

MINUTES OF THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 12TH MAY 2025 HELD AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, LOCKERLEY

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:

Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston (Test Valley Borough Council)
Members of the Public

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None recorded.

2. APOLOGIES

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King (Hampshire County Council)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded

4. TO RECEIVE THE RETIRING CHAIR'S REPORT

The retiring Chair gave her report for the municipal year 2024/2025 per below.

This year has seen our council once again restored to its full number of 7 councillors. At the 2024 AGM Kevin Baker was co-opted and Tara Madgwick was co-opted at the following meeting in July.

Having a complete council has made it possible to undertake many works and to initiate several projects. All these undertakings would not have been possible without the knowledgeable support of our clerk Kevin Glyn-Davies.

Maintenance and routine tasks have been completed.

The Tim Iles Playground has grown in popularity and is regularly and thoroughly inspected and maintained by Cllr Kevin Baker and Cllr Len Arthur. The annual RoSPA inspection has also been completed satisfactorily. Parents with children from other parishes have been known to visit, attracted by the high standard of our site and the equipment.

The Lengthsman Shane Ling has undertaken work with a similar schedule to the previous year, but with some unforeseen hiccups caused in part by the warm, wet spring weather. Our most popular footpath from Top Green to the downs became overgrown and received two rough cuts before it was finally brought up to standard. Other popular footpaths were also cleared; ditches and grips maintained and hedges cut. All requested tasks were completed.

The groundsman Michael Eastwood has also managed his lengthy grass cutting schedule, according to the weather and the seasonal plant growth. Attention is always given to encouraging the regeneration of our indigenous wildflowers and, where possible the grass is cut to support natural reseedling.

All our village greens have been inspected and works undertaken as necessary.

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Council Meetings

The regular council meetings have moved from the Parish Room and are now being held in the coffee shop room at The Memorial Hall. The move was initiated originally during inclement weather when access to the Parish Room was dark and difficult. Parking is now easier, and it is hoped that greater public attendance at meetings might be encouraged. Our HCC Councillor Nick Adams-King and TVBC Councillor Alison Johnston have attended our meetings regularly and their support is invaluable, especially in the light of the national government changes that are in the process of being made. The Devolution process is being accelerated in Hampshire by the decision made to be a part of the Government's Priority Programme. Test Valley is also having to adjust for the changes that will see the elimination of TVBC and the creation of a new two-tier system of local government.

Projects underway

The completion of the Butts Green works has been delayed for far too long due to practical and financial difficulties. Since the beginning of this administrative year Cllr Jo Young has approached this task systematically. A small subgroup was formed with Jo and Cllr Funnell and Cllr Baker. Regular meetings have been held with parishioners to clarify the needs on and around the green and to initiate the works. Hopefully the car parking area will be completed soon.

Cllr Kevin Baker has overseen the planning for a SID, (speed indicator device). This has now been delivered and the installation process will begin soon.

The heavy rainfall that resulted in our footpaths becoming overgrown also caused extensive, low-level flooding in parts of our parish. This was especially so in the main area of Lockerley, under the railway bridge and around Newtown Square. Several complaints were received and reports were sent to Hampshire Highways. Electricity outages were also experienced. The combination of these two potential emergencies accentuated the need for a coordinated parish wide response.

The Chair had attended the earlier meetings of The Test Valley Resilience Forum. Cllr Tara Madgwick has now taken on the investigative role and is charting the water flow in the parish; the location of culverts and any blockages that could be exacerbating the flooding problem. This is our first response to developing a coordinated resilience support programme.

The Pan Parish River Pollution Forum, (PPRP) meetings are attended by Cllr Joanne Young. Our River Dunn is a tributary of the River Test, and all pollution issues are relevant to us. The Houghton Water Probe gives accurate readings of pollution levels in the river and the new, movable probes may be more relevant to us.

2025/26

We anticipate this coming year being as busy as the last. We have all these ongoing projects to develop further. With new projects already being considered.

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5. TO READ AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – 13 MAY 2024

Members unanimously RESOLVED the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 13 May 2024 and the Chair signed the Minutes as a true and correct record.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS AND HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston advised members she would defer her report to the Full Council meeting after the Annual General Meeting has taken place. She paid tribute to the Chair of the Lockerley Parish Council for her sterling work to the parish council.

The Parish Clerk informed members of the prepared report provided by County Cllr. Nick Adams-King, which was noted. It was agreed this be posted on the Lockerley Parish Council Website for public information.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

None received.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members discussed future parish council meetings and felt that for continuity and to afford more time for project discussion, it would be constructive to hold parish council meetings on a monthly basis on the third Monday excluding August and December with meetings to start at 18.00 hours. This would mean there would be 10 meetings in the municipal year. Members RESOLVED that future meetings will be held on a monthly basis with the exception of August and December, on the third Monday, starting at 18.00 hours.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None recorded

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed this meeting at 18.50 hours.