



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Charities Committee held on 14th April 2025, 7.30pm,
Village Hall

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*C. Olley (Chair), *K. Budden, R. Crane, *A. Smith
*R. Smith, *C. Williams, *P. Payne, *S. Stratford-Tuke

*Present

Also present:

Sarah Smith (Clerk to Liss Parish Council) and one member of the public.

12/CHAR/25 Apologies

There were no apologies.

13/CHAR/25 Declarations of interest

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

Cllr Williams as a an allotment tenant.

Cllr A Smith as Chair of Liss Scouts

14/CHAR/25 Adjournment for public participation

The member of the public advised that he was present following his partner's request to keep chickens in her allotment plot at Mitchells. He was also interested in the item on bee keeping.

The Chair proposed to move the relevant allotment agenda items forward and members agreed.

15/CHAR/25 Allotments (Charity 237190): Chickens and bees

Chickens:

The Clerk clarified that a tenant has a statutory right to keep hens and rabbits for non-business purposes so long as they do not cause a nuisance or a health risk (Allotments Act 1950).

Members agreed that a policy would need to be drafted in order to allow poultry to be kept on the allotment sites. This would need to cover provisions including poultry welfare and action in case of bird flu outbreaks.

Action: The Clerk would circulate a draft policy on keeping poultry on allotment sites and circulate for comments.

Bee Keeping Policy:

Members noted the draft Beekeeping Policy which had been circulated and requested the following amendments:

- a) Clarification of the benefits of encouraging pollinators.
- b) Given the provisions on siting that only Mitchells, Riverside Walk and Fernhills would be suitable sites.
- c) That if LPC is not satisfied that all conditions are being met it reserves the right to set a deadline for removal of the hives and to instigate removal should this not be enacted within the specified timeframe.

The policy would then be put to Council with a recommendation for approval.

16/CHAR/25 Minutes of the Charities Committee 27th January 2025

Resolved: That the minutes of the Charities Committee of 27th January 2025 be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr A. Smith, with all in favour).

17/CHAR/25 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

18/CHAR/25 Village Hall, including the office (Charity 301872)

Roof insulation grant underspend

The Clerk confirmed that three quotes had been sought for cavity wall insulation. It had been established that the office already had cavity wall insulation and that the Village Hall had solid walls and therefore was unsuitable for cavity wall insulation.

The Project and Funding Officer was seeking three quotes for secondary glazing as an alternative.

The Clerk advised that that the funding for the replacement Village Hall windows was buildings maintenance budget; it was hoped that the works would take place shortly.

19/CHAR/25 West Liss Recreation Ground, including the Pavilion (Charity 301871)

Solar System:

Cllr A. Smith advised that he had found no sources of funding for solar. Members agreed that Cllr A. Smith should pursue quotations for solar and battery storage at both The Pavilion and Village Hall for the committee to consider.

West Liss pitch assessment

The Clerk advised that the pitch assessment by the Hampshire FA was due to take place on 24th April.

20/CHAR/25 Allotments (Charity 237190): Other Issues

Improvement programme works update

The Clerk advised the following:

- a) Padlock codes had been changed and locks replaced where necessary.
- b) The fencing work at the far end of Riverside Walk had been completed.
- c) The new signage had been put up on allotment entrances.

Lower Green shed – roof works

Members had previously agreed to pursue the option of the roof replacement following damage by a branch from an overhanging tree (no grant funding had been secured to enhance the shed).

The preferred estimate for the roof removal was £1,265, materials for the replacement roof (with labour free of charge by the Men's Shed) were estimated at £2,300.

Resolved: That a total of up to £4,000 of Charity reserves be allocated for the roof works (proposed by Cllr Budden and seconded by Cllr Stratford-Tuke with an abstention from Cllr Williams and all other Members in favour).

It was noted that a license would need to be pursued in due course for use of the building by the Men's Shed.

The Clerk clarified that EHDC had taken responsibility for the tree which had caused the damage and added it to their inspection regime.

Water supply for Riverside Walk

The Clerk reported that the structure supporting the water tanks had been fully rebuilt with a concrete base. A new hose was also in use to facilitate the filling of the tanks from the river.

Allotment working paper

Cllr Williams had tabled a paper for discussion which was welcomed by Members.

A key recommendation was to rationalise the sites with the Fernhills East and Princes Bridge sites ceasing to be allotment plots over time. Other recommendations included renumbering of plots, updating maps and general management measures to enhance the sites. The tenancy agreement was also in need of revision.

A further draft of the paper would be considered at the next meeting in July with a view to drawing up an action plan.

10/CHAR/25 Finance

Review of Charities Accounts Q3

The Committee noted the Charities accounts for Q3. Cllr Williams noted that income for the Pavilion was down against the prediction but that this may be more of a budgeting issue as the facility was well used. Also that the account code to Newman Collard grass cutting needed removing from the Charities accounts and any relevant transactions updated accordingly.

Approval of payments and receipts for the period 23rd January to 31st March 2025

The payments and receipts would be considered at the next meeting as incorrect reports had been circulated.

Approval of direct debit/ regular payment list

Resolved: That the list of direct debits/regular payments be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Budden with all in favour).

Charities debit card:

Resolved: That the Clerk apply for a Charities debit card (proposed by Cllr Budden and seconded by Cllr Williams with an abstention from Cllr Smith and all other Members in favour).

The meeting closed at 20hrs26.

Date of next meeting: 14th July 2025

Signed..... Dated.....