

MINUTES OF THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, LOCKERLEY, HAMPSHIRE

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

In attendance:

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King – Hampshire County Council
Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston – Test Valley Borough Council

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Len Arthur declared an interest in respect of Item 10.

Cllr. Tara Madgwick declared an interest in respect of Item 10.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Concerns were expressed in respect of the flooding of the road underneath the railway bridge in Lockerley. There has been a history of flooding at this location.

Members discussed whether it would be feasible to install a depth gauge on the inside or underside of the bridge, similar to those used at fords, to help drivers judge water depth during flooding events. Cllr. Tara Madgwick advised that she has approached Network Rail to see whether they would potentially supply the signage.

It was explained that the location floods during this time of year on a fairly regular basis and vehicles do still attempt to pass through, becoming stranded. It was felt that a clearly visible depth gauge could help drivers make a safer, more informed decision as to whether to attempt to drive through or not. From a local resilience perspective, such a kind of small, practical measure could reduce risk and help the community respond more safely during severe weather events.

The flood cuts off one side of the village from the other, commuters trying to get to work or the railway station (Dunbridge & Mottisfont) are affected, as are local parents and teachers trying to access the Primary School and residents cannot reach the village hall from the other side of the village (accessed along Romsey Road and then turning into East Dean Road). It does seem that any culverts / drainage under the bridge are inadequate to deal with the volume of water that falls and then is fed by a huge volume of run off from the local fields. Ensuring the culverts and drains remain clear is also a problem. They run along the side of the road under the bridge and then under the road, meaning people, often residents, work in the road to keep them cleared.

The Parish Clerk advised that this issue has previously been reported to Hampshire County Council requesting urgent action regarding this matter but no action has taken place to date. County Cllr. Nick Adams-King encouraged all to report flooding incidents such as the one described above, on the Hampshire County Council website to ensure that matters are reported and logged. County Cllr. Nick Adams-King advised that he would make enquiries in respect of the issue and whether depth gauges can be made available and if this is feasible.

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4. TO RESOLVE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19 JANUARY 2026

The Chair reviewed the Minutes and Exempt Business Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19 January 2026.

Members unanimously RESOLVED to accept all the Minutes of this meeting as a true and correct record subject to a minor amendment of the inclusion of damage sustained to both Top Green and Lockerley Green. The Chair signed the Minutes accordingly.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD 19 JANUARY 2026

All matters arising from the meeting held on 19 January 2026 have been expedited and duly noted or discussed further at this meeting as separate agenda items.

6. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King provided an update report on the latest regarding Hampshire County Council.

Contractors have agreed to improve signage for the official diversion routes. Signs will be placed at Mainstone and Brickworth, directing traffic to use the A36. National Highways have confirmed there are no planned closures on the A36 during this period. Additional signs will make clear that Newtown Road, Doctors Hill, Embley Lane and The Frenches are not suitable diversion routes. Some local traffic will inevitably use them, but the main local alternatives remain via Awbridge, Carters Clay and Branches Lane or via Timsbury and Windwhistle Road to the A36. Some maps currently show a closure between Branches Lane and Mill Lane. Southern Water have confirmed they are not working in that section and believe it was misidentified in their permit. They are working to have this corrected so it disappears from SatNav and online maps.

Local Government Elections are proceeding as normal and will now not be postponed. County Cllr. Nick Adams-King advised that due to the high cost of social care, it is likely that the Council Tax for Hampshire County Council will be set at 4.99%. Additional monies have been provided to tackle pot holes and these will be prioritised accordingly.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

All items of correspondence have all been previously circulated to members and duly noted.

A request has been made from Phil Webb for the use of Butts Green for the fete on 20 June 2026. Members agreed to the request.

The Parish Clerk advised members he has heard back from Savills concerning the renewal of the lease relating to the Glebe Field. The proposed terms for the renewal remain the same as those contained within the previous lease. This would include a lease length of 21 years but an increased rent of £600.00 per annum has been suggested. Subject strictly to the caveat that the terms and conditions of the lease have not yet been sent to the Parish Council for consideration, members agreed in principle to the £600.00 per annum.

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That said, members requested that the rental of £600.00 per annum should be frozen for a ten year period and that should the Diocese ever consider selling the Glebe Field, first refusal should be afforded to the Parish Council and that such a condition be enshrined in the lease.

A quotation has been prepared by G.R. Middleton dated 29 January 2026 for resurfacing the track on the west side of Lockerley Green. The cost of materials will be £900.00 plus VAT (£180.00) £1,080.00. The overall cost will be £1,350.00 plus the materials at £1,080.00 (including VAT) to total £2,430.00 LESS £180.00 VAT making an overall total of £2,250.00. Members agreed that the works needs to be undertaken urgently but felt that a warranty for the workmanship of the pothole remedial works should be provided. Members agreed to proceed with the quote as stated subject to the caveat that a written warranty as to the workmanship be provided by Gabriel Middleton.

A quote dated 6 February 2026 has been submitted by Michael Eastwood (Agricultural and Horticultural Contractor) for mowing in Lockerley for 2026 at the various locations in Lockerley. The total cost for 2026 is quoted at £2,820.00 with no VAT. Members agreed to accept this quote given his previous excellent work.

8. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCE SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2026

The Parish Clerk advised members of the financial schedule for February 2026 and the financial position of the Parish Council. The total expenditure amounted to £3,429.99 and income received totalled £184.14.

The amounts were made up as scheduled below:

EXPENDITURE

£15.00 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0614 dated 1 November 2025 – Hire of the Reading Room for a Parish Council Meeting - £15.00 (VAT - £0.00) £15.00

£1,004.00 – Michael Eastwood – Invoice 29/23 dated 31 December 2025 – Horticultural work in Lockerley - £1,004.00 (VAT - £0.00) £1,004.00

£11.00 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0653 dated 24 January 2026 – Hire of the Annex for a Lockerley Parish Council Meeting - £11.00 (VAT - £0.00) £11.00

£11.00 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0656 dated 26 January 2026 – Hire of the Annex for a Lockerley Parish Council Meeting - £11.00 (VAT - £0.00) £11.00

£576.00 – X-Net – Invoice 34250 dated 26 January 2026 - Annual service charge for hosting, support and backup - £480.00 (VAT - £96.00) £576.00

£7.00 – Peter Funnell – Title Reference Search 10000009194144 dated 30 January 2026 – Refund for Land search documents with HM Land Registry for Title Plan - £7.00 (VAT - £0.00) £7.00

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£444.00 – Native Rural Contractors – Invoice 456LPC dated 31 January 2026 – Hedge cutting in Lockerley - £370.00 (VAT - £74.00) £444.00

£296.82 – HMRC PAYE – PAYE due for period October/November and December 2025 - £98.94, £98.94 and £98.94 - £296.82 (VAT - £0.00) £296.82

£1,065.17 - Kevin Glyn-Davies – January Salary – Gross payment £1,066.66 LESS National Insurance £1.49 – Net payment £1,065.17

INCOME

Interest for January 2026 - £93.61

Interest for February 2026 - £91.53

Members RESOLVED the expenditure of the parish council for February 2026 as prescribed above, totalling £3,429.99 expenditure and the income for the parish council of £184.14.

9. TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE A LOCKERLEY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PLAN (CREP)

Cllr. Tara Madgwick outlined a paper setting out a proposal for the Parish Council to initiate development of a Lockerley Community Resilience and Emergency Plan (CREP) and to seek approval to begin a phased, community-led resilience programme, starting with a practical focus on power cuts and communication failures.

The Chair felt that this matter was an important and far-reaching document and requires a working party and members of the public. The document must have public ownership and involve the public in its formation. Members agreed that a working party formation is necessary and to meet accordingly with formal Terms of Reference (TOR) and report back regularly to the Parish Council. Members agreed that a phased approach is needed and that members of the public must be involved in this plan.

Members of the CREP Working Party will be: Cllr. Kevin Baker, Cllr. Tara Madgwick and Cllr. Jane Waller.

10. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LOCKERLEY AND EAST DEAN MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE

Cllr. Len Arthur and Cllr. Tara Madgwick did not participate in voting on this agenda item.

Cllr. Len Arthur tabled a full report for members' consideration. He specifically made mention of the hall proposal for works to the roof and that the project will be considered at a Test Valley Borough Council panel meeting on 25th February 2026. The hall is now actively getting ready and their proposal will be submitted this week.

Financing is obviously a key element of proceedings. The hall has sought 3 quotations which range from between £122,000 to £150,000. To a large degree success will rely on how much the communities are willing to support the provision of new roof tiles and insulation for the hall. The hall committee has indicated it will be willing to commit to a sum via fund raising of between £5,000 and £10,000.

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The figure of £7,500 seems to be achievable. However, this is less than 10% of the total project value. Test Valley Borough Council are keen to ensure the entire community is behind this project. In December 2025, Cllr. Len Arthur did ask for £5,000 to be added to the precept for 2026/2027, for work on the village hall. The hall holds £25,000. The charity commission recommends that the hall ring-fence up to a year's worth of money (£14,000) to manage the hall.

The Village Hall Management Committee requests that the Parish Council considers a grant to the hall for the £5,000 as a contribution to the works.

Members considered the request and agreed in principle to earmark £5,000 as a formal Lockerley Parish Council grant contribution to the hall works project, subject to the caveat that copies of quotations are forwarded to the Parish Council coupled with a business plan.

11. TO UPDATE AND RESOLVE MATTERS REGARDING THE GARAGE AND PARKING ISSUES ON THE CORNER BY BUTTS GREEN

Cllr. Kevin Baker provided the following update report:

The latest breakdown of data for Lockerley Motors has been completed.

As you observed, there was some clearance around one side of the fuel pumps, but it is still very difficult to access if there was a fire. The number of vehicles on the forecourt has slightly fallen (1 vehicle) but there are still vehicles on the road and pavement. This situation is amplified during the working week, when at least 6+ cars are parked on the pavement and road as well as blocking visibility near to the school / village hall. Members did agree that there has been an improvement on the forecourt in terms of parking but a perspective must be kept.

In respect of the maximum number of vehicles permitted on the forecourt, members agreed that the Parish Clerk obtains definitive advice from Test Valley Borough Council as to what the original prescribed planning conditions were.

Cllr. Kevin Baker stated that there should be no parking on any part of the pavement or road and in front of the village hall. Lockerley Motors already know that the Butts Green car park is not for business use.

If the fuel pumps are operational, adequate space is required 24 hours / day. They must not be blocked.

There is a proposal to organise/support a multi-agency meeting with Test Valley Borough Council, Hampshire Police, Hampshire County Council and Lockerley Parish Council, so that issue can be quickly resolved. This is currently being discussed.

12. TO DETERMINE AND RESOLVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

26/00285/CLPS – Application for a lawful development certificate for proposed replacement door and windows – Red Cottage, East Tytherley Road, Lockerley –

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RESOLVED: NO OBJECTION

13. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

None received.

14. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

Cllr. Jane Waller advised members of the following report:

Ditches and culverts

Despite the excessive amount of rain we have received and the flooding that occurred under the railway bridge, the rest of the parish drainage system has coped remarkably well. There are areas of surface water, but none as bad as expected.

The ditch maintenance and culvert clearance from earlier in 2025 has contained the volume of water and no other floods have occurred. Newtown Road; Tote Hill; Mount Lane; Cooks Lane; Butts Green are all flowing freely.

Footpath 7

An informal working group has been formed to plan the improvements to this popular path across the water meadows. Meetings and discussions have been had with the Hampshire County Council Access Team and with Test Valley officers.

Cllr. Joanne Young has undertaken an on-line survey to assess support for repairs and restoration of the boardwalks on Footpath 7. There has been 92% support rate as a result of the survey. This follows the list of comments we have already received to support this project.

The water meadows were included on one of the walks from the National Trust at Mottisfont but were removed due to the deterioration of the board walks. Mottisfont Abbey have been informed of our proposals and an acknowledgement has been received. Contact has been made with School Farm, the landowner of the water meadows. More detailed discussions are still needed with the land management before any work can be undertaken. Quotes are being requested for the construction work and grants are now being sought to cover the cost of this work.

Footpaths

No work is scheduled.

Please continue to inform us of any problems throughout our network of paths.

15. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

The Parish Clerk advised members of the importance of formulating and agreeing a Neighbourhood Plan. Members have received briefings from officers at Test Valley Borough Council previously regarding this matter. It was explained that the first steps are for the Parish Council to notify Test Valley Borough that Lockerley Parish Council has resolved to agree to designate the Lockerley parish as a Neighbourhood Plan area and submit the necessary forms, together with an Ordnance Survey map showing the plan area together with a copy of the relevant Parish Council meeting minutes agreeing to designate the area.

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The Parish Clerk reminded members that a neighbourhood plan is a community-led framework enabling local residents, via parish councils, to shape the future development of their area. Introduced by the Localism Act 2011, these statutory documents allow communities to influence where new homes, shops and infrastructure are built and to protect local green spaces.

Key Features of a Neighbourhood Plan:

- Purpose: It sets out planning policies that, once adopted, form part of the statutory development plan used to decide planning applications.
- Development Control: Communities can decide where new developments go and define what they should look like, including design standards.
- Process: The process involves defining a neighbourhood area, extensive community engagement, drafting policies, an independent examination, and a community referendum.
- Scope: Plans can cover 5 to 20 years, focusing on specific sites for housing or community facilities. Neighbourhood planning is a powerful tool to ensure development aligns with local needs, though it must generally conform with the strategic priorities of Test Valley Borough Council's own planning policies

Members concurred with the view that the formation of a neighbourhood plan is strategically important and agreed that a Working Party needs to be formed and that this be an agenda item for the March 2026 Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business to be transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.28 hours.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Memorial Hall, Lockerley on 16 March 2026 starting at 18:00 hours.