

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 APRIL 2026

1. Hampshire Devolution deal is now pending Parliamentary approval

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

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

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

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

- Transport: Responsibility for developing and implementing integrated transport strategies that improve connectivity across the region.
- Skills and Employment Support: Authority over adult skills funding, driving upskilling opportunities, and supporting pathways into high-quality employment.
- Housing and Strategic Planning: The power to prioritise and deliver new housing developments and support the provision of affordable homes.
- Economic Regeneration and Development: The ability to attract and retain national and international investment ensuring the region capitalises on its economic strengths.
- Environment and Climate Change: Implement initiatives for the region to reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainability, and protect natural habitats.

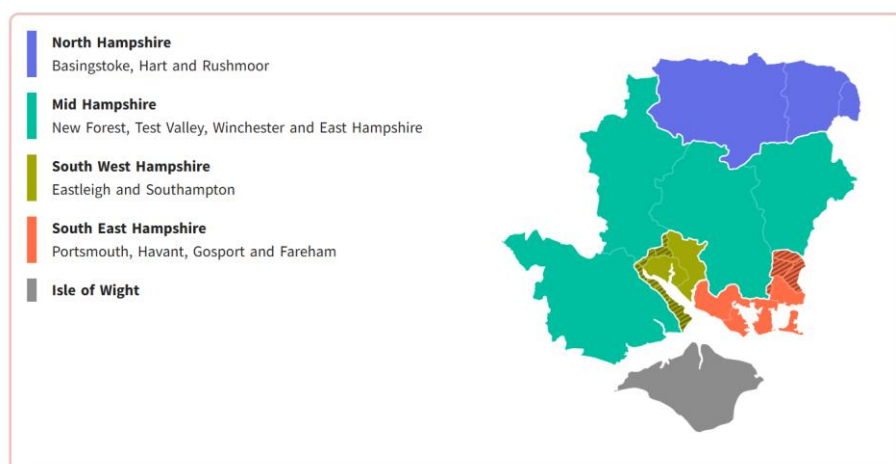
- Health and Wellbeing: Work closely with local partners to reduce health inequalities and support healthier communities.
- Public Safety: Working with Police and Crime Commissioner and the Fire and Rescue Authority, enhance safety by supporting collaborative approaches to emergency planning, community resilience, and crime prevention.

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

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

2. Local Government Reform update

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



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

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

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

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

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

Ahead of the main works, preparatory drainage activity will take place to clear the existing gullies and the surrounding drainage network. This early work will help prepare the site for permanent drainage improvements and reduce the risk of local flooding at this location. Residents and local businesses will be kept informed via the dedicated project webpage: [Pulens Lane Improvements, Petersfield | Transport and roads | Hampshire County Council](#)

4. New process for roadworks notifications

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

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

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

The new approach also delivers a number of other benefits:

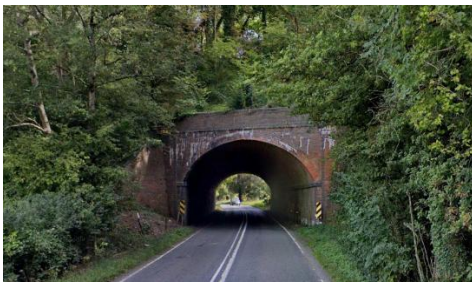
- **Improved accuracy:** Online information can be updated immediately, ensuring residents are not relying on printed letters that may become out of date.
- **Efficiency savings:** There will be reduced printing, postage and distribution requirements that will free up resources for delivering more work on the network.

- **Supports digital service transformation:** Most residents now access information online, and this change aligns with our wider move towards more flexible, digital-first communication channels.
- **Environmentally positive:** Using postcards will reduce paper use and waste.

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

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

5. Update on the A272 Bridge repairs



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

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

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

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

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

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



7. Thank you and good luck with everything!

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

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

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of Liss Parish Council took place at 7pm on 16th March 2026 in Liss Village Hall

Members

*Mr K. Budden (Chair), Ms S. Baldwin, *Ms R. Crane, *Mr I. James, Mr D. Jerrard,
*Mr C. Olley, Mr C. Mort, *Mr P. Payne, *Mr A. Smith, *Mr R. Smith,
*Mrs S. Stratford-Tuke, *Mr D. Turner and *Ms C. Williams.

* Present

In addition to S. Smith (Clerk) and three members of the public (Sue Halstead, Newman Collard Trustee and Roger Hargreaves, LPC appointed Newman Collard Trustee).

24/26 Apologies

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

25/26 Declarations of Interests

Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest they may have in any item of business, no later than when that item is reached.

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

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

26/26 Chair's announcements

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

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

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

27/26 Adjournment for public participation

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

The third member of the public raised two issues:

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

28/26 Update from the County Councillor

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

29/26 Update from District Councillors

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

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

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

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

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

31/26 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

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

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

The Chair invited Roger Hargreaves to speak.

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

Sue Halstead had nothing further to add to the overview.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Liss Parish Council resolved:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35/26 Appointment of the Internal Auditor 2026/27

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

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

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

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

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

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

37/26 Matters to report

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

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

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

38/26 EXEMPT session

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

39/26 EXEMPT Minutes

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 19h49.

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

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

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

1 MARCH 2026

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

1. New budget approved by County Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Hampshire Highways

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

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

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

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

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

4. Devolution and Local Government Reform

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

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

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

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

5. Update: Hampshire Forest Partnership

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

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

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

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

6. Local Nature Reserves

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

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

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

7. Tackling Problem Pavement Parking in Hampshire

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

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

Under the new proposals:

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

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

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

8. Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs)

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

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

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

9. Summary of grants awarded by me

For transparency, every year I publish my list of grants awarded. Here is the list for the year ending March 2026. As you know, the County Councillor grant pot was reduced to £5,000 for this municipal year.

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

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

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

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Payments made between 01/03/2026 and 31/03/2026

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>
17/03/2026	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	Top Up	20,000.00			200	20,000.00	Top Up
24/03/2026	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	Top Up	20,000.00			200	20,000.00	Top Up
25/03/2026	Treasurers Acc. 00110939	Top Up	100,000.00			200	100,000.00	Top Up to pay VC invoice from
Total Payments:			140,000.00	0.00	0.00		140,000.00	

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Receipts received between 01/03/2026 and 31/03/2026

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 03/03/2026	1,443.64						
	CCLA	1,443.64			1081	100	1,443.64	Dividends for February
	Banked 09/03/2026	71.91						
	Lloyds Bank	71.91			1080	100	71.91	Bank Interest
	Total Receipts:	1,515.55	0.00	0.00			1,515.55	

Treasurers Acc. 00110939

Payments made between 01/03/2026 and 31/03/2026

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>
01/03/2026	Cloudy IT	DD	72.00		12.00	4080 150	60.00	Rialtas Cloud License - March
02/03/2026	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	DD	189.56		31.59	4250 200	157.97	Newman Collard Waste
04/03/2026	HALC	BACS	64.20		10.70	4060 150	53.50	Finance Training (HM)
04/03/2026	Green Globe Solar	BACS	9,837.60		1,639.60	6150 700	8,198.00	Final Payment Solar - Pav.
						385	-8,198.00	Final Payment Solar - Pav.
						6000 700	8,198.00	Final Payment Solar - Pav.
04/03/2026	Trophies2U	BACS	31.45		5.24	4055 150	26.21	VOY Shield
04/03/2026	NALC	DD	42.00		7.00	4060 150	35.00	Planning Event (RL)
05/03/2026	Amazon	DEBIT CARD	11.21		1.87	4105 150	9.34	Wireless Mouse
05/03/2026	Amazon	DEBIT CARD	7.94		1.32	4105 150	6.62	Mouse Mat x 2
09/03/2026	The Petersfield Cobbler	DEBIT CARD	12.00		2.00	4055 150	10.00	VOY Trophy Engraving
11/03/2026	Landall	DD	74.73		12.45	4100 150	62.28	Copier Use - Jan 26
11/03/2026	BT	DD	336.05		56.01	4075 150	280.04	Office Phone/Internet
17/03/2026	Sage	DD	20.40		3.40	4080 150	17.00	Payroll - March 26
17/03/2026	LLOYDS BANK	DD	8.95			4009 150	8.95	Bank Charges
17/03/2026	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055 150	1.20	Milk for Office
18/03/2026	Vision ICT	BACS	723.16		120.53	4080 150	602.63	Website & Email Hosting 26-27
18/03/2026	COUNTY SUPPLIES (HCC)	BACS	39.07		6.51	4090 150	32.56	Paper
20/03/2026	Amazon	DEBIT CARD	95.96		16.00	4225 200	79.96	Bark Chips - Mill Road Tunnel
24/03/2026	Tesco	DEBIT CARD	1.20			4055 150	1.20	Milk for Office
25/03/2026	Salaries	BACS	8,617.05			4000 150	8,617.05	March Salaries
25/03/2026	HMRC	BACS	2,769.26			4000 150	2,769.26	March Salaries
25/03/2026	Hampshire Pensions	BACS	2,751.87			4005 150	2,751.87	March Pension Payments
26/03/2026	Hampshire County Council	BACS	96,437.09		16,072.85	6150 700	80,364.24	Village Centre Feasibility St.
						380	-80,364.24	Village Centre Feasibility St.
						6000 700	80,364.24	Village Centre Feasibility St.
26/03/2026	OLB Group Ltd	BACS	32.75			4200 200	32.75	Annual PAT Testing - Grounds
26/03/2026	JRB Enterprise Ltd.	BACS	578.40		96.40	4245 200	482.00	Dog Waste Bags
30/03/2026	Infinity Playgrounds Ltd	BACS	2,398.80		399.80	4225 200	1,999.00	Zip wire cable and seat
30/03/2026	Veolia ES (UK) Limited	DD	178.73		29.79	4250 200	148.94	NC Waste - February
Subtotal Carried Forward:			125,332.63	0.00	18,525.06		106,807.57	

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>
31/03/2026	Amberol	BACS	54.00		9.00	4300 210	45.00	Rep. bracket lamp post planter
Total Payments:			125,386.63	0.00	18,534.06		106,852.57	

Treasurers Acc. 00110939

Receipts received between 01/03/2026 and 31/03/2026

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 17/03/2026	20,000.00						
Top Up	BUS Instant 07410075	20,000.00			205		20,000.00	Top Up
	Banked 24/03/2026	20,000.00						
Top Up	BUS Instant 07410075	20,000.00			205		20,000.00	Top Up
	Banked 25/03/2026	100,000.00						
Top Up	BUS Instant 07410075	100,000.00			205		100,000.00	Top Up to pay VC invoice
	Total Receipts:	140,000.00	0.00	0.00			140,000.00	



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Charities Committee held on 30th March 2026, 730pm,
Village Hall

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*C.Olley (Chair), *K.Budden, *A.Smith
R.Smith, *C.Williams, P.Payne, *S.Stratford-Tuke, R Crane

*Present

Also present:

Katrina Burns (Projects and Funding Officer)
Sarah Smith (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

10/CHAR/26 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Paddy Payne and Cllr R Crane.

11/CHAR/26 Declarations of interest

The following non-pecuniary interest was declared:
Cllr Williams as a an allotment tenant.

12/CHAR/26 Adjournment for public participation

No members of the public were present.

13/CHAR/26 Minutes and matters arising of the Charities Committee 26th January 2026

Resolved: That the minutes of the Charities Committee of 26th January 2026 be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour).

There were no matters arising.

14/CHAR/Revised terms of Reference for the Charities Committee

Resolved: That the revised terms of reference were noted – proposed by Cllr A Smith and seconded by Cllr Stratford-Tuke, with all in favour.

15/CHAR/Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust (Charity 301873)

Update on governance arrangements

Cllr Williams informed the committee that LPC can now manage the NCPFT, and a letter has been prepared to sent to the Charities Commission.

It was agreed that the enquiry email address on the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust website should be changed to that of LPC whilst the process of formalising the changeover is completed.

Key issues

The Clerk stated that LPC has begun processing user agreements and invoices for the coming year and that Cllr Williams was assisting with authorising the processing of payments on behalf of the Trust.

It was agreed that any keys to the Newman Collard Pavilion held by those who should no longer be in possession of them be retrieved.

It was agreed that there needed to be an assessment of both the Newman Collard Pavilion and grounds to ensure that health and safety compliance, and to pick up any maintenance issues.

It was agreed that an electrical survey should be carried out as soon as possible on the Pavilion, using Allibone who had done an electrical survey for the Village Hall and Liss Pavilion.

Hallmaster booking system

It was agreed that the Hallmaster system should be used to manage Newman Collard hirers' bookings.

16/CHAR/26 Village Hall, including the office (Charity 301872)

Quotations for glazing

The Clerk presented quotations for glazing works to the Village Hall.

Resolution – It was agreed that the preferred contractor for the glazing works was Contractor A, using £13,000 of CIL monies agreed by Council and £2,499 HCC grant underspent monies, with any remaining monies coming from the Village Hall maintenance fund if required – proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Budden, with all in favour.

Building inspection report – update and approval of any ‘immediate’ and ‘urgent’ works

The Clerk reported that the last of the ‘immediate’ or ‘urgent’ works was in hand and that a contractor was due to come out to assess the extent of works required for the Village Hall floor.

17/CHAR/26 West Liss Recreation Ground, including the Pavilion (Charity 301871)

Solar system update

Cllr A Smith reported that a solar system had now been installed at Liss Pavilion.

18/CHAR/26 Allotments (Charity 237190)

Lower Green shed update

The Clerk reported that the Liss Men’s Shed were meeting to discuss the license which had been prepared by a lawyer on behalf of LPC for the Men’s Shed tenure of the Lower Green shed

Allotment improvement works update

The Projects and Funding Officer is liaising with the Liss Men’s Shed about making wooden signs to number the allotment plots at Lower Green and Kelsey’s once they had completed making the wildlife boxes.

It was agreed that there should be an walkabout around the allotments to do a plot maintenance check. This is something the LPC Administration Officer could be involved in assisting with.

19/CHAR/26 Finance

Approval of payments and receipts for the period 1st January – 28th February 2026

Cllr Budden queried the small receipts under £1 on page 3 of the Charities report which the Clerk said she would look into.

Resolved: That the list of payments and receipts for Charities between 1/1/26 and 28/2/26 are approved - proposed by Cllr Budden and seconded by Cllr Stratford-Tuke, with all in favour.

The meeting closed at 20:10

Date of next meeting: 13th July 2026.

Signed.....

Dated.....



LISS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Facilities Committee held on 30th March 2026, 7pm,
Liss Village Hall

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*C. Olley (Chair), *K. Budden, R. Crane, R. Smith
*A. Smith, *C. Williams, P. Payne, *S. Stratford-Tuke

*Present

Also present:

Sarah Smith (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

Katrina Burns (Projects and Funding Officer) – clerking meeting

10/F26 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Payne and Cllr Crane.

11/F26 Declarations of interest

The following non-pecuniary interests were declared:

Cllr Olley and Cllr A Smith as Newman Collard Playing Fields Trustees.

12/F26 Adjournment for public participation

There were no members of the public present.

13/F26 Minutes and matters arising of the Facilities Committee of 26th January 2026

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 14th July.

Resolved: That the minutes of the Facilities meeting of 26th January 2026 be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Smith, with all in favour).

14/F26 Riverside Walk

EHDC access for works to the 'White Bridge'

Cllr Olley reported that EHDC were planning to do works on the 'White Bridge' in April and had requested access to it from the Riverside Walk to bring in heavy machinery and materials. A discussion took place in which concerns were raised with regards to the ground conditions of the Walk and possible dangers to public safety. It was pointed out that contractors had undertaken a risk assessment which included having a banksman to manage access.

Members voted 4 (in favour) 1 (against) to allow EHDC to access the site to do the works.

As regards vehicular access to the Riverside Walk in general, it was agreed that notice should be given where possible for any vehicular access requirements to the Riverside Walk and that there should be a formalised system in place, in the form of an agreement and risk assessment

Action – the Clerk to discuss the requirement for an agreement for future vehicular access with EHDC - to be based on the risk assessment already carried out for access to the 'White Bridge'.

Riverside Walk event

The Projects and Funding Officer informed the committee about that an event was being planned by the West Sussex Rivers Trust, in partnership with LPC, EHDC and SDNPA to celebrate the Riverside Walk and raise awareness of river and wildlife issues in a fun and engaging way. It was noted that the date of Saturday 20th June should be avoided as this was the date of the local school fayre.

Cllr A Smith informed the committee that LPC had been approached about buying a plot of land by a housing estate near the Riverside Walk. Whilst there was no interest in purchasing the land, members agreed that residents could be supported with the registering of the footpath.

15/F26 Mill Road Community Garden

The Clerk informed the committee that the replacement apple tree was currently too young to be planted at the community orchard and was being tended to by fruit tree expert Peter Barwick.

16/F26 Liss Forest Recreation Ground

Nature reserve - removal of carex

It was reported that two quotations out of the three sought had been received to clear carex from the rear of the woodland at Liss Forest Recreation Ground. Cllr Olley stated as it was currently the wrong time to carry out the work due to lots of new plant growth, work should be put on hold until January time.

Resolution – it was agreed that Hampshire Grounds Ltd should be approached to see if they can hold the price of the works at £1,180 if possible (if not, any uplift on costs to be agreed between the Clerk and the Chair of Facilities/Chair of Finance Committee), and asked to programme in the works for January 2027 - proposed by Cllr Olley, and seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour. NB since the meeting took place Hampshire Grounds Ltd have agreed to hold the price of the works until January 2027.

Table tennis table

The Clerk reported that she had met with Redlynch at Liss Forest Recreation Ground to obtain a quotation for a path to access the planned table tennis table. The Clerk stated that there was £10,355.14 of CIL available for the table tennis table (at Liss Forest and Newman Collard) and path (at Liss Forest) and that the two tables cost £11,775 and the path £3,168, totalling £14,943.

Resolution – it was agreed to ask Council to endorse funding a shortfall of £4,587.86 to fund the table tennis tables (at Liss Forest and Newman Collard) and path at Liss Forest–proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour.

17/F26 Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust (NCPFT)

Table Tennis Table

Resolution – it was agreed to ask Council to endorse funding a shortfall of £4,587.86 to fund the table tennis tables (at Liss Forest and Newman Collard) and path at Liss Forest–proposed by Cllr Olley and seconded by Cllr Williams, with all in favour.

18/F26 Environmental projects

Wildlife boxes - update

The Projects and Funding Officer reported that the Men’s Shed were in the process of constructing 27 bird boxes and 15 bat boxes. Cllr Olley reported that he could give the wildlife boxes to Pic a lily once they had been delivered who would be told where to put them up.

Action – Cllr Olley and Cllr Williams to draw up a list of places to put up the wildlife boxes.

The meeting closed at 19:35

Date of next meeting – 13th July 2026

Signed.....

Dated.....



LISS PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13th April 2026 at 7pm

MEMBERS

*Cllr Baldwin *Cllr Budden✘ *Cllr Crane Cllr Jerrard
*Cllr Payne Cllr R Smith *Cllr Stratford-Tuke
Co-opted members with no voting rights: *Mrs Halstead & *Mr Hargreaves

*Present ✘Chair

This meeting was clerked by Rebecca Lawrence, Assistant Clerk ("AC").

P33/26 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr Jerrard.

P34/26 Declarations of interests and Role of Charity Trustee:

Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business no later than when that item is reached.

P35/26 Approval of previous meeting minutes:

Resolved: That the minutes of the Planning Committee of 9th March be accepted as an accurate record. Proposed by Cllr Crane and seconded by Cllr Stratford-Tuke with all in favour.

P36/26 Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting:

No matters were arising.

P37/26 Adjournment for public deputations:

No members of the public were present.

P38/26 Planning Applications Received:

38.1 SDNP/26/00840/HOUS - 164 Forest Road, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7BX - Demolition of existing single storey rear and construction of new single storey rear and side extension:

Following discussion, the committee were in unanimous agreement that LPC have no objection to this planning application subject to roof windows being fitted with automatic blinds set to close at dusk or the use of a window finish which prevents light emissions to the outside; in line with Policy SD8 of the SDNPA Local Plan which aims to conserve and enhance the intrinsic quality of dark night skies.

38.2 SDNP/26/00887/LDP - Siting of Caravan - The Oaks, 35 St Marys Road, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7AH:

Following discussion, the committee were in unanimous agreement that LPC have no objection to this planning application, provided that temporary planning permission is granted for a period of 18 months only.

38.3 SDNP/26/01008/HOUS - 5 Church Street, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 6JX - Installation of new external windows, doors and rooflight. Internal and external alterations to walls, including the formation of a lightwell to the basement. Removal of one existing chimney stack and one chimney breast. Construction of a replacement extension to the terrace house. Installation of new stair access to the garage loft and formation of a loft dormer:

Awaiting outcome of site visit.

38.4 SDNP/26/01049/LDP - 41 Rushfield Road, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7LP - Ground Floor rear extension:

Following discussion, the committee were in unanimous agreement that LPC have no objection to this planning application subject to roof windows being fitted with automatic blinds set to close at dusk or the use of a window finish which prevents light emissions to the outside; in line with Policy SD8 of the SDNPA Local Plan which aims to conserve and enhance the intrinsic quality of dark night skies.

38.5 SDNP/26/00260/LDE - 27 Newfield Road, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7BW - Lawful Development Certificate Existing for change of use of land to Sui Generis:

Following discussion, the committee were in unanimous agreement that LPC object to this planning application on the following grounds:

- a) The planning application is unclear.
- b) In LPC's opinion, this application should not have been validated.
- c) It is not clear whether the red-line boundary accurately defines the extent of the land, or whether the land falls within the ownership of the applicant.

P39/26 Planning Applications Approved. The Chair noted that the following applications were approved.

Ref Number	Address	Description	LPC Comment to Planning
SDNP/25/04710/HOUS	The Croft, Limes Close, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7DR.	Detached garden office following demolition of existing garage.	No Objection
SDNP/26/00115/HOUS	Tiercel, Brewells Lane, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7JA	Proposed single storey side extension to create new garage, workshop and home gym. Addition of PV panels to south facing roofs. Outdoor swimming pool.	No Objection

P40/26 TPOs Approved. The Chair noted that the following applications were approved.

Ref Number	Address	Description	Views of LPC Tree Consultant
SDNP/25/01488/TPO	Hollow House, The Flat, Hill Brow Road, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7PX.	G1 - Group of 7 Hornbeam trees - To reduce height by 4 meters leaving a finishing height of 8 meters. Reason of works - The trees are located on a steep slope and weighted heavily towards high risk targets. They above work proposed will reduce the risk of tree failure in the future.	Objection

SDNP/25/04596/TPO	25 Pine Walk, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7AT.	Oak - Partially reduce southern and western lateral canopy by up to 2m to previous growth points Reduce top of tree by up to 1m, with a starting height of 12m and finishing height of 11m. Starting width of 11m and a finishing width of 9m.	Objection
SDNP/25/04371/TPO	1 Highfield Gardens, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7NQ.	T1 is a Red Oak - reduce the height by 3 metres from 20 metres leaving a finished height of 17 metres and reduce the width of the tree from 13 metres by 3 metres leaving a finish of 10 metres. T2 is a Hornbeam - reduce the height by 3 metres from 18 metres leaving a finished height of 15 metres and reduce the width of the tree from 12 metres by 3 metres leaving a finish of 9 metres.	Objection

P41/26 TCAs Approved. The Chair noted that the following applications were approved.

Ref Number	Address	Description	Views of LPC Tree Consultant
SDNP/25/03254/TCA	25 Pine Walk, Liss, Hampshire, GU33 7AT.	Oak Tree located within the Forest Lodge Liss Forest conservation area. Partially reduce Oak tree on Southern and western lateral canopy by up to 2 metres (back to previous growth points) - as tree needs to be re balanced. Reduce top of tree by up to 1 metre Starting Height: 12 metres Finishing Height: 11metres Starting width: 11 metres Finishing width: 9 metres.	No Objection

P42/26 Update on Andlers Wood development and school courtesy crossing on Hill Brow (Condition 14 of Planning Consent SDNP/19/00669/FUL Andlers Wood development).

No update.

P43/26 SDNPA Local Plan Documents

No update.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:35 hrs.

Next Meeting: Monday 11th May 2026

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Chair