

MINUTES OF THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH MARCH 2025 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, LOCKERLEY, HAMPSHIRE

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Len Arthur, Cllr. Kevin Baker, Cllr. Tim Coomer, Cllr. Peter Funnell, Cllr. Tara Madgwick, Cllr. Jane Waller (Chair), Cllr. Joanne Young

In attendance:

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King – Hampshire County Council

PC Tim Bunt

Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston – Test Valley Borough Council

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public queried the significant cash that the Parish Council holds in the bank correlating this with the large increase in the Council Tax for 2025/26. The Parish Clerk explained the current financial position, audit requirements and commitments of the Parish Council and the requirement to have sufficient monies in reserves.

Matters concerning parking on the corner of the junction of Butts Green by the garage were discussed and that parking on the village green, even with paying a levy is not permitted under laws governing village greens.

A member of the public stated that Top Green is being abused with cars being parked on the Green despite the fact that this is prohibited. It was agreed that those responsible must be advised to refrain from parking on Top Green and a copy of the Village Green Policy must be shown to them.

4. TO READ AND RESOLVE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 13 JANUARY 2025

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13 January 2025. Members unanimously RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of this meeting as a true and correct record. The Chair signed the Minutes accordingly.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD 13 JANUARY 2025

All matters arising from the meeting held on 13 January 2025 have been expedited and duly noted or discussed further at this meeting.

6. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King advised all present on the latest plans for devolution and the position of Hampshire County Council. He stated that Hampshire County Council has agreed to press ahead with a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Hampshire to join the Government's Priority Programme for devolution, as well as the reorganisation of the County's local government structures to deliver the best possible future for Hampshire's residents and businesses. He stressed the importance that devolution needs to be sustainable.

Matters regarding ongoing issues with drainage in Lockerley were discussed. He stated

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that food waste collection in Test Valley will start on 16 October 2025. He advised all present that Aster has obtained a new company to look after the sewage treatment plants (STP) within Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset. They are much cheaper than the last one (Willow Pumps) and as a result, the bills have reduced by around £50.00. Aster check the water quality every week and these samples get tested. So far, they have been passed as all clear.

He advised that he is aware that residents have begun to receive 'final demand' letters from Aster requesting immediate payments of arrears amounts. The final complete accounts upon which the amounts Aster are demanding are based, have not yet been received in order to justify the charges levied.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

The Parish Clerk advised members of all correspondence received to date, which were noted without further comment.

The Parish Clerk stated that he has received an email from the trustees of the Village Hall requesting grant aid of £5,328 (£4,400 plus VAT) towards improvement work to the Village Hall car park. The assumption has been made by the Village Hall that provision for such grant aid has been made in the budget, which is not the case. Members agreed that there were insufficient funds earmarked to agree to a grant for this purpose. Members felt reference to this must be made by the village hall representatives at the next Village Hall committee meeting. Cllr, Len Arthur advised members that there are numerous grants available from different sources to help towards the financing of projects and that the Parish Clerk has offered to help complete relevant grant application forms for the Village Hall trustees.

Cllr. Kevin Baker advised members that following a recent inspection of the play area, the toddler swing seat is no longer safe to use. A replacement is necessary from Wicksteed and he has established that the cost will be £149.18 (£137.50 + £11.68 carriage). Members agreed to this necessary expenditure and the Parish Clerk to place the order as required.

8. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCE SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

The Parish Clerk advised members of the expenses of the Parish Council for February/March 2025, which amounted to £3,319.86 as scheduled below, together with the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

£33.00 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0493 dated 14 January 2025 – Hire of room on 18 November 2024 and 13 January 2025

£543.00 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – January Salary

£14.00 – Peter Funnell – Invoice 1000007003538 dated 10 February 2025 – Refund of expenses for HM Land Registry searches

£63.36 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – Invoice 4342673 dated 17 February 2025 Your Parking Sign (£7.20) and Invoice 4345242 Your Parking Sign (£56.16) dated 19 February 2025 –

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Refund of expenses for sign clips with M8 square head bolts and nuts plus reflective signage

£321.00 – HMRC – Quarterly PAYE for October/November/December

£543.00 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – February Salary

£900.00 – Gabriel Middleton – Invoice 202502-001 dated 18 February 2025 – Turf removal/level for temporary car park at Butts Green

£27.50 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0502 dated 1 February 2025 – Hire of room on 26 February and 10 March 2025

£875.00 – Outpost- Invoice OPF-356 dated 8 March 2025 – Reposition 32 existing dragons tooth posts at Butts Green

Members RESOLVED the expenditure of the parish council for February/March 2025 as prescribed above, totalling £3,319.86

9. TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE THE SID (SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE) PROPOSED POTENTIAL SITES

The Parish Clerk advised members that he has now received the formal evaluation from Hampshire County Council as to the proposed sites submitted for SID placement. When assessing, Hampshire County Council has explained that the SLR/SID will ideally be placed at any one given location for a locally determined length of time. It is expected the device will be relocated from time to time, once its effectiveness has diminished, to preserve its effectiveness and continued benefit to the community. Hampshire County Council engineers have advised that the proposal below refers to the limited numbered locations for investigation in the report dated 21 January 2025. Hampshire County Council now require members consideration to the comments below regarding each location and where options have been suggested. A cost estimate will then be produced.

Cllr. Kevin Baker advised members that he has evaluated the document carefully and considered the comments made by Hampshire County Council. He explained the choice of best locations that benefit both directions of traffic and was conscious of potential future cost implications.

1 – Take down bend in road warning sign and relocate on new post further west. Reposition crossroads warning sign to top of post and mount SLR above 30mph repeater sign. Suitable for both directions.

2 – Install new 3-4m post opposite no.4 and relocate 30mph repeater signs from adjacent post and take down post. Mount SLR on new post. Suitable for both directions.

2a. Option - additional location for SLR in 40mph – no change needed.

Suitable for both directions.

3 – Install new 3-4m post and 2 no. new 40mph repeater signs. Mount SLR on new post. Suitable for both directions.

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3a. Option – additional location, mount SLR on extension post above existing 'out' sign. Suitable for both directions.

4 – Opposite Willow Corner, take down '20 is plenty' and relocate on school patrol post opposite recycling centre. Mount SLR under 30mph repeater sign. Suitable for both directions.

5 – Outside New Farm Cottage, adjust existing 30mph repeater signs to face oncoming traffic and mount SLR on extension post. Suitable for both directions. Opposite Sunset View, install 2 no. new 30mph repeater signs on existing empty post (at no cost to the PC).

6 – Restore post to vertical and mount SLR underneath 30mph repeater sign.

Suitable for both directions.

Cllr. Kevin Baker recommended to members that site locations 1 (East Dean Road towards East Dean), 2A (East Dean Road playground), 3A (Romsey Road, lay-by to the north of the church), 4 (Butts Green), 5 (Carters Clay Road) and 6 (The Banks, Carters Clay) would be most suitable and applicable.

Members resolved to agree the locations as discussed and that the Parish Clerk submits the necessary paperwork to Hampshire Highways in order to obtain a quotation.

Cllr. Kevin Baker felt that a SID working group needs to be set up to manage and oversee the SID placements which will occur on a regular basis. This was agreed.

10. TO RECEIVE REPORTS, QUOTATIONS AND DOCUMENTS, CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLVE, AS CONSIDERED NECESSARY, FROM THE BUTTS GREEN WORKING PARTY

Cllr. Joanne Young introduced this agenda item advising members of the previously circulated supporting papers and making reference to them accordingly. She referred to the updated Butts Green Working Party Action Plan and advised members on progress regarding discussions with the garage.

With respect to the quotations received from suppliers for the re-surfacing of the parking space on Butts Green, Cllr. Joanne Young reported on this to members. The three quotes received were evaluated based on cost, quality and project timelines.

Quote 1: G R Middleton

- Cost: £14,233.20 (includes VAT on aggregates of £722.20)
- Details: Finished surface depth 150mm. Includes removal of existing surface, membrane laid, 100mm of MOT 1 followed by 50mm top layer pathway Romsey Red Gravel. All materials compacted with vibrating roller. All unused soil and plastic matting removed. (nb: quoted for a larger area than is required)

Quote 2 – Option 1: Blaze Construction Ltd.

- Cost: £19,386.50 (plus VAT)
- Details: Finished surface depth 100mm. Includes removal of existing plastic grasscrete and disposal off site, reduce area and additional maximum 50mm and cart away arisings. Supply and lay terram membrane to entire area n/e 315m² surface, supply and lay 50mm Bodpave plastic grasscrete on 50mm of paving grit.
- Fill with top soil and supply and lay hardwearing grass seed to entire area.

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Quote 2 – Option 1: Blaze Construction Ltd.

- Cost: £20,250.00 (plus VAT)
- Details: Finished surface depth 200mm. Includes 100mm deep Bredon Gravel or similar on 100mm type 1 sub base and terrain membrane layer

Quote 3: Southampton City Council

- Cost: £12,029.00 (plus VAT)
- Details: Finished surface depth 360mm. Excavate the area to the required depth and remove all. Compact subbase and lay geotextile membrane over subgrade. Lay type 3 stone base (310mm) aggregate in two or three layers to required thickness, compact with roller. Maintain a cross fall or camber of 1.5-2% for drainage. Lay compactable self-binding gravel (50mm) Romsey Red. Compact to a firm stable base. Construct new bund to prevent vehicle incursion using excavated material. Sow with low growing wildflower seed.

After careful consideration of the quotes provided, it was explained that the working party would recommend awarding the contract to Southampton City Council. Their quote is the lowest at £12,029.00 and is closest to delivering the specification. The hogging surface option is preferred to the plastic matting option as this is easier to maintain, repair and is more affordable. Southampton City Council has vast experience in delivering these types of projects. Their quote offers a more robust surface option and the inclusion of drainage considerations and a wildflower bund further supports their proposal as the most comprehensive option for re-surfacing the parking space on Butts Green.

The Parish Clerk stated what the financing options available to the parish council are. In the first instance, a grant application will be made to the Community Asset Fund run by Test Valley Borough Council for 50% of the total cost of works excluding VAT. The fund re-opens in April 2025 and works cannot commence until a final decision has been made by Test Valley Borough Council. If successful, the remaining 50% will come from S106 monies previously paid to Lockerley Parish Council. If this option should fail, the full S106 monies will be used and the remainder will be covered from Parish Council reserves. It has been established with Test Valley Borough Council that the scope of this work falls within permitted development rights. This means, there is no additional time needed to build into this project for planning applications. It is anticipated that this work will take about one week and to manage the unavoidable disruption it will cause, it is suggested that works are carried out during the May half-term school holiday. This is dependent on the decision from Test Valley Borough Council as to the grant application.

Members considered the three quotations carefully and associated cost implications and **RESOLVED** to award the parking spaces resurfacing contract to Southampton City Council at a cost of £12,029.00. This is subject to the strict caveat that funding is procured as previously explained by the Parish Clerk.

The ongoing issues regarding the Butts Green corner and safety issues, the pressure needs to be maintained on the garage proprietors regarding the parking matters. It was felt that if there is no significant improvement after the 31 March 2025, an approach to Donna Jones (Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire) should be made seeking further appropriate and necessary action. Members agreed with this.

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11. TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS THE FUTURE STRATEGY OF THE PARISH ROOMS

The Parish Clerk advised members that the cost outlays for maintaining the Parish Rooms far outweigh the negligible income received. In light of the current difficult economic climate, the Parish Council must review its expenditure and protect the public purse. As a result, the Parish Clerk stated that various options need to be considered as to reducing outlay in respect of the Parish Rooms. A brief discussion took place regarding this matter and it was felt appropriate that public consultation is required to gauge views. Accordingly, Cllr. Peter Funnell was requested to write a brief article for inclusion in the next newsletter.

12. TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLANNING

Cllr. Tara Madgwick advised members that further to this matter having been discussed at the January Parish Council meeting, she recently attended a Test Valley Borough Council Community Resilience Workshop. She reiterated her belief that the Parish Council must ensure as a strategy going forward, that a comprehensive community resilience programme is resolved and in place for the parish.

She is still working on the plan and much of her activity is understanding where Lockerley sits in terms of broader existing community resilience and what current resources exist in terms of tackling the flooding, which appears as one of the community's primary concerns. Looking ahead, she felt that community resilience is something to tackle as a 'cross parish border' activity, which will give a greater pool of resources to utilise.

Cllr. Tara Madgwick has established that areas of the parish are classed as Zone 3 flood areas, meaning they are recognised as being at high risk of flooding and she is following up with Hampshire County Council's Flood and Water Management team to understand where responsibilities lie and see if she can find out any maintenance plans that they may have.

The Community First Responder network is still very much alive and running, however it is organised differently to the previous network that was in place and was disbanded a few years ago. The network is still run by the charity South Central Ambulance and Russ Hicks who lives just outside of Lockerley in East Tytherley (on the East Tytherley Road) is the most local First Responder. Russ Hicks runs his own First Aid training business and is fully certified and insured. He would welcome the opportunity to run a first aid course for anyone across the parish on basic first aid and for those seeking familiarisation with the defibrillators.

Members felt that resilience planning matters must continue to be an agenda item for May.

13. TO AGREE AND RESOLVE THE RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2025

The Parish Clerk advised members of the recent Lockerley Parish Council risk assessment carried out for 2025 and updated as necessary by members, which was circulated to all members previously. Members RESOLVED acceptance of the risk assessment for 2025 and agreed the next review will be March 2026.

14. TO AGREE THE FIXED ASSET REGISTER AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

The Parish Clerk advised members of the value of the Parish Council Fixed Asset Register as at 31 March 2025, which amounts to £170,985.53. There are no further items for March

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to add to the register, which would adjust the amount specified. Members RESOLVED to accept the Fixed Asset Register and value for the Parish Council as at 31 March 2025.

15. TO AGREE THE RESERVE POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk referred to the report on the Reserve Policy Statement previously circulated to all members. The reserve amount is entirely in line with expectations and stands at £60,415/ This is made up of £36,510 towards General Reserves, £11,953 to earmarked reserves for works to the Village Greens and £11,952 to the Tom Iles Playground. Members agreed that there are no other capital projects for earmarked reserves for 2025/2026 and RESOLVED to agree and accept the reserve policy statement for the parish council for 2025/2026.

16. TO DETERMINE AND RESOLVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Clerk advised members of the planning applications received since the last meeting:

APP/C1760/C/24/3354722 – 24/0246/GM – Enforcement Appeal against the alleged erection of single storey timber clad building on concrete slab with raised terrace at Hillside Nurseries, Branches Lane, (formerly Land on the East Side of the Banks), The Banks, Lockerley, Hampshire. Resolved: The Parish Council supported the Enforcement Notice and a letter to the Planning Inspectorate was sent 6 March 2025.

25/00126/LBWS - Replace internal secondary glazing at 2 Forge Cottage, The Street, Lockerley, Hampshire. Resolved: No Objection.

25/00331/FULLS - Reinstate to 1 dwelling, remove shed attached to rear of cottage, clad kitchen extension, replace garage with workshop, new vehicular access and parking area at Thatched Cottages, Carters Clay Road, Lockerley, Hampshire. Resolved: No Objection.

25/00332/LBWS - Reinstate to 1 dwelling, open fireplace, re-open doorway, lower floor of sitting room, remove shed attached to rear of cottage, alteration to partition walls at first floor, form bathroom, clad kitchen extension at Thatched Cottages, Carters Clay Road, Lockerley, Hampshire. Resolved: No Objection.

17. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

The Chair welcomed PC Tim Bunt to the meeting. PC Bunt advised all present that there were minimal crimes to report of late. There have been some van and tool thefts and this is being monitored. He stated that he has been checking on the car parking situation at the garage and he has issued a number of tickets requiring that the offending cars must be moved by 31 March 2025. He felt that the safety issues around this area need to be considered and any action needs to be proportionate. He made passing comment as to the future reorganisation of the police.

18. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

Cllr Jane Waller provided the following report:

We are at the end of the financial year for the Lengthsman's scheme with the previous outstanding tasks still not completed. Enquiries about the delay revealed some confusion

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and the work has now been rescheduled for March. The scheme will continue for the coming year, 2025/26, but no assurances have been given for future years.

Completed Tasks

Hedges have been cut and ditches cleared: Our contractor Clive Jones has cut the playground hedge and the Glebe field hedge.

Tote Hill Common: During the storms 2 large trees fell across Footpath 22 within the wood. These were cleared by a neighbouring parishioner. Cllr. Tara Madgwick's husband has cut and removed dead branches around the wood that could have been a hazard on the path and along the road. Both benches have been washed and oiled.

Outstanding Tasks.

Butts Green Corner: Clearing undergrowth around the corner, along the road and into the bourne as needed. (Section of railings still needs to be installed. Ref. No. 21767705)

The Cut: from Oval Road to Butlers Close. Cutting the public path side if finances allow.

Grips. Newtown: Reinstating the grips on the corner of Carters Clay Road near The Square.

Grips. Cooks Lane: Reinstating the grips at the top on the Critchells House side.

Future Lengthsman's tasks

Washing and oiling all the public benches in the village.

HCC. Problems Reported

Flooding along East Dean Road near Spring Cottage: ref. 21780603.

Flooding under the railway bridge: ref. 21782555.

Flooding along The Street: ref. 7169408.

19. MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Parish Clerk made specific mention that Test Valley Borough Council are offering potential grants of £500.00 towards defraying the costs of holding a special VE 80 event. Members considered what possible events, if any, could be held and what help may be offered.

Members felt that with the exception of a possible exhibition, no specific VE 80 celebration will take place and consequently no application will be made for a grant.

In the absence of any further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.46 hours.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Memorial Hall, Lockerley on 12 May 2025 starting at 18.00 hours, which will include the Annual Parish Assembly and the Annual General Meeting but held as separate meetings.