

MINUTES OF THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST JULY 2025 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:

Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King – Hampshire County Council
Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston – Test Valley Borough Council

2. WELCOME TO MIKE SMITH AND JONATHAN NEW (6TH ROMSEY LOCKERLEY SCOUT GROUP)

The Chair extended a warm welcome to Mike Smith and Jonathan New representing the 6th Romsey Lockerley Scout Group. They raised the matter of the security of the Glebe Field and the current ownership and responsibilities (eg. mowing, hedges, tree maintenance and river safety) associated with such ownership. They raised the matter of the scouts permitted use in regard to fires, camps, games and such like and the length of any agreements. Furthermore, concerns were expressed in regard to tree inspections and their safety. Mike Smith explained to all present that they hire out the scout huts to third parties.

It was explained that the Glebe Field is not wholly owned by the Lockerley Parish Council and is in the ownership of the Winchester Diocesan Board who sub-contract their responsibilities to the managing agents, Savills. A copy of the lease has now been obtained and specific reference to the points raised by the scouts are not categorically referred to. The Parish Clerk advised members that Lockerley Parish Council has been asked what its intentions may be for the potential renewal of the lease for 2026 and going forward. Members felt that in light of recent events, it may be to the Parish Council's advantage to propose to the Winchester Diocesan Board that it would consider the purchase of the Glebe Field rather than continue under any future lease agreement.

Members requested that the Parish Clerk approaches the Winchester Diocesan Board/Savills to both clarify the legal responsibilities of the landlord and the tenant in respect of the points raised by the Scouts

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Tim Coomer made a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest in respect of agenda Item 16 in relation to the Test Valley Borough Council consultation on the revised Local Plan and did not vote or participate in discussion.

Cllr. Tara Madgwick made a Declaration of Pecuniary Interest in respect of agenda Item 17 in relation to planning applications 25/01433/FULLS and 25/01564/FULLS and did not vote or participate in discussion.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None recorded.

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5. TO RESOLVE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16 JUNE 2025

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16 June 2025. Members unanimously RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of this meeting as a true and correct record. The Chair signed the Minutes accordingly.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD 16 JUNE 2025

All matters arising from the meeting held on 16 June 2025 have been expedited and duly noted or discussed further at this meeting as an agenda item.

7. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

None recorded. At the behest of Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston, the Parish Clerk reminded all present of the important Test Valley Borough Council consultation on the Local Plan and devolution.

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

The Parish Clerk advised members of specific note that Hampshire County Council has published its recommendations on the preferred option for the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) across Hampshire and the Solent area. This follows the Government's requirement for all two-tier council areas to move to a single-tier system by 2028. The proposal, known as Option B2, has been developed jointly by Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire District Council. The recommended configuration for Test Valley Borough Council is to be part of a South-West Unitary Authority with Eastleigh, New Forest and Southampton.

In respect of reports received that the Greens are being abused by local residents abutting the Village Green with their vehicles as a means of entering and exiting their properties, this was indeed reported to Test Valley Borough Council. The situation has been inspected and is judged that the new fence erected at a property is deemed as being permitted development and not a breach of planning control. It was agreed that members will continue to monitor the condition of the Village Green and take action as and when considered appropriate.

9. TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS FOR 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk advised members that he is in receipt of Invoice 7324 dated 16 April 2025 for £409.00 (VAT - £0.00) £409.00 for the HALC Affiliation Fees and NALC Levy for membership 2025/2026. Members considered membership and RESOLVED that on this occasion the Parish Council would not agree to membership of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils for 2025/2026.

10. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCE SCHEDULE FOR JUNE/JULY 2025

The Parish Clerk advised members of the expenses of the Parish Council for June/July 2025, which amounted to £1,299.85 as scheduled below and income received amounting to £93.51, together with the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

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EXPENDITURE

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

£49.34 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – AG Woodcare Products Limited – Refund against Invoice 2025/06/0420 dated 17 June 2025 – Paint brushes, wood stain - £41.12 (VAT £8.22) £49.34

£16.50 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0564 dated 8 July 2025 – £16.50 (VAT £0.00) £16.50

£168.84 – HMRC PAYE for April/May and June 2025 - £34.95, £34.95 and £98.94 - £168.84

INCOME

£93.51 – Interest for July 2025

Members RESOLVED the expenditure of the parish council for June/July 2025 as prescribed above, totalling £1,299.85 and the income for the parish council of £93.51.

11. TO UPDATE ON SID (SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE) RELATED MATTERS

The Parish Clerk advised members that Hampshire County Council has requested that an existing sign at one of the agreed locations needs to be lowered to accommodate the SID. Hampshire County Council is awaiting upon the availability of the contractor to carry out the requisite works. Cllr. Kevin Baker advised that the signage has been lowered as requested by Hampshire County Council and all is now ready for the works to commence. Members agreed that more volunteers are needed to help manage the SID scheme in the parish and such a request will be made.

12. TO RESOLVE AGREEMENT OF THE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT, ICO PUBLICATION SCHEME, IT POLICY AND RISK ASSESSEMENT

The Parish Clerk advised members of the previously circulated updated policies that are a legal requirement and have been updated accordingly for consideration by members. There is also a new requirement that the Parish Council must have an IT policy and this has also been drafted and circulated to all members. Members considered the policies most carefully and it was RESOLVED to accept and adopt the policies accordingly.

13. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE BUTTS GREEN WORKING PARTY

The Parish Clerk advised members that the legal documents appertaining to the works have been received from Southampton City Council for the upcoming works scheduled to commence on 4 August 2025. These are being analysed and will be returned to Southampton City Council duly executed. There has been no update, as yet, from Test Valley Borough Council as to the outcome of the grant application for the Butts Green project. Cllr. Joanne Young advised all present that she has publicised the fact that during works there will be no parking whatsoever at Butts Green and has explained that heavy plant machinery will be parked at the site. In respect of the inconsiderate parking, the police have supported the Butts Green Working Party and the concerns have been escalated. Recent data collected has been sent to Hampshire Police.

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Matters are on-going.

14. TO UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PARISH ROOMS

The Chair advised members that the legal counsel relating to the Parish Rooms has only recently been received and has not been circulated. It was agreed to DEFER this agenda item to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

15. TO UPDATE ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE FUTURE MEMORIAL HALL MANAGEMENT .

No discussion on this matter took place and members agreed to DEFER this agenda item until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

16. TO UPDATE ON RESILIENCE MATTERS

Cllr. Tara Madgwick advised members that she is shortly scheduled to meet with a representative to pursue resilience for the parish and will report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

17. TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REVISED LOCAL PLAN 2042 REGULATION 18 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Parish Clerk advised members that the Local Plan 2042 Regulation 18 public consultation has identified no housing allocation for Lockerley. There is, however, an allocation of approximately 50 homes at land West of Holbury Lane, Policy SA25 identified in the neighbouring parish of East Dean. A significant number of the public addressed the parish council on this matter expressing their concerns and points.

Members carefully considered the points of view expressed and the policy documentation. Lockerley Parish Council RESOLVED to OBJECT to the Test Valley Borough Council Revised Local Plan 2042 Regulation 18 Public Consultation with the following response to be submitted to Test Valley Borough Council:

Without prejudice to the legality of the Consultation

Lockerley Parish Council members commented that the proposed housing allocation at Land west of Holbury Lane is disproportionate and unnecessary for a rural community. There is scant infrastructure to support the envisaged and proposed level of additional housing development. The area will have inadequate or poorly developed physical and organisational structures that are essential for the proper functioning and development to support the additional number of houses. Lockerley Parish Council would express their concerns as to the lack of sustainable and effective roads, power grids, water, sanitation and drainage systems, communication networks and social services provision such as schools and healthcare facilities to support the proposed additional housing allocation numbers.

Consideration must be given for additional traffic impact that will result from the additional proposed housing and the negative impact this will have on the rural road network and the health and safety of the local community.

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Lockerley Parish Council is concerned that there is no foul drainage site assessment available or an evaluation of the serious environmental impact the additional proposed development will have and the potential impact on river pollution.

There is insufficient information prepared and contained in the Draft Local Plan 2042 in relation to the additional housing allocation Policy SA25, which is of serious concern.

After careful and analytical consideration of all the points raised in this consultation response, Lockerley Parish Council has RESOLVED to OBJECT to the proposal of a housing allocation of approximately 50 dwellings at Land west of Holbury Lane, Lockerley.

18. TO DETERMINE AND RESOLVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

25/00877/FULLS - Erection of a general purpose agricultural storage barn on the land at Lockerley for storage of conserved forage and agricultural machinery at Land off Romsey Road, Lockerley – WITHDRAWN

25/01268/FULLS – Demolish outbuilding, two storey side and first floor rear extension, with single storey side extension linking to new double garage, alterations to chimneys and fenestration at Roseway Cottage, Butts Green, Lockerley, Hampshire – RESOLVED: OBJECTION on the grounds of an incomplete and satisfactory biodiversity submission clearly specifying the biodiversity net gain and the absence of a formalised bat survey having not being included in the planning application.

25/00973/FULLS - Demolition of garages and erection of two dwellings at Lockerley Stores, Lockerley Green, Lockerley, Romsey, Hampshire – RESOLVED: OBJECTION based on the application being an overdevelopment and not in keeping with the local area. Members commented that the documents submitted as part of the planning application are inaccurate and incorrect. The area has Great Crested Newts and it is not clear how this will impact on the planning application and what provision has been made for their important continued protection. No clear policy has been prepared as to the impact the development will have on the village shop and its continued viability and community provision. The planning documents do not specify categorically what biodiversity net gain there is and what will be offered.

25/01433/FULLS - Single storey rear extension and erection of pergola at Mill Cottage, East Tytherley Road, Lockerley, Romsey, Hampshire – RESOLVED: No Objection

25/01439/FULLS - Single storey rear extension to a listed building at Mill Cottage, East Tytherley Road, Lockerley, Romsey, Hampshire – RESOLVED: No Objection

25/01564/FULLS - Conversion of former game rearing building to 3 bedroom dwelling and associated hard and soft landscaping and installation of package treatment plant at Mount Pleasant Game Farm, Mount Lane, Lockerley, Romsey, Hampshire – RESOLVED: OBJECTION on the grounds of the planning application not being in keeping with the local area.

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19. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

None received

20. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

Cllr. Jane Waller advised members of the following report:

Our footpath system has been almost trouble free throughout the spring, mainly due to the drought. We have used this opportunity to focus on clearing out our empty ditches. This work has made a big dent in our annual £1000 Lengthsman's budget. The winter bourne alongside Butts Green was cleared of plant growth and debris in April and an even more extensive clearance was made of the Tote Hill containing ditch and grips in May.

The schedule of work for the Lengthsman scheme refers to "village upkeep", but more and more of our village upkeep is now being funded from the precept. We have discussed the possibility of organising teams of parish volunteers to undertake cleaning and clearance jobs. Following Cllr. Tara Madgwick's colourful adverts and our presence at the Lockerley fete some people have now come forward to offer their help.

The restoration of FP26 to its registered route is being made, but some obstacles still need to be resolved.

Footpath 7 from Butts Green to Dunbridge requires the major repair and replacement of the boardwalk at the entrance to the field and the bridge structure in the middle. This path runs through a water meadow and there are always times of the year when access is not possible. The restoration of these boardwalks will extend the times when access is possible.

Completed Tasks

The Cut: The Leylandii hedge along one side of the cut has now been completely removed by Aster.

Tote Hill: The containing ditch has been completely cleared, the large grips reinstated, and the culvert cleared. The road didn't flood last winter, and I remain confident it will remain clear this coming winter.

Footpath 25: The fenced in section has been completely cut back.

Stiles on Mt Lane: The undergrowth covering the stiles leading to FP17 and FP18 has been cut back.

Outstanding Tasks:

Footpath 33: Leading to the downs. Bottom section, undergrowth to be cleared.

Footpath 32: From fp33 to Pains Hill, first section only. Already partly cleared by Romsey Ramblers. The path remains too narrow in places.

No tasks are scheduled for August.

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Members commented on works envisaged for Footpath 7 especially given that there is a limited budget available. It was considered appropriate that the Parish Council determines a potential budget allocation for such works needed for the financial year 2026/2027.

21. MEMBER QUESTIONS

Comments were made as to the recent successful fete that was held and there has been a post fete wash-up.

Cllr. Tara Madgwick advised that she is considering organising a 'Lockerley in Action' Litter Picking Day on 8 November 2025. Cllr. Tara Madgwick presented a special Test Valley Borough Council commissioned research report to the Lockerley Parish Council members and reported that she will be presenting this to the Village Hall Management Committee.

Cllr. Joanne Young advised members that she is aware that the Household Support Grant has recently become available and asked whether the Parish Council would like her to investigate this further, which was agreed.

In the absence of any further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.17 hours.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Memorial Hall, Lockerley on 15 September 2025 starting at 18.00 hours.