

MINUTES OF THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2026 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, LOCKERLEY, HAMPSHIRE

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Len Arthur, Cllr. Kevin Baker, 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

Cllr. Tim Coomer – Lockerley Parish Council
Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston – Test Valley Borough Council

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public commented that he has noticed that vehicles are trespassing on Top Green and are causing damage. Members felt that a letter must be sent to the offending owners of the transit van advising them to refrain from driving on the village green and a copy of the Village Green policy should also be sent.

A member of the public queried whether there were alternative possibilities in obtaining land at Lockerley Green as part of her property such as a land grant or a deed or a formal written agreement. It was explained to the parishioner that the Parish Council are custodian trustees of the land as it is Common Land and have no authority to allow any part of the land to be sold under any agreement. Members felt that a site visit should be organised and the Chair advised that he would be in touch with the owner accordingly.

4. TO RESOLVE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17 NOVEMBER 2025

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17 November 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 17 NOVEMBER 2025

All matters arising from the meeting held on 17 November 2025 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.

Two successive reports of election postponements have been announced. Next year's Mayoral elections will be postponed for two years until 2028. It is important to note that this does not affect Hampshire County Council and other local elections will still go ahead on May 7th 2026. Whilst the election of a Mayor may be delayed, the creation of the Combined Authority and the transfer of powers and funding from Westminster that comes with it, remains vital. This process will continue as planned and that the delay to the Mayoral election will not affect the establishment of the Combined Authority, the commencement of devolution, or Hampshire County Council's ability to begin exercising

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those powers for the benefit of Hampshire and the Solent. Confirmation is awaited of both the statutory instrument to create the Combined Authority and the announcement of the infrastructure funding that will underpin it.

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King advised members of various diversion routes being introduced as a result of necessary Southern Water maintenance works that do affect the local area.

He advised that the Hampshire County Council precept for 2026/2027 will be increased by 4.99%. There is a Community Led Transport Grant initiative that has just been launched to which parish councils can apply. There is a caveat to the conditions in that grant money cannot be applied for to reinstate a bus route. Members discussed bus routes to and from Lockerley and County Cllr. Nick Adams-King advised that the parish council may wish to lobby Unity and discuss matters as necessary.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

Of specific note, the Parish Clerk advised members that Alison Hellyer has been recently appointed as the Hampshire County Council Community Engagement Ranger for the North West Area Access Team.

8. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCE SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

The Parish Clerk advised members of the financial schedule for December 2025/January 2026 and the financial position of the Parish Council. The total expenditure amounted to £2,146.34 and income received totalled £807.42.

The amounts were made up as scheduled below:

EXPENDITURE

£5.00 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0625 dated 16 November 2025 – Hire of the Reading Room for a Parish Council Meeting - £5.00 (VAT - £0.00)
£5.00

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

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

£11.00 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0637 dated 31 December 2025 – Hire of the Annex for a Lockerley Parish Council Meeting - £11.00 (VAT - £0.00)
£11.00

INCOME

Interest for November 2025 - £90.77

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Interest for December 2025 - £92.61
Defibrillator Funds - £394.04
Lockerley Silver Band 2024/2025 - £230.00

Members RESOLVED the expenditure of the parish council for December 2025/January 2026 as prescribed above, totalling £2,146.34 expenditure and the income for the parish council of £807.42.

9. TO RESOLVE THE BUDGET FOR 2026/2027

The Parish Clerk introduced this agenda item. He stated that the confirmed and actual taxbase for Lockerley Parish Council for 2026/2027 is 391. A 'taxbase' is the number of Band 'D' equivalent amount of dwellings in the applicable local authority area. This is slightly advantageous as this has increased by 20 or +5.39% and allows the Parish Council a marginal flexibility but it is very slight.

As stated, the Parish Council actual taxbase is 391 and to calculate the Council Tax average Band D, you always 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 current precept for Lockerley Parish Council for 2025/2026 is £28,320 on a taxbase of 371, which equates to Average Band D Council Tax for Lockerley Parish Council of £76.33.

The overall budget performance for the financial year has a differential +/- of 1.25% to 1.50% ratio, which is comfortably within prescribed audit tolerances. Amendments have been made to the budget to reflect the real outcomes and performance of the parish council for 2025/2026.

Some of the projects as previously discussed and identified have been included in the budget but not all as this would be financially prohibitive.

It is not best practice to reduce the precept requirement and the Parish Clerk strongly advised members not to do so, as this would create major issues in the future when the Parish Council may need to increase the Precept again for whatever reason. It is really not good practice to follow such a strategy as to reach a previous level of Precept in the future, could result in a substantial hike to achieve that level whereas a steady increase is not quite so dramatic.

To avoid a deficit in the budget, which includes some identified projects but not all previously highlighted, the Parish Council will need to increase the precept by the minimum of 20%. This provides a modest estimated surplus of £533, which is not significant in real terms. For the parish council to be in the comfortable position of returning a meaningful surplus and increase of 25% in the precept will be necessary. That yields an estimated surplus of £1,949. That means that income exceeds expenditure, which it should optimally be the case anyway, without any recourse to reserves.

This is legitimate for audit purposes especially with the changes afoot in respect of local government restructuring and the potential of transfer of responsibilities to parish councils however large or small, it is vital to future-proof our finances. It likely that parish councils may come together as a conglomerate with a lead parish council to undertake service-

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delivery with each parish council contributing a ratio of costs. It is therefore imperative, that Lockerley Parish Council ensures that such monies can be available in such an event.

The Parish Clerk stated he was confident that the other capital projects identified can be covered by grants to cover the costs as Test Valley Borough Council has made it clear that additional grants will be made available during the course of the forthcoming year 2026/2027. The Parish Council should not defer increases for future years and make use of the luxury of the Parish Council being able to set precepts without a limit, whilst the legislation still permits and before the Government also decides to cap parish councils.

Members discussed the budget in depth and made some minor adjustments in amount allocations but this did not affect the overall financial impact of the Parish Council budget requirement for 2026/2027.

Members RESOLVED that for 2026/2027, the Precept will increase by 30%, which will provide £36,816 and the Council Tax will increase from £76.33 to £94.16.

10. TO CONSIDER PROJECT PRIORITISATION FOR POTENTIAL FUTURE GRANT APPLICATIONS FOLLOWING A RECENT MEETING WITH TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr. Joanne Young advised members of the recent meeting that took place to discuss possible Lockerley projects that could potentially be subject to grant applications.

Test Valley Borough Council is keen to understand the prioritisation of the projects identified and a paper was tabled. The Parish Council has been asked to put forward projects and indicate which of the projects the Parish Council would support or wish to pursue for potential grant consideration.

Members considered the paper carefully and made the following three choices in the following order:

1. Village Hall – Replacement Roof Scheme;
2. Footpaths – Footpath 7 and 8 – Replace gate and repair boardwalk and surfaces;
3. Scout Hut – Seek grant support to improve the environment and facilities.

11. 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 request was pre-emptive especially when the Southampton University researchers will be reporting on their research and recommendations in two days time, which could have an impact on the paper and the resilience plans moving forward. Furthermore, the Chair advised members that he would like to propose holding a short training/discussion exercise. The purpose being to provide a guided, practical discussion to help inform the Parish Council in respect of resilience planning.

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Members agreed to DEFER this agenda item for further discussion at the February Parish Council meeting.

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

Cllr. Len Arthur provided an update report as previously circulated to all members, which was noted.

13. TO CONSIDER THE PRINCIPLE OF DEVISING A SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LOCKERLEY MEMORIAL HALL AND THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL TO FORMALISE THE RELATIONSHIP GOING FORWARD

After discussion on the concept of developing an SLA, members RESOLVED not to pursue this and considered that this was not required.

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

A member of the public raised the on-going issue of the parking by the garage on the corner of Butts Green in Lockerley, which is contributing to serious concerns in respect of health and safety issues with the school and the fact that there is a lack of parking. She commented that the problem is not resolved and needs to be addressed satisfactorily for all concerned.

Members concurred with the viewpoint expressed but pointed out that Lockerley Parish Council has undertaken every conceivable measure to remedy and improve matters. Cllr. Kevin Baker provided detailed anecdotal evidence and latest compiled statistics obtained from the Speed Indicator Device. Despite significant evidence, little difference is being achieved.

Members RESOLVED that a strong letter must now be sent to the Chief Executive at Test Valley Borough Council requesting for an explanation of what further action Test Valley Borough Council could take and if none were proposed why this was the case.

Cllr. Kevin Baker provided an update to the SID sites and that rectifications to the post are urgently needed by Hampshire Highways. He made the following recommendations for members to consider:

Site 2a East Dean Road (Playground) - Securing of this post has yet to be done.

Site 3a: (B) - new post secured. The Parish Council to seek permission from Hampshire Highways to move the 'OUT' sign 30cm lower, to allow safe fitting of the solar panel.

Site 5: (C) - New post fitted. The Parish Council to seek permission from Hampshire Highways to move the '30' sign 30cm lower, to allow safe fitting of the solar panel.

Site 6: (D) After initial testing, the solar panel position has restricted movement and is therefore not facing the correct direction. The Parish Council to seek permission from Hampshire Highways to move the 'Road narrows' sign and '30' sign 30cm lower, to allow correct fitting of the solar panel.

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Members agreed with the recommendations made by Cllr. Kevin Baker and the Parish Clerk was requested to pursue this with Hampshire Highways.

15. TO DETERMINE AND RESOLVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

25/02148/OUTS – Amendment to 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 as previously stated.

Lockerley Parish Council **OBJECTS** to this application on the same grounds as that of East Dean Parish Council and fully concurs with their detailed reasoning as per their objection dated 16 December 2025.

Lockerley Parish Council is concerned that this planning application falls outside of the settlement boundary in land designed as countryside. The proposed development would harm the character, visual amenity and scenic quality of the local landscape by virtue of introducing inappropriate residential development into a countryside location and its urbanising incursion into the surrounding rural landscape. East Dean does not even have its own village hall, which is just one example of the lack of infrastructure that would impact on the already scarce resources. Lockerley Memorial Hall is the closest public village hall and was built in circa 1920 and is in desperate need of updating.

The proposed site is totally dependent on the motor vehicle and Lockerley Parish Council is concerned about the number of extra journeys on the narrow and windy lanes that are liable to serious flooding.

Lockerley is centred around two main greens which are approximately a mile apart with very limited and scarce pavements requiring pedestrians to walk on the highway. Any journey south means passing under a 12 foot high railway bridge which regularly floods under the the bridge effectively closing the Romsey Road at Lockerley which is the main route through Lockerley. Therefore a development of the size proposed in this location will result in a serious health and safety issue for road users, cyclists and pedestrians. Lockerley Parish Council's formal position in respect of planning application 25/02148/OUTS remains unchanged as an **OBJECTION**.

25/02926/FULLS – Demolition and part demolition of agricultural buildings and erection of chalet style dwelling, including access to highway, solar panels and a package treatment plant – New Farm House, Carters Clay Road, Lockerley, Romsey - **RESOLVED: NO OBJECTION**

26/00065/FULLS – Replacement of 9 Windows – Sixth Romsey Scout Group, Romsey Road, Lockerley, Romsey – **RESOLVED: NO OBJECTION AND SUPPORT**

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16. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

None received.

17. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

Cllr. Jane Waller advised members of the following report:

It is fortunate that we have come to that fallow time of the year as our Lengthsman's budget has been consumed and all other sources of financial support are exhausted.

This is a salutary reminder that we need to plan our countryside programme of work very carefully. Essential tasks of land management must continue to be undertaken; some leeway must be allowed for the unexpected issues that always occur; but all other proposals must be itemised and agreed within the 2026/27 budget.

Once again consideration needs to be given to finding skilled, volunteer support within the parish to undertake some of our land management tasks.

The Lengthsman's Fund

Every year we are reminded of the diminishing number of hours that are available to us as costs continue to rise. This year we crossed into the red by £164.44 and that amount will now be deducted from our next allocation in May.

The Leylandii hedge has been removed from The Cut between Oval Road and Butler's Close, which is one job less for us to complete. If we can use volunteers to undertake the simpler footpath clearance jobs, then our Lengthsman Shane's skills can be used elsewhere. We already have 2 volunteers, but a small team of helpers should be our aim.

Shane is fully trained to work on highways, and he has frequently done a brilliant job of ditch clearing for us. I suggest that we continue to employ him for this purpose. He could also be employed to clear our culverts. Stones have been found in many of them this year. They have not yet caused blockages, but they have slowed the flow of water. If Shane could be employed to clear the parish network of culverts it should help to reduce the severity of possible flooding. Shane could also be employed to wash our parish road signs.

Our Groundsman

Michael Eastwood has continued to be employed by us for all grass cutting jobs, which he undertakes according to his schedule, but always influenced by the weather. The Tote Hill green is scheduled for 4 cuts a year, but this past year only 3 cuts were undertaken. In late October the adjacent glade was strimmed instead to facilitate the growth of the early spring flowers. Michael's standards are high and his charges are realistic. It would be beneficial to programme him in for this annual cut.

Annual Hedge Cutting

Gus Jones has taken over the workload of hedge cutting from his late father Clive. He has just completed the work for our parish. In addition, he has cut a section of hedge along Romsey Road, opposite School Farm that had been neglected for several years. Last year he cut it without charge as it was a hazard for larger vehicles. The owners of this land do not live in the parish and their address is not known.

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This year we have agreed to pay for this cut. The land is now on the market, so hopefully it might be purchased by more responsible owners.

Footpaths

Most of our footpaths have remained clear or have been cleared by landowners or the Lengthsman. The paths across open fields have been kept clear with the paths themselves clearly defined. Footpath 26, with beautiful views across open farmland, has been incorrectly aligned for many decades. This year the work has been completed to correct the route, to cut an entrance from Pains Hill and to install a self-closing gate.

The fenced in paths require most work. The unwritten rule with farmers is that the path users cut the undergrowth and the landowners cut the hedges. The rule usually works well, but it is less well understood by homeowners. Paths may be delineated correctly, but subsequent hedge planting within the path can reduce the width of the path considerably. We have a few paths in our parish where this is the case. One has been cleared more than once this year by volunteers.

Many months ago, a large tree branch fell across footpath 33 leading up to the downs. I reported it to the landowners several times, but it has now been removed and some additional smaller branches also cut back.

Low Lying Footpaths

Most of the complaints that we receive relating to footpaths are about our low-lying paths. Paths that are vulnerable to flooding. Paths that are in our most populated part of the parish, and the paths that are most heavily used. These paths will always be vulnerable and can never be all weather routes. On the definitive map these are Footpaths 6,7 and 8.

For future discussion, Footpath 5 could also be included in this category.

Footpath 7 passes through a water meadow. The land is maintained correctly to retain the delicate balance of nature. Cattle graze the meadow at certain times of the year when their footfall is perfect to aerate the soil and their droppings restore the nutrients. To enable humans to enjoy this landscape wooden boardwalks were installed many years ago at the areas most likely to become impassable. They have deteriorated over time and the cost of replacements has prevented restorative work from being undertaken. Parishioners' views and concerns are now being recorded; the landowners are being consulted; advice about replacement boardwalks is being considered; and grant options are being sought. We are hoping that these carefully considered plans come to fruition and the boardwalks within Footpath 7 can be restored.

Please continue to walk our paths and please continue to share your thoughts and concerns with us.

18. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr. Joanne Young commented that as the Parish Council is now responsible for the defibrillators in the village and that residual funds have now been received, there needs to be a follow-up to organise a formal process to ensure that the defibrillators are working optimally. Members concurred with this and Cllr. Joanne Young stated she would make contact with the previous team and discuss procedures.

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19. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE MEETING – PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) 1960

Members RESOLVED that the press and public leave the Parish Council meeting accordingly in pursuance of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) 1960.

20. EXEMPT BUSINESS – LOCKERLEY SILVER BAND

Matters regarding the Lockerley Silver Band were discussed.

In the absence of any further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 21.20 hours.

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