

MINUTES OF THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 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
Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Borough Cllr. Ian Jeffrey – Test Valley Borough Council
Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston – Test Valley Borough Council

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Tara Madgwick declared an interest in relation to Item 14 on planning application 25/00004/CLES.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

The issue of flooding in general was raised especially over main roads and footpaths with various locations such as around the play area, under the railway bridge and East Dean Road were mentioned. It was generally accepted that the ditches are not regularly being cleared out as a preventative measure and are substantially no longer fit for purpose. It was accepted that ditch maintenance are generally the landowner responsibility and not Hampshire County Council as the Highway Authority. The public were advised to report highway flooding concerns to Hampshire County Council via the Website.

4. TO READ AND RESOLVE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 18 NOVEMBER 2024

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 18 November 2024. 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 18 NOVEMBER 2024

All matters arising from the meeting held on 18 November 2024 have been expedited and duly noted.

6. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King advised all present on the 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. Approval has been given to request that Hampshire County Council be included in the Government fast-track plans to bring devolution to the area. He explained that devolution would transfer more of these central Government decision-making powers and extra money to Hampshire Authorities and provide greater local control over vital areas such as education, transport and health services for Hampshire residents. This will give people more power to shape the things that are important to them and provide robust local accountability.

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As part of devolution proposals, a Mayor would be elected in the spring of 2026 to head up a new Combined Authority across the wider region incorporating an Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council, in line with the Authorities' expression of interest submitted to the Deputy Prime Minister last summer.

Alongside devolution, the County Council has committed to progress with developing proposals for local government reorganisation in the area. It would completely change the landscape of Hampshire's local councils by replacing the current two-tier council system, which is in place across most of the region, with a number of new unitary (all-purpose) councils. This change aims to simplify how councils are organised and run, creating large and financially resilient unitary councils that are more efficient, effective and deliver better value for money for taxpayers. Proposals for local government reorganisation need to be submitted to Government by Autumn 2025.

If the Government agrees for Hampshire to be added to the fast-track devolution programme it would then allow the County Council elections, due this May, to be postponed for 12 months. This postponement would be essential to enable local areas to focus on laying the groundwork for devolution and reorganisation and allow for a Mayor to be elected in 2026 so the benefits to local communities can be delivered as swiftly as possible. Reorganisation would then be expected to be in place by either April 2027 or April 2028.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

The Parish Clerk made mention of an email received from parishioners in relation to Butts Green parking. They would like the Parish Council to consider installing bollards/railings and double yellow lines from Lockerley Motors to Lockerley School as part of a holistic solution to the traffic issues at Butts Green.

They state that at the School House, they are now experiencing the fact that Lockerley Motors are permanently parking their vehicles from 0800 to 1900 on the entirety of the pavement to the school. This has a detrimental effect on the parishioners as these vehicles restrict their ability to turn into and out of their driveway and often block access. These pavement parked vehicles also stop parents and children using the pavement to safely get to and from school and also restricts visibility for children safely crossing the road to and from the school. With the pavement parking, elderly residents are often forced to walk in the road to access the village hall amenities.

Last month, traffic bollards were placed outside their house to maintain the driveway access. Each day Lockerley Motors personnel removed them and threw them onto the Green so that they could drive straight onto the pavement.

An additional email received from a parishioner endorsed some of the points made and made comments accordingly. Members commented that it is Lockerley Parish Council's intention to continue to press the responsible authorities to act where the parking of vehicles around the roads of Butts Green appears to be unsafe or unlawful.

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The Parish Council has limited powers to affect change to the parking on the road but residents must report their concerns to Hampshire County Council and the police. The Butts Green Working Party continues to work with Lockerley Motors to make improvements and are planning to meet with the local police at some point and offer to arrange to invite the police to a working party meeting and as it would be a meeting in public, residents could attend to represent their concerns.

Hampshire County Council has replied to the points raised. The County Council's policy is to support traffic management measures and traffic regulation where evidence clearly indicates that it will offer direct benefits in terms of road casualty reduction, focusing on those sites where there is a related road casualty collision history and where a treatable pattern or common causation of casualty collisions can be identified. With no significant history of recurring road casualty collisions, this location is a low priority for investigation.

Civil Enforcement Officers cannot issue Penalty Charge Notices where there are no yellow lines backed by a required Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). The Act, part 2 does not refer to legislation Hampshire County Council enforces. Installing a Mirror on the Lockerley Garage corner of Butts Green is not supported by Hampshire County Council.

Virtual footway schemes have been delivered through the Community Funded Initiative (CFI). Currently new applications are not being considered while Hampshire County Council consider its options towards providing a legal minimum level of service.

The Parish Clerk advised members of a letter received from a Mrs Johnstone raising concerns as to the recent flooding under the railway bridge. Cllr. Jane Waller advised all present that she saw Mrs Johnstone and thanked her for letting the Parish Council know of the problems encountered and for highlighting how serious, even slight flooding can be in some cases. The repeat flooding under the railway bridge is a problem that is almost certainly to become more frequent and possibly more intense. The drain, when clear of debris, is adequate to cope with normal rainfall but the soakaway beneath the road is no longer adequate. The drain is cleared frequently by a neighbouring parishioner. The main source of the water is not from the rain falling on the road, but from the run-off from the field above. Investigations into this matter indicate that the Taylor family own that land, but this needs to be authenticated before contact can be made to request measures are undertaken, where possible, to redirect the flow.

Cllr. Tara Madgwick stated that she recently attended a resilience planning workshop, which was most useful. She commented that it is imperative for the Parish Council to identify what the issues are for resilience planning, which will then dovetail into formulating an effective risk management strategy, emergency planning and an effective response. It has become obvious that flooding issues are a high priority and this must become a focus. She stated that it is very important to understand and identify the hot spots in the village and learn what community capabilities exist in the village.

Members stressed the importance of issues being formally reported to the relevant local authority with the corresponding post code location to ensure necessary action is undertaken and a record profile is compiled. Members agreed that Community Resilience Planning must be an agenda item at the March Lockerley Parish Council meeting.

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8. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

The Parish Clerk advised members of the expenses of the Parish Council for December 2024/January 2025, which amounted to £5,240.66 as scheduled below, together with the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

£224.93 – Russell Services - Invoice 18057 dated 19 November 2024 – Refix light fitting over front door, lamps replacement and replacement PIR detector at Parish Rooms

£6.00 – Peter Funnell - Invoice 1000006501805 and 1000006501751 dated 19 November 2024 – Refund of expenses for HM Land Registry searches

£20.97 – Kevin Baker – Invoice A19262607097 dated 30 September 2024 and Invoice A19263434578 dated 30 September 2024 – Refund of expenses Screwfix for No Parking sign and cable ties

£119.76 – Kevin Baker – Invoice 735997 dated 19 November and Invoice GB232555575 dated 20 November 2024 – Refund of expenses Acrias and B&Q for galvanised stock fencing and Diall wire staples

£543.00 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – November Salary

£372.00 – Native Rural Contractors – Invoice 318LPC dated 30 November 2024 – Hedge cutting at various Lockerley locations

£270.00 – Hampshire County Council – Invoice 3611890756 dated 9 December 2024 – SLR/SID scheme site assessment fee

£675.00 – Outpost Fencing – Invoice OPF-338 dated 10 December 2024 – Reposition 18 existing dragons tooth posts at Butts Green

£543.00 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – December Salary

£576.00 – X-Net (Services) – Invoice 33139 dated 13 December 2024 – Annual service charge for Website

£1,210.00 – Michael Eastwood – Invoice 38/45 dated 30 November 2024 – Mowing of various locations in Lockerley

£680.00 – Gabriel Middleton – Invoice 202501-001 dated 6 January 2025 – Temporary pot hole repairs at Lockerley Green

Members RESOLVED the expenditure of the parish council for December 2024/January 2025 as prescribed above, totalling £5,240.66

9. TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk introduced the budget making reference to documents previously circulated to all members. He advised that the actual taxbase for Lockerley Parish Council for 2025/2026 is 376 and this represents a change of +6 or +1.62% from the 2024/2025

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figure of 370. A 'taxbase' is the number of Band 'D' equivalent amount of dwellings in the applicable local authority area.

The Parish Council's actual taxbase is 376 and to calculate the Council Tax average Band D, divide the precept requirement by the taxbase and you will then obtain the average Band D Council Tax, which is the most often quoted variable.

The 2024/2025 Average Band D Council Tax for Lockerley Parish Council is currently £61.23 on a precept of £22,656.00. The equation being Precept (£22,656.00) divided by Taxbase of 370. To maintain the same level of Council Tax for parishioners (£61.23) for 2025/2026, the parish council can seek a precept of £23,024 divided by the increased taxbase of 376 to yield average Band D Council Tax of £61.23. The equation being £23,024 (Precept) divided by 376 (taxbase) = £61.23. The Parish Council gains an extra £368.00 from the precept for 2025/2026.

The Parish Clerk explained that increasing the Precept by 19.53% yields £27,081 an extra £4,425 in the budget. that means the sum would be £27,081 divided by 376 = £72.02. That results in an Average Band D Council Tax increase from current levels of £10.79. The parish council would break even exactly on zero and leave an estimated capital balance of £61,856.00. It means that the Precept does increase by 19.53% but the actual Council Tax increase is 17.62%. Any lower increases in the Precept would mean having to pull monies from reserves to balance the budget. This is a serious strategy to keep calling on a sinking reserve fund to cover a running deficit.

Members concurred with this financial strategy and approach. Members felt that the Precept Requirement for 2025/2026 should increase to £28,320.00. This represents a 25% increase from the 2024/2025 precept of £22,656.00. The calculation being £22,656 x 25/100 = £5,664.00. Add the £5,664.00 to £22,656.00 yields £28,320.00 (Precept 2025/2026). In respect of Average Band 'D' Council Tax, this will be £28,320.00 (2025/2026 Precept) divided by 376 (2025/2026 taxbase) = £75.32 rounded. That represents an increase of £14.09 over 2024/2025 Council Tax (£75.32 - £61.23 = £14.09). The extra £14.09 equates to £1.41 rounded more per month over ten months. The increased Precept will potentially yield a surplus of funds in the 2025/2026 budget of £1,239.00.

It was highlighted and acknowledged by members that the budget does not contain any funding to directly support Butts Green works nor for any play area repairs. Such monies, if required, will need to be sought from grant applications and other alternative sources.

It was RESOLVED to increase the precept for 2025/2026 by 25% to £28,320.00 resulting in an Average Band 'D' Council Tax of £75.32 rounded, an increase of £14.09 from the 2024/2025 figure.

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

Cllr. Kevin Baker made reference to a previously circulated feasibility study identifying potential sites for Hampshire County Council consideration. When assessing, It was 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

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to the community. Ten different site locations have been visited and evaluated and the conclusions included in the study papers. Members considered the findings carefully. The Parish Clerk advised members that they need to consider the suitability of these sites then shortlist a maximum of 6 sites for submission. Hampshire Highways will then investigate further these sites in consultation with the Parish Council and make final recommendations as necessary.

After careful consideration, members RESOLVED to agree the following six locations: Location 1 – East Dean Road (Playground) 40mph/30mph, Location 3 – The Banks/Carters Clay Road 30mph, Location 4 – Carters Clay Road 30mph, Location 6 – East Dean Road 40mph/30mph, Location 7 – Romsey Road 40mph and Location 8 – Butts Green.

11. TO RECEIVE REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS, CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLVE AS 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 Butts Green Working Party Action Plan, which updated members on the actions that were resolved at the November 2024 Parish Council meeting. She advised all present of the continuing importance of ensuring and demonstrating community support.

The Butts Green Working Party has undertaken an options appraisal to help make an informed unbiased decision to carry out duties to protect the Green whilst delivering possible parking on Butts Green. A weighted score has been allocated coupled with investigating affordability. Members considered the options presented.

Members RESOLVED to agree Option 8, which is to close two areas, the flooded area opposite the school and the area outside Oakley House. Create 8-9 reverse into parking spaces. Install wider Golpha matting and bring dragons teeth forward and create 5-6 parallel parking spaces opposite the Memorial Hall entrance, Repair Golpha matting and bring forward dragons teeth. Designate land outside the Memorial Hall as drop-off only for School and Village Hall.

12. TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE VILLAGE GREEN SURVEY ASSESSMENT AND AMENDMENTS TO THE VILLAGE GREEN POLICY

Cllr. Kevin Baker referenced a village green survey assessment template (Lockerley Village Greens – Annual Checklist and Actions) and one already completed for Butts Green, which has recently been evaluated and assessed. The latter survey has raised some recommendations. Members considered and RESOLVED the documents for formal adoption as the Parish Council's standard method and format to survey the greens.

Cllr. Joanne Young referenced the summary of revisions/amendments related to car parking policies for member consideration and resolution. It was RESOLVED to agree the necessary amendments and for these to be incorporated in the Village Green policy and procedures.

Members considered a formal document prepared by the Parish Clerk setting out an escalation procedure in relation to Village Greens. It was agreed to entitle this document 'Lockerley Parish Council – Village Greens Escalation Policy and Procedures'. It was

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RESOLVED to agree the document accordingly. It was suggested that inspection and assessment of the Greens should be undertaken in pairs and staggered: Tote Hill: Cllr. Tara Madgwick and Cllr. Jane Waller, Lockerley Green: Cllr. Joanne Young and Cllr. Kevin Baker, Oval Road: Cllr. Len Arthur and Cllr. Jane Waller. Cllr. Peter Funnell to make necessary arrangements in respect of Top Green and Critchells Green.

Members agreed that findings and actions need to be updated and recorded on the survey assessment document for each Green respectively and all such findings and associated actions to be reported to the March Lockerley Parish Council meeting as an appropriate agenda item.

13. TO CONSIDER FUTURE PROJECT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Tara Madgwick commented that it was important that the parish council focuses on specific key strategic areas over the next twelve months and be proactive rather than reactive. She suggested that resilience planning and forming a neighbourhood/community plan were high priorities. As a way forward, a list should be compiled setting out the parish council priorities and what it would like to achieve and create a robust structure going forward. Members agreed with such an approach.

14. TO DETERMINE AND RESOLVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

24/02722/TELS – Application to determine if prior approval is required for telecommunications monopole and associated ground based equipment cabinets at Land South Of Sixth Romsey Scout Group, Romsey Road, Lockerley – Resolved: No Objection

25/00004/CLES - Application for a lawful development certificate for existing use as a residential dwelling unencumbered by an agricultural occupancy condition at Bryony, Top Green, Lockerley - RESOLVED: No Objection

24/02964/FULLS – Single storey side extension and window alterations at Lockerley Water Farm, East Tytherley Road, Lockerley, Romsey – RESOLVED: No Objection subject to the caveat that the protection of bats is ensured as a condition.

In respect of planning application 24/02722/TELS, the Parish Clerk advised that the applicant has since withdrawn this application.

15. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

Cllr. Jane Waller reported that the lengthsman has been unable to complete any scheduled tasks during December 2024. He is now working to catch up, but at present, none of Lockerley's work has been undertaken. The Parish Council has come to the end of the annual £1,000.00 allowance with just £219.00 remaining to cover the cost of the outstanding work. As costs increase and the budget remains the same, the allowance will be depleted even earlier. Any further countryside requests will now have to wait until May for completion or, if urgent will have to be financed from the parish precept.

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Completed Tasks

Footpath 33: From Top Green to the Downs received a second cut from a team of Romsey Rambler's volunteers. It is hoped to continue to work with them, where possible with volunteers from this parish.

The hedges either side of the wide bottom section, (responsibility of Norman Court) were not cut this year, but the path remains wide enough for easy walking.

The hedges either side of the top, narrow section were cut by Clive Jones using his smaller tractor that can negotiate the narrow path.

Future tasks

The previous scheduled tasks are still outstanding with no funds available for any additional work.

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.

16. MEMBER QUESTIONS

None recorded.

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 10 March 2025 starting at 18.00 hours.