



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 20th July 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 R. Lawrence (Assistant Clerk) and District Councillor Roger Mullenger.

95/26 Apologies

Members accepted apologies from Cllr Payne, Cllr A. Smith, Cllr Stratford-Tuke, Cllr Turner and County Councillor Nick Drew.

96/26 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.

97/26 Chair's announcements

The Chair advised the following:

- a) Cllr Stratford-Tuke will be absent for the next few weeks while she undergoes treatment. We send her our very best wishes and look forward to welcoming her back when she is ready.
- b) The Chair attended the EHAPTC Annual General Meeting which took place on 24th June at 7.30pm in Grayshott Village Hall with a focus on local government reorganisation. Councillor Nigel Harrison chaired the meeting. Split into a committee for the whole and sub committees for mid Hants.
- c) A big thank you to 'Brass on the Grass' – Liss Band, for their wonderful open-air concert, which took place in the Memorial Gardens on Wednesday 8th July at 7.00pm. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all, and we are grateful to everyone who came along and supported it, helping to make it such a success. We wish the band the very best of luck in their competition in Devon this weekend.
- d) There will be no Full Council Meeting until September.

98/26 Adjournment for public participation

There were no members of the public present.

99/26 Update from the County Councillor

Cllr Drew had provided a written monthly update (see **Annex A**).
Cllr Drew was not present but welcomed any questions via email.

100/26 Update from District Councillors

Cllr Mullenger and Cllr James had each provided a written report, set out at Annex B, which they read to the Council.

101/26 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 15th June 2026

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 15th June 2026 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

102/26 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

103/26 Payments and receipts for the period 1st to 30th June 2026

Resolved: That the receipts and payments set out in **Annex C** for the period 1st to 30th June 2026, for the Liss Parish Council accounts, be approved (proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Olley with all in favour).

104/26 Report of the Extraordinary Planning Committee of 15th June 2026

Members noted the report of the Extraordinary Planning Committee of 15th June 2026.

The Chair reported that he had attended a meeting at the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The Authority had received significantly more comments on the Regulation 19 consultation than anticipated and may seek to make amendments before publishing the documents. As a result, it is now expected that the Regulation 19 documents will not be submitted until mid-autumn. The current timescale indicates that the Regulation 19 documents are likely to be published in Spring 2027, with a final decision not expected until Spring 2028.

105/26 Report of the Highways Committee of 29th June 2026

Members noted the report of the Highways Committee of 29th June 2026.

106/26 Report of the Facilities Committee of 13th July 2026

Members noted the report of the Facilities Committee of 13th July 2026.

107/26 Report of the Charities Committee of 13th July 2026

Members noted the report of the Extraordinary Planning Committee of 13th July 2026.

108/26 To note the Charities Accounts for the financial year 2025/26 and the outcome of the internal audit, as endorsed by the Charities Committee.

Resolved: That the Charities Accounts for Liss Parish Council for the financial year 2025/26 and the outcome of the internal audit as endorsed by the Charities Committee, be approved (proposed by Cllr Mort and seconded by Cllr Crane with all in favour).

109/26 Matters to report

Cllr Mullenger reported that he had attended a full council meeting at EHDC on Monday 16th July and joined a debate about the planning service losing a number of appeals. Cllr Mullenger noted that they will not be able to call in any planning proposals, there has been a reduction in the size of the planning committees and the future looks to be officer driven.

Cllr Ian James commented that he wished to congratulate Cllr Payne on his work in reviving the cricket team.

The Chair informed the Assistant Clerk and members that the Finance Committee meeting, originally scheduled for Monday 27th July, would be rescheduled to Monday 10th August, as it would otherwise not have been quorate.

Cllr Mort mentioned that there are currently no public electric vehicle (EV) charging points in Liss.

Cllr Baldwin noted that the large pothole in Liss Forest remains, despite part of the road having been resurfaced.

Cllr Williams mentioned the following:

Thank you to Liss in Bloom for the plants around the village which look great.

Liss Forest Residents Association Fun Day will take place on 31st August from 2pm to 5pm.

Liss Beer and Music Festival runs from Saturday 29th August to Sunday 30th August.

The Chair closed the meeting at 7hrs 23.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 21st September 2026, 7pm

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

Hampshire County Councillor Update July 2026 – Nick Drew

Highways and Transport Information

M3 Junction 9: major summer closures

The M3 Junction 9 improvement project is moving into another significant phase, with closures likely to create wider disruption around Winchester, the A34, A33 and surrounding villages.

- 3 to 5 July, overnight from 8pm to 6am: M3 northbound closed between Junctions 9 and 8.
- 6 to 30 July, Monday to Friday nights from 8pm to 6am: M3 northbound closed between Junctions 10 and 9.
- 9pm Friday 31 July to 6am Monday 3 August: full weekend closure of the Junction 9 roundabout and its connecting slip roads and local approaches.
- Further full-weekend closures are planned for 21 to 24 August and 11 to 14 September.
- The Junction 9 northbound entry slip road is expected to remain closed from 31 July until winter 2027.

During closures, please follow the official signed diversions rather than satnav directions, which may attempt to send vehicles through unsuitable local roads or back towards closed sections.

Project information and updates: [M3 Junction 9 improvements](#)

Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedgeproblem/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/floodingproblem/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving>

Broken or missing signs: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensignsproblem/brokensigns>

Faulty street lights: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlightproblem/streetlight>

Faded or missing road markings: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

Local Government Reorganisation: Hampshire begins Judicial Review

On 9 June, Hampshire County Council's Cabinet agreed that the Council should pursue a Judicial Review of the Government's decision on Local Government Reorganisation. Formal proceedings were commenced later in the month.

This is not an attempt to preserve the existing system. Hampshire County Council and the district and borough councils are due to be abolished under reorganisation. The issue is whether the replacement structure has been chosen lawfully, transparently and with proper regard to long-term financial sustainability.

The Government selected a five-unitary model which would divide communities across the Hampshire and Solent area and transfer valuable development opportunities and business-rate income into new authorities centred on Southampton and Portsmouth. Hampshire's concern is that the decision was taken without the underlying financial evidence and modelling being made available, despite repeated requests.

The structures being created will serve more than two million residents and could last for decades. If they are financially unsustainable, the consequences would be measured not simply in boundary lines but in poorer services, higher costs and potentially tens, if not hundreds, of millions of pounds over the next decade. Judicial Review is the only mechanism available to obtain answers and test whether the decision-making process was lawful.

Read the County Council's update: [County Council begins legal challenge over Government's LGR decision](#)

The housebuilding consequences for rural Hampshire

One particularly important aspect of the proposed boundaries is their effect on future housing development. Significant housing sites would be removed from New Forest, Test Valley and East Hampshire and transferred into the new authorities centred on Southampton and Portsmouth.

Those homes would then help the cities address their housing shortfalls, while no longer counting towards the housing requirements of the rural areas from which the land has been taken. New Forest, Test Valley and East Hampshire would still be expected to meet substantially increased Government targets, but with fewer planned development sites available to them.

The likely consequence is still greater pressure to identify greenfield land around villages and in the countryside. This is why the financial, planning and service-delivery effects of the chosen boundaries must be properly examined rather than dismissed as a technical argument about council maps.

The BBC report considering this issue is here: [Local government reorganisation and rural housebuilding](#)

County Councillor Grants Scheme reopens

Hampshire County Council's County Councillor Grants Scheme reopened on 1 July. Each County Councillor has an annual budget of £5,000 to support worthwhile projects in their division, with grants generally available from £100 to £1,000.

The scheme can support not-for-profit organisations and community groups, including youth and sports activities, village halls, social-support projects, environmental and outdoor initiatives and equipment such as defibrillators.

I would encourage organisations in Romsey Rural with a suitable project to review the guidance and contact me. Applications will be considered against the scheme criteria and the benefit they can provide to local residents.

Full details and the application form: [Hampshire County Councillor Grants Scheme](#)

Connect to Work: a new employment route for people with social care needs

A dedicated route has opened into the Connect to Work programme for people receiving social care support. This is a practical opportunity for residents with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental-health needs or other complex barriers to receive tailored help into sustainable employment.

Hampshire County Council has secured £18.7 million of national funding for the wider Connect to Work programme. Support is voluntary and individually tailored, and can include one-to-one help, training, job matching and continuing support for both the participant and the employer after work begins.

Employment is not simply about income. For many people it can provide independence, confidence, purpose and a stronger connection to their community. The right support can also help employers recruit and retain people whose abilities might otherwise be overlooked.

Information and registration: [Connect to Work](#)

Hampshire and the Solent economic update

The June Economic Dashboard showed that the Hampshire and Solent economy continued to grow at a solid pace in the three months to April, broadly in line with the United Kingdom as a whole.

There were encouraging signs from retail activity and some stabilisation in demand, although regional business activity softened slightly during May. Inflation remained above target but broadly stable, while local firms continued to report high input costs and evidence that some of those costs were being passed on to consumers.

The labour market remained stable but subdued, with PAYE employment and unemployment broadly flat in May. Pay growth in Hampshire and the Solent remained comparatively strong, despite some easing nationally. These figures underline both the resilience of our local economy and the continuing pressure on households and businesses.

Testwood Lakes and water safety

There was deeply distressing news from Testwood Lakes after a 15-year-old boy was reported missing while swimming on 24 June. A major multi-agency search followed, and Hampshire Police later confirmed that his body had been found. My thoughts remain with his family, friends and everyone affected by this tragedy.

The incident is a heartbreaking reminder that open water can be dangerous even in warm weather and even for confident swimmers. Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss the Water Safety Code with children and young people, including the “Float to Live” advice and the importance of calling 999 immediately in an emergency rather than entering the water to attempt a rescue.

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership advice: [Water Safety for parents and carers](#)

Have your say on the future of policing

The Government is considering significant changes to policing across England and Wales, including the possibility of merging existing police forces into larger regional organisations. These decisions could reshape policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for many years.

Policing works best when it understands and reflects the communities it serves. Whether residents support locally focused policing, see advantages in larger forces or have concerns about accountability and local identity, it is important that Hampshire voices are heard before decisions are made.

Complete the Police and Crime Commissioner’s survey: [Police Force Merger Consultation](#)

Please help tackle hare coursing in rural Hampshire

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary has continued patrols and enforcement activity against hare coursing. This is not a harmless rural pastime: it involves trespass, damage to crops and land, intimidation of farmers and residents, and organised criminality.

Residents should report suspicious vehicles or activity, particularly groups entering fields with dogs, to the police. Call 999 where an offence is happening or there is an immediate risk; otherwise report through 101 or the police online reporting service. Vehicle registrations, descriptions and locations can be extremely helpful, but nobody should put themselves at risk to obtain them.

General Updates

Hundreds of illicit vapes and cigarettes seized from premises in Ringwood and Totton

Illegal vapes, cigarettes and hand rolled tobacco with a total street value of over £3,000 have been seized from two retail premises in Ringwood and Totton following a joint operation between Hampshire County Council’s Trading Standards team and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary.

[Hundreds of illicit vapes and cigarettes seized from premises in Ringwood and Totton | Hampshire County Council](#)

Boost for electric vehicle use as Hampshire County Council unveils plan for 17,000 community chargers

People across Hampshire are set to benefit from the introduction of around 17,000 electric vehicle charge points, with new infrastructure set to be installed in local areas where ‘off-street’ charging from home is not an option.

[Boost for electric vehicle use as Hampshire County Council unveils plan for 17,000 community chargers | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority formally established following parliamentary approval

The Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) has been formally established following parliamentary approval of the statutory instrument, marking a major milestone in the creation of a new authority to lead strategic decision-making across the region.

[Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority formally established following parliamentary approval | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire approach to domestic abuse highlighted at House of Lords committee

House of Lords evidence showcases Hampshire's partnership approach as new campaign warns of increased domestic abuse risk during major men's football tournaments.

[Hampshire approach to domestic abuse highlighted at House of Lords committee | Hampshire County Council](#)

New supported employment pathway opens for people with social care needs

Hampshire County Council has announced a new, dedicated gateway into its Connect to Work programme for people with social care needs, helping more residents move into and stay in meaningful employment.

[New supported employment pathway opens for people with social care needs | Hampshire County Council](#)

New Chair to lead Hampshire Skills Partnership in boosting skills and the local economy

The Hampshire Skills Partnership – a collaboration between Hampshire County Council, education and training providers, and businesses – has appointed Julie Milburn, Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Sparsholt College Group, as its new Chair.

[New Chair to lead Hampshire Skills Partnership in boosting skills and the local economy | Hampshire County Council](#)

Advice for staying safe and well ahead of red heat health alert

With temperatures set to reach and exceed 35°C in some parts of Hampshire this week, a red heat health alert will come into place across Hampshire from 1am tomorrow (Wednesday 24 June) until 11pm on Thursday 25 June.

[Advice for staying safe and well ahead of red heat health alert | Hampshire County Council](#)

Free summer holiday activities now open to book in Hampshire

Families across Hampshire can now book free holiday activity sessions as the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme returns for summer 2026.

[Free summer holiday activities now open to book in Hampshire | Hampshire County Council](#)

Hampshire confirms longer-term help for residents facing financial hardship

Hampshire residents facing financial hardship are set to benefit from a major package of support, agreed today by Hampshire County Council.

[Hampshire confirms longer-term help for residents facing financial hardship | Hampshire County Council](#)

Thousands of Hampshire residents to benefit from expanded weight management support programme

More Hampshire residents will be supported to improve their health and wellbeing after plans for continued investment in adult weight management services were approved today.

[Thousands of Hampshire residents to benefit from expanded weight management support programme | Hampshire County Council](#)

A system that works for all – New plan to transform special needs support in Hampshire

An inclusive education system that supports children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from early years right through to adulthood - that's the vision of a new landmark plan to transform SEND support in Hampshire.

[A system that works for all – New plan to transform special needs support in Hampshire | Hampshire County Council](#)

County Council begins legal challenge over Government's LGR decision for Hampshire and the Solent area

Hampshire County Council has decided to proceed with a judicial review in relation to central Government's decision to reorganise councils across the Hampshire and Solent area.

[County Council begins legal challenge over Government's LGR decision for Hampshire and the Solent area | Hampshire County Council](#)

Boost for local communities as Hampshire County Councillors Grants Scheme opens this July

Vital support to local organisations, projects and initiatives that strengthen communities across the county will be available from Hampshire County Council's popular Members Grants Scheme which will reopen on 1 July 2026.

[Boost for local communities as Hampshire County Councillors Grants Scheme opens this July | Hampshire County Council](#)

Useful Links

Hampshire County Councillor Grants Scheme

The scheme reopened on 1 July, with grants of between £100 and £1,000 available to eligible not-for-profit organisations and community projects.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260626MembersGrantsScheme>

M3 Junction 9 improvements

National Highways is publishing closure information for the next major construction phase, including overnight and full-weekend closures.

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-east/m3-junction-9-improvements/>

Connect to Work

A fully funded voluntary programme offering tailored employment support to disabled people, people with health conditions and residents facing complex barriers to work.

<https://www.prosperityhampshire.org.uk/connect-to-work>

Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership water-safety guidance

Practical advice for parents, carers, children and young people, including the Water Safety Code and Float to Live guidance.

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/parents-and-carers/water-safety/>

Police Force Merger Consultation

Residents can share their views on the Government's consideration of larger regional police forces and the future of policing in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

<https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/91139326/Police-Force-Merger-Consultation-Have-your-say>

DRAFT

Report to Liss Parish Council - Monday 20th July 2026

Councillor grants

- Allowing for grants given and after discussions with potential applicants I have about £500 remaining.

Casework, Including

- A resident in Abri flats in Inwood Road asked about cycle storage. Ongoing.
- Overgrown hedges
- Slippery pavements (in the autumn).

Planning

- I have reported a couple of potential enforcement issues
- An enforcement notice has been issued at Princes Bridge Cottages
- I submitted comments on the SDNP revised plan about the Station Road allocation regarding the biodiversity damage and urbanisation aspects. EHDC suggested (amongst other items) that more development be allocated by SDNPA, primarily in Petersfield.
- I reported more fly-tipping near Flexcombe – now cleared.

Other

EHDC business

- A briefing was given about Community Area Partnerships, a requirement of LGR. There are different versions running or being piloted in different areas of Hampshire. The LGR shadow authority will be able to assess these working models. Liss will be included, probably starting in November.
- Community Asset Mapping, an assessment of local physical assets, like open spaces, and human assets, like community groups, is progressing. This is being supported by money removed from Community First's budget. Because the new Unitary authorities will be so extensive it is important that these local facilities are understood. Asset transfers to local organisations like parishes and not-for-profits could happen. This will mean those organisations taking on liabilities and risks, such as happened with the Triangle.

Local Government Reorganisation

- A briefing has been given to councillors. There are two Judicial Reviews lodged. Portsmouth over the debt that they will incur and be set-up to fail from day one. HCC over the decision-making process by the Minister. It is unlikely either will succeed. Councils are carrying on planning to the expected schedule.

Questions?

Roger Mullenger, 20th July 2026

roger.mullenger@easthants.gov.uk

Report to Liss Parish Council – Monday 20th July

The most significant thing I have to report is that district councillors received a briefing on the Community Area Partnership.

This briefing was advertised to councillors thus:

“... the Community Area Partnership or CAP as we are referring to it will be piloted in the central area, which is essential all of your wards and the area that I cover as CDO. You may recall this was spoken about a while ago when we first started talking about ABCD in the community team and how going forward it would change our ways of working as we head towards LGR. The CAP's will bring together town and parish councils, the VCSE, and public sector partners to co-design local solutions, influence decision-making, and deliver area-based action plans.”

It sums the briefing up very well, if you understand all the acronyms.

CDO = Community Development Officer

ABCD = ABCD scheme is Asset Based Community Development

LGR = Local Government Reorganisation

VCSE = Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise

I will leave the details to the parish council briefing.

But I will just mention the white paper on Local Government Reorganisation referred to parish councils just once. “They will be supercharged”. It also introduced the concept of neighbourhoods but did not define the term. Basically to replace the level of local representation somewhere around that the district councils provide now. The Community Area Partnership is the EHDC take on what this should be.

There is another initiative being run by the EHDC, the Community Asset Map. This is a separate project and separately funded but will play an important role in the Community Area Partnership scheme

Our district councillor August surgery will be held. Unlike many other local government meeting that close down for August. As a reminder they take place every first Saturday of the month between 10.00 and 12.00 in the Triangle Centre.

I still have some money left in my councillor approved grants pot. I am very keen to see it used for the benefit of Liss.

I would like to end by congratulating Paddy on his work in reviving the cricket team.

District Councillor Ian James