

MINUTES OF THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH MARCH 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:

Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston – Test Valley Borough Council

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King – Hampshire County Council

Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

None recorded.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr. Len Arthur declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect to Agenda Item 11 of this meeting.

Cllr. Tara Madgwick declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect to Agenda Item 11 of this meeting.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A member of the public raised the issue of recent inconsiderate car parking by the garage, which has caused an obstruction, is hazardous and irresponsible. It does appear that cars are now parking everywhere and making use of the land. Members explained that the parish council does not have the legal authority to undertake action for the dispersal of offending vehicles. There has been a six month period of monitoring of the vehicle parking situation and there has been some improvement. Cllr. Kevin Baker advised that a co-ordination meeting involving key partners is scheduled to take place to discuss the situation and he would then report back to the Parish Council.

A member of the public advised that a significant ditch has been dug and created around Critchell's Green and this could potentially give rise to liability issues and questioned whose responsibility this would be. It was made clear that Critchell's Green is leased and that Lockerley Parish Council has absolutely no involvement with Critchell's Green and therefore cannot be held legally liable whatsoever for any incidents that may occur.

Cllr. Joanne Young advised that three members of staff who have been working for some years at the Lockerley Village Shop are leaving and suggested that it would be a nice gesture for the Parish Council to recognise their community commitment with a voucher and a letter of thanks. Members agreed with this suggestion and that a £25.00 Amazon voucher should be purchased for each of the three members of staff (£75.00 in total) together with a letter of thanks.

4. TO RESOLVE APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16 FEBRUARY 2026

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 16 February 2026. 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 16 FEBRUARY 2026

All matters arising from the meeting held on 16 February 2026 have been expedited and duly noted or discussed further at this meeting as separate agenda items.

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2026 – PAGE 2 (CONT'D)**

6. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston provided an update report on the latest regarding Test Valley Borough Council and this can be viewed on the Lockerley Parish Council website.

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King provided an update report on the latest regarding Hampshire County Council, which can be viewed on the Lockerley Parish Council website.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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

It was reported that the river bank on the ditch at Butts green has become under cut by the flow of water. It has been made worse recently by the fallen sand bags redirecting the flow and pushing water more forcibly against the the bank further down the river. The pressure has destroyed an entire section of the river bank right up to the edge of the road. The Parish Clerk advised members that he has reported this to Hampshire County Council together with the photographs that were taken under reference number 21880830. County Cllr. Nick Adams-King also advised that he would chase this matter accordingly. He also stated that there is no update, as yet, on the flooding issue under the railway bridge.

Further to matters relating to the lease for the Glebe Field, the Parish Clerk advised members that he has had a reply from Savills. The Diocese would not be willing to have the first rent review at the ten year mark, but they would be willing to have it at the five year mark with a Consumer Price Index increase to note the current reviews are every 3 years. In terms of the right of first refusal, this is not the type of provision that would be included within a lease, as it relates solely to the occupation of the property. As mentioned previously, the Diocese has confirmed that they are not looking to sell the property.

Furthermore, in line with the current lease, all landlord fees are to be met by the tenant.

The Heads of Terms have also been sent to the Parish Council, as previously circulated to all members and are in line with expectations and are same as that contained in the previous lease, as confirmed by Savills.

Savills has confirmed that the Repair section in the Heads of Agreement is the same as contained within the previous 1980 lease.

For ease of reference, the relevant clauses in the 1980 Lease are:

- Clause 3 (5) – “To preserve all the timber and other trees”
- Clause 3 (11) – Requirement at termination to “yield up the demised premises... in a condition suitable in every respect for agricultural purposes and the grazing of farm livestock”
- Clause 3 (6) – Requirement to “keep in proper repair hedges ditches and fences”

Regarding the obligation “to preserve all the timber and other trees”, this clause does not impose a duty to manage tree health and safety in the sense required of a landowner of woodland or similar. It simply requires the tenant not to cut down, damage or negligently harm trees.

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2026 – PAGE 3 (CONT'D)**

Regarding the requirement to leave the premises “in a condition suitable for the grazing of livestock”, its purpose is to ensure the land is left in reasonable agricultural condition. It does not require stock proof fencing to be installed if it was not present at the outset.

Members were satisfied with the terms proposed and instructed the Parish Clerk to pursue matters with Savills and produce the Lease for signature.

A member of the public has asked via a Parish Councillor as to why the Lockerley Parish Council Minutes are not available on Facebook (Spotted Lockerley). It was explained that Spotted Lockerley is not formally managed by Lockerley Parish Council but a link to the Lockerley Parish Council Website can be posted on Spotted Lockerley accordingly.

A request has been received from the Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall for the use of Butts Green for an Easter Family Fun Day on Easter Saturday. The event will include a number of activities inside the hall, and it is hoped to run an Easter treasure hunt around Butts Green, where families will visit a series of stations to answer questions and take part in some fun activities. Members agreed the use of Butts Green for an Easter Family Fun Day on Easter Saturday subject to a copy of the Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall insurance being supplied and a risk assessment.

8. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2026

The Parish Clerk advised members of the financial schedule for March 2026 and the financial position of the Parish Council. The total expenditure amounted to £2,868.32 and income received totalled £79.63

The amounts were made up as scheduled below:

EXPENDITURE

£11.00 – Lockerley and East Dean Memorial Hall – Invoice LVH0668 dated 19 February 2026 – Hire of the Annex for a Parish Council Meeting - £11.00 (VAT - £0.00) £11.00

£873.25 – Test Valley Borough Council – Invoice 10071025 dated 5 March 2026 – Dog/Litter Bin emptying for period 01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026 - £727.71 (VAT - £145.54) £873.25

£6.90 – Savills – Invoice 1062507 dated 25 March 2026 – Rent for Glebe Field in advance 25/03/2026 to 31/03/2026 - £6.90 (VAT - £0.00) £6.90

£912.00 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – Refund – Waltet payment per personal credit card reference 2722, Ticket Number 59109 for materials for forthcoming pot hole works - £760.00 (VAT - £152.00) £912.00

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

INCOME

Interest for March 2026 - £79.63

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2026 – PAGE 4 (CONT'D)**

Members RESOLVED the expenditure of the parish council for March 2026 as prescribed above, totalling £2,868.32 expenditure and the income for the parish council of £79.63

9. TO RESOLVE THE RESERVE POLICY AND STATEMENT FOR 2026/2027

The Parish Clerk referred to the reserve policy and statement for 2026/2027 and members considered the position in respect of the financial provision for the parish council and the projects for 2026/2027. Members RESOLVED the Reserve Policy and Statement for 2026/2027 and agreed that there will be Earmarked reserves for the Tom Iles Playground - £11,952.00, work to Village Greens - £11,953.00, Resilience - £10,000.00 and future local government reorganisation - £5,000.00. All capital projects have been separately budgeted. To be reviewed for consideration for the financial year 2027/2028. Total General Reserves: £30,222.00, Total Earmarked Reserves - £38,905.00, Total to General Reserves as at 31 March 2026 - £30,222.00

10. TO RESOLVE AGREEMENT AS TO THE FIXED ASSET REGISTER FOR 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk made reference to the previously circulated fixed asset register for the Parish Council for the financial year 2025/2026. The total value for all items totals £186,672.11. Members RESOLVED agreement of the value of the fixed asset register for 2025/2026 at £186,672.11.

11. TO UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE LOCKERLEY EMERGENCY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PLAN (CREP)

Cllr. Tara Madgwick advised this matter is very much a work in progress and information gathering is currently taking place. The team has met once and help is being received from Cllrs. Kevin Baker and Jane Waller as well as Cllr. Tara Madgwick and assistance is also being provided from 'Jenny' a researcher who lives in Lockerley and George Bloss from Test Valley Borough Council. Cllr. Tara Madgwick also advised all present that the next Test Valley Borough Council Resilience Forum is taking place on 27 March 2026, which she is attending.

12. TO RESOLVE TO PURSUE A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL AND ESTABLISH A WORKING PARTY

The Parish Clerk reiterated the importance of formulating and agreeing a Neighbourhood Plan. He advised that he did contact Tim Goodridge at Test Valley Borough Council and the formal boundary for Lockerley parish has been sent over and was circulated to all members.

Should members wish to pursue the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan, it needs to be resolved and Minuted accordingly at this parish council meeting and a formal application can then be made by the Parish Clerk to Test Valley Borough Council for the agreement of the boundary designation.

Cllr. Joanne Young made reference to her previously circulated briefing paper on the Neighbourhood Development Plan setting out the component elements of a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

A significant debate took place regarding the advantages disadvantages of pursuing a Neighbourhood Plan. Members highlighted the following:

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2026 – PAGE 5 (CONT'D)**

- Preparing a plan requires extensive commitment from volunteers and can often take several years to complete.
- The complex and costly legal requirements. Plans must pass an independent examination and a local referendum, requiring strict conformity with national and local planning strategies.
- Limited Scope: Neighbourhood plans cannot promote less development than the local authority's strategic policies.
- Voluntary Burden: The majority of the workload will fall on community members, which can lead to high reliance on expensive consultants.
- Cost: While some limited funding is available, producing a plan often requires significant financial expenditure on consultants and materials often running into thousands of pounds.
- Once made, updating the plan is difficult and it can quickly become outdated if the higher-level Local Plan changes.
- How will the Neighbourhood Plan fit within the current local government devolution changes.
- There is a risk of legal challenges to the plan and in some cases, the final plan may still not satisfy all residents.

Members were keen to consult and gather experiences from members of local parish councils who have or are currently producing a Neighbourhood Plan and hold an informal meeting. Cllr. Joanne Young stated she would look into this feasibility.

Members RESOLVED to DEFER a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Lockerley Parish Council at the present time pending further investigation.

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

Cllr. Len Arthur did not participate in any discussions or voting regarding this agenda item other than to provide an update report and then left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Cllr. Tara Madgwick did not participate in any discussions or voting regarding this agenda item and left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Since my last report, the Hall has been very busy. The hall held its first Management Committee Meeting of the year, on the 23rd, which went very well.

In terms of activities, the hall has held its 2nd pop-up-pub, which took place on the 27th of February, again very well attended. Due to the success of these two events, the hall will carry out more over the year, on a quarterly basis. To help with the running of these events, the hall has successfully secured a change in use for the premises and now has its own Alcohol Licence, managed by the Management Committee.

On the 3rd of March, the hall hosted a Crystal Journey Sound Bath as part of its drive to include more health and wellness activities, and Saturday 7th saw the hall's first 'The Big Swish', broadly a community focused event where participants exchange good quality clothes. This was so successful, it was reopened on the following Monday morning.

LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2026 – PAGE 6 (CONT'D)

Weekly events at present are 9 and looking to increase these.

In March further events are

- Gardening club - 19th
- Youth club – Juniors [7 – 11yrs] – 20th
- A taste of the Stans, travels on the silk road – 21st
- Youth club – seniors [11 – 16 yrs] – 27th
- Lent Lunch Club – 28th

Some members of the hall's Management Committee have also recently attended training for charity trustees of community associations and halls. This training event was a jointly run event by TVBC and Action for Hampshire and took place on the 9th and 11th March.

The presentation of the Hall's proposal to the Community Development Fund appears to have gone well. I hope that Lockerley Parish Council will formalise the £5,000 to the Hall Committee towards the grant from Test Valley Borough Council regarding the new roof and

associated works with this project. As requested by Parish Councillors at our last Parish Council meeting in February, the Hall Management Committee have presented the 3 quotations and a summary business case to the Chair.

Members Resolved to formally confirm to earmark a Lockerley Parish Council grant allocation of £5,000 towards the expenditure of the new roof and associated works.

14. TO DISCUSS LOCKERLEY GREEN PARKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair advised all present that there has recently been a spate of inconsiderate parking at Lockerley Green, which has caused serious damage to the Green. The primary offending vehicle has been identified and remedial action was undertaken resulting in that specific vehicle has been removed but it is only part-resolved. A private vehicle remains parked on the Lockerley Green, which is unacceptable and contravenes the legal requirement for the protection of the Green. Lockerley Green or other Greens for that matter, cannot lawfully be used as extended parking under any circumstances.

Members felt that the point of no parking on any of the Greens in Lockerley must be forcefully made in the newsletter posted to every household and that the Village Green policy may need to be re-visited and discussed at the next Lockerley Parish Council meeting.

15. TO DETERMINE AND RESOLVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

26/00285/CLPS – Application for lawful development certificate for proposed replacement door and windows – Red Cottage, East Tytherley Road, Lockerley, Romsey –
RESOLVED: NO OBJECTION

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2026 – PAGE 7 (CONT'D)**

26/00447/TPOS - (T1, T2, T3, T5, T6, T7) Weeping willows - Re-pollard taking back to old pruning points and remove 1 low bough from T5 that overhangs bridge (Noting T4 is no longer there) - Dunmeads, Butts Green, Lockerley, Romsey – **RESOLVED: NO OBJECTION**

16. TO RECEIVE A POLICE REPORT

None received.

17. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS

Cllr. Joanne Young advised members of the recent Lockerley Footpath Steering Group meeting concerning Footpath 7 that took place on 4 March 2026.

Hampshire County Council has recently conducted a site visit of the area and determined that even if the repair of this footpath were added to the priority list for funding, it would not rank highly enough to be addressed before the new unitary authority structures are implemented. It has been indicated that the estimated total cost for repairing the footpath, including materials and construction will amount to £35,000.

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.

Cllr. Jane Waller provided the below update report.

Lengthsman

The budget for the next financial year has been agreed and the annual grant will be available from early May. The total grant remains at £1,000 per annum, but Lockerley overspent by £164.44 last year and shall only receive:

Lengthsman's grant for 2026/27	£835.56
Hourly rate:	£23
Total available hours for the year:	36.33 hours.

It has been suggested to continue to prioritise the maintenance of ditches, grips and culverts. Landowners remain responsible for riparian works on their own land, but the parish overlaps in several roadside locations. Additional hours to be used to clear our fenced in footpaths. Any remaining hours for additional tasks such as washing road signs.

The Parish Council has previously employed the Lengthsman to wash and oil the public benches. Some benches are already maintained by volunteers and it would be helpful if

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2026 – PAGE 8 (CONT'D)**

some parishioners could be found to adopt those remaining. Such as: Top Green; Lockerley Green and the playground. It was suggested that perhaps the scouts may be able to help.

Footpath 7 Restoration Project

The steering group has met twice and progress continues to be made.

Cllr Joanne Young has coordinated various strands of publicity regarding the project and has generated sufficient public support to enable us to proceed to planning the construction options and approximate costings. Contact has been made with the landowners and with the land manager Mark Carpenter. Mr Carpenter has informed the Parish Council of the restrictions made by Natural England but supports the restoration work overall and has contributed practical suggestions.

Footpaths

No work scheduled.

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

18. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr. Joanne Young stated that she has put together a Chatterbox Lockerley Parish Council Newsletter to be distributed with the Thorngate Church news sheet and the cost for printing 400 colour single sided sheets will cost £45.00 from Enpress. Members agreed with this expenditure and felt that such a publication was necessary.

Members felt that the bench should be replaced by the bus shelter and that this be an agenda item at the next Lockerley Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Tara Madgwick advised that there is a drainage blockage and problem along the Eastern corner underneath Butts Green and that this needs to be reported to Hampshire County Council for remedial action.

In the absence of any further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.15 hours.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at the Memorial Hall, Lockerley on 20 April 2026 starting at 18:00 hours.