



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

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

144/25 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Baldwin, R. Smith and I. James. Members also noted that District Councillor Roger Mullenger had also sent apologies.

145/25 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.

146/25 Chair's announcements

The Chair thanked councillors and officers who had attended the Remembrance Sunday events, noting it was really good to have the army officer on his horse and the Chinook fly-over bang on time. He expressed his thanks to ex Assistant Clerk Andrea Mann for helping to arrange the Chinook flyover. The Chair also thanked Vice-Chair Paddy Payne for stepping in during his recent illness.

The Chair advised that two Christmas trees will be arriving to be erected and decorated on Friday 28th November from 10am – volunteers welcome.

The LPC Christmas dinner will also take place at The Temple at 7pm on 11th December – numbers to the Admin Officer please.

Lastly, he reminded members of the Planning Committee that an extra ordinary meeting will be taking place this Wednesday at 6.30pm to discuss the proposals at the Copperbeaches and Heathmount site.

147/25 Adjournment for public participation

There were no members of the public present.

148/25 Update from the County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer had submitted a written report at **Annex A**.

In relation to the County Council consultations on School and Post-16 Transport Policies, Cllr Oppenheimer highlighted that Liss was a particular hotspot for school transport issues given the village had no secondary school and the nearest is over 3 miles away.

Cllr Jerrard asked about the County Council's position on the scrapping of the Police & Crime Commissioner. Cllr Oppenheimer replied that he thought it makes sense at this time for the scheme to come to an end.

Cllr Mort asked whether Transport Policy would be a national policy or whether there would be a Mayoral role. Cllr Oppenheimer replied that the mayors would have a strategic role in the policy. The Chair agreed and added that the spending of funds would be decided on by mayors rather than centrally.

Cllr Oppenheimer left the meeting at this point.

149/25 Update from District Councillors

The District Cllrs had both submitted a written report as at **Annex B**.

150/25 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 20th October 2025

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 20th October 2025 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Mort, with all in favour).

151/25 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

152/25 Payments and receipts for the period 1st to 31st October 2025

Resolved: That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex D** for the period 1st to 31st October 2025, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Olley , with all in favour).

153/25 Mid-Year Review of the LPC Action Plan 2025/26.

The Chair advised that all ongoing actions set out in the LPC Action Plan 2025/26 were on track with a reasonable degree of success.

As regards key projects good progress had been made on facilities priorities (including the visions being updated to guide enhancements to recreation facilities) and environmental issues (e.g. five bug hotels had been installed at various locations). On the highways priorities, concept designs were awaited from HCC on options for highways improvements in particular on Andlers Ash Road and Forest Road – these would be consulted on in due course; on the village centre enhancement the steering group had met with HCC and further feedback provided which would lead to proposals early in 2026.

154/25 Matters to report

Cllr Smith advised that as part of work to maximise assets (building on Inpost success) he was exploring the opportunity for installing an EV charger at the Liss Pavilion car park, for residents and passing traffic – proposals would be brought to the Charities Committee in due course. Cllr Williams proposed including the Newman Collard car park in any discussions.

Cllr Williams advised that the food bank was getting busy with the number of volunteers down – any potential volunteers would be welcome and should get in touch with Nigel Drury; the Warm Hub at The Triangle starts this coming Tuesday and work on the Newman Collard pond was due to commence imminently, including duck house repositioning.

Cllr Payne advised that the Riverside Ranger volunteer group had commenced work on the EHDC section of the Riverside Walk with clearance works undertaken and a further day planned this coming Thursday – there would likely be two work sessions a month. The two District Councillors had each committed £1,000 for the purchase of a long grass cutter to assist. He added that Hilliers had undertaken significant work on the SANG pond which was now water tight after five layers of clay being added – the plan was now to wait and see what happens over the winter period.

The Chair added that the EHAPT&C meetings had gone quiet due to health issues of both the chair and vice chair. The meetings would recommence in 2026.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19h28 hours.

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

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS 3 NOVEMBER 2025

1. County Council to consult on changes to School and Post-16 Transport Policies

These two consultations are being [published on the County Council's website](#) today, Monday, 3 November and will run until Sunday, 7 December. Feedback from the consultations will be presented for consideration at a Decision Day in early 2026, when a final decision will be made.

Most of the County Council's proposed changes to the two policies are designed to make them easier to understand and to provide greater clarity around the way both services are delivered. Alongside these changes to policy wording, the County Council is also proposing to withdraw the formal offer of a **Spare Capacity Seats Scheme** in its School Transport Policy. This is a discretionary scheme which allows spare seats on contracted vehicles to be offered on a temporary, chargeable basis to children who are not eligible for free School Transport.

The current offer of a Spare Capacity Seats Scheme creates an expectation that spare seats can be provided. However, this cannot be fulfilled if the available seats on a given vehicle are all in use by eligible children. Once allocated, spare seats may later be withdrawn if needed for an eligible child, or if the number of spare seats reduces due to an operational change. There is therefore a lack of clarity on whether spare seats can be made available.

Should the policy changes ultimately be agreed, the County Council may still allocate spare seats to non-eligible children in exceptional circumstances. Regardless of any decisions, the authority will continue to meet its legal duties relating to School Transport. If you have views on these issues I would encourage you to respond to the consultations.

2. Update on County elections

Due to some misreporting in national newspapers, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the current position and explain the background to this year's election delay.

I can state with absolute certainty that the leadership of Hampshire County Council is not currently "lobbying Government" for a further delay to County elections. The Leader of HCC has been very clear in private and in public that he will not seek a further delay to elections. Personally, I believe that it would be wrong to delay elections again. Democracy is not optional in our country.

The reason that elections were delayed earlier this year is that the Labour Government made an election postponement a core requirement of the application to get Hampshire onto the devolution fast track. The HCC Cabinet judged that it was in the interests of Hampshire to get a devolution deal which would bring power and resources to Hampshire sooner rather than later. I believe we have been vindicated in that decision, with the election of a Mayor for Hampshire and at least an extra £350m of funding for Hampshire now only six months away.

If Ministers in the Labour Government want to delay Hampshire's elections again, they will have to take that decision themselves. There will be no collaboration from Hampshire Councillors in such a decision.

3. Private Fostering Awareness Day takes place this week

To coincide with Private Fostering Awareness Day on Wednesday, 5 November, Hampshire County Council is raising awareness of private fostering arrangements and why it needs to know about them. Private fostering is when a child under 16 (or under 18 if they are disabled) lives with an adult who is not a close family member for 28 days or more. This could be an extended family member like a cousin or great aunt, a family friend or even a neighbour.

It is a legal requirement for the County Council to be notified of a private fostering arrangement by the parent or carer of the child involved. This can be done by phoning the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 0300 555 1384.

HCC has a duty to ensure the welfare of any child in a private fostering arrangement. We will then be able to offer a range of support including advice on possible benefits, parenting advice and training opportunities, as well as working with families facing crisis to help bring them back together.

There can be many reasons why a child isn't living at home and someone else is required to care for them. These could include family relationship breakdown or divorce, parental illness, or parental homelessness. Other examples include children attending language schools or football academies, where they may be living away from parents for periods of time. Although they are living apart, parents of privately fostered children maintain their parental and financial responsibilities and continue to be involved in all decisions about their child's life throughout the arrangement.

Private fostering is different from fostering arrangements involving close relatives such as aunts, uncles, step-parents (by marriage), grandparents or siblings. This is known as [kinship care](#) and is also closely supported by the local authority.

4. Poetry Group at Petersfield Library

This free community event takes place at the library in The Town Square every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2pm to 4:30pm. This friendly group is open to anyone who would like to share their enjoyment of poetry with others.

I would like to encourage Parish Councils to help publicise this regular community event in local channels and social media as it may be of interest to residents.

5. The power of ponds to boost biodiversity

Eleven much-needed wildlife ponds will be created across the South Downs National Park to help nature bounce back, thanks to a £75,000 funding boost from the SDNP Trust. The **“Pounds for Ponds”** initiative is now entering its second phase after already restoring 10 dew ponds across Sussex and Hampshire.

Dew ponds are synonymous with the chalk grassland of the South Downs, historically being dug by farmers as a watering hole for livestock and some dating back several hundred years.

Due to changes in farming practices, scores of these wildlife oases have fallen into disrepair or been lost completely. Warmer, drier summers have worsened the problem, meaning these bodies of water are more important than ever in providing refuge and drinking water for insects, birds, amphibians and mammals.

I am delighted to report that two of the 11 new ponds identified by the South Downs National Park Trust lie within the Petersfield Hangers Division. The two ponds are:

- **Manor House, Greatham** – to restore a Victorian pond
- **Merritts Meadow Nature Reserve, Petersfield** – to create a new wildlife pond (subject to planning permission)

This report from BBC South East gives some interesting insight into the South Downs project:

<https://youtu.be/hv63--mBM7o>

To learn more about the Pounds for Ponds project or to donate, please visit this link:

<https://southdownstrust.org.uk/pounds-for-ponds/>

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Apologies for not attending.

Councillor grants

- Have agreed to part fund a mower for the Riverside Walk, also work at Newman Collard.
- There are two or three in the pipeline including the above. I will have about £1,000 left at that point.

Surgeries

- Ian James & I continue our surgeries on the first Saturday morning of each month.

Casework, Including

- Blocked road drain in Andlers Ash. HCC has agreed there is an issue with fix being scheduled. I will follow this up when it has rained significantly.
- Fly tipping. Regular small fly tips near Flexcombe roundabout, which I report each time.

Planning

- SDNP have had regulation 18 stage of the Local Plan review has had submissions from landowners about for additional sites, which I can and will comment on. I will attend LPC's Wednesday meeting.
- The EHDC Local Plan drags slowly on. Not having a local plan weakens responses in other parts of the district.

Other

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EHDC business

- Not much to report relating to Liss for past month. The external and internal audits are underway with delays because of amount of work involved and the lack of staff, including at the internal audit firm.
- There will be a motion debated at next council meeting about better protection of our local rivers and their environments.

Local Government Reorganisation

- Still no information on whether the county elections cancelled this year will be held next May, at the same time as the Mayoral election. The advantage financially would be the sharing of the election costs

Devolution

- No more information

Questions?

- Please email me.

Roger Mullenger, 17th November 2025
Roger.mullenger@easthants.gov.uk

District Cllr Report to Liss Parish Council - Monday 17th November 2025

Very short report this month I'm afraid.

I missed the monthly surgery as my partner dragged me off on a short break.

This month's case work was also lighter than usual.

Perhaps the thing with some general interest that came out of it was that Network Rail has finished the signalling upgrade.

The thing of some interest is the new timing on the crossing gates:

Liss Common (Forest Road) – An increase of two minutes, two seconds.

Princes Bridge (Andlers Ash) – An increase of one minute, 38 seconds.

I have spent some considerable time working on the Overview and Scrutiny review of the EHDC property portfolio report. I believe that this is one of the most important EHDC policies. At the moment the information is exempt but I hope to bring you the details once it is in the public domain.

I have also spent time working on a Green Party motion regarding council supported whole house retrofit. If our proposed programme proves feasible it has the potential for significantly reducing the district's carbon footprint. However for various reasons we have withdrawn it from debate at this month's council. We hope to get it on the agenda for the council after.

EHDC has confirmed that it has no objection in principle to benches on the Riverside Railway Walk. But it is very unlikely to fund any. Therefore it will be necessary to find other ways of providing them. Perhaps a public subscription scheme, memorial benches, councillor grants and, perhaps, asking the Riverside Rangers to help?

With £1k pending I still have a small amount left in my councillor grants fund pot. It will be closed in February 2026. It would be a shame to lose it so please encourage and community group that you are aware claim the remaining £700.

Ian James

Ian James, 20th October 2025

Receipts for Month 8				Nominal Ledger Analysis			
<u>Receipt Ref</u>	<u>Name of Payer</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>
Balance Brought Fwd :		233,330.67					233,330.67
Banked 04/11/2025		1,701.45					
CCLA		1,701.45			1081	100	1,701.45 October Dividends
Banked 10/11/2025		136.40					
Lloyds Bank		136.40			1080	100	136.40 Bank Interest
Banked 11/11/2025		48.00					
COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP		48.00			1205	210	48.00 Contribution station planting
Total Receipts for Month		1,885.85	0.00	0.00			1,885.85
Cashbook Totals		235,216.52	0.00	0.00			235,216.52

Payments for Month 8					Nominal Ledger				
<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>£ Total Amnt</u>	<u>£ Creditors</u>	<u>£ VAT</u>	<u>A/c</u>	<u>Centre</u>	<u>£ Amount</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
13/11/2025	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	Top Up	20,000.00			200		20,000.00	Top Up
Total Payments for Month			20,000.00	0.00	0.00			20,000.00	
Balance Carried Fwd			215,216.52						
Cashbook Totals			235,216.52	0.00	0.00			235,216.52	

Receipts for Month 8				Nominal Ledger Analysis			
<u>Receipt Ref</u>	<u>Name of Payer</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>
Balance Brought Fwd :		11,847.49					11,847.49
Banked 13/11/2025		20,000.00					
Top Up	BUS Instant 07410075	20,000.00			205		20,000.00 Top Up
Total Receipts for Month		20,000.00	0.00	0.00			20,000.00
Cashbook Totals		31,847.49	0.00	0.00			31,847.49

Payments for Month 8				Nominal Ledger					
Date	Payee Name	Reference	£ Total Amnt	£ Creditors	£ VAT	A/c	Centre	£ Amount	Transaction Detail
03/11/2025	DVLA License	DD	345.00			4210	200	345.00	Land Rover Road Tax
04/11/2025	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.65			4055	150	1.65	Milk for Office
06/11/2025	Cloudy IT	DD	72.00		12.00	4080	150	60.00	Rialtas Cloud License - Nov.
12/11/2025	COUNTY SUPPLIES (HCC)	BACS	39.07			4090	150	39.07	Paper
12/11/2025	Clive Olley	BACS	16.50			4055	150	16.50	Expenses
12/11/2025	SARAH SMITH	BACS	40.50			4055	150	40.50	Expenses
12/11/2025	Hampshire Grounds Limited	BACS	1,452.00		242.00	4235	200	1,210.00	Grass Cutting NC/MR/LF - Oct.
12/11/2025	RCD Hoare Ltd.	BACS	87.36		14.56	4260	200	72.80	Annual Hedge Cutting LF
12/11/2025	Clerks & Councils Direct	BACS	15.50			4120	150	15.50	Subscription Renewal 2026
12/11/2025	U-Do DIY	BACS	9.49		1.58	4225	200	7.91	Nut caps for MR play equipment
12/11/2025	U-Do DIY	BACS	4.28		0.71	4055	150	3.57	Batteries for Office
12/11/2025	Asda	BACS	51.00		8.50	4215	200	42.50	Fuel (reimburse Jed)
12/11/2025	J R Luff	BACS	182.28		30.38	4300	210	151.90	Liss In Bloom Planting
13/11/2025	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055	150	1.20	Milk for Office
13/11/2025	Charities	BACS	31.35		5.22	6150	700	26.13	Reimburse allot. lock
						363	0	-26.13	Reimburse allot. lock
						6000	700	26.13	Reimburse allot. lock
14/11/2025	Landall	DD	47.92		7.99	4100	150	39.93	Printer/Copier Use - Sept.
18/11/2025	Sage	DD	20.40		3.40	4080	150	17.00	Payroll - Nov.
18/11/2025	LLOYDS BANK	BACS	8.50			4009	150	8.50	Bank Charges - Sept.
19/11/2025	Hugh Rosewarne	BACS	1,000.00			6150	700	1,000.00	Water Supply Services
						381	0	-1,000.00	Water Supply Services
						6000	700	1,000.00	Water Supply Services
19/11/2025	Pic-a-lily	BACS	2,385.00			4255	200	2,385.00	Tree Works - RW
19/11/2025	RBS Rialtas	BACS	162.00		27.00	4060	150	135.00	Training
19/11/2025	Winchester Garden Machinery Lt	BACS	313.48		52.24	4205	200	261.24	New Leaf Blower
25/11/2025	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	4.35			4055	150	4.35	Milk & Teabags
26/11/2025	Salaries	BACS	10,927.12			4000	150	10,927.12	November Salaries
26/11/2025	Hampshire Pension	BACS	2,698.13			4005	150	2,698.13	November Pension Cont.
28/11/2025	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	DD	216.07		36.01	4250	200	180.06	Waste Collection NC - Oct.
Total Payments for Month			20,132.15	0.00	441.59			19,690.56	
Balance Carried Fwd			11,715.34						
Cashbook Totals			31,847.49	0.00	441.59			31,405.90	