



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 20th April 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, Dr D. Turner and *Ms C. Williams.

* Present

In addition to S. Smith (Clerk), District Councillor Roger Mullenger, District Councillor for Froxfield, Sheet and Steep, Nick Drew and one member of the public.

40/26 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllr Stratford-Tuke. It was also noted that County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer had sent apologies.

41/26 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.

42/26 Chair's announcements

The Chair highlighted the following:

- a) That faced with the imminent closure of Tesco Liss from 24th April to 29th May, for essential floor replacement and fire proofing works, he hoped that a temporary solution might be considered.

The Clerk added that the Butcher and Larder were looking to work with the Kitchen to provide additional items during this period; they were keen for feedback on what residents would like provided.

- b) That the chosen structure for Local Government Reorganisation had been confirmed by the Government. East Hampshire would join the New Forest, Test Valley and Winchester to become the Mid Hampshire unitary authority; the parishes of Clanfield, Horndean and Rowlands Castle would however move to the South East unitary. The new unitaries would replace EDHC and HCC from April 2028. Further details on were awaited, including on community governance provisions.

43/26 Update from the County Councillor

Cllr Oppenheimer was not present but had submitted a written report at **Annex A**.

Members wanted to thank Cllr Oppenheimer for all his hard work over the past 9 years and wished him well in his future teaching career.

44/26 Update from District Councillors

Cllr James presented his report as at **Annex B**.

Cllr Mullenger presented his report as at **Annex C**.

In response to a question from Cllr Mort, Cllr Nick Drew clarified that there would likely be three councillors per division (which for Liss is the Petersfield Hangers). This would mean approximately 50% less councillors across the board meaning a broader range of work for those elected.

45/26 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 18th March 2026

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 18th March 2026 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Smith, with all in favour).

46/26 Matters arising

Cllr A. Smith advised that since the last meeting the Newman Colard Playing Fields Trust had decided to hold an AGM to make changes to the governing scheme and to appoint LPC as sole trustee. It was noted that members of the public were also entitled to vote on this at the AGM. Cllr Smith added that it would be important for LPC to be very clear on what level of support it would provide to the Trust if LPC was not appointed as sole trustee.

47/26 Payments and receipts for the period 1st March 2026 to 31st March 2026

Resolved: That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex D** for the period 1st March 2026 to 31st March 2026, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Olley, with all in favour).

48/26 Report of the Charities Committee of 30th March 2026

Members noted the minutes.

49/26 Report of the Facilities Committee of 30th March 2026

Members noted the minutes.

50/26 CIL allocation

Resolved: That Council allocate £4,587.86 for the additional path works for the table tennis provision at Liss Forest (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr A. Smith with all in favour).

The Clerk added that this would reduce the unallocated CIL pot from £22,231.60 to £17,643.74, but that a further sum of £28,770.53 was due in as one of the two annual payments from the SDNPA.

51/26 Report of the Planning Committee of 13th April 2026

Members noted the minutes.

52/26 Matters to report

Cllr Williams advised that one issue had arisen earlier in the day at the LPC Cllr Surgery held in the Triangle Community Centre – thus would be referred to the LPC lengthsman for resolution.

Cllr Mort advised that barriers from the recent works on Andlers Ash Road had been left on Barnside Way; the Clerk would report to HCC.

Cllr Payne advised that the White Bridge (connecting the Riverside Walk to West Liss) was currently being replaced by EHDC.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19h29.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 18th May 2026, 7pm

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 APRIL 2026

1. Hampshire Devolution deal is now pending Parliamentary approval

I mentioned in my 2026 Annual Report in March that the Labour Government's decision to delay the Mayoral elections (to 2028) was disappointing and damaging for Hampshire. Hampshire really needs a Mayor to fight its corner.

This month there is a silver lining to report: the devolution of powers and funding to the new Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) is now proceeding. The funding will focus on boosting economic growth and encouraging innovation among local businesses. This is good news for Hampshire.

On 16 March 2026 a statutory instrument (SI) was presented to Parliament, which will legally set up the HSCCA and define its initial responsibilities and how decisions will be made. An Interim Chief Executive, Dr Ruth Adams, has been appointed, with temporary staff to fill key roles including Chief Financial Officer and Monitoring Officer to ensure legal operations. The recruitment of permanent staff has started.

To support the establishment of the HSCCA it will receive 40% of its investment fund each year, together with additional funding to support the HSCCA's internal capability, for the financial years 2026/27 and 2027/28. This approach will support the organisation to set up and take on its new responsibilities. The full investment fund will then be released when a Mayor is elected in 2028, ensuring that the HSCCA is fully resourced to deliver transformative changes across the region. Its main areas of responsibility will include:

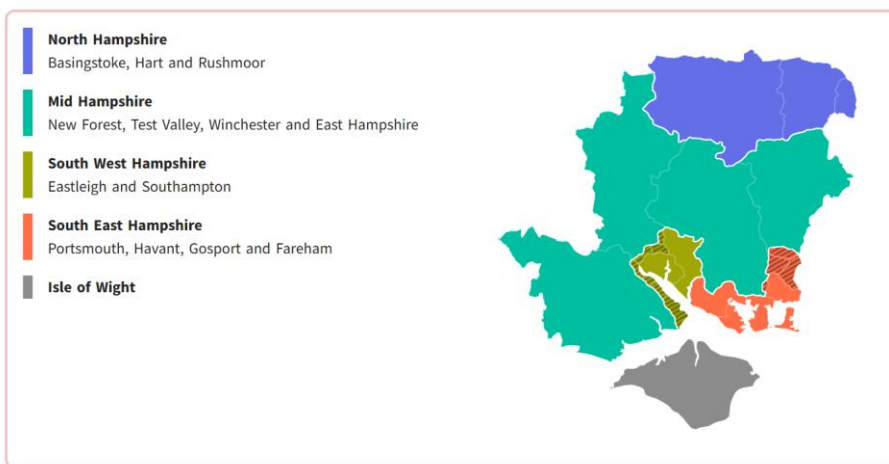
- Transport: Responsibility for developing and implementing integrated transport strategies that improve connectivity across the region.
- Skills and Employment Support: Authority over adult skills funding, driving upskilling opportunities, and supporting pathways into high-quality employment.
- Housing and Strategic Planning: The power to prioritise and deliver new housing developments and support the provision of affordable homes.
- Economic Regeneration and Development: The ability to attract and retain national and international investment ensuring the region capitalises on its economic strengths.
- Environment and Climate Change: Implement initiatives for the region to reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainability, and protect natural habitats.
- Health and Wellbeing: Work closely with local partners to reduce health inequalities and support healthier communities.
- Public Safety: Working with Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Authority, enhance safety by supporting collaborative approaches to emergency planning, community resilience, and crime prevention.

Leaders from Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth, and Southampton councils will work together, alongside other board members, on priorities that reflect the needs of local communities.

Councillor Nick Adams-King, Leader of Hampshire County Council, said: “This important legislation now before Parliament will enable our region to shape its own economic priorities, giving us the powers and tools needed to drive growth and improve outcomes for local people. It presents a huge opportunity for local leaders, businesses, and communities to work together to unlock our area’s full potential.”

2. Local Government Reform update

You will probably have seen the reporting in the press about the Government decision to create 4 mainland unitary authorities in Hampshire, as per the below map.



I am disappointed by the Government’s decision. The mid-Hampshire unitary is way too big and diffuse. Setting up the North Hampshire Unitary from scratch, with no anchor authority, will also be extremely expensive and risky. The benefits of LGR will be lower because we will have less opportunities for economies of scale. And in my view the break-up of East Hampshire is not in the interests of the residents of Horndean, Clanfield and Rowlands Castle. Or indeed the rest of East Hampshire.

I do accept that the Government has a right to make this illogical decision, and in Hampshire we will have to do our best to make it work.

3. Green Light for Pulens Lane/Durford Road junction scheme

With this being my final report, it gives me great pleasure to be able to report that the implementation of the safety and traffic-calming scheme at this notorious junction is now imminent. I have discussed the scheme personally with the Leader of Hampshire County Council and he has reassured me that it will be delivered this year.

The scheme, which includes new traffic calming features and drainage upgrades, aims to address longstanding concerns about safety and flooding in the area. The scheme features raised areas of carriageway and a pinch-point at the bridge over Tilmore Brook. As a next step, the project proposal will be considered at the Executive Member for Universal Services Decision Day on 22 June 2026. The contractors should then start in late summer to early autumn 2026.

Ahead of the main works, preparatory drainage activity will take place to clear the existing gullies and the surrounding drainage network. This early work will help prepare the site for permanent drainage

improvements and reduce the risk of local flooding at this location. Residents and local businesses will be kept informed via the dedicated project webpage:

[Pulens Lane Improvements, Petersfield | Transport and roads | Hampshire County Council](#)

4. New process for roadworks notifications

I would like to inform you about a change to the way the Hampshire Highways team notifies local residents and businesses about planned maintenance works.

From today, properties in affected areas will receive a generic A5 sized flyer rather than a bespoke letter to notify them of forthcoming maintenance work in their area. The flyer will direct residents to a new dedicated webpage where they can find the most up to date information about upcoming work in their area. For high impact schemes, custom letters may still be used but this will be by exception.

This change will allow the Highways team to provide information that stays current and can be updated quickly if plans alter - such as changes caused by weather conditions or operational factors. Residents will therefore always have access to the very latest details, including revised dates, timings and traffic management arrangements.

The new approach also delivers a number of other benefits:

- **Improved accuracy:** Online information can be updated immediately, ensuring residents are not relying on printed letters that may become out of date.
- **Efficiency savings:** There will be reduced printing, postage and distribution requirements that will free up resources for delivering more work on the network.
- **Supports digital service transformation:** Most residents now access information online, and this change aligns with our wider move towards more flexible, digital-first communication channels.
- **Environmentally positive:** Using postcards will reduce paper use and waste.

The new process will generally not apply to short-term works, such as surface dressing (where the contractor will continue to deliver letters), or very localised repair work commissioned by the local depots. The website www.one.network will continue to show all roadworks including those undertaken by utilities. For National Highways' network, information will continue to be available on their website at www.trafficengland.com.

At HCC we recognise that a small number of residents may require additional support to access information online. Anyone needing assistance will still have access to the Highways Operation Centre via the standard telephone number.

5. Update on the A272 Bridge repairs



Following last year's extensive repair works to the Victorian bridge on the A272 to the south of Privett, I have been in touch with National Highways and I would like to share some information.

During the works on site, the National Highways contractor Amco Giffen found more defects than were expected. They took some core samples during the works, and it is now evident that the bricks used to build the bridge were of a poor quality. Unfortunately, this means that the bricks are not as durable as one would normally expect. National Highways did look into extending the road closure last year to carry out further works, but the County Council did not allow this. Thank goodness for that. We all remember the traffic problems that occurred due to the poorly implemented diversions.

National Highways do not believe that the remaining defects represent a safety risk to the public. NH are now planning two night shifts at the structure to allow a “laser-point cloud survey” of the structure to be carried out. This will require single-way working under traffic lights with speed limited convoy operation for the safety of the workforce and the travelling public. There is no intention to close the road. There will likely be some minor delays to traffic, but I would agree with NH that traffic lights overnight is the best option to mitigate any delay to the travelling public and maintain a safe working environment.

NH will repeat this laser scan over future years. This will allow them to keep an eye on the repairs carried out and the areas of the structure they believe will require further work. Should they find that we need to return to carry out further works they have promised to let us know well in advance.

6. His Majesty the King visits the South Downs National Park

I was delighted to see my friend Vanessa Rowlands, Chair of the SDNPA, shaking hands with the King on his recent visit to the South Downs to open the new Coastal Path. The visit marks a significant occasion for our National Park and I felt very proud.



7. Thank you and good luck with everything!

It has been a great honour to represent Petersfield Hangers at County for the last nine years. I have many wonderful memories and I am proud of many of our achievements. I wish you all the best with your future projects. I will also be sending my best wishes to my successor as County Councillor; I sincerely hope that it will be someone with strong knowledge of the area and substantial experience in business and local government.

I would like to thank you for all the fantastic work you do in your communities. Your work makes a real difference and I know that it is greatly appreciated by Parishioners. I will be working as a languages teacher in Farnham from September but I will still be living in Petersfield. I look forward to bumping into you all over the coming years.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Report to Liss Parish Council, 20th April 2026

Although not topical I would like to start by reminding you of the EHDC policy of asset transfer. The District Council is offering community assets that it controls to the local community, usually a parish council.

In the main this appears to me to be an attempt by EHDC to move liability on to the local community. However in some cases it does have merit and I think it is something that you may wish to look at.

The decision on Local Government Reorganise has now been delivered. Assuming it is not drastically altered following the consultation process East Hampshire will be joining Winchester, Test Valley and New Forest. This new unitary council is provisionally called Mid Hampshire.

The southern parishes of East Hampshire will join Portsmouth. Winchester, Test Valley and New Forest will also see some of their parishes joining Southampton or Portsmouth.

This outcome was the least favoured of the options submitted to the government for consideration.

The pros and cons discussion are way beyond a brief councillor report. It should be noted that parish/town councils will not be directly affected. However the removal of the district council tier may well see the role of parish councils changing over time.

The new unitary council will become fully functional (vested) in March 2028. Elections for its council will be held in May 2027. Elections for parish/towns will also be held in 2027. Although the EHDC election would normally have been held too they will not happen. Existing district councillors will stay in post for the extra year until the new unitary takes over.

A reminder that the councillor approved grants scheme is now open. Each councillor will be able to approve grants of up to £2000.00 per project. We will also now be able to help with running costs in certain circumstances. Liss managed to make good use of all the available funds last year. I hope we can do it again this year.

District Councillor Ian James

Report to Liss Parish Council - Monday 20th April 2026**Councillor grants**

- Grants for 2026-27 have reopened at £7,000 per councillor and £129,000 in a central pot for climate related projects.
- Approximately £2,000 committed or promised so far.

Casework, Including

- Blocked road drain in Andlers Ash. HCC say it's not causing a problem for drivers. But it is for residents and pedestrians. Will pursue now that the road works have finished.
- Pedestrian crossing at Limes Close. It's a private road so HCC say it's not their issue. I followed up since there is a pavement both sides and yellow lines painted and have approached the residents' company for more information.

Planning

- The SDNP local plan final draft , known as Reg 19, will be published in the next few months. Any comments about the plan go straight to the planning inspector and will not affect the draft plan.
- Followed up the request about potentially calling in planning applications by speaking to planning officers.
- The final of the new draft NPPF has been published and councillors received a briefing paper of the changes. There are a few improvements and being in SDNP helps us, however there are other aspects which weaken protections,

Other

- -

EHDC business

- I am on a working group reviewing the procurement of software (or anything else really) because the recent new planning system for the non-SDNP area has had installation and usability problems. This working party is due to produce a draft report in May, to go to cabinet.

Local Government Reorganisation

- The configuration of the LGR unitary authorities has been published. Being challenged by Portsmouth Unitary. An option that few councils supported.

Questions?

-

Roger Mullenger, 20th April 2026
roger.mullenger@easthants.gov.uk