

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

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	

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	

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	

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	

Internal Audit Services 2026-27

From: Andy Beams <andy@mulberrylas.co.uk>
Sent: Sat, 25 Oct, 2025 at 09:21
To:
Cc: Anna Beams

[Outlook-q0504z2i.png](#) (31.2 KB) [Outlook-A green an.png](#) (73 KB)
[Internal Audit Quotation 2026-27.pdf](#) (144.1 KB) – [Download all](#)

Dear Clerk/RFO

I know Tim Light has recently contacted you to inform you of his decision to retire from internal auditing after completing the 2025/26 financial year audits.

We have worked closely with Tim to provide a smooth transition for councils faced with finding a new internal auditor and would be delighted to work with from 2026/27 onwards if you decide to appoint us. We have already taken on many of Tim's clients that he ended arrangement with last year.

We are one of the larger internal audit providers in the country, with an expanding team of internal auditors all of whom have extensive sector specific knowledge. We are also always looking for new auditors to join our team, and if this is something of interest to you, please contact me to discuss further.

I have attached our quotation for 2026/27 which I hope is self-explanatory. As you will see, we offer either a one or three-year engagement period, with the hourly rate fixed for the duration of the chosen term.

We provide support throughout the year to our councils, including the publication of an Internal Audit Guide each year which is on our website, and the 2025/26 version can be found via this link www.mulberrylas.co.uk/internal-audit

If your council decides to appoint us, we will issue you with an engagement letter to cover the agreed period, and then your assigned auditor will contact you during the summer of 2026 to arrange the first internal audit visit.

If you have any questions, or would just like to have a chat with us before making your decision, please feel free to contact me directly on 07428 647069.

I hope that you will find our help and support as beneficial as I sure you did with Tim.

Kind regards

Andy Beams
Director, Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd

Tel: 07428 647069

Web: www.mulberrylas.co.uk



Members of the Internal Audit Forum



Internal Audit Forum

THE VOICE FOR LOCAL COUNCIL AUDIT

WARNING: This message is intended only for the person to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient of this message you are requested to destroy it immediately. Unauthorised use of this communication and its attachments is not permitted. When addressed to our clients any opinions or advice contained within this communication are subject to the terms and conditions expressed in the engagement letter.

Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd, Eastgate House, Dogflud Way, Farnham, Surrey GU9 7UD.
Company Number: 15566682. Directors: Mark L Mulberry BA (Hons) FCCA CTA, Nicky Mulberry, Andy Beams CiLCA, Anna Beams CiLCA.

Liphook Parish Council asked for recommendations for an internal auditor locally and 11 out of 11 responses recommended Mulberry. (Clerk's Facebook Network)



Internal Audit Services for Town and Parish Councils

Overview of Services

As part of our comprehensive support for town and parish councils, **Mulberry Local Authority Services (LAS) Ltd** provides a professional **internal audit service**. This is delivered in full compliance with the **Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) Practitioner's Guide**, reflecting current guidelines and accounting standards.

Audit Schedule

We generally carry out **two audits per year** as standard:

- **Interim Audit:** Focuses on **governance and accountability**, including procedural aspects such as Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, risk assessments, internal control systems, and policies.
- **Final Audit:** Concentrates on **financial matters**, including verification of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and all supporting documentation for submission to external auditors.

This two-stage approach allows councils to **identify and address weaknesses** before the final internal audit report is completed.

Flexible and Responsive Service

We understand that each council has unique needs, so we're happy to offer **customised audit visit schedules** and respond to queries throughout the year. Our flexible service ensures your council receives the support it requires when it's needed most.

Sector Expertise and Independence

Mulberry LAS are founder members of the **Internal Audit Forum**, who work in partnership with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) to promote continuous internal audit improvement in the local council sector.

One of our directors, Mark Mulberry, is the internal audit representative on the SAPPP, which is responsible for issuing proper practices about governance and accounts of smaller authorities.

Mulberry LAS, previously operating as part of **Mulberry & Co**, has over **20 years of experience** in conducting internal audits for local councils. Our auditors have deep sector knowledge and can rotate between clients to ensure **full independence** throughout your engagement.

In the 2025/26 financial year, we supported over **330 councils** with their internal audit requirements, including:

- Small councils exempt from limited assurance reviews
- Larger town and parish councils managing **multi-million-pound budgets** and **complex financial systems**

Audits are conducted **either on-site or remotely**, based on your council's preferences and circumstances.

We publish on our website an **annual internal audit guide**, which enables our councils to prepare for their audits by providing details of the information we review at each visit and reminding them of the publication requirements on the council's website.

Fees and Charges

Our pricing for internal audits for the financial year commencing **1 April 2026** is as follows:

- Precept below £1 million - **£80 per hour + VAT**
- Precept £1 million and above - **£85 per hour + VAT**
- **Travel costs** (for on-site visits) are billed at the standard **HMRC rate of 45p per mile**
- No charges for travel time

Audit duration depends on your council's financial complexity. Once appointed, your assigned auditor will be happy to discuss a **personalised estimate** and timeline.

Engagement Options

We offer **one-year** and **three-year** engagement periods. If you commit to a **three-year term**, we guarantee that your hourly rate will remain **fixed for the full duration** of the agreement.

Added Benefits

As a client of Mulberry LAS, you will gain access to **discounted rates** on our **training programme for officers and councillors**. Details of upcoming courses can be found at:

www.mulberrylas.co.uk/training-programme

Contact Us

If you have any questions or require further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We look forward to supporting your council's internal audit needs.

St Mary's request for precept increase

Background

Liss Parochial Church Council (PCC) has requested that LPC consider adding a modest amount (suggested £10 per household per year) to the parish precept to help fund major repairs to the church building.

£10 per household per year equates to approximately £30,000 or 10% of the annual precept, as of 2026/27. As the 2026/27 precept has already been set, any funding would only be available from the 2027/28 financial year onwards, in April 2027 at the earliest.

The request is driven by an urgent need to replace the church roof at a cost exceeding £250,000, which will exhaust existing reserves and require a both external funding aswell as a public appeal.

The church is the largest indoor space in the village and is increasingly used for community events such as concerts, civic services, weddings, funerals and remembrance activities.

Typically, grant requests would be considered by the Finance Committee. However, this request is significant enough to require a recommendation from all councillors.

This report outlines the potential advantages, risks, governance considerations, and recommended process should the LPC wish to explore the proposal further.

Legislative Context

The PCC notes in their letter that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 provides a mechanism for parish churches to ask parish councils to add a modest precept contribution toward maintaining the fabric of the church building.

Advice received from HALC (included verbatim) is:

The provision in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 is as follows:

19A — Powers under other enactments:

Nothing in this Part affects any powers, duties or liabilities conferred on a parish council by or under any other enactment (whenever passed or made).

This section does not apply in relation to community councils (see Section 179 of the Local Government Act 1972).

In our view, and in accordance with our Key Topic Note on Providing Financial Assistance to Churches, we have always maintained that Councils can provide funding contributions to churches for maintenance of the fabric of the building, but not the goods or ornaments within (e.g. a bell). How Councils provide that assistance is usually by way of a grant, either one off or yearly. If you were to provide an annual figure would you be reassured that it would be used for the maintenance of the church?

Councils of course can increase their precept to increase their grant fund budget, and the Council would then allocate an appropriate amount upon request. However, the Council needs to consider this request as they would any other funding request, and the powers are discretionary as you surmised, and the Act or the insertion of Section 19A does not confer any additional duties on Councils.

Therefore the Council needs to consider and agree whether to support the church's fund raising, or ongoing maintenance, and it may be that the Council offer a small amount this year, but budget for a larger amount for 2027/2028 in accordance with your grant awards policy.

Strategic Considerations

The decision is not purely financial — it touches on community identity, fairness in taxation, and the role of LPC in supporting shared infrastructure.

Key strategic question:

Is St Mary's church primarily a religious asset, or a community facility with religious use?

Potential Benefits

Community Infrastructure

The church functions as the largest indoor venue available to the whole village.

- The church functions as the largest indoor venue available to the whole village and supporting it may promote more flexibility in the use of the available public facilities.

Heritage Protection

- Parish churches often form a central part of local heritage and placemaking.
- Preventative funding may avoid larger emergency costs later.

Financial Predictability

- A modest annual contribution spreads the burden rather than relying solely on large fundraising campaigns.

Civic Partnership

- Can strengthen cooperation between secular and local government/voluntary/community institutions.

Value for Money

- If the church hosts multiple public events, the cost per resident may be comparatively low relative to building or operating a new hall.

Risks and Disadvantages

Perception of Subsidising Religion

- Some residents may object to public funds supporting a religious building.
- Risk increases if benefits are not clearly community-wide.

Precedent Setting

- Other organisations may seek similar funding.
- LPC should define criteria for future requests.

Tax Sensitivity

- Even a small precept increase can attract opposition during cost-of-living pressures.

Opportunity Cost

- Funds directed here cannot be used for grounds, play areas, building improvements, highways initiatives or other LPC priorities.
- Pressure on officer time spent on community engagement for one project that does not directly benefit LPC activities.

Financial considerations and Accountability

Any award should require:

- A formal grant application
- Confirmation funds are restricted to structural works
- Evidence of project costs
- Clarity regarding other fundraising efforts

Applying standard grant conditions is strongly recommended.

Options for LPC

Option A – Decline

Determine that maintaining a church is outside council priorities.

Option B – Provide One-Off Grant

Helps address the immediate roof issue without committing to permanent taxation. While there is a healthy allowance in the 26/27 one-off grant budget, it is unlikely to be spent by St Mary's by March 2027 and would therefore not be eligible under the terms of the grant policy. There is, however, a certain amount of unallocated CIL which could be applied for.

Option C – Time-Limited Precept Addition

Example: £10/year for 1–10 years (depending on level of funding agreed), reviewed periodically.

Would require suspending grant policy to allow multiple year funding.

Option D – Conditional Funding

Provide support only if (for example):

- Building remains available for community use
- Usage data is published
- Hire fees remain reasonable
- A maintenance plan is in place
- Grant policy can be suspended to allow multiple year funding

Funding amount could be Option B, Option C or a combination of both.

Community Engagement

A formal referendum is not typically required for parish council spending decisions unless triggered by excessive precept increases. However, LPC may choose one voluntarily if the issue proves contentious.

When a referendum is advisable:

- Strong public division
- Large or permanent tax increase
- Election-period sensitivity
- Manifesto implications

When consultation is sufficient:

- Small contribution
- Clear majority support

- Time-sensitive repairs

In most cases, a robust consultation achieves legitimacy without the cost and complexity of a referendum.

While a referendum is unlikely to be triggered at this level, transparency is strongly advised where a precept rise is linked to a single project.

Good practice would include:

- Clearly explaining the purpose of any increase
- Stating whether funding is time-limited
- Seeking views from as wide a cross-section of the community as possible
- Publishing the results of the consultation

Even if not legally required, engagement will reduce reputational risk.

Conclusion

The purpose of this report has been to outline the options, identify the key considerations, and set out how community views can be gathered, if required. The next step is for LPC to consider how it wishes to proceed in light of that information.

Newman Collard Charity Proposal

Recommendation

That Liss Parish Council resolve:

- 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.

Background and supporting documentation

Annex A : E-mail from Liz Keeling, 13/2/26

Annex B: Minutes of the Trust meeting of 13th February 2026

Annex C: NCPFT Treasurer's Report dated 31/8/25

Annex D: NCPFT Treasurer's Report dated 31/3/25

Annex E: NCPFT Scheme 2007

Consideration

Benefits

LPC will be able to safeguard what is a key recreational space for residents in the long term. The facilities are key assets in the village which are managed locally. LPC councilors would provide democratic accountability with responsibility for the charity and achieving the charity aims. LPC also has a team of dedicated staff with experience in managing buildings/grounds/charities which would provide a corporate governance structure. These aspects contribute to the democratic accountability and

sustainability of the charity and its functions for the benefit of parishioners served by LPC.

Greater clarity to parishioners on the management of Newman Collard as a whole; in the past LPC has often been required to provide a contact point for initial enquiries for the Trust.

A publicly available booking system to generate additional use and income, should it be deemed desirable.

An opportunity to generate more income to invest in the site from exploring postal lockers (similar to InPost) and other services that will benefit the community.

Costs

According to the most recent report of the Treasurer, the Trust is expected to make a small surplus of approximately £1,500 each year (to include healthy levels of investment in both the pavilion and the grounds). This is based on an assumption of similar levels of regular activity and a 2.5% inflationary increase over the following three years.

The majority of the income generated is from a regular set of users which is fairly static.

LPC already provides a number of services under the current MoU with NCPFT – LPC becoming sole trustee will enable more coordinated management of these costs, especially grounds and buildings maintenance.

Additional direct costs:

Caretaking costs, to include cleaning and maintenance. These areas are undertaken by members of staff who are on zero hours based contracts and so additional costs would arise. However, this could probably be covered by the assumed surplus of £1,500 annually.

Other smaller sums, e.g. an additional module for bookings on the Hallmaster booking system. However, should it be decided that additional users can be accommodated other than those covered by the existing user agreements then there would be additional income generated.

Additional indirect costs:

The main additional costs will come into play whereby LPC officers take on duties previously undertaken by trustees who are volunteers.

Officer capacity would need to be kept under review, especially with regards to project based work. However, it is thought that the day to day functions could be absorbed, e.g. User liaison/agreements and bookings – Hannah, day to day financial

administration – Rebecca and Sarah, building and grounds management– Sarah, Katrina and Hannah, project work - Katrina. Members of the team have been consulted and are on board. As regards councilor remit this area would come under the remit of the Charity Committee.

Risks

That the Charity Commission do not accept either proposal.

Officers being overwhelmed: Staff Committee would need to keep staffing levels under review and Council as a whole would need to be mindful of desirable vs essential activity. This will be particularly relevant in the short-term as LPC takes over the various activity streams.

Charities generally require a certain level of subsidy. LPC already contributes to the grounds maintenance in particular. However, at this point in time the Trust is running at a surplus.

LPC decides not to take on the role and the trust dissolves then the assets would need to pass either to another charity with similar aims or would be returned to the crown, limiting influence of residents on the future of the site.



NCPFT Special Meeting Minutes

From: Liz Keeling <lizardacious@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tue, 3 Mar, 2026 at 09:23
To: Sarah Smith
Cc: Susan Halstead, r.a.hargreaves, Clive Olley

Minutes NCPFT Special Meeting - 13 Feb 2026 - FINAL.pdf (353.3 KB)

Minutes NCPFT Special Meeting - 13 Feb 2026 - FINAL.docx (66 KB) – **Download all**

Dear Sarah,

I hope you are well.

On behalf of the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust (NCPFT), I am writing to formally request that the attached minutes of the recent NCPFT Special Meeting, together with the resolutions contained within them, be added to the agenda for the next full meeting of Liss Parish Council.

At the meeting, the trustees considered the Charity's current governance capacity and the actions required to ensure the continued protection of its assets and the fulfilment of its charitable objectives. The key matters resolved by the trustees, which require consideration by Liss Parish Council, are summarised below:

1. Governance Capacity of the Charity

The trustees resolved that the Charity is no longer able to govern itself effectively or sustainably due to:

- the resignation of key officers;
- unsuccessful efforts to appoint new trustees to vacant roles;
- the Charity's inability to recruit volunteers;
- the increasing regulatory and operational demands placed upon the Charity; and
- the resulting risk of non-compliance with charity law.

2. Consideration of Future Governance Arrangements

The trustees noted Liss Parish Council's existing role as custodian trustee, its corporate governance capacity, and its ability to provide long-term organisational stability and, subject to approval from the Charity Commission they resolved to invite Liss Parish Council to consider:

- acting as the sole trustee of the Charity, **or**
- establishing a new charity with the same objectives as the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust,

3. Priorities for Consideration by Liss Parish Council

In approaching the Parish Council, the trustees request that the following four priorities be taken into account:

1. Adoption and continuation of all existing user agreements.
2. Establishment of a bi-annual user group forum to ensure users are regularly consulted.
3. Appointment of a designated Liss Parish Council officer as the formal point of contact for users.
4. Consideration and incorporation of reasonable amendments or additions to user agreements where required.

4. Interim Administrative Support

Given the time-sensitive requirements of the Charity - such as insurance renewal (28 February) and the annual review of user agreements (March) - the trustees resolved to seek interim administrative support from Liss Parish Council to maintain continuity of operations, subject to Charity Commission guidance.

5. Engagement with the Charity Commission

The trustees also agreed to engage early with the Charity Commission to confirm the appropriate legal pathway and any required consents.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that this matter is placed on the agenda for the next full Council meeting, and do let me know if any further documentation or clarification is required.

Kind regards,

Liz Keeling

Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust



Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust

THE NEWMAN COLLARD PLAYING FIELDS TRUST

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Trustees

Date: 13 February 2026

Start time: 1:56pm

Location: Newman Collard Recreation Pavillion, Liss

Present:

Clive Olley

Peter Storrie

Bob Smith

Liz Keeling

Sue Halstead **ACTING CHAIR**

Matt Powell

Roger Hargreaves

Apologies: Neil White

The Acting Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the newest trustee, Roger Hargreaves.

1. Declaration of Interests

The Chair asked trustees to declare any interests relevant to the business of the meeting.

It was noted that Clive Olley is a member of Liss Parish Council. The trustees considered whether this constituted a conflict of interest in relation to the matters under discussion.

The trustees concluded that:

- the matter under consideration related to the future governance and protection of the Charity, and
- any role Liss Parish Council might play would be subject to its own independent decision-making processes.

The interest was therefore noted for transparency. No trustee present was considered to have a disqualifying conflict, and all trustees participated in the discussion and decision-making.

2. Governance Capacity of the Charity

The trustees reviewed the current governance position of the Charity.

It was noted that:

- the Chairman and Treasurer have resigned;
- despite reasonable efforts, the Charity has been unable to identify or appoint suitable trustees to fill the vacant positions of Chairman, Vice-chairman and Treasurer;
- the Charity has been unable to recruit volunteers to support either operational or project-based activities;
- in recent years the range, complexity and degree of regulation of Trust responsibilities had grown; and
- consequently, the Charity lacks the capacity to discharge its legal obligations effectively and on an ongoing basis.

The trustees discussed their duties under charity law and the guidance of the Charity Commission, and recognised the risk of non-compliance and detriment to the Charity if the position continued.

The trustees noted that former Treasurer, Clayre Williams, had undertaken a significant proportion of the Charity's work and wished to place on record their formal thanks for her considerable contribution.

RESOLVED: That the trustees formally record that the Charity is no longer able to govern itself effectively and sustainably.

It should be noted that Peter Storrie did not vote in favour of the resolution, stating that he considered it premature to make such a determination and that further efforts should be undertaken to identify and recruit suitable trustees.

3. Consideration of Alternative Governance Arrangements

The trustees considered options set out in the paper circulated with the agenda, in order to safeguard the Charity's assets and ensure the continued furtherance of its charitable purposes.

The trustees noted that:

- Liss Parish Council is currently the custodian trustee
- Liss Parish Council is a corporate body with continuity and governance capacity;
- Liss Parish Council has significant administrative and operational resources and funds; and
- the appointment of a sole corporate trustee would provide long-term stability and regulatory compliance.

The trustees considered a proposal that Liss Parish Council be invited to act as sole trustee of the Charity, or set up a new charity subject to:

- upholding the charitable objectives of the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust and ensuring that these were reflected in all future decisions;
- Liss Parish Council's agreement, and
- the approval of the Charity Commission.

Peter Storrie wished to record that, in his opinion, Liss Parish Council did not fully understand the requirements or organisational structures of the Liss Junior and Senior Football Club, which he felt could lead to insufficient support. He also queried the future of the existing user agreements, noting that although they are granted on a ten-year basis and reviewed annually in March, there was a risk that associated costs would increase.

4. Resolution to Approach Liss Parish Council

The trustees discussed a number of priorities they wished to bring to the attention of Liss Parish Council and requested these matters be given due consideration. Essential was that any future trust must adopt the charitable objectives of the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust and ensure that these were reflected in all future decisions; In addition, the trustees asked that Liss Parish Council consider the following four priorities:

1. adopting and carrying forward all existing user agreements;
2. convening a bi-annual user group forum to ensure that all users retained the right to be consulted;
3. appointing a designated Liss Parish Council officer as the formal point of contact for users; and
4. considering and incorporating reasonable amendments and additions to user agreements as required.

The trustees acknowledged that the process to amend the Charity's governance structure was likely to take some months. They further recognised that certain administrative tasks, including insurance renewal on 28 February and annual review of

user agreements in March, were time-critical. Given this, the trustees agreed that the Charity would require additional support during the interim period to continue discharging its duties, and that it would therefore be prudent to seek assistance from Liss Parish Council in undertaking the Charity's administrative functions.

RESOLVED: That the trustees agree in principle to approach Liss Parish Council to request that it consider acting as sole trustee of the Charity or setting up a charity with the same objectives and the priorities set out above subject to approval from the Charity Commission.

It was further RESOLVED that:

- **the Charity engage with the Charity Commission at an early stage to seek guidance on the appropriate legal process and confirm any consents required;**
- **a formal options proposal paper be prepared and submitted to Liss Parish Council for consideration, inviting it to act as sole trustee of the Charity, or setting up a charity with the same objectives and the other priorities set out above; and**
- **subject to confirmation from the Charity Commission, the Charity request that Liss Parish Council provide interim administrative support to ensure continuity of operations.**

It should be noted that Peter Storrie voted in favour of the resolution, subject to Liss Parish Council's approval of the four previously identified priorities.

5. Close

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2:55pm.

Signed:

.....
ACTING CHAIR

Date:

NEWMAN COLLARD PLAYING FIELDS TRUST
TREASURER'S REPORT
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025

Financial position at 31 August 2025

Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust

Charity no: 301873

Income and Expenditure Report

Income	Actual £	Budget £	%
Chatter Splatter	3,007.03	3,008.00	100%
LAFC	1,672.50	3,382.50	49%
NCTC	1,322.75	3,172.00	42%
Men's Shed	1,041.65	2,500.00	42%
Petersfield Karate	833.35	2,000.00	42%
Liss Runners	160.00	960.00	17%
Liss Guides	150.00	350.00	43%
Liss Brownies	150.00	350.00	43%
User electricity contributions	1,323.62	1,323.00	100%
Grants	10,000.00	181,000.00	6%
Donations	0.00	0.00	
Bank interest	111.69	150.00	74%
Other income	0.00	0.00	
Total income	19,772.59	198,195.50	
Expenditure	Actual £	Budget £	
Insurance	0.00	2,750.00	0%
Electricity	1,425.24	4,600.09	31%
Water	139.66	461.94	30%
Council Tax	111.56	112.36	99%
Waste Disposal	914.18	1,747.87	52%
Building Maintenance	187.06	2,070.00	9%
Grounds Maintenance	3,062.80	4,950.00	62%
Capital Cost	2,750.00	180,000.00	2%
Administration cost	464.78	200.00	232%
Total expenditure	9,055.28	196,892.26	
Net cash inflow/outflow	10,717.31	1,303.24	
Cash balance 01/04	24,531.08		
Income received	19,772.59		
Expenditure paid	-9,055.28		
Cash balance to date	35,248.39		

Income for the year to date of £19,772.59 includes:

- £10,000.00 grants – from the National Lottery Awards for All for pond work

Expenditure for the year of £9,055.28 includes:

- £2,890.00 for resurfacing work at the entrance to the car park
- £2,750.00 for additional consultancy work relating to the MUGA (to be recovered from LPC)

Forecast

A high level forecast of the finances for the Trust for the next three financial years can be seen below:

Forecast

	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
	£	£	£
Income			
Chatter Splatter	-	-	-
LAFC	3,450	3,519	3,590
NCTC	3,222	3,287	3,352
Liss Mens Shed	3,060	3,121	3,184
Petersfield Karate	2,040	2,081	2,122
Electricity contributions	-	-	-
Liss Runners	979	999	1,019
Liss Guides	357	364	371
Liss Brownies	357	364	371
Revenue Grants	1,000	1,000	1,000
Capital Grants	78,000	-	-
Bank interest	150	150	150
Total income	92,616	14,885	15,160
Expenditure			
Insurance	2,805	2,861	2,918
Electricity	4,192	4,276	4,361
Water	471	481	490
Council Tax	115	117	119
Waste Disposal	1,783	1,818	1,855
Building Maintenance	1,601	1,633	1,666
Grounds Maintenance	2,101	2,143	2,186
Capital Expenditure	78,000	-	-
Administration cost	50	50	50
Total expenditure	91,118	13,380	13,646
Net cash inflow/outflow	1,497	1,505	1,513

Assuming similar levels of regular activity and a 2.5% inflationary increase over the following three years, we can expect to make a small surplus of approximately £1,500 each year. This includes healthy levels of investment in both the pavilion and the grounds.

The expectation is that the MUGA and drainage works will both be fully funded by grants which have been awarded by LPC, EHDC and SDNPA.

The Trust should be able to maintain its current level of reserves (approximately £20k) for the foreseeable future under the current level of activity. This translates to approximately 1 year of operating expenditure and is in line with the recommended level of general reserves.

Fundraising

We have received £10,000 from the National Lottery to do some work to the pond.

I'm currently working on obtaining quotes and speaking with contractors. The plan is to do the following:

1. Scoop out the debris and silt from the north end of the pond. The SDNPA park ranger have advised that there are skillful enough machinery operators that this can be done mechanically. I've been in touch with

the recommended contractor about a site visit. Once the debris has been removed it will sit on the bank of the pond for a couple of weeks to dry out and the any wildlife to move out. It will then be transferred into a skip and removed.

2. Cut back and remove some invasive vegetation. This includes completely removing rhododendron and reducing the reeds on the water's side by about 25%.
3. Installing pre-planted coir rolls to stabilise some of the bank on the south west of the pond. This is an illustration of what it will look like when installed and six months later. The gap between the coir and the path can be filled with topsoil to further stabilise the banks.



4. Planting marginal plants along the parts of the banks that don't need to be stabilised at the moment. These should prevent erosion in the future.
5. Re-siting the duck houses.

Ideally, the removing of the debris should be completed in the next two to three months, while the wildlife is at its most dormant and before the rainy season starts. The rest of the work should be done in the spring/early summer next year. A lot of villagers have volunteered to help. If it is safe to do so, I think the moving of the debris into skips and possibly planting of marginals would make good community projects.

Administration

All Charity Commission returns and filings are up to date.

Policy review dates are as follows:

	Approved	Next review
Health & Safety	18-Apr-24	Apr-25
Whistleblowing	18-Apr-24	Apr-25
Data Protection	18-Apr-24	Apr-26
Managing volunteers	12-Sep-24	Sep-25
Financial Controls	TBC	

None of the policies are expected to change and will be included at the next available meeting.

Community Engagement

The Trust website is live at www.newmancollard.co.uk. It is a work in progress and needs more content added to it, which I will look into in the coming months.

Clayre Williams
Treasurer
11 September 2025

NEWMAN COLLARD PLAYING FIELDS TRUST
TREASURER'S REPORT
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

Financial position at 31 March 2025

Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust

Charity no: 301873

Income and Expenditure Report

	Actual £	Budget £	%
Income			
Chatter Splatter	7,605.32	6,921.00	110%
LAFC	3,300.00	3,300.00	100%
NCTC	3,082.20	3,082.00	100%
Liss Runners	1,020.00	1,000.00	102%
Liss Guides	580.00	500.00	116%
Liss Brownies	605.00	500.00	121%
User electricity contributions	1,627.38	1,560.00	104%
Grants	6,500.00	4,800.00	135%
Donations	0.00	50.00	0%
Bank interest	307.81	150.00	205%
Other income	0.00	0.00	
Total income	24,627.71	21,863.00	
Expenditure	Actual £	Budget £	
Insurance	2,603.69	2,540.42	102%
Electricity	3,968.40	5,980.48	66%
Water	296.85	452.88	66%
Council Tax	92.31	110.16	84%
Waste Disposal	1,489.78	1,713.60	87%
Building Maintenance	4,483.33	3,500.00	128%
Grounds Maintenance	4,750.00	3,000.00	158%
LPC - SLA contribution	0.00	0.00	0%
Capital Cost	2,316.00	0.00	0%
Administration cost	21.59	50.00	43%
Total expenditure	20,021.95	17,347.54	
Net cash inflow/outflow	4,605.76	4,515.46	
Cash balance 01/04/24	20,065.89		
Income received	24,627.71		
Expenditure paid	-20,021.95		
Cash balance to date	24,671.65		

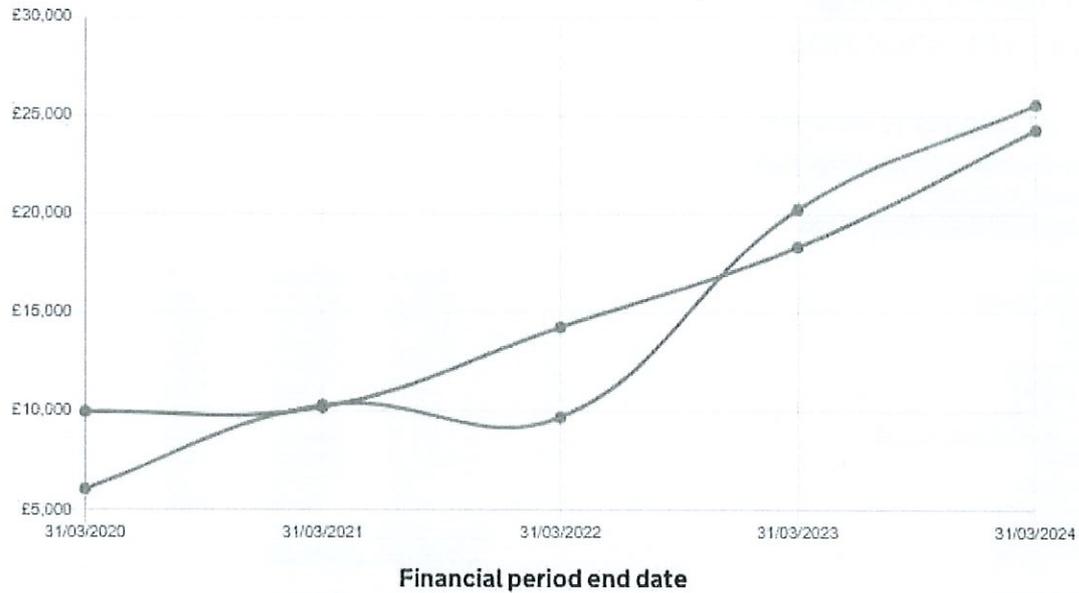
Income for the year to date of £24,627.71 includes:

- £6,500.00 grants – £5,300 from LPC for expenses relating to the MUGA in previous year, £1,200 for spring bulb planting
- £307.81 interest on cash balances from Natwest

Expenditure for the year of £29,021.95 includes:

- £3,968.40 electricity expenditure at both the pavilion and the Men's Shed complex,
- £449.82 material cost for new cupboards in the Mitchell Room,
- £3,032.00 cost for redecorating the pavilion,
- £3,500.00 tree surgeon cost for works to the pond,
- £1,200.00 for spring bulbs,
- £2,316.00 for an acoustic survey in relation to the MUGA planning application

This compares to previous years as follows:



	Income / Expenditure	31/03/2020	31/03/2021	31/03/2022	31/03/2023	31/03/2024
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Total gross income	£10.00k	£10.22k	£14.30k	£18.37k	£24.33k
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Total expenditure	£6.07k	£10.35k	£9.73k	£20.29k	£25.62k

Reserves at the end of the year of £24,671.65 includes £3,000 from EHDC's Supporting Communities Fund, which is restricted in what we are allowed to use it for. The original funding application was for a Project and Fundraising Officer, which we could not fully fund. I'm in discussion with EHDC to transfer the funding to be used as part of the project management on the drainage project.

Forecast

A high level forecast of the finances for the Trust for the next three financial years can be seen below:

Forecast

	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
Income	£	£	£
Chatter Splatter	3,008	-	-
LAFC	3,383	3,450	3,519
NCTC	3,172	3,222	3,287
Liss Mens Shed	2,500	3,060	3,121
Petersfield Karate	2,000	2,040	2,081
Electricity contributions	1,323	-	-
Liss Runners	960	979	999
Liss Guides	350	357	364
Liss Brownies	350	357	364
Revenue Grants	1,000	1,000	1,000
Capital Grants	180,000	78,000	-
Bank interest	150	150	150
Total income	198,196	92,616	14,885
Expenditure			
Insurance	2,750	2,805	2,861
Electricity	4,600	4,192	4,276
Water	462	471	481
Council Tax	112	115	117
Waste Disposal	1,748	1,783	1,818
Building Maintenance	2,070	1,601	1,633
Grounds Maintenance	2,060	1,591	1,623
Capital Expenditure	180,000	78,000	-
Administration cost	200	50	50
Total expenditure	194,002	90,608	12,859
Net cash inflow/outflow	4,193	2,007	2,025

Assuming similar levels of regular activity and a 2.5% inflationary increase over the following three years, we can expect to make a small surplus of approximately £2,000 each year. This includes healthy levels of investment in both the pavilion and the grounds.

The expectation is that the MUGA and drainage works will both be fully funded by grants which have been awarded by LPC, EHDC and SDNPA.

The Trust should be able to maintain its current level of reserves (approximately £20k) for the foreseeable future under the current level of activity. This translates to approximately 1 year of operating expenditure and is in line with the recommended level of general reserves.

Fundraising

There has been very little fundraising activity for the year to date. I'm currently researching foundation grant options for pond refurbishment works and for improving the paths in the park but am aware that we have a lot of grant funded work pending (MUGA and drainage works) and we can only do so many things at the same time.

Russell Oppenheimer (Hampshire County Council), Ian James (East Hampshire District Council) and Liss Parish Council funded £1,200 for spring flowering bulbs which were planted in the autumn and early winter.

LPC also funded £3,000 for the main site signs which were installed in mid December.

The tennis club received substantial funding from Sport England to upgrade the floodlights to LED, which was completed in October 2024.

The football club has received funding from the Football Foundation for grounds maintenance equipment.

Administration

All Charity Commission returns and filings are up to date.

Policy review dates are as follows:

	Approved	Next review
Health & Safety	18-Apr-24	Apr-25
Whistleblowing	18-Apr-24	Apr-25
Data Protection	18-Apr-24	Apr-26
Managing volunteers	12-Sep-24	Sep-25
Financial Controls	TBC	

All draft user licences and hire contracts for the new financial year have been updated, issued and returned by the users and hirers. We also welcome Petersfield Karate as a new user to the pavilion as of 1 April 2025.

Events

On 6 June 2024 we hosted an event marking the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings at Normandy. Hilliers Nursery very kindly donated a great white cherry tree which was planted by Keith Budden (LPC chair). We're also grateful to Liss Band for playing and Terry O'Connor of the British Legion for doing the dedication at the lighting of the beacon.



The tennis club ran a very successful and widely attended Village Fete and Torchlit Tennis Marathon on 22 June 2024. Many local organisations showcased their activities and it was a great community event. The weather was also glorious.



are inconvenient for mowing. The hope is that we can delay the mowing these parts of the grass until June at the earliest each year while giving the birds and insects something to eat and people something nice to look at. We have had many compliments on the display which will hopefully be glorious each spring for years to come.



The rose garden has been tidied up and mulched for the winter. It will be regularly maintained in the future and we will make the village aware that it is available if anyone wants to plant a rose in memory of a loved one.



Petersfield Town Council have replaced the wildflower seed they ruined by mowing the orchard area last summer. This was sown in March with the aim that some wildflowers will come out in the summer. Having a wildflower area is, however, a longer term plan and will take a few years to cultivate.

Clayre Williams
Treasurer
21 April 2025

THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Under the power given in the Charities Act 1993

Order that from today, the

15 February 2007

this

SCHEME

will govern the charities

formerly known as

Newman Collard Pavilion Fund

Newman Collard Playing Field

and now to be known as

THE NEWMAN COLLARD PLAYING FIELDS TRUST (301873)

at

Liss, Hampshire

Commissioners' References:

Sealing: WW30(S)/07

Case No: 535671

Version: 4.0
Case No: 535671



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

1. Definitions

In this scheme:

"the trusts" means the provisions which at any given time regulate the purposes and administration of the charity.

"the governing document" means the document or documents setting out the trusts.

"the area of benefit" means the parish of Liss and its neighbourhood.

"the charities" means the charities identified at the beginning of this scheme.

"the charity" means the charity created by clause 2 of this scheme.

"the committee" means the committee of management of the charity.

"the existing trustees" means the persons listed in part 1 of the schedule to this scheme.

"the members" means the members of the committee (who are the charity trustees of the charity) acting under this scheme.

"the pavilion" means the building provided by the charity in accordance with clause 4 of the scheme.

"the Commissioners" means the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

ADMINISTRATION

2. Administration

- (1) The charities are to be administered as one charity in accordance with this scheme.
- (2) Subject to sub-clause (3) of this clause, the charity must be administered by the committee in accordance with this scheme. This scheme replaces the former trusts of the charities.
- (3) The charity must be administered by the existing trustees until the end of the first annual general meeting held under this scheme. They must administer the charity in accordance with the provisions of this scheme.

3. Name of the charity

The name of the charity is the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust.

OBJECT

4. Object of the charity

- (1) The object of the charity is, in the interests of social welfare, to improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of

political, religious or other opinions by the provision and maintenance of a playing field and pavilion.

- (2) The land identified in part 2 of the schedule to this scheme must be retained by the committee for use for the object of the charity.

POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

5. Powers of the committee

In addition to any other powers which they have, the committee may exercise the following powers in furtherance of the objects of the charity:

- (1) Power to appoint staff (who must not be members) and pay them reasonable remuneration, including pension provision for them and their dependants.
- (2) Power to insure against public liability and, if appropriate, employers' liability; and to insure the buildings of the charity to their full value against fire and all other usual risks (except to the extent that the buildings are insured against any of these risks by a tenant).
- (3) Power to raise funds. (The committee must not undertake any permanent trading activity.)
- (4) Power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities. The committee may exchange information and advice with them.
- (5) Power to make rules and regulations consistent with this scheme for the management of the charity.

CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE

6. Custodian trustee

Liss Parish Council is the custodian trustee of the charity.

COMMITTEE

7. Committee of management

- (1) Subject as provided in clause 9 (Appointed members) and clause 10 (co-opted members), there shall be:
 - 5 elected members;
 - 3 appointed members by Liss Parish Council; and
 - one appointed member for each of the organisations listed in part 3 of the schedule to this scheme.
- (2) The committee may resolve to add the names of other organisations operating in the area of benefit to the list in part 3 of the schedule to this

scheme. The resolution must be passed at an ordinary meeting of the committee by not less than two thirds of the members of the committee.

- (3) The members of the committee are the managing trustees of the charity.
- (4) The term of office of all members will end at the end of the annual general meeting following the date on which they came into office. They may be re-elected or re-appointed.

8. Elected members

- (1) The elected members must be appointed at the annual general meeting.
- (2) The appointment will be effective from the end of the annual general meeting at which the appointment is made.

9. Appointed members

- (1) Liss Parish Council must appoint up to 3 appointed members.
- (2) Each of the organisations listed in part 3 of the schedule to this scheme must appoint 1 appointed member.
- (3) Any appointment must be made according to the ordinary practice of the appointing body.
- (4) An appointment must not be made more than 2 months before the annual general meeting.
- (5) The appointment will be effective from the later of:
 - (a) the end of the annual general meeting; and
 - (b) the date on which the committee or their secretary or clerk are informed of the appointment.
- (6) The person appointed need not be a member of the relevant appointing body.

10. Co-opted members

The committee may appoint not more than 2 co-opted members. The appointment must be made at a special meeting of the committee. The appointment will be effective from the end of that meeting until the end of the following annual general meeting.

11. New members

The committee must give each new member on their first appointment:

- (1) a copy of this scheme and any amendments made to it;
- (2) a copy of the charity's latest report and statement of accounts.

12. Register of members

- (1) The committee must keep a register of the name and address of every member and the dates on which their terms of office begin and end.
- (2) Before acting as a member, every member must (whether on their first appointment or on any later re-appointment) sign in the register a declaration of acceptance and willingness to act in the trusts of this scheme.
- (3) The committee must promptly report any vacancy in the office of appointed member to the body entitled to fill it.

13. Members not to have a personal interest

- (1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause and except with the prior written approval of the Commissioners no member may:
 - (a) receive any benefit in money or in kind from the charity; or
 - (b) have a financial interest in the supply of goods or services to the charity; or
 - (c) acquire or hold any interest in property of the charity (except in order to hold it as a trustee of the charity).
- (2) All members may use the playing field and pavilion as inhabitants of the area of benefit in accordance with the object of the charity.

14. Termination of membership

A member will cease to be a member if he or she:

- (1) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by section 72 of the Charities Act 1993; or
- (2) is absent without the permission of the members from all their meetings held within a period of 12 months and the members resolve that his or her office be vacated; or
- (3) gives not less than one month's notice in writing of his or her intention to resign (but only if at least one third of the total number of members will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect).

OFFICERS

15. Chairman

- (1) At their first meeting in each year after the annual general meeting the members must elect one of their number to be chairman of their meetings.
- (2) The members present at a meeting must elect one of their number to chair the meeting if the chairman is not present or the office of chairman is vacant.

16. Secretary and treasurer

The committee may appoint a secretary and treasurer. The offices may be held by:

- (1) members (who must not receive any reward for acting and who may be dismissed as secretary or treasurer at any time); or
- (2) some other suitable persons (who may be employed upon such reasonable terms, including terms as to notice, as the committee think fit).

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE

17. Ordinary meetings

- (1) The committee must hold at least 2 ordinary meetings in each year.
- (2) Ordinary meetings require at least 10 days' notice.
- (3) The chairman, or any two members, may call an ordinary meeting at any time.

18. Special meetings

- (1) The chairman, or any two members, may call a special meeting at any time.
- (2) Special meetings require at least 7 days' notice, except that meetings to consider the appointment of a co-opted member require at least 21 days' notice.
- (3) The notice calling a special meeting must include details of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
- (4) A special meeting may, but need not, be held immediately before or after an ordinary meeting.

19. Quorum

- (1) Subject to sub-clause (2) below, no business may be transacted at a meeting unless there are present at least one-third of the total number of members.
- (2) If there are fewer than one third of the total number of members in office, the committee must take such action as is required for the purpose of filling vacancies in its number, but it may not do any other business.

20. Voting

- (1) Every matter must be decided by majority decision of the members present and voting at a duly convened meeting of the committee.
- (2) The chairman of the meeting may cast a second or casting vote only if there is a tied vote.

21. Recording of meetings

The committee must keep a proper record of its meetings. The record must be retained by:

- (1) the secretary; or
 - (2) another suitable person appointed by the committee to do so
- who must allow the members access to it.

22. Members to act jointly

The members must exercise their powers jointly, at properly convened meetings.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23. Annual general meeting

- (1) There must be an annual general meeting of the charity in May of each year, or as soon as possible thereafter.
- (2) All inhabitants of the area of benefit of 18 years and upward must be allowed to attend and vote at the meeting. The committee may allow inhabitants who are under 18 to attend (but not vote at) the meeting.
- (3) The first annual general meeting after the date of this scheme must be called by the existing trustees within 12 months of that date. Every other meeting must be called by the committee.
- (4) Public notice of the meeting must be given in the area of benefit at least 14 days before the meeting.
- (5) The chairman of the existing trustees shall chair the first meeting. The chairman of the committee shall chair subsequent meetings. The persons present must elect one of their number to chair the meeting if the chairman is not present.
- (6) At the meeting the committee must present the report and accounts for the last financial year. The existing trustees must present the report and accounts to the first meeting.
- (7) Every matter must be decided by majority decision of those present and voting. The chairman of the meeting may cast a second or casting vote only if there is a tied vote.

CHARITY PROPERTY

24. Use of income and capital

- (1) The committee must firstly apply:

- (a) the charity's income; and
 - (b) if the committee think fit, expendable endowment; and
 - (c) when the expenditure can properly be charged to it, its permanent endowment
- in meeting the proper costs of administering the charity and of managing its assets.
- (2) After payment of these costs, the committee must apply the remaining income in furthering the object of the charity.
 - (3) The committee may also apply for the object of the charity:
 - (a) expendable endowment; and
 - (b) permanent endowment, but only on such terms for the replacement of the amount spent as the Commission may approve by order in advance.

POWER OF AMENDMENT

25. Power of amendment

- (1) The committee (subject to the provisions of this clause) may from time to time amend the trusts if they are satisfied that it is expedient in the interests of the charity to do so.
- (2) The committee must not make any amendment which would have the effect directly or indirectly of:
 - (a) altering or extending the purposes of the charity;
 - (b) authorising the committee to do anything which is expressly prohibited by the trusts of the charity;
 - (c) causing the charity to cease to be a charity at law;
 - (d) altering or extending the power of amendment that is conferred by this clause.
- (3) The committee must obtain the prior written approval of the Commissioners before making any amendment which would have the effect directly or indirectly of:
 - (a) enabling them to spend permanent endowment or capitalise income of the charity;
 - (b) conferring a benefit of any kind on all or any of the current members or their successors;

- (c) restricting the existing right of any person (other than the members) to appoint or remove a member, or trustee for the charity, or to intervene in the administration of the charity, without the consent of that person;
 - (d) varying the name of the charity.
- (4) A decision to make an amendment must be approved at an annual general meeting of the charity at which:
- (a) at least 14 clear days' public notice has been given in the area of benefit, the notice stating the business to be considered; and
 - (b) such amendments are approved by a two-thirds majority of the inhabitants of the area of benefit present and voting at the meeting.
- (5) The committee must:
- (a) prepare a written memorandum of each amendment, which must be signed at the meeting at which the amendment is made by the person chairing the meeting;
 - (b) send to the Commissioners a certified copy of the memorandum within three months of the date of the meeting; and
 - (c) retain the memorandum as part of the governing document.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

26. Questions relating to the Scheme

The Commissioners may decide any question put to them concerning:

- (4) the interpretation of this scheme; or
- (5) the propriety or validity of anything done or intended to be done under it.

SCHEDULE

PART 1

Ian George Hugh Halstead

William Briggs

Charles Patrick Smith

Dorothy Christine Collard

Roger Mullenger

Roy Douglas Hubber

Michael Alder

Martin Wyndham Evans

Caroline Ashton-Milton

PART 2

Part of the land at Liss, Hampshire containing 4.50 hectares or thereabouts (formerly described as 11 acres) described in a conveyance dated 28 June 1948 which was made between the Rural District Council of Petersfield of the first part and the Parish Council of Liss of the second part, and now containing 3.60 hectares or thereabouts and being the land between Hillbrow Road and Inwood Road.

PART 3

Newman Collard Tennis Club

Liss Athletic Football Club

Liss Athletic Junior Football Club

Puddleducks Nursery School