campfires and No Barbecues" or similar.
- To reinforce these warnings, consider making byelaws under Section 236 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Communicate a strong policy to residents through flyers, posters, newsletters and social media each Summer until the message has been established.

I would be happy to provide grant funding for schemes along the above lines.

5. Appointment of new Chief Executive

You may have seen in the news yesterday that HCC has appointed Gary Westbrook as the replacement for our retiring Chief Executive Carolyn Williamson. This followed a thorough and highly competitive selection process in which there were a number of strong candidates.

Gary has been Deputy Chief Executive at HCC for several years so he is well known to the Cabinet. We are confident that he will work with us to deliver the transformation we need to see. Gary's grip on Local Government Reform and Devolution also means he is well placed to navigate the coming years which will see new Councils formed in Hampshire.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Councillor grants

- I have agreed to two grants. One for St Marys for lightweight chairs to help with meetings due to space taken up by the Food Bank, and support for Petersfield Youth Theatre which has children attending from Liss.

Surgeries

- Ian James & I have continued our surgeries on the first Saturday morning of each month.
- Casework, Including
- Alleged planning issue near Rake Road reported to Planning Enforcement
 - At West Liss cemetery water turned off because of a leak. Contractor being arranged.
 - Blocked road drain in Andlers Ash. HCC has agreed there is an issue with fix being scheduled.

Planning

- There are backlogs in the planning system, a lot of resource is being expended to reduce it.
- A joint letter was sent to the Planning Inspectorate by Ian James & myself supporting the appeal for the MUGA.

Other

- Cala Homes are still proving to be completely hopeless.

EHDC business

- Full council meeting last Thursday debated the EHDC / HCC option for Local Government Reorganisation. They are working separately from the other 12 councils who will present different options to Government. The key difference is that HCC/EHDC has one option for three large mainland unitary councils, whereas the other councils are likely to present three options for four mainland unitary councils. EHDC option engagement is due to start today, but as yet no link is available. The other options can be seen at the Rushmoor website: <https://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/your-council/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution/>
- The “Fly Tipping Task & Finish Group” has produced recommendations which went to Cabinet last Friday.
- It has been agreed that EHDC proceed toward the mandatory food waste collection from April 2026. EHDC has started later than most other local councils, which could be an advantage but there is now a very tight schedule.

Local Government Reorganisation

- Overview & Scrutiny have appointed a “task & finish group” to review the processes and progress of deliberations. Data collection, planning and submission preparation are going on without the involvement of backbench councillors, so O&S involvement may obtain extra information.

Devolution • PCC & Mayoral elections will revert to the supplementary vote system, but not for our Mayoral election next year.

Roger Mullenger, 21st July 2025

District Councillor Report

For

Liss Parish Council (21/07/2025)

Local Government Reorganisation

The major event that I have to report is regarding the Local Government Reorganisation.

EHDC has approved a proposal to go the government following a public consultation. The final proposal will be submitted on 26th September.

A detailed report is provided.

Food waste

A weekly food waste collection service is to be introduced. It will be rolled out across the district in 2026. The waste will be reprocessed to generate clean, green energy and nutrient-rich soil improver for farmers.

To provide this new service, the council will need:

- Seven new vehicles to collect food waste, including from hard-to-reach homes and somewhere to store them.
- Crews to drive and load those vehicles.
- Food waste bins for you to keep outside and smaller bins (caddies) for you to keep in your home and a solution for communal areas.
- Information for homes on how the service will work.

Detailed plans are currently being worked on.

More details at:

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/bin-collections/food-waste-collections>

Councillor grants

The councillor grants year is approximately half way through. I am very pleased to say I have been able to approve a little under £5000, leaving a little over £2000 available. It has helped:

Citizens Advice

Liss in Bloom

Crossover

Triangle Centre

Petersfield Youth Theatre

Liss Runners

So I still have some in the pot. Please encourage any of the Liss community groups that you know of to ask for help if they have an appropriate project that needs support.

Ian

Report on Local Government Reorganisation

For

Liss Parish Council (21/07/2025)

As you know there is a process of local government reorganisation happening at the moment. The government has required the councils of the Hampshire and the Solent area to submit proposals to create unitary councils for the area.

The councils involved are:

District:

Basingstoke and Deane
 East Hampshire
 Eastleigh
 Fareham
 Gosport
 Havant
 Hart
 New Forest
 Rushmoor
 Test Valley
 Winchester

Existing unitary:

Isle of Wight
 Portsmouth
 Southampton

County:

Hampshire

Currently there are three groups working on their own proposals:

Isle of Wight
 East Hampshire and Hampshire County
 The rest (except Gosport).

The Isle of Wight is working on a case to remain unchanged as a stand alone Unitary (a position accepted by the others)

East Hampshire and Hampshire Council have decided on their preferred proposal.

The rest are currently consulting on the best option for a 5 unitary solution (4 mainland councils + the Isle of Wight).

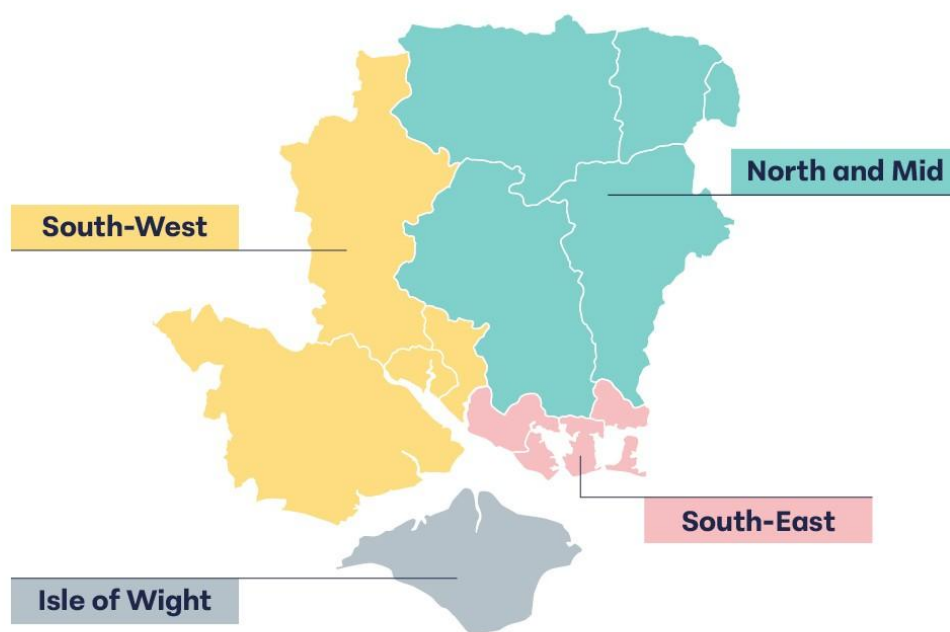
No one appears to know what Gosport are planning.

Last Thursday East Hampshire voted to approve the option that EDHC and HCC are proposing

The proposed unitary council areas are:

- **North and Mid Hampshire** (Basingstoke and Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester)
- **South-West Hampshire and Solent** (Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton, Test Valley)
- **South-East Hampshire and Solent** (Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth)
- **Isle of Wight** (remaining as a standalone unitary council)

Proposed new councils



Ian and the Green Party voted to approve the proposal. Roger and the Liberal Democrats voted not to approve. There were 2 Conservative abstentions. A public consultation will begin on July 21st into the best way to implement this

solution.

Have your say at:

<https://hampshirecc.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/LGR>

It will run to 17th August

Background information can be found at:

www.easthants.gov.uk/lgr

The public consultation for the other proposal can be found at:

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/no-listing/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation>

The final proposals will be submitted to the government by 26th September

Cllr Ian James