



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 16th March 2026 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 three members of the public (Sue Halstead, Newman Collard Trustee and Roger Hargreaves, LPC appointed Newman Collard Trustee).

24/26 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Baldwin and Jerrard. It was also noted that County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer and District Councillor Roger Mullenger had sent apologies.

25/26 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.

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

- Cllrs Olley and A. Smith noted their positions as trustees of the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust in relation to the agenda item on the future management of the Trust.
- Cllrs Budden and Williams noted their positions as members of the Friends of St. Mary's in relation to the request for financial aid from St. Mary's Church.

26/26 Chair's announcements

The Chair advised that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place at 7pm on Wednesday 18th March 2026 in the Village Hall. He encouraged councillors to attend.

The Chair also advised that a change would take place in the polling station for the Liss Forest ward due to a change in ownership of the church there; the polling station for the elections in May and going forward for the Liss Forest ward would be at the Triangle Community Centre.

Cllr James reminded people of the need to reapply for a postal vote after a three year period; this might be particularly relevant due to the change in the location of the polling station for the Liss Forest ward.

27/26 Adjournment for public participation

The Chair noted that both Roger Hargreaves and Sue Halstead were in attendance for the item of the management of the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust.

The third member of the public raised two issues:

- a) That, following the SGN works on Hill Brow Road, he felt that the road resurfacing had not been carried out to the appropriate standard as the thermal band which prevents future water ingress was missing. He noted that HCC had signed the works off as complete but then the thermal band was added to some - but not all - of the repairs. Given the SGN works currently taking place on Andlers Ash Road he noted that the same issue might occur there. The Chair undertook to report back to Cllr Russell Oppenheimer.
- b) That he felt there was a conflict of interest with LPC taking over management of the Newman Collard Playing Field Trust. The Chair noted this could be discussed under the relevant agenda item.

28/26 Update from the County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer was not present but had submitted a written report at Annex A; Cllr Oppenheimer would be attending the APM so any issues could be directed to him then.

29/26 Update from District Councillors

Cllr James advised that he was no longer a member of the Green Party and would continue as an Independent member of EDHC.

He added that the budget had been agreed as expected with council tax being raised by the maximum allowed of £5 per year which was around 8%. In response to Cllr William's question at the last meeting, he advised that the charges for services had increased in line with the RPI index from August the highest level that year, whereas if the CPI rate had been used this would have been a 3.8% increase rather than 4.6%.

Cllr James advised that more detail would be provided in the annual report which would be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

30/26 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 16th February 2026

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 16th February 2026 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour).

31/26 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

The Chair proposed to take the item on the management of the Newman Collard Playing Field Trust (previously item 13 on the agenda) next and members agreed.

32/26 Request from the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust for LPC to take over the running of the charity

The Chair invited Roger Hargreaves to speak.

Roger Hargreaves provided an overview of the position of the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust. He noted the issues experienced were not untypical of the position of many trusts around the country who had also experienced issues finding officers with the time required, an increase in the work required and increased regulation. He advised that the Trust had attempted to attract new volunteer trustees but this did not bring forth the skills required. The Trust considered a number of options and agreed that LPC taking over the management was the most appropriate option to ensure the future of the Trust, noting that LPC undertakes this role for other charities. The proposals would need to be cleared by the Charities Commission who were also in agreement during early discussions that this was the most appropriate way forward.

Sue Halstead had nothing further to add to the overview.

The Chair added that the Trust was financially solvent and it was agreed with the Chair of Finance, Clayre Williams, that there would not be a significant financial impact from taking over the management of the Trust on LPC.

The Chair read out the proposed resolution. Cllr A. Smith seconded the proposal and moved an amendment – the addition of a clause to allow the Charities Committee Terms of Reference to be

amended by delegated arrangements to facilitate the oversight required which was seconded by the Chair.

Cllr Smith noted the importance of the site and asset to the village which is currently very dependent on volunteers. He noted the good work that had been undertaken by the Trust but highlighted the need for greater long-term resilience and sustainability. He added that a LPC management would provide greater clarity for the public and that it would avoid an external trust or body stepping in with no certainty over their commitment and whether they would be prepared to also run a building. In summary, Cllr Smith felt it was time for LPC to step up and hold the assets in perpetuity for the benefit of residents as LPC does for the other three charities managed by LPC in line with their charity aims.

The Chair agreed with Cllr Smith's comments and noted the potential for economies of scale.

Cllr James added that this was a logical extension of LPC's guardianship as Custodian Trustee which made absolute sense.

Liss Parish Council resolved:

- a) To act as sole trustee to the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust (NCPFT) and to work with the Charity Commission, and the current Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust Trustees to achieve the smooth transition from current governance arrangements of NCPFT;
- b) to liaise with the Charities Commission about setting up a new charity with the same objective should a) not be possible, and in this case liaise with the Charities Commission as to how the assets of NCPFT could be transferred to the new charity;
- c) to work with the NCPFT to provide interim support, subject to new governance arrangements being approved by the Charity Commission, to ensure that the charity is able meet its health and safety obligations and operate to the minimum legal requirement;
- d) note the four priorities of the Trust and also note that these priorities will not be binding on LPC as the trustee, should the transfer of responsibility from current governance arrangements occur;
- e) to agree to amend the Terms of Reference for the LPC Charities Committee to incorporate the transfer and management of the Newman Collard Playing Field Trust charity, with the amended wording of the Terms of Reference to be delegated to the Chair, the Clerk and the Chair of the Charities Committee for agreement.

The motion was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Smith. Cllr Smith moved an amendment to add e) to the proposed resolution which was seconded by the Chair. The proposal was unanimously agreed by Members.

The three members of the public left the meeting at this stage.

33/26 Payments and receipts for the period 1st February 2026 to 28th February 2026

Resolved: That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex B** for the period 1st February 2026 to 28th February 2026, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Crane, with all in favour).

34/26 Report of the Planning Committee of 9th March 2026

The Chair noted an amendment to the draft minutes since they had been circulated. Members noted the minutes.

35/26 Appointment of the Internal Auditor 2026/27

Resolved: That Mulberry be appointed as the Internal Auditor for both Liss Parish Council and the Charities (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

36/26 Request from St. Mary's Church for financial aid towards new roof

Members discussed the request, some noting the difficulty with supporting a religious building but the role the Church plays in community life was also highlighted. It was noted that LPC has an established

procedure whereby organisations can apply for funds from LPC. The Chair noted that this paper was very much exploratory.

Members felt that SDNPA or LPC CIL would be the most appropriate source of funding and agreed that St. Mary's Church should pursue this avenue.

The Chair noted that LPC had recently provided a supporting letter for the Royal British Legion's application for SDNPA CIL.

37/26 Matters to report

Cllr A. Smith noted that the solar installation had been completed at the Pavilion and was significantly reducing the amount of energy required from the grid.

Cllr James advised that two issues had arisen at the District Cllr surgery – firstly a request for LPC to cover the cost of the repainting of the courtesy crossing on Station Road, and secondly, a request for a memorial tree to be planted. Cllr Smith advised that HCC no longer had an appetite for painting courtesy crossings and it was not certain that this service could even be purchased. The Clerk undertook to check. It was agreed that any request for a memorial should be e-mailed to the Clerk.

Cllr Payne advised that the first working party of the Riverside Rangers would take place on 18th March. The Chair, in his capacity as link to Network Rail, advised that the two benches had been replaced on the London bound platform and one on the south bound platform.

38/26 EXEMPT session

Resolved: That the following item be taken in exempt session due to the confidential nature of the business (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour).

39/26 EXEMPT Minutes

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 19h49.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 20th April 2026, 7pm

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

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

1 MARCH 2026

This report is my **Annual Report** to Parishes - please include this report in the papers for the Annual Parish Meetings which run from March to May across the Hangers.

1. New budget approved by County Council

In February, the County Council approved its annual budget which included approval of a 4.99% increase in Council Tax. While we are mindful of the cost-of-living pressures our residents face, this increase of £1.54 a week on average will allow us to keep safeguarding vital services for children at risk of harm, our growing older population, and people with disabilities and additional needs. By continuing to make savings and to transform the way we operate, we want to be able to limit the scale of any future council tax increases.

Alongside the revenue budget, Councillors have also approved the County Council's £971 million capital programme for 2026/27 to 2028/29, funded largely through developer contributions and Government grants. The agreed programme includes:

- £178m for structural maintenance of roads and bridges
- £216m for Integrated Transport Plan schemes
- £187m for new and extended school buildings
- £49m to support High Needs provision
- £71m for children's social care, including a new secure children's home
- £124m for condition-based improvements to school buildings
- £47m for waste and recycling infrastructure to improve recycling services

2. A £633m Boost for Hampshire's Schools

At a time when councils up and down the country are teetering on the brink, Hampshire is doing something rather extraordinary: investing hundreds of millions of pounds in the future of our children. In February, Hampshire County Council also approved a £633 million capital programme for new schools, better facilities, and vital improvements to children's services. Ten new schools — including two special schools — and hundreds of additional specialist SEND places will be delivered across the county.

This is only possible because of the careful, responsible financial management we've maintained for years. Hampshire has kept its books balanced, protected taxpayers' money, and ensured we can still invest where it truly matters. This programme will deliver:

- ◆ New mainstream and special schools in growing communities
- ◆ Over 390 new specialist SEND places
- ◆ Major upgrades to school buildings and early years settings

- ◆ Investment in Best Start Family Hubs
- ◆ Support for foster carers and adaptations for children with disabilities

This is long-term, serious investment — the kind that shapes a county for generations. And it's being delivered because this council has chosen to plan ahead, spend wisely, and protect Hampshire's future. I'm proud of what we're achieving for our young people. This is what responsible leadership looks like — and Hampshire's families deserve nothing less.

3. Hampshire Highways

I would like to acknowledge that this has been a challenging year for Hampshire Highways. In fact, it has been the worst year since I was elected nine years ago in 2017. On behalf of everyone at Hampshire County Council I would like to say sorry to all residents for the poor state of the roads so far this year.

What has made this year so bad is the persistent rain combined with overnight freezing. It is impossible to fix potholes properly when it is raining, or when the road surface is below 8 degrees. As you all know, there has been no let-up since Christmas. This has never happened before. As soon as we get a dry fortnight, I am confident that the teams will get out there and address all the defects rapidly. We have brought in extra crews and additional equipment such as dragon patchers.

We have truly excellent people at all levels in Hampshire County Council. They are professional, hardworking and conscientious. They are doing their very best to rectify the situation in challenging circumstances.

The problems arise due to increasingly wet winters, more vehicles, heavier vehicles, and a lack of routine investment. **Given the impacts of climate change, I believe we should now be routinely resurfacing ALL of Hampshire's 5,500 miles of road every seven years.** This would make our roads more resilient to the changing weather. To do this would probably cost ten times what we currently spend on Highways (which is around £60m per year). Unfortunately, there is no short-term prospect of this happening.

Sadly this means we will be hostages to the weather in Hampshire until we get more funding for our roads.

4. Devolution and Local Government Reform

The challenge of fixing our road infrastructure and calming traffic will be a key issue for the future Mayor of Hampshire. For absolutely no good reason, the Labour Government has delayed our Mayoral election until 2028. I found this incredibly disappointing. We really need a Mayor to fight our corner and to lobby for more investment in infrastructure.

We also need Local Government Reform, which will help to close our budget gap by delivering savings and efficiencies. I sincerely hope that we can stick to the current timetable and hold elections to the new Unitaries in May 2027. At present, there is no certainty about that.

By the way, I think Hampshire County Councillors have been vindicated in our decision to refuse to request a delay to our elections this year. Ministers were encouraging us to do so but we thought it was wrong and we stood firm. Our principled stance was right, and the Government was forced into a u-turn on their election delays. There is now real concern that the process of LGR will be delayed due to the Labour mix-up over elections. As a result of the mix-up, most of the department's LGR funding (£67m) has had to go to the 30 areas which now need to organise elections at short notice. That means less for us.

I have decided to take a break from politics so I am not standing for election in May. In due course I shall look forward to wishing all the best to my successor as County Councillor.

5. Update: Hampshire Forest Partnership

Since it was founded by me in 2022, the Hampshire Forest Partnership (HFP) has now delivered 177,008 trees across over 500 sites in Hampshire. We are well on our way to achieving our target of one million trees by 2050!

For context, the Trees for the Downs scheme run by the South Downs National Park has delivered 117,700 trees across 150 sites in Sussex and Hampshire since 2019, including 3,500 disease-resistant elms. The 177,008 total includes the following key delivery strands:

- Hedgerow planting: 118,842 hedge whips, equating to approximately 23.8km of hedgerow, delivered through Shoots Along the Routes and Linking Leaves (funded through Trees Outside Woodland Fund (TOW), Hampshire County Council (HCC), and partner contributions).
- Community orchards: 42 new community orchards, delivering 765 fruit and nut trees, funded through the King's Coronation Living Heritage Programme.
- Mini forests: 14 mini forests, delivering 16,190 trees, funded through the King's Coronation Living Heritage Programme and other partners.
- Disease-resistant elm trees: 5,840 trees, delivered through multiple funding schemes over successive years, enabling this important project to continue annually.
- Standard trees in parks and public open spaces: 457 trees (included within the Linking Leaves and Elm delivery totals), funded through the Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) and Trees Outside Woodland Fund (TOW).
- Trees for gardens: 4,439 trees, funded solely by Hampshire County Council. Individual trees: 30,932 individual trees delivered through Shoots Along the Routes and Linking Leaves (LATF and TOW).

All of the above tree planting has been delivered through the Hampshire Forest Partnership's strategic bidding for external funding, complimented by some HCC funding, linked to countywide programmes such as 'Shoots Along the Routes' and 'Linking Leaves', which focus on strategically important habitat and connectivity projects across Hampshire, working with farmers, businesses, charities and local communities.

6. Local Nature Reserves

I would like to highlight the opportunity for Town and Parish Councils to create Local Nature Reserves. Nature recovery is a key priority in the new Partnership Management Plan of the South Downs National Park. Town and Parish Councils can play a crucial role in nature recovery by identifying pockets of land which can be converted into Local Nature Reserves. As well as supporting local wildlife, this can also become a wonderful amenity for the community.

Often there are forgotten or neglected bits of land which people have stopped noticing. This was the case with the Tor Way triangle in Petersfield, which we have now renamed the Love Lane Space for Nature. I would encourage you to look closely at hidden parts of your Parishes and see whether a Local Nature Reserve could be created. It is easy to designate a Local Nature Reserve, but you do have to consult Natural England by emailing them at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk. You should state that you want to declare a local nature reserve and include a management plan detailing:

- Site map and ownership of the land
- any nature reserve agreements, leases or partnerships
- why the local nature reserve site was chosen: aims and objectives
- biodiversity management and environmental education
- community participation, access and visitor management
- costs and funding arrangements

7. Tackling Problem Pavement Parking in Hampshire

Pavement parking is one of the issues I hear about regularly — and for good reason. When cars block pavements, it isn't just inconvenient. It can be dangerous and deeply unfair to people who rely on clear, safe routes: wheelchair users, those with sight loss, older residents, and parents with buggies and prams. It also damages our verges and leaves some communities looking uncared for.

The Government has now confirmed that new legislation is on the way to give councils like Hampshire County Council far greater control over pavement parking. This is something I've long argued for, and I welcome the change.

Under the new proposals:

- Local transport authorities will be able to prohibit pavement parking across their areas, rather than dealing with it street by street.
- A new regulatory framework will allow councils to tailor solutions to local needs, including accessibility and disabled parking.

From 2026, councils will also be able to enforce against unnecessary obstruction of pavements as an interim step, giving us more ability to act where parking is clearly causing problems.

Most drivers are considerate, but the small minority who park without thinking create real barriers for others. These new powers will help us protect vulnerable residents, keep pavements clear, and prevent the sort of verge damage that blights too many neighbourhoods.

8. Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs)

The noise and nuisance caused by motorbikes and 4x4s continues to be a blight on our communities and our green lanes. I have lobbied persistently on this issue and there has been a change of policy at Hampshire County Council. We now have more winter closures, more gating and more noticeboards.

We also have a proposed Traffic Regulation Order from Hampshire County Council to close Buttons Lane in Colemore. This is important progress but more needs to be done. The damage

and disturbance is completely unacceptable. I am grateful to all the Parish Councillors who keep up the pressure on this issue.

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 2026. As you know, the County Councillor grant pot was reduced to £5,000 for this municipal year.

Organisation	Project Title	Amount Awarded
Greatham Community Hub	Facilities and Shelter for Coffee Hub	£750
Petersfield Cricket Club	Replacement of Heath Pavilion Roof	£800
Friends of Sheet School	Wildlife garden design, refurbishment and re-generation	£750
Steep Film Society In Memory Of Sir Alec Guinness	Replacement Projector	£300
Froxfield and Privett Garden Club	Froxfield Village Hall Window Boxes	£100
Hawkley Parish Hall	Hall redecoration and window Replacement	£500
1st Liss Scouts	Outdoor activity - equipment refresh	£500
Free Shop Friday (Petersfield)	To purchase a new main door to our building.	£300
Liss Archaeology	Improve surveying capability - purchase of an Emlid Reach device	£500
Families of Liss Schools (FLIS PTA)	Liss Schools playground improvement plan	£500
		£5,000

My final monthly County Councillor report will be sent out on 1 April 2026.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

BUS Instant 07410075

Payments made between 01/02/2026 and 28/02/2026

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>
24/02/2026	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	Top Up	20,000.00			200	20,000.00	Top Up
Total Payments:			20,000.00	0.00	0.00		20,000.00	

Treasurers Acc. 00110939

Payments made between 01/02/2026 and 28/02/2026

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>
02/02/2026	Public Works Loan Board	BACS	3,278.94			6005 600	3,278.94	Pavilion Loan Repayment
03/02/2026	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055 150	1.20	Milk for Office
05/02/2026	Keydell	BACS	2.99		0.50	6150 700	2.49	Wire for Xmas Baubles
						329	-2.49	Wire for Xmas Baubles
						6000 700	2.49	Wire for Xmas Baubles
05/02/2026	Screwfix	BACS	10.26		1.71	6150 700	8.55	Tap Parts
						363	-8.55	Tap Parts
						6000 700	8.55	Tap Parts
05/02/2026	Crossfire	BACS	16.00			4110 150	16.00	Fire Ext. Servicing - Garage
05/02/2026	Coomers	BACS	42.64		7.11	4245 200	35.53	Grounds Supplies - Sand & Tape
05/02/2026	Hannah McIntyre	BACS	41.40			4055 150	41.40	Mileage for Training
05/02/2026	Charities	BACS	1,351.69			105	1,351.69	VAT Return Receipt - Charities
05/02/2026	Cloudy IT	DD	72.00		12.00	4080 150	60.00	Rialtas Cloud License-Feb 26
05/02/2026	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	3.15			4055 150	3.15	Teabags for Office
17/02/2026	LLOYDS BANK	BACS	8.50			4009 150	8.50	Bank Charges
17/02/2026	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055 150	1.20	Milk for Office
18/02/2026	Sage	DEBIT CARD	20.40		3.40	4080 150	17.00	Payroll - Feb. 26
19/02/2026	Landall	DEBIT CARD	47.91		7.98	4100 150	39.93	Printer/Copier Charges -Dec 25
23/02/2026	HALC	BACS	21.40		3.57	4060 150	17.83	Training
23/02/2026	Green Globe Solar	BACS	7,400.40		1,233.40	6150 700	6,167.00	Pavilion Solar Payment 2
						385	-6,167.00	Pavilion Solar Payment 2
						6000 700	6,167.00	Pavilion Solar Payment 2
24/02/2026	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055 150	1.20	Milk for Office
24/02/2026	Lidl	DEBIT CARD	3.96		0.66	4090 150	3.30	Post It Note Block x 4
25/02/2026	Salaries	BACS	9,516.75			4000 150	9,516.75	February Salaries
25/02/2026	Salaries	BACS	3,550.94			4000 150	3,550.94	February Salaries (HMRC)
25/02/2026	Salaries	BACS	3,234.48			4005 150	3,234.48	February Pension Payment
Total Payments:			28,627.41	0.00	1,270.33		27,357.08	

BUS Instant 07410075

Receipts received between 01/02/2026 and 28/02/2026

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 02/02/2026	250.00						
	East Hants District Council	250.00			1079	100	250.00	DC Grant (IJ) for RW Path
					377		250.00	DC Grant (IJ) for RW Path
					6001	100	-250.00	DC Grant (IJ) for RW Path
	Banked 03/02/2026	1,613.21						
	CCLA	1,613.21			1081	100	1,613.21	Dividends - January 2026
	Banked 09/02/2026	93.70						
	Lloyds Bank	93.70			1080	100	93.70	Bank Interest
	Total Receipts:	1,956.91	0.00	0.00			1,956.91	

Treasurers Acc. 00110939

Receipts received between 01/02/2026 and 28/02/2026

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 24/02/2026	20,000.00						
Top Up	BUS Instant 07410075	20,000.00			205		20,000.00	Top Up
	Total Receipts:	20,000.00	0.00	0.00			20,000.00	