



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 15th September 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 K. Burns (Project Officer) who clerked the meeting, County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer and District Councillor Roger Mullenger were present.

In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Paddy Payne chaired the meeting.

115/25 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs K Budden, I James, C Mort, A Smith. It was noted that the Clerk, Mrs S Smith had also sent apologies.

116/25 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.

117/25 Chair's announcements

The Chair advised the following:

- a) Cllr K Budden was not present at the meeting as he had been unwell and was recovering at home.
- b) That the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service would take place on Sunday 9th November; it was expected that all LPC councillors attend the event.
- c) The wife of ex Chair of LPC, Roger Hargreaves had sadly passed away.
- d) Cllr D Turner was introduced and welcomed to his first full Council meeting.

Members expressed their warmest wishes to Cllr Budden and sent their condolences to Roger and his family.

118/25 Adjournment for public participation

There were no members of the public present.

119/25 Update from the County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer presented the written report at **Annex A**. Cllr Oppenheimer told the meeting that some of the dates in the Local Government Reorganisation timetable may be subject to change following the appointment of a new Secretary of State. In response to a question on the appointment of deputy mayors, Cllr Oppenheimer advised that it would be up to the mayor to appoint a deputy, and that there would be a one year overlap when both the mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner would exist alongside one another.

Cllr Oppenheimer announced that he would be standing down from Cabinet due to new external commitments, but would continue to be a County Councillor and try and get to Parish Council meetings when he could. Cllr D Jerrard thanked Cllr Oppenheimer for his continued attendance at LPC Council meetings and wished him well with his new ventures.

120/25 Update from District Councillors

Cllr Mullenger had submitted a report as at **Annex B**. He advised that he now had around £2,500 Councillor grant funds available. He also reported that the Liss Business Centre was sold on 12th September, and that the new owners planned to continue its use as a business centre..

Cllr James had submitted a report as at **Annex C**.

121/25 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 21st July 2025

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 21st July 2025 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Olley, with all in favour).

122/25 Matters arising

No issues were raised.

123/25 Payments and receipts for the period 1st July to 31st August 2025

Cllr Williams declared an interest as a Riverside Walk allotment holder from benefitting from the new water supply.

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

124/25 Report of the Finance Committee of 28th July 2025

Members noted the report of the Finance Committee of 28th July 2025.

The Chair of the Finance Committee noted for the record that The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. This was implemented in staff salaries in August and backdated to 1 April 2025 as required.

125/25 Report of the Planning Committees of 4th August and 8th September 2025

Members noted the report of the Planning Committees of 4th August and 8th September 2025.

A discussion was held about the opposition to the planning application at the Cricket Pavilion, Farnham Road.

Action – Cllr Payne to ask Cllr Budden to contact Tim Slaney, Director of Planning at SDNPA about calling in planning application SDNP/24/05206/FUL

126/25 CIL allocation and application from Petersfield Community Radio

Members discussed the application for funds for a DAB transmitter to enable Petersfield Shine Radio to be broadcast in Liss. The application was not supported.

Members noted that all LPC CIL funds had now been allocated. However, there was some uncertainty about the future of the Newman Collard MUGA project, as the SDNPA funding offer had expired. Cllr Williams reported that the Newman Collard Park Trust would be meeting to discuss the next steps around the MUGA following this set back.

The Chair of Finance noted that CIL allocation was the remit of the Finance Committee. Members were in agreement that CIL allocation should be considered at quarterly finance committee meetings rather than full Council (unless there was a reason to expedite consideration of funds).

127/25 Consideration of road name suggested by the developer for the new development adjacent to The Grange Nursing Home & The Grange Bungalow

Members considered the proposal to name the development adjacent to The Grange Nursing Home and The Grange Bungalow, and were in agreement that it should be called 'Grange Close'.

128/25 Matters to report

Cllr Williams reported that she had been appointed as Treasurer at The Triangle AGM on 23rd July, and had updated her Conflict of Interests form. She informed Members that The Triangle was looking for funding sources to replace windows at the Centre following a rejection of a CIL grant application.

Cllr Williams reported that the Liss Food Bank was seeing an increase in its number of customers.

Cllr Williams reported that The Crossover was having an Open Day on Saturday 20th September, and that they were in a good financial position following some recent successful grant applications following the appointment of a dedicated member of staff to do this.

Cllr Williams reported that there was angst amongst local residents about railway crossing closures in the village and that Network Rail were holding public meetings regarding the closures, but they were not being widely advertised.

Cllrs Budden and Payne had met with Liss Athletic Juniors including using the West Liss pitch for the youth team, in addition to trying to re-establish a junior pitch at The Spread Eagle. Cllr Payne reported that he would be approaching Facilities Committee regarding a subsidised fee for hiring out the pitch at West Liss.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:55 hours.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 20th October 2025, 7pm

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 SEPTEMBER 2025

1. The A272 is closed for bridge repairs

Due to the need for repairs to the disused railway bridge, the A272 will be closed between Bordean and the Meon Hut from today for a maximum period of 6 weeks. I wish to stress that this is not a Hampshire County Council closure. The works have been commissioned by National Highways and are being carried out by Amco-Giffen contractors.

Some people may wonder why the bridge is not simply being removed. I asked this question myself and was advised that to remove the bridge would be a much more significant project with a big impact on the surrounding woodland. It is actually a fairly long bridge – it could almost be described as a short tunnel. It has steep embankments above where the old railway line was. On reflection, for reasons of cost efficiency and nature recovery, I agree with National Highways that the bridge should be repaired. There is also a heritage case for retaining and repointing the brick bridge; these Victorian bridges are a legacy of Britain's industrial age.



Diversions will be in place from today. If there are any issues with the diversions please let me know so that I can ask Highways to take action. I am in touch with the contractor and I am encouraging them to make every effort to finish early.

2. Funding boost for Mental health support in schools

As Executive Member for Health & Wellbeing, I was pleased to announce recently that more children in Hampshire will now benefit from mental health and wellbeing support thanks to an investment of over £100,000 by Hampshire County Council.

The funding will expand the successful “My Happy Mind” programme to primary schools across Hampshire, extending the opportunity for all schools to take part. Designed to help children understand their emotions, build confidence, and cope with life’s challenges the programme takes a whole-school approach to mental wellbeing. Pupils, teachers, and school staff work together through a range of structured activities including classroom discussions, interactive games, school assemblies and playground-based learning. Families can also take part with access to online resources and live coaching sessions.

This investment reflects our strong commitment to supporting the mental wellbeing of children in our communities. Good mental health is the foundation for a good life. This programme is about giving children the tools to understand themselves, manage their emotions, and create a supportive environment for children’s emotional development.

The initiative reflects a growing national recognition of the importance of supporting children’s emotional wellbeing, helping them to be happy, resilient, and ready to learn. With one in six children aged 5 to 16 now likely to have a diagnosable mental health condition, early support is important. By focusing on schools in areas that have not had access yet, the Council is helping to ensure early support is available to children across the county. If you would like to learn more about the My Happy Mind initiative, please visit their website here: <https://myhappymind.org>

3. New provider announced for Hampshire School Meals

You may remember that I reported at the start of the year that Hampshire County Council was exploring the outsourcing of its school meal service. The financial cost of producing meals in-house had become too burdensome due to rising food and staff costs. These costs were in turn putting pressure on school budgets. There were some concerns expressed at the time so I am pleased to be able to report that there has been a positive outcome.

From January 2026, the County Council will provide school meals through a new supplier – Chartwells – under a managed contract. This means that the County Council will keep overall responsibility and oversight of the service but the day-to-day running (such as preparing and serving meals) will be carried out by Chartwells. As part of the change, schools and nurseries subscribed to the service, as well as families who pay for the meals provided at those settings, will see the County Council’s current price of £3.20 drop to £2.75.

Chartwells is the UK’s leading provider of catering to schools, academies, colleges and universities and serves millions of meals to students across the nation. Its meals are produced in line with a rigorous quality assurance process, using sustainably sourced fish certified by the Marine Stewardship Council, as well as 100 per cent British beef, milk, sausages and eggs certified by the British Red Tractor Assurance scheme. It has clear processes in place to manage allergies so that all children can enjoy school meals in a safe and inclusive way.

The company also shares the local authority’s focus on sustainability and reducing food waste, and empowers children with information about health and nutrition, sustainability, and wellbeing through its ‘Beyond The Chartwells Kitchen Education’ programme as well as its ‘Nudge Nudge’

campaign, designed to encourage the uptake of healthier meal choices.

The change means better value for taxpayers, no extra financial risk for the County Council and continued support for schools and nurseries from the local authority.

Following the announcement, the County Council will work with its subscribed schools and nurseries to ensure they are ready to transition to Chartwells in January.

4. Savings agreed to safeguard services

HCC's Cabinet approved four strands of savings at our Cabinet meeting on 8 August. This decision followed the Future Services consultation earlier this Summer. The changes will amount to annual savings of £9.86m, contributing to the delivery of a balanced County Council budget for 2025/26. The Cabinet has agreed savings in the following areas:

£4.32 million in Highway Maintenance - reducing Local Authority core funding for annual highway maintenance by maximising the use of increased Government grant funding. For 2025/26, this equates to a net extra £3.4 million for structural highway maintenance repairs. This will therefore not impact highway maintenance activities such as pothole and road defect repairs, the renewal of road markings, sign and drainage cleaning.

£210,000 in Older Adults' Day Services - seeking an alternative provider to deliver and develop day services at Chesil Lodge in Winchester and Newman Court in Basingstoke, to support a wider range of needs within the local population, with both services **remaining open** and operating as normal pending the recruitment of a new provider.

£2.55 million in Post-16 Transport Only - focusing the County Council's resources on those most in need, including by amending the eligibility criteria so that the County Council would only assist Post-16 students with special educational needs or a disability (SEND), and who are from low-income families; seeking a contribution from families to the costs of transport for those who are eligible.

£2.77 million in both School Transport and Post-16 Transport - using standing capacity on large buses transporting children to mainstream settings in exceptional circumstances; increasing financial contributions from parents towards discretionary transport; prioritising support for public transport season tickets and personal transport budgets over contracted transport where possible and cost effective.

5. Local Government Reform – timetable and next steps

As you know, the County Council consulted on its preferred model of Local Government over the Summer, and that consultation closed on 18 August 2025. Submissions are still being analysed.

I thought it would be helpful to summarise the next steps and the timetable.

24 September – HCC Full Council Decision on final preferred model

26 September – HCC Cabinet Decision on final preferred model

26 September – Final model submitted to Government

Mid-November – HM Government will commence a public consultation on its two preferred models for Hampshire

Jan-April 2026 – Government decision on LGR proposals

May 2026 – Mayoral Election in Hampshire (confirmed)

July-August 2026 – LGR legislation prepared and laid by Government

May 2027 – Elections to shadow Unitary Authorities anticipated

April 2028 – New Unitary Authorities go live. Shortly after this, it is expected that HCC, Districts and Boroughs will be wound up.

I should like to stress that there is currently no certainty about the above timetable. A lot is dependent on legal processes and potential challenges.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER

County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Councillor grants

- I have signed off one grant for Petersfield Museum who are creating history / memory boxes for schools including Liss. There are three others which are in the pipeline. I will have about £3,000 left at that point.
- The Climate Action Fund opens / opened on Friday 12th September.
<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate/community-climate-action-fund>
Councillors received a briefing and as a result the deadline for completion of projects has been extended. There will be severe competition, and there is a balanced scoring system, not just based on CO2 reduction.

Surgeries

- Ian James & I have continued our surgeries on the first Saturday morning of each month.
- We ran an LGR briefing session. There will be another on Saturday 4th October at the Triangle. This will be after the various options (IoW, EHDC/HCC, and the other 12 councils) have been submitted to Government. All the involved ministers have been replaced which may cause issues.

Casework, Including

- At West Liss cemetery water turned off because of a leak. Supply reinstated.
- Blocked road drain in Andlers Ash. HCC has agreed there is an issue with fix being scheduled.
- Speeding on Forest Road. Have had a response from the police.
- Animal licencing.

Planning

- The backlogs in the planning system have reduced, temporary resource has been used. One pressure on resource is because the planning system installed for the non-SDNP area has had serious implementation problems.

Other

- Cala Homes are still proving to be completely hopeless. Ad nauseum.

EHDC business

- Full EHDC council meeting on Thursday 25th September will vote on the option to be submitted to Government. There is only one option being considered, so the result is already known. At the moment it is not known if any changes will be made because of the consultation, but no significant ones are expected. There have been many briefing sessions.
- The “Fly Tipping Task & Finish Group” produced recommendations which were generally accepted by Cabinet. Some actions, if taken, could improve detection or deter the tippers.

Local Government Reorganisation

- Commented earlier. Come and hear all about it on 4th October.
- It is thought that the county elections cancelled this year will be held next May.

Devolution

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

Roger Mullenger, 12th September 2025

Receipts for Month 6

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 :		77,551.72					77,551.72	
Banked 02/09/2025		1,742.01						
	CCLA	1,742.01			1081	100	1,742.01	Dividends - August
Banked 04/09/2025		1,000.00						
	East Hants District Council	1,000.00			1205	210	1,000.00	DC Grant from IJ for LIB
Banked 09/09/2025		48.58						
	Lloyds Bank	48.58			1080	100	48.58	Bank Interest - August
Banked 25/09/2025		5,240.75						
	Charities	5,240.75			4000	150	3,770.00	Charities - Allotment Q2
					4000	150	1,283.75	Charities - Allotment Q2
					4070	150	25.00	Charities - Allotment Q2
					4120	150	69.50	Charities - Allotment Q2
					4080	150	86.25	Charities - Allotment Q2
					4100	150	6.25	Charities - Allotment Q2
Banked 25/09/2025		6,621.75						
	Charities	6,621.75			4000	150	4,557.00	Charities Charges - WL Q2
					4000	150	1,316.75	Charities Charges - WL Q2
					4070	150	567.25	Charities Charges - WL Q2
					4120	150	69.50	Charities Charges - WL Q2
					4080	150	86.25	Charities Charges - WL Q2
					4100	150	25.00	Charities Charges - WL Q2
Banked 25/09/2025		4,976.00						
	Charities	4,976.00			4000	150	4,318.75	Charities Charges - VH Q2
					4070	150	464.00	Charities Charges - VH Q2
					4120	150	69.50	Charities Charges - VH Q2
					4080	150	86.25	Charities Charges - VH Q2
					4100	150	37.50	Charities Charges - VH Q2
Banked 25/09/2025		-4,976.00						
	Charities	-4,976.00			4000	150	-4,318.75	Cancel entry
					4070	150	-464.00	Cancel entry
					4120	150	-69.50	Cancel entry
					4080	150	-86.25	Cancel entry
					4100	150	-37.50	Cancel entry
Banked 25/09/2025		4,963.50						
	Charities	4,963.50			4000	150	4,318.75	Charities charges - VH Q2
					4070	150	464.00	Charities charges - VH Q2
					4120	150	69.50	Charities charges - VH Q2
					4080	150	86.25	Charities charges - VH Q2
					4100	150	25.00	Charities charges - VH Q2
Banked 29/09/2025		90,207.00						
	East Hants District Council	90,207.00			1076	100	90,207.00	Precept (2nd Payment)
Banked 29/09/2025		5,082.75						
	Charities	5,082.75			4000	150	5,082.75	Charities - VH Q2 Charges

Receipts for Month 6

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>
	Banked 29/09/2025	1,317.50						
	Charities	1,317.50			4000	150	1,317.50	Charities WL Q2 Charges
Total Receipts for Month		116,223.84	0.00	0.00			116,223.84	
Cashbook Totals		193,775.56	0.00	0.00			193,775.56	

Payments for Month 6				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>
09/09/2025	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	Top Up	20,000.00			200		20,000.00 Top Up
25/09/2025	Liss Parish Council	BACS	2,577.25			4000	150	2,134.75 LPC Charges - WL Q2
						4000	150	442.50 LPC Charges - WL Q2
Total Payments for Month			22,577.25	0.00	0.00			22,577.25
Balance Carried Fwd			171,198.31					
Cashbook Totals			193,775.56	0.00	0.00			193,775.56

Receipts for Month 6				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 :		10,301.11					10,301.11
Banked 01/09/2025		4,140.00					
STILES		4,140.00		690.00	4110	150	3,450.00 Refund Building Reports
Banked 09/09/2025		20,000.00					
Top Up BUS Instant 07410075		20,000.00			205		20,000.00 Top Up
Total Receipts for Month		24,140.00	0.00	690.00			23,450.00
Cashbook Totals		34,441.11	0.00	690.00			33,751.11

Payments for Month 6				Nominal Ledger					
Date	Payee Name	Reference	£ Total Amnt	£ Creditors	£ VAT	A/c	Centre	£ Amount	Transaction Detail
01/09/2025	ARB Microtech Ltd.	BACS	360.00		60.00	4200	200	300.00	Report on SIDs
05/09/2025	Cloudy IT	DD	72.00		12.00	4080	150	60.00	Rialtas Cloud License - Sept.
05/09/2025	Helping Hand Environmental	DEBIT CARD	65.99		11.00	4245	200	54.99	Litter Picker x 4
09/09/2025	Sainsbury's	BACS	40.00		6.67	4215	200	33.33	Fuel for Land Rover
09/09/2025	Hampshire Grounds Limited	BACS	888.00		148.00	4235	200	740.00	Grass Cutting Aug. - NC/LF/MR
09/09/2025	PBA Consulting Solutions	BACS	172.80		28.80	4246	200	144.00	HB Removal - August
09/09/2025	U-Do DIY	BACS	37.34		6.22	4245	200	31.12	Grounds Supplies
09/09/2025	Rebecca Lawrence	BACS	25.00			4055	150	25.00	Eye Test
09/09/2025	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055	150	1.20	Milk for Office
11/09/2025	Charities	BACS	39.07		6.51	4090	150	32.56	Reimburse - Paper
15/09/2025	Landall	DD	47.91		7.98	4100	150	39.93	Copier Use - July
16/09/2025	LLOYDS BANK	BACS	8.95			4009	150	8.95	Bank Charges
18/09/2025	Sage	DD	20.40		3.40	4080	150	17.00	Payroll Software - Sept.
23/09/2025	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055	150	1.20	Milk for Office
24/09/2025	Staff	BACS	11,492.35			4000	150	11,492.35	Salaries - September
24/09/2025	Pensions	BACS	2,770.47			4005	150	2,770.47	Pensions - September
24/09/2025	DRB Contractors	BACS	714.00		119.00	6150	700	595.00	RW Gate
						382	0	-595.00	RW Gate
						6000	700	595.00	RW Gate
24/09/2025	The Play Inspection Company	BACS	360.00		60.00	4230	200	300.00	Annual Inpsections- NC/LF/MR/RW
29/09/2025	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	DD	187.63		31.27	4250	200	156.36	NC Waste - August
30/09/2025	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055	150	1.20	Milk for Office
30/09/2025	TJ Waste	DEBIT CARD	343.14		57.19	6150	700	285.95	Skip for allotment clearance
						363	0	-285.95	Skip for allotment clearance
						6000	700	285.95	Skip for allotment clearance
Total Payments for Month			17,648.65	0.00	558.04			17,090.61	
Balance Carried Fwd			16,792.46						
Cashbook Totals			34,441.11	0.00	558.04			33,883.07	