LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 19th October 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 District Councillor Roger Mullenger and County Councillor Nick Drew.

126/26 Apologies
Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Jerrard and Stratford-Tuke.

127/26 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.

128/26 Chair's announcements
The Chair advised the following:

a) That the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service would take place on Sunday 8th November; it was expected that all LPC councillors attend the event. The meeting time for the parade would be at the earlier time of 9.30 in order that the Act of Remembrance and wreath laying would be in line with the national timeframe at 11am.
b) That a meeting had taken place with senior managers at South Western Railway and Network Rail as regards the incident at the Liss centre crossing, when a barrier came down on two people crossing. The matter was being taken extremely seriously with a requirement to report back to the Department for Transport. The software being used to control the barriers has been replaced with manual controls from Basingstoke for the time being.

129/26 Adjournment for public participation
There were no members of the public present.

130/26 Update from the County Councillor
Cllr Drew presented a written monthly update (see **Annex A**). He added the following:

a) Thanks to Cllrs Olley and Williams for inviting him to the LPC Councillor Surgery earlier in the day, noting that he will be starting his own County Councillor surgery on the first Saturday of the month.
b) That his efforts in getting the disabled bay outside Tesco had come to fruition, the focus would now be on enforcement.
c) Liss had proved to be a good working example as to how to get pot holes repaired. This involved residents providing the reference number to Cllr Drew to chase if no action had been

forthcoming.

d) With LCR on hold the key issue at county level would be to lobby for additional funding, noting that road tax isn't paid directly to county councils. Also that there would be district and parish elections in May 2027.

131/26 Update from District Councillors

Cllr James had provided a written monthly update (see **Annex B**). He highlighted the following:

a) An opportunity for Carbon Literacy Training on 11th and 12th November.
b) That the main points to take away from the briefing for councillors on the National Policy Framework was the focus on growth but with more emphasis on sustainability and heritage.

Cllr Mullenger had provided a written monthly update (see **Annex C**). He highlighted the following:

a) That the National Policy Framework focus on sustainability was focused on developing towns with stations with at least four trains per hour to a major hub. However, Liss only has two and so won't be affected.
b) That parish and town councils needed to be very aware of the liability of any assets they were considering taking on under the Community Asset Transfer Scheme and to negotiate a dowry.

Cllr Payne asked about a large area of American Skunk Cabbage on private land in Liss Forest which Cllr Mullenger had been looking in to. Cllr Mullenger advised that it was the landowners responsibility to prevent spread and that this could be pursued by identifying the landowner via a Land Registry search.

Cllr Budden asked about the accessible collection of the food caddies. For those who benefit from this scheme, including Cllr Budden, the caddy should display the appropriate A sticker. However, Cllr Budden had followed this procedure and the caddy had not yet been emptied.
Cllr Mullenger would pursue as he was aware that the missed collection procedure was not working well. Cllr Drew also offered to escalate.

132/26 Minutes of the meeting of Council of 21st September 2026

Resolved: That the minutes of the Council meeting of 20th September 2026 be approved as an accurate record (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Crane , with all in favour).

133/26 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

134/26 Payments and receipts for the period 1st to 30th September

Cllr Williams highlighted that the planning appeal fees had been repaid.

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

135/26 Report of the Planning Committees of 5th October 2026

Members noted the report of the Planning Committees of 5th October 2026.

136/26 Report of the Facilities Committee of 12th October 2026

Members noted the report of the Facilities Committee of 12th October 2026.

137/26 Report of the Charities Committee of 12th October 2026

Members noted the report of the Charities Committee of 12th October 2026.

138/26 CIL allocation

Resolved: That the sum of £26,000 of LPC CIL be allocated for drainage works at Liss Forest recreation Ground, as recommended by the Facilities Committee (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour).

Cllr Olley clarified that the aim was to improve drainage at the site to a specification suitable for a recreation ground rather than a football pitch. He added that residents were largely onboard with developing a nature reserve onsite to the rear with a swale.

Resolved: That the sum of £44,700 of LPC CIL held for the MUGA project be returned to the unallocated LPC CIL pot, as recommended by the Charities Committee (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Williams with all in favour).

In response to a question from Cllr James about discontinuing the project, Cllr A. Smith advised that since the SDNPA had declined to fund the project there was insufficient funding to pursue it.

Resolved: That the sum of £5,000 of LPC CIL be allocated for clubhouse renovation at The Glebe (proposed by Cllr Payne and seconded by Cllr James with all in favour).

Members noted that Cllr Payne had a non-pecuniary interest in the application as a Cricket Club Trustee.
Cllr Payne advised that the request for funding was for match funding for a £25,000 grant application to the Football Foundation (as football would also be played onsite) for works to the club house which was in desperate need of renovation. He added that cricket would be aimed at women, men, children and those with accessible needs.
Cllr Williams clarified that the sum would be held by LPC pending the outcome of other funding applications.

139/26 LPC position on EHDC assets under the Community Transfer Scheme
The Chair advised that LPC had been approached by EHDC with regards to opportunities for the community under the Community Asset Transfer Scheme. This formed part of EHDC's wider approach to community development, helping shift the Council's role from delivering services for communities to enabling and supporting communities to take action themselves. A list of nineteen assets had been provided for consideration.

Cllr Budden advised that an informal discussion had taken place with Cllrs Olley and Williams and the Clerk and led Members through the options.

The Clerk highlighted the need to adopt a consistent set of criteria, such as considering taking on sites with the aim of either protecting or enhancing them for the benefit of the community. It was important that if no change to the existing management arrangements for an area was likely to take place (i.e. the site and its management would remain as is) to consider whether it would be financially prudent for LPC to take on the management role.

Members discussed the proposal to not pursue the Riverside Walk. It was explained that the recommendation was based on the high cost of maintenance and the fact that EHDC or the successor council would be required to maintain the Riverside Walk if ownership was not transferred to LPC (e.g. it is part of the footpath network).
Cllr Williams highlighted the fact that LPC would likely need to increase the precept to fund maintenance of the Riverside Walk if ownership was transferred. However, there would likely be no corresponding decrease of council tax paid to EHDC or the successor council.

Members agreed that the following sites would not be pursued:

1. Riverside Walk
6. Area of grass in Cardew Road
7. Area of grass outside bungalows in Dennis Way
10. Area of land-locked land between Inwood Road and Dennis Way
11. Area of land-locked land between Dennis Way to Vinson Road footpath and Inwood Road
16. Large hedge on Roundabouts estate
17.Small area of grass in Patricks Copse Road near entrance to allotments

19. West Liss Cemetery

All other sites that would be subject to further discussion with EHDC. Members noted that the discussions would be exploratory and that no decision had yet been made as regards taking any sites on. Members noted the importance of establishing running costs, such as business rates associated with the car parks, and the current condition of assets as part of the process.

A working group consisting of Cllrs Budden, Payne, Olley, A. Smith, Williams and the Clerk was established to pursue the matter with EHDC.

Action – The Clerk would set up a meeting with EHDC.

140/26 Matters to report

Cllr Payne advised that the Liss Riverside Ranger Volunteers continued to work two days a month and had recently installed two new benches.

The Chair closed the meeting at.

Date of next scheduled meeting: Monday 16th November 2026, 7pm

Signed:……..Dated:……

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Hampshire County Councillor Update

Petersfield Hangers Hampshire County Councillor Update October

Dear All

The most significant county-wide development was the Government's decision to withdraw its local government reorganisation proposals for Hampshire and the Solent. There have also been important updates on Hampshire's finances, the condition of our roads, major motorway works and the new Combined County Authority.

Locally, I have continued to chase pothole roadworks and planning applications – as always I would ask residents to please make me aware of issues with pothole submission numbers so I can follow these up.

Highways Information

Making the case for fairer highways funding

Hampshire has around 5,500 miles of roads to maintain—one of the largest local highway networks in the country—but we do not receive enough stable, long-term funding to keep that network in the condition we all want to see. The estimated maintenance backlog is now between £550 million and £600 million.

The County Council's Cabinet has agreed to strengthen our case to Government for a fairer share of Vehicle Excise Duty to be invested back into local roads, together with greater freedom to target highways funding where it will make the biggest difference.

We are not waiting for Government action. Since April, highways teams in Hampshire have delivered 42 resurfacing schemes, with 101 planned during 2026/27, completed 122 preventative surface treatments and 154 planned patching schemes covering more than 32,000 square metres. Between April and July, teams also repaired 17,590 reactive defects, including potholes.

The long-term answer is to move increasingly from reacting to potholes to planned, preventative maintenance. Hampshire's highway assets are valued at around £17 billion, and looking after them properly is basic asset management as well as being important to residents and businesses. Original update: facebook.com/nickadamsking

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/treehedge

Flooding/drainage issues: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/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/brokensigns

Faulty street lights: https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/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. If you would like me to follow this up, do please forward that message to me and I will chase it for you.

Local Government Reorganisation

Government withdraws its Hampshire decision

On 7 September, the Government withdrew its decision on local government reorganisation in Hampshire and the Solent and ordered a review. This was the best possible outcome at this stage and gives councils the opportunity to start again with proper time, evidence and financial analysis.

Hampshire County Council had launched Judicial Review proceedings because the Government had not provided satisfactory answers about the evidence behind the decision or the financial sustainability of the proposed new councils. The earlier proposals also risked splitting established communities, including the New Forest, and transferring major areas of growth and business-rate income between authorities.

This does not mean that nothing should change. It means that whatever comes next must be properly costed, financially sustainable and command much broader support.

Who pays for the abandoned process?

Councils across Hampshire were required to work to Government deadlines, incurring legal, consultancy and implementation costs and diverting many hours of senior officer time from service improvement and financial sustainability work.

HCC have asked the County Council to establish the full cost of the process to Hampshire and to call on Government to reimburse councils. Every pound unnecessarily spent on a process that has now been withdrawn is a pound that cannot be spent on services residents rely upon.

Hampshire County Council's Finances

During September, the Government confirmed more than £90 million of in-year Exceptional Financial Support for councils facing serious financial pressures, including £6 million for the Isle of Wight and £5 million for West Berkshire.

Hampshire has not had to make a similar request because the County Council acted early. Over the past year, we delivered £95 million in savings, with a further £40 million of efficiencies built into this year's budget. That work enabled us to set a lawful, balanced £3.3 billion budget and manage this year's pressures without seeking exceptional permission to borrow or use capital resources for day-to-day costs.

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That does not mean everything is fine. This year's budget relies on £108.5 million from reserves—almost twice the amount used last year—and those reserves can only be spent once. School transport costs, particularly for children with special educational needs and disabilities, have risen from £43 million to £83 million in four years, while demand for adult social care continues to increase.

In 2025/26 Hampshire received £91 per resident in general Government funding, compared with an English average of £205. The new funding formula reduces support by £10.9 million this year and by £42.9 million annually by 2028/29. HCC will continue pressing for a fair, long-term settlement that protects essential services without exhausting reserves or placing an ever-greater burden on us the local taxpayers.

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General Updates from HCC

Back-to-school support
Hampshire's back-to-school resources bring together advice on preparing for the first day, walking, wheeling, cycling and school transport, before- and after-school childcare, SEND support, vaccination, mental wellbeing, attendance and free school meals.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch. Families receiving certain benefits may also qualify for income-based free school meals beyond those years. A successful application can unlock extra support for a child and additional funding for their school.
Family information and support: Connect to Support Hampshire

Hampshire's young jazz musicians recognised

Hampshire Music Education Hub has been shortlisted at the Parliamentary Jazz Awards 2026 for its contribution to jazz education. Its inclusive programme supports more than 110 young musicians and introduces over 1,400 primary-school pupils to jazz each year.

This is wonderful recognition for the young performers, tutors, schools and partners who make Hampshire's jazz programme so welcoming and successful. Congratulations to everyone involved.

No tricks, just three choices: apply for a secondary school place by Halloween
Parents and carers in Hampshire are being reminded not to let the secondary school application deadline give them a fright this Halloween
No tricks, just three choices: apply for a secondary school place by Halloween | Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council Leader responds on Government announcement to review Local Government Reorganisation for Hampshire and the Solent area
Hampshire County Council's Leader has commented following an announcement today by Government to withdraw and review its previous decision on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Hampshire and the wider Solent area
Hampshire County Council Leader responds on Government announcement to review Local Government Reorganisation for Hampshire and the Solent area | Hampshire County Council

Hampshire parkruns help raise awareness of World Suicide Prevention Day
Residents across Hampshire are being encouraged to learn more about suicide prevention, access support when they need it, and start conversations about mental wellbeing, ahead of World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September 2026
Hampshire parkruns help raise awareness of World Suicide Prevention Day | Hampshire County Council
Three secondary schools to benefit from £9.8 million investment in building improvements
Three secondary schools to benefit from £9.8 million investment in building improvements | Hampshire County Council

Hampshire partnership powers growth, skills and opportunity across the county
Thousands of Hampshire residents and businesses are benefiting from programmes that are boosting skills, creating jobs and driving economic growth, according to the latest annual report on the work of the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board. By bringing together leaders from business, education

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and local government, the partnership is unlocking opportunities, attracting investment and building a more prosperous future for communities across the county
Hampshire partnership powers growth, skills and opportunity across the county | Hampshire County Council

Green light for new primary school in Whitehill and Bordon
A new primary school for Whitehill and Bordon, providing places for up to 430 pupils including specialist facilities for children with special educational needs, has been given the go-ahead after Hampshire County Council's Regulatory Committee approved a planning application for the development
Green light for new primary school in Whitehill and Bordon | Hampshire County Council

£220,000 boost for successful Live Longer Better Hampshire programme
Older residents across Hampshire will benefit from a £220,000 investment to expand the successful Live Longer Better Hampshire programme, helping more people stay active, healthy and independent for longer
£220,000 boost for successful Live Longer Better Hampshire programme | Hampshire County Council

Accessible scales to help disabled residents monitor their health
A new £30,000 grant scheme will help make routine weight checks easier, safer and more dignified for disabled people across Hampshire
Accessible scales to help disabled residents monitor their health | Hampshire County Council

Everyday actions helping Hampshire tackle a changing climate
From reducing energy use in schools to developing skills needed for jobs in renewable power, helping wildlife thrive, and making sure communities are prepared for the future, Hampshire County Council's latest climate change report highlights the practical steps being taken to cut emissions and ensure Hampshire is prepared for the effects of a changing climate
Everyday actions helping Hampshire tackle a changing climate | Hampshire County Council

Smoking rates fall as Hampshire builds a healthier future
Smoking rates have fallen across Hampshire, more than 40,000 NHS health checks have been completed, and residents have been supported to improve their health through physical activity, family support and recovery services, according to new public health data from Hampshire County Council
Smoking rates fall as Hampshire builds a healthier future | Hampshire County Council
New support pathway to help Hampshire residents with complex care needs get home sooner after hospital stays
Older people, disabled residents and others who need ongoing care after a hospital stay could return home sooner and receive more coordinated support under a new approach approved by Hampshire County Council
New support pathway to help Hampshire residents with complex care needs get home sooner after hospital stays | Hampshire County Council

Hampshire County Council calls for fairer share of Vehicle Excise Duty to plug highways funding gap
Hampshire County Council is stepping up its call for a fairer share of national transport funding, urging Government to provide long-term, sustainable investment in local roads and give greater flexibility over how funding is spent
Hampshire County Council calls for fairer share of Vehicle Excise Duty to plug highways funding gap | Hampshire County Council

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District councillor report September 2026

Big news, which will almost certainly have cover, Local Government Reorganisation put on hold.
A new district council will be elected on May 6th 2027.
There is a very strong rumour that the mayoral election for Hampshire and the Solent may be brought forward for this date too. (as of 14th so it may have been announced by now).

The new LGR situation means that the work for a new local plan for East Hampshire will be restarted. As this process can take over 2 years to complete work is also being done on producing a Supplementary Plan. This is a new planning tool introduced by the Government, which gives the opportunity to bring forward important planning policies much more quickly while the new Local Plan is being prepared. But of course this does not directly affect us as we come under the SDNPA in regard to planning

Grant applications for the Community Climate Action Fund was opened on Friday 4th September and will close on Monday 5th October. There is a pot of £129,000 available with a maximum of £10,000 per project. Full details and guidance can be found on the council web site
https://www.easthants.gov.uk/climate/community-climate-action-fund
Councillors can help by providing letters of support.
My councillor approved grant pot is now empty with all available funds committed. The last £50.00 went towards the Newman Collard refurb.

Our monthly councillor surgeries continue on the first Saturday of every month at the Triangle centre

SGN has notified me that they will be surveying the condition of their gas pipe network throughout East Hampshire from now into 2027. The actual work will be carried out by a company called Picarro. The equipment used is carried in a white 2026 Skoda Karoq. The vehicle will also be identifiable through being branded with both SGN and Picarro livery. It involves several passes along the same pipe. As this work is mainly at night it appears very suspicious. But if it this the survey vehicle they ask you not to report it to the police as this just increases their work load.

Ian James

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Report to Liss Parish Council - Monday 19th October 2026

Councillor grants

- Allowing for grants given and discussions with potential applicants, all money is allocated. If any drop out I have a waiting list.

Casework, Including

- A resident in Abri flats in Inwood Road has asked about cycle storage. Ongoing.
- Building material fires in Forest Road
- Blockage by two trees in river Rother. Trying to engage with Environment Agency via EHDC, who itself finds that difficult.

Planning

- The slimmed-down planning committee starts on 1st November. Under the new NPPF rules it is debatable what weight councillors can add to planning decisions at committee, especially in the non-SDNP areas. It is essential that good planning reasons are given for objections to any planning application. The "tilted balance" applies to both SDNP & EHDC areas which makes refusing applications more difficult.
- A new agreement was approved for EHDC to act on behalf of SDNP in assessing planning applications. This contract could be ended by either side at one year's notice.

Other

EHDC business

- The community asset transfer of nine assets to Whitehill Town Council, and one to Grayshott Parish Council with the associated liabilities has been approved.
- The budget cycle is starting, hopefully not in a vacuum re LGR – see below.

Local Government Reorganisation

- We await. It is thought that there will be an announcement this week about LGR & Devolution.
- The work which had been done had resulted in more across-councils working and perhaps this has been a benefit.
- A question was asked about adopting a Tree & Woodland Strategy which was written some time ago.

Questions?

Roger Mullenger, 19th October 2026
roger.mullenger@easthants.gov.uk

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