

MINUTES OF THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, LOCKERLEY, HAMPSHIRE

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Len Arthur (until 19.21 hours), Cllr. Kevin Baker, Cllr. Tim Coomer, Cllr. Peter Funnell (Chair), Cllr. Tara Madgwick (until 19.21 hours), Cllr. Jane Waller, Cllr. Joanne Young

In attendance:

Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston – Test Valley Borough Council
Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King – Hampshire County Council

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to agenda item 8, Cllr. Tara Madgwick advised all present that she is now the Secretary to the Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall Committee.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None recorded.

4. TO RESOLVE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15 September 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 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

All matters arising from the meeting held on 15 September 2025 have been expedited and duly noted or discussed further at this meeting as a separate agenda item.

6. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston provided her report on latest matters affecting Test Valley Borough Council. She especially made reference to a climate change fund whereby energy efficiency could be improved. Any grant that may be awarded is subject to match-funding. She provided a summary of grants that are currently available for application that may help towards obtaining monies for proposed capital projects. She referred to the Test Valley Borough Council latest consultation document entitled 'Close Enough to be Local; Big Enough to Stay Strong'.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

The Chair made mention of a letter from a parishioner expressing her concern in respect of the increasing danger posed by vehicles speeding along the East Dean Road especially around the bends where visibility is poor. The route is used by parents, carers and young children when walking to the playground. The playground should be a safe and welcoming part of our community, a place where children can walk, play and grow up without fear of traffic endangering their lives. Members agreed with the sentiments expressed and discussed appropriate traffic-calming measures before a serious accident occurs. First and foremost, members made it clear that highway responsibility is not the remit of the

LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2025 – PAGE 2 (CONT'D)

Parish Council but that of Hampshire Highways. Members commented that a Speed Indicator Device is currently deployed at Butts Green but can be situated at this location and monitored by Lockerley Parish Council. Other measures that could be considered are a designated virtual walkway, speed bumps and sleeping policemen. They all have high cost implications and there is no single solution that will resolve matters immediately. Any action will be subject to monies being made available by Hampshire Highways. Members agreed that County Cllr. Nick Adams-King be advised of this issue having been raised and to enquire what monies could potentially be raised to address matters. The Parish Clerk was requested to respond to the parishioner in the form of a holding letter and advise her of what has been discussed.

The Parish Clerk advised members that a parishioner has written to him regarding the provision for the youth, particularly teenagers, of Lockerley. The suggestion has been made regarding football goals/posts and the use of the Glebe Field, a Youth Club and the provision of suitable facilities. Cllr. Tara Madgwick advised that she and Cllr. Len Arthur met with the parishioner and discussed matters accordingly and have given traction to the suggestions made coupled with potential grant and memorial hall availability.

The Chair referred to an email received from a parishioner requesting the purchase of a strip of grass along the front of their driveway, which is owned by the Parish Council. Members agreed that this is not possible as there are covenants and restrictions on the Village Green by which the Parish Council does not have the authority to dispose of any part of the land under Part 3 (ss 38-44) of the Commons Act 2006, the provisions of the Inclosure Act 1857, the Commons Act 1876 and the Commons Registration Act 1965.

8. TO RESOLVE APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LOCKERLEY AND EAST DEAN WAR MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr. Tara Madgwick advised members that the AGM of the Lockerley and East Dean War Memorial Management Committee will take place later and a new Management Committee will be appointed for the next 12 months. This means that during that process, Cllr. Len Arthur, will be automatically resigned along with all other Management Committee members. Therefore, a Representative Member for the next 12 months, on behalf of the Parish Council, should be appointed. Cllr. Len Arthur advised that he would be happy to continue as the Parish Council representative. It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr. Len Arthur as the representative to the Lockerley and East Dean War Memorial Management Committee for the next twelve month period.

9. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

Cllr. Jane Waller advised members of the following report:

All scheduled tasks have been completed to the usual high standard. The hedge cutting for the Parish Room and the hedge cutting and ditch clearance for the Memorial Hall has consumed the last of our annual Lengthsman's budget and has left us with a deficit of about £200.

Stockbridge Parish Council are the organisers for the scheme and they appear to be absorbing this debt until the new financial year and the granting of the new allowance. Without an increase, and this is unlikely, the £1,000 budget will cover even fewer hours and fewer tasks.

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2025 – PAGE 3 (CONT'D)**

We need to decide how to maintain our countryside responsibilities for the coming year and into the future. The three contractors we have employed for many years all bring their individual skills to the responsibilities they are given.

The Lengthsman's budget is small but worthwhile. We have no one better than Shane to undertake the heavy work such as ditch clearing and the major works on our fenced in footpaths. When that budget runs out, we need to decide whether or not to fund extra work from Shane out of the precept.

Our Groundsman, Michael Eastwood, has an extensive, annual schedule of work that has extended over the years as the playground was created, Butts Green had dragons' teeth installed and Tote Hill green was added to the cutting programme. He monitors the weather and growth patterns and manages his work accordingly.

Annual Hedge cutting has been contracted out to Clive Jones for many years. Sadly, Clive died quite suddenly a few weeks ago and his work has now been left in the hands of his son Fergus (Gus). In the last year Clive and Gus formed a working partnership under the name of "Native Rural Contractors".

It is the hedge cutting season now and we need to decide whether to continue to employ "Native Rural Contractors" who are familiar with the annual schedule and have the suitable equipment for the tasks.

Footpaths on the higher ground are all maintained to a satisfactory standard. When stile breakages are reported they are usually repaired by the landowner and on agricultural land they are often removed completely. As costs increase, I anticipate the need to employ the Lengthsman out of the precept or to work with trained volunteers on the more straightforward routes.

Our low-lying footpaths have been deteriorating visibly over many years. Footpaths 6, 7 and 8 all need extensive work and considerable costs to restore them to a satisfactory standard. A proposed programme of works is being considered.

Cllr. Jane Waller made reference to the need for flood control under the railway bridge as this requires regular maintenance and attention during torrential rain. A volunteer parishioner has regularly been clearing the drains. The drain is already filling with leaves as there are leaves on the trees still to fall. This is the only time of the year when flood conditions are a problem and the drain and culverts need to be cleared. Going forward, Hampshire Highways must accept the responsibility for this work and undertake it vigilantly and as frequently as needed throughout the autumn period. In the interests of health and safety and liability implications, the responsibility cannot fall to this one volunteer. Whilst the volunteer's past work has been much appreciated, he cannot continue to do so. Members requested that he be advised accordingly and that a formal report and request is made via the Hampshire County Council website for remedial action to be undertaken.

Cllr. Jane Waller raised the matter of improving accessibility from Butts Green to Dunbridge by restoring and upgrading the wooden boardwalks and bridges on Footpath 7 and consideration to also be given to similar works on Footpath 8. She explained that there are a variety of grants that can be applied for, to fund such a project. Parishioners

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2025 – PAGE 4 (CONT'D)**

have voiced their frustrations regarding the poor state of the footpaths that link Lockerley Green to Butts Green and Butts Green to Dunbridge. These are Footpaths 7 and 8. Their written comments in the form of a consultation are informative, stating requests for safe access to the village shop from Butts Green or to the school and the hall from Lockerley Green and East Dean are necessary. Many residents walk from Butts Green to the Station at Dunbridge and choose the safer Footpath 7 route when possible. Members agreed to progress with the proposal to improve accessibility from Butts Green to Dunbridge by restoring and upgrading the wooden boardwalks and bridges on Footpath 7 and consideration to also be given to similar works on Footpath 8.

10. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCIAL SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

The Parish Clerk advised members of the financial schedule for October/November 2025 and the financial position of the Parish Council. The total expenditure amounted to £4,503.27 and income received totalled £193.01. The amounts were made up as scheduled below:

EXPENDITURE

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

£9.85 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – Invoice SP830603770GB dated 5 August 2025 – Post Office – Refund of Expenses – Postage of essential documents to the Chair - £9.85 (VAT - £0.00) £9.85

£32.99 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – Invoice 1200228329 dated 30 September 2025 – RBLI – Refund of expenses – Poppy Wreath - £27.49 (VAT - £5.50) £32.99

£296.82 – HMRC Shipley – PAYE payments – Reference 120PQ031484182606 – Quarterly payment of PAYE and Employer payments - £98.94, £98.94 and £98.94 - £296.82 (VAT - £0.00) £296.82

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

£100.00 – Abbey Grab Bag – Invoice 38464 dated 14 October 2025 – Concrete Collection Bus Shelter Lockerley Green - £83.33 (VAT - £16.67) £100.00

£11.00 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0593 dated 8 October 2025 – Hire of the Annex for Lockerley Silver Band Meeting - £11.00 (VAT - £0.00) £11.00

£11.00 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0592 dated 8 October 2025 – Hire of the Annex for Lockerley Parish Council Meeting - £11.00 (VAT - £0.00) £11.00

£180.00 – Savills – Invoice 1025485 dated 29 September 2025 – Rent in advance for the Glebe Field for 29/09/2025 to 24/03/2026 - £180.00 (VAT - £0.00) £180.00

£150.00 – X-Net – invoice 33942 dated 26 September 2025 – Renewal of gov.uk domain

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2025 – PAGE 5 (CONT'D)**

name from 29/11/2025 to 28/11/2027 - £125.00 (VAT - £25.00) £150.00

£120.00 – X-Net – Invoice 34018 dated 28 October 2025 – First 10 email accounts from 29/11/2025 to 28/11/2026 - £100.00 (VAT - £0.00) £100.00

£1,380.00 – Michael Eastwood – Invoice 38/89 dated 30 June 2025 – Grass and Grounds maintenance at various Lockerley sites - £1,380.00 (VAT - £0.00) £1,380.00

£5.99 - Kevin Baker – Invoice 26-2826731-6028332 dated 25 September 2025 – Amazon – Refund of Expenses – Everbuild Foam Sealant Joint Backer Rod 10mm x 10 metre - £4.99 (VAT - £1.00) £5.99

£8.29 – Kevin Baker – Invoice DS-AEU-INV-GB-2025-587370001 dated 23 October 2025 – Amazon – Refund of Expenses – Stainless Areel padlock with 4 keys - £6.91 (VAT - £1.38) £8.29

£16.99 – Kevin Baker – Invoice DS-AEU-INV-GB-2025-587906277 dated 24 October 2025 – Amazon – Refund of Expenses – Clips and clamps - £14.16 (VAT - £2.83) £16.99

£50.00 – Natasha Beatty – Invoice lockparish01 dated 8 November 2025 – To supply hot drinks and bacon sandwiches for the village tidy up day on 8 November 2025 - £50.00 (VAT - £0.00) £50.00

INCOME

Interest for September 2025 - £95.78

Interest for October 2025 - £97.23

Members RESOLVED the expenditure of the parish council for October/November 2025 as prescribed above, totalling £4,503.27 expenditure and the income for the parish council of £193.01.

11. TO RESOLVE THE FUTURE OF THE USE OF THE PARISH ROOM AND THE LOCKERLEY SILVER BAND

The Chair advised members that the future use of the parish room and the Lockerley Silver Band has been discussed with them in some detail in a separate face-to-face meeting. He stated that the building has historically been used for a limited variety of community purposes but is no longer suitable for hosting public meetings due to issues relating to accessibility, layout, and general condition. Consequently, the Parish Council has ceased to use the premises for its own meetings or administrative functions. At present, the Parish Room continues to be used solely by the Lockerley Silver Band for band practice sessions held every Friday between 8:00pm and 10:00pm.

Concerns were expressed in that expenditure far outweighs any income received exclusively for the parish room. It is not economically viable to maintain and the parish council cannot justifiably commit further substantial public funds to continue the parish room.

LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2025 – PAGE 6 (CONT'D)

Members listened and noted the comments made by the Lockerley Silver Band at this meeting.

After discussion and due consideration, it was **RESOLVED** by 4 **IN FAVOUR**, 2 **ABSTENTIONS** and 1 **AGAINST** that the Lockerley Silver Band should be given formal notice forthwith to quit the Parish Room and that such notice should take effect at the end of the current financial year 2025/2026 for the parish council ending on 31 March 2026. Furthermore, delegated authority be afforded to the Parish Clerk to investigate engaging the services of a suitably qualified professional chartered surveyor to prepare a formal valuation of the premises and to explore all options available to the Parish Council regarding the future of the Parish Room, possibly in time for the January meeting of the Parish Council.

12. TO DISCUSS CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE BUDGET 2026/2027

The Town Clerk advised members that it was important to consider priority strategic projects for consideration in the forthcoming budget. He stated that he has been in touch with David Ayers (Revenues and Welfare Officer) at Test Valley Borough Council to ascertain what the applicable taxbase may be for 2026/2027 for Lockerley. For Lockerley, property numbers last year were 371, adjusted to a taxbase of 376. Currently there are 370 properties valued. Assuming a similar level of council tax reduction and other factors, the **draft and estimated** taxbase for 2026/2027 will be around the same number of 376. This leaves no scope in maintaining the precept as there is no financial advantage for the parish council.

The current precept for 2025/2026 is £28,320.00. The formula for calculating Average Band 'D' Council Tax is always precept divided by the applicable taxbase = Average Band D Council Tax. The current Council Tax for Band D is £75.32.

The following possible capital projects were suggested:

- £5000 Tree Surgeon works - Lockerley Green and possibly Tote Hill Common
- £500 remedial works for the unadopted road on Lockerley Green
- £300 Romsey red top up for Butts Green parking area
- £500 remedial works from annual Greens Survey
- £500 repairs to Playground
- £1000 to improve security of Glebe Field gate entrance
- £1000 - remedial works to prevent flooding under railway bridge
- £8000 – Lockerley Parish Council contribution to repair footpath 7 boardwalk
- £300 - Footpath Maintenance (Top up lengthsman contract or contract other)
- £700 for new Lockerley Parish Council notice board in Newtown
- £300 SID maintenance
- £2,500 Additional SID
- £900 Defibrillator maintenance / pad and battery replacement
- £3000 - commission specialist review and report on commercial viability of / options for the Parish Rooms to enable LPC to have a conversation with residents and make a decision on the rooms future

LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2025 – PAGE 7 (CONT'D)

- £350 to fund collateral for village events such as Fete, village tidy, refreshments for AGM
- £5000 towards the memorial hall for any grants that may be applied for

Members agreed to discuss this in more detail at the January Parish Council meeting at which, it was accepted, that the budget and precept must be resolved for 2026/2027.

13. TO DETERMINE AND RESOLVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

25/02148/OUTS – Erection of up to 52 dwellings with access via East Dean Road at Land West Of Holbury Lane, Holbury Lane, Lockerley, Hampshire. **RESOLVED: OBJECTION on the grounds of the outline application being out of keeping with the local area and on the grounds of overdevelopment.**

Members of Lockerley Parish Council have made the following comments set out below to be recorded accordingly. Members noted that whilst conveniently labelled as Lockerley, the site is actually located in East Dean, which is classed at the bottom of the hierarchy tier and is deemed as countryside. The comment must be made that there is no difference between this application and site SA25 in the Local Plan.

Over 60 parishioners attended a recent public meeting and all were against this estate being built in a countryside location, without exception. 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. Members of the Lockerley Parish Council voiced 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 for both Lockerley and East Dean. Members noted with concern 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 clear impact on river pollution.

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 – Amended Plan. **RESOLVED: OBJECTION on the grounds that there is little change from the original plan and therefore the comments remain of an OBJECTION on the grounds of it not being in keeping with the local area and overdevelopment.**

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2025 – PAGE 8 (CONT'D)**

25/02414/LBWS and 25/02415/FULLS – Single storey side extension at Tamarind, Lockerley Green, Lockerley, Romsey – **RESOLVED: No Objection**

14. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

The issue of parking at the corner of Butts Green and the garage was discussed. Cllr. Kevin Baker stated that he has been informed that the police are liaising with Test Valley Borough Council to devise a solution that will be effective in the long-term. The question being determined is whether it is appropriate for the police to undertake parking enforcement. Given that matters are parking related, the police believe that Test Valley Borough Council would be more suited to issuing tickets and enforcement. Any action is therefore likely to be undertaken by Test Valley Borough Council rather than by the police.

Members agreed to organise a meeting with representatives from Test Valley Borough Council and PCSO Hattie Locke and explore workable options for the way forward.

15. MEMBER QUESTIONS

None recorded.

In the absence of any further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.43 hours.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Memorial Hall, Lockerley on 19 January 2026 starting at 18:00 hours.