

Greatham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 19th February 2025, 7.30 pm

Present Cllr R. Lafferty (Chair), Cllr SJ Bartlett (acting clerk), Cllr C Rudd, Cllr S Pond.

Also present : Cllr R Oppenheimer, Cllr M Steevens, plus 7 residents.

24.202 : Chairman's Announcement : Nothing to Note.

24.203 : Apologies for Absence : Cllr A Cheesman and Cllr K Mitchell.

24.204 :Declarations of Interest : None

24.205 :Approval of Minutes: It was **RESOLVED** to approve minutes from the council meeting held on 8th January 2025.

24.206 : Update on previous actions arising from council meetings : (Appendix 1)

- Cllr SJ Bartlett will organise a meeting of the Old Church Working Group, and has been in touch with the SDNP regarding the laurel stumps.
- Review of position of salt bins within the village and replacement of any that are damaged to take place.
- Lengthsman cleared the junction of Petersfield Rd and Farnham Road.
- Pot holes have been reported. Awaiting repair.
- Lengthsman cleared all debris and tidied up all 3 bus shelters.

24.207 : Report from District Councillors: Report from Cllr Mitchell/Cllr Steevens (Appendix 2)

- Devolution will bring big changes to the way the county is run, currently not sure what it will look like.
- Significant funds will be available to each District Councillor in the coming council year. Cllr Steevens suggested anyone wishing to request a grant do so as early as possible.

24.208 Report from County Councillor: Report from Cllr Russell Oppenheimer (Appendix 3)

- Cllr Oppenheimer chased the HCC highways enforcement team to attend Greatham to view parking issues linked to school drop off and collection times but unfortunately as there are no enforcement measures in place they cannot help. Cllr Oppenheimer will chase HCC to install the double yellow lines that were discussed and then request the enforcement team visit if people are still ignoring the no parking areas.
- Devolution is unclear except that IOW is staying as a separate unity authority. It is good that Hampshire is being prioritized for devolution.
- Council tax will be increased by 5%. It is felt that this is needed given the budget gaps.
- HCC councillors will not have the same level of individual spending that the District Councillors will be able to benefit from.
- The team of volunteers that cleared Love Lane in Petersfield may be able to help with the Laurels at the Old Church. Clerk to follow up.
- Cllr Oppenheimer, in his role as Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing, is keen to help children get healthy and active. 1/3 of year 6 students are overweight which is a concern. It is good to get kids out in nature.
- CIL funding is now open for bids. Suggests that any organization think about what they need and apply.
- Clerk to forward to Cllr Oppenheimer email received regarding Rural Housing initiatives.
- Cllr Pond suggested his comment and link regarding devolution consultation be added to the Parish Council website.

24.209 Public Question Time: Adjournment of the meeting for 15 minutes to allow the public to raise questions

- **BOATs** : These are rights of way, which include footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways, which are open to all traffic, so all members of the public have a right of passage. Some are now grown over, destroyed, or have problems with access. Question asked about are there and BOATs in Greatham.
- Clerk mentioned the Apple Pie bridleway that is not closed and whether that is something that could be replaced.
- A point was made that it is disappointing not to be having a May election for County Councillors because of Devolution. The Parish council were asked what their view was on how councils will address the change in local government and having a Mayor. **Council Comment** : Currently the parish council does not have a view on the impact of devolution as we are still waiting for clarification on the impact it will have. However all information provided is being reviewed.
- It was suggested that the devolution consultation link be added to Facebook and to the parish council website for any resident to make comment if so desired.

Meeting reconvened

24.210 : Parish Council Finances/Administration:

- Payment Schedule:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule. (Appendix 4). **Proposed by Cllr Lafferty and seconded by Cllr Rudd.** (Appendix 4).
- Finance Report:** To note the Finance Report for January 2025. Bank reconciliations will be signed in the next meeting.
- Clerks Report** (Appendix 6)
 - Cllr Pond gave a brief update on the SDNP planning policy meeting that both Cllr Bartlett and Cllr Pond attended. We reviewed the site allocations mentioned at the meeting for Greatham. There are no future allocations mentioned, but two current allocations : Cove Homes at Liss Nursery site and Fern Farm. The public consultation regarding Housing in SDNP is still ongoing and anyone can provide a comment. There is a tight deadline for the full review with a second consultation in early 2026.

24.211: Planning Applications :

West Fork : Lawful development certificate for an existing development.

Council comment : It was **RESOLVED** that the council have no objection to the development. **Proposed by Cllr Pond and seconded by Cllr Lafferty.** Cllr Steevens was asked by Cllr Pond to ask a question on behalf of the Parish Council to the EHDC planning team.

- **Greatham Primary School** : Installation of Astro Turf.

Council comment : It was **RESOLVED** to not object to the proposal. **Proposed by Cllr Pond and seconded by Cllr Lafferty. There was 1 abstention in the vote.**

- **Gold Farm Barn** : Demolition of existing barn and erection of 2 new dwellings. It was **RESOLVED** to Object to the proposal. **Proposed by Cllr Pond and seconded by Cllr Lafferty. There was 1 no vote to the proposal.**

Council Comment : It was felt that this proposal constituted an over development of the site and the village and that smaller houses were needed not larger ones. The parish council were also concerned about the loss of rural employment.

24.212 : Council Led projects for the 2025. The parish council reviewed the list of projects for the coming years and agreed a colour coded scheme to prioritize the activities. It was suggested that the parish council review the traffic calming measures in Buriton, south of Petersfield, where cobbles have been used to slow the traffic. Cllr Lafferty will visit and review.

24.213 : New Trustee for the Greatham Allotment Charity : It was agreed that this should be moved to the meeting in March to give the trustee due to step down time to review their position.

24.214 SLR Locations for the coming year : The clerk will provide details of the last two sites needed for review prior the to next parish council meeting, so that a decision can be made on whether all current sites will be retained or updated.

24.215 : Reports from other organisations and outside bodies :

- **Community Hub :** The consultation recently conducted has produced lots of positive feedback. They were well attended sessions. In the April parish magazine there will be a survey of the residents. There is a new person joining the action group to act as Treasurer. The action group are now looking at funding options and a proposal to the parish council will be provided soon.
- **PCC :** There is a quiz night on the 15th March. On the 21st June there is a fun dog show. On the 22nd June the Bishop will conduct the church service in St Johns, and on 20th September the Shanty men will again be singing in the church. The profile for St John the Baptist is currently being updated to support the future working of the church.
- **Greatham Village Hall :** Quotes for the Trim trail are still being obtained. There is the possibility of the basketball court being updated. An internal upgrade of the Hall is also being considered. The In-post is up and running but cannot yet be booked. Grass cutting of the whole village hall area including the playground bank is being undertaken by David Redman. A bike shelter and a scooter pod are being installed.
- It was requested that a public toilet be made available at the village hall for those using the sporting facilities.

24.216 : Agenda Items for next meeting :

- Asset Schedule Review.
- Financial Statement review
- End of Year Accounts.

24.217 : The Date of the next meeting : 12th March 2025 @ 7.30 pm

24.218: The meeting closed at 21.10

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Appendix 1 : Matters Arising

- The old church graveyard needs attention, and the laurel stumps are re-sprouting so need addressing. Meeting to be called of the working party and discussions to take place with SDNP.
- Old Apple Pie development higher than thought so sun isn't getting to the road in the winter months. Frost is becoming a bit more of an issue on the highway. Agreed to review the use of salt bins
- The Junction of Petersfield road and Farnham Road is getting messy again, and the signage is not easy to see. HCC will be chased to get the agreed work carried out and the Lengthsmen will be tasked with clearing the road.
- Pot hole at junction of forest road and Petersfield road getting bigger. Also pothole opposite the Greatham inn. Both will be reported.
- Bus stop near Digby way needs clearing. Will request work carried out by lenthsmen.

Appendix 2 : District Councillors Report

None Received.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

3 FEBRUARY 2025

1. Devolution and Council Tax Update

We are still waiting to hear from the Government as to whether Hampshire will be included in the Devolution Priority Programme, also referred to as the Fast Track. This decision will potentially affect the May elections. The decision will also have an impact on the County's projected financial position. Hopefully we will get the announcement in the coming days.

The Government has today refused a request from HCC for Extraordinary Financial Support in the form of a council tax rise higher than 5% (without a referendum). This decision means that HCC cannot effectively plan beyond the coming municipal year of 2025-26. That makes service delivery extremely challenging and puts the wellbeing of communities at risk.

2. Love Lane Space for Nature: Project Update



The Hampshire Monday Group have done a fantastic job of removing invasive cherry laurel and scrub from the Love Lane Space for Nature. I would like to send my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who came out in cold weather and did an amazing job. The verges and paths have been restored, and heritage features and superb native trees are now visible.

The Hampshire Monday Group also undertook a litter pick as they went which is much appreciated. Hampshire Highways kindly removed eight piles of cuttings last week which creates space for the final laurels to be removed.

Cherry Laurel leaves and berries contain poisonous cyanide. It will be fascinating to see what growth comes up now that some light is getting into the copse and the cherry laurel has been removed. I am optimistic that we will see a rapid improvement in biodiversity and in the local amenity value of this prominent green space. The project also aims to discourage anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping in this copse.

It is especially pleasing to note that the Love Lane footpath width has almost doubled as a result of the clearance. This route is used by visitors to the nursery, the community centre and the recreation ground so it is heavily used by people of all ages. Safety and accessibility have been substantially improved for all users.

There is still some thinking and consultation to do about the ongoing maintenance and management of the copse. I will be arranging a site visit with all stakeholders to take place in March. In the meantime, here are some more photos.



3. Pulens Lane Traffic Calming Scheme Update

The Pulens Lane scheme is getting closer to implementation. A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes. The scheme webpage has now been updated with the current position and a public slide pack. The first phase is focused on the Durford Road crossroads. I remain optimistic that we can secure funding for the remaining phases.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/petersfield-pulens-lane>

Construction of Phase 1 is now targeted for the first quarter of 2026.

4. Construction poised to commence at Bulmer House

I am pleased to be able to report that the rebuilding of Bulmer House will get underway this month. It has been a long planning process to get to this point. I feel that the imminent commencement of works is good news for Petersfield. The extra-care apartments will provide much-needed downsizing opportunities for people across the area and the day-care facilities will also be a welcome addition to the town. The schedule is now as follows:

- February 2025: Start on site (demolition and tree works)
- April 2025: Construction commences
- Spring 2027: Practical completion
- Summer 2027 onwards: Scheme occupied

The below images show the approved tree works alongside the eventual footprint of the new building.



5. New Lane Rental Scheme, also known as “Disruption Charging” outlined by HCC

Hampshire County Council has set out proposals to introduce a new disruption charge scheme designed to reduce delays on the county’s busiest roads whilst raising extra revenue for highway maintenance. The plan, which would complement the existing permitting scheme, would incentivise any companies or agencies needing to carry out work on busier parts of the public highway to improve their planning, work outside of peak times wherever possible, and reduce the duration of their work.

This would be achieved by charging a daily fee for the duration of the work, including any delays. Surplus revenues received over and above the basic scheme operation costs would be ringfenced towards funding innovative projects that reduce the disruption of streetworks and roadworks and, subject to new national legislation that is expected later this year, a proportion of the income could be re-invested back into highway maintenance.

The plans were approved by the County Council’s Cabinet Lead for Highways and Waste, Councillor Lulu Bowerman, on 28 January 2025. The draft proposals will now be subject to wider consultation this year. Final recommendations would subsequently be developed by the County Council before formal approval is sought from the Department for Transport. The aim would be for the scheme to become operational in 2026.

Disruption charging – or ‘lane rental’ – is already in operation in several parts of the UK and local schemes must comply with national legislation. Rental charges can only be applied on the most congested, strategically important local roads under the management of the highway authority. The County Council would be able to apply a ‘rental’ charge of up to £2,500 per day, the maximum that can be charged under the legislation. For more information, you may wish to read the [Decision Day report](#).

6. Helping Hampshire children get healthy and active

At HCC we are expanding our initiatives to reduce ill-health and improve the wellbeing of Hampshire’s children. Getting kids into good habits early on can make a big difference. Helping children maintain a healthy weight is essential for long-term health.

In Hampshire, almost one-third (32%) of Year 6 students and one-fifth (21%) of Reception-aged children are overweight or very overweight. We also know that 30% of children aged five to 19 in the county do less than 30 minutes of physical activity daily, with those from disadvantaged backgrounds facing further barriers to accessing activity.

A new set of initiatives across the County includes one in East Hants: Community engagement and child-friendly elements have been added to the Horndean Green Trail project, which aims to improve access between Horndean and surrounding areas.

HCC has also given funding to children’s charity Barnardo’s to launch a new programme to help families stay healthy, called Hampshire Healthy Steps. It is a flexible, community-based programme for families with children aged 2 to 12 years, enabling them to get more active, sleep better, eat healthily, and connect with their local area. Find out more here: <https://www.hampshirehealthysteps.org.uk/>

Parents and carers worried about their child’s weight can get help and guidance from the County Council commissioned health visiting team or school nursing team. Details can be found on the Hampshire [Healthy Families](#) website.

7. South Downs Local Plan Review

The consultation on the South Downs Local Plan Review is underway. The consultation can be accessed at this link:

<https://sdnpalocalplanreview.commonplace.is/>

It was good to see so many Parish Councillors at the engagement session at the Festival Hall on 29 January. Many Councillors will want to comment on the new site allocations for housing and nature. There are also policy changes and the four which caught my eye are:

- Rural Exception Sites: 20% market housing to be allowed when community-led, with the rest affordable. It will be interesting to see whether more sites come forward.
- A favourable New Policy on Viticulture, Winemaking and Wine Tourism.
- Policy SD23 is being changed from Sustainable Tourism to “Regenerative Tourism”
- A new concept of Regenerative Design.

8. South Downs CIL round has opened

The SDNPA CIL process opened for applications on 16 January. The bidding window remains open until 25 April. In the last CIL round, there was welcome funding for upgrading the Petersfield Heath toilets and boosting Butser’s butterflies through chalk grassland restoration. QE Country Park is also getting a new accessible shower and toilet block. It would be great to get funding later this year for some Hangers projects so I hope Parish Councils will seriously consider developing a bid. Here is a link to the CIL page.

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/community-infrastructure-levy/revision-of-spending-cil/applying-for-cil-funds-for-an-infrastructure-project/>

9. Consultation on BOATs

The revised Byways Operating Procedure is getting closer to adoption. I have attended a couple of meetings behind the scenes and we are making some progress. A Parish consultation session has been arranged at 2.00pm on 12 February at East Meon Village Hall. Hopefully you have received an invitation to that meeting. If not, please let me know.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Appendix 4 : Payment Schedule

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net Total	Vat	Total
16/02/2025	Reg White	St Johns Churchyard maintenance	168.00	0.00	168.00
05/02/2025	Greatham village Hall	Booking 07/01/25 and booking 08/01/25	15.00	0.00	15.00
07/02/2025	Giff Gaff	Mobile phone charges	5.00	1.00	6.00
02/01/25	Disking	Monthly support and m/soft subscriptions. Paid by DD	63.97	12.79	76.76
03/02/25	Disking	Monthly support and m/soft subscriptions. Paid by DD	63.97	12.79	76.76

Appendix 5 : Finance Report and Bank Reconciliations **Receipts 1st January to 31st January 2025**

Total Receipts	£0.00
Balances as at 31st January 2025	
Current Account	£12,518.75
Deposit Account	£26,696.15
Total at Bank	£39,214.90

Earmarked Funds Held	
Trees	£ 900.00
Community Engagement	£ 250.00
Elections	£3500.00
EMR CIL + £2K Grant	£1720.00
Telephone Box	£ 500.00
Kings Coronation	£ 500.00
Old Church	£4500.00
Defib Maintenance	£ 250.00
Bus Shelters	£ 250.00
Total Earmarked Funds	£12,370.00

General Reserves Balance **£26,844.90 (Total at Bank less Earmarked funds)**

Appendix 6 : Clerks Report

- The parish Councillors enjoyed a night out at The Temple, kindly organised by Cllr Cheesman, as a belated Christmas celebration.
- Wrote the copy for the February parish magazine update.
- Attended the EHAPTC meeting via zoom.
- Attended the SDNP planning policy meeting with Cllr Pond in Petersfield to give feedback on the plans to hear an update on the timeline they are working towards.
- Attended the Portsmouth cathedral choir evensong at St Johns the Baptist church to start the 150th year anniversary celebrations and read the first reading on behalf of the Parish council.
- Hosted a parish Councillor get together to discuss projects for 2025 and beyond in preparation for discussion at meeting on 19th Feb 2025.
- Had preliminary discussion with potential RFO to support the parish council.

Appendix 7 : Council Projects 2025 and beyond.

Greatham Parish Council Project List 2025/2026 and beyond
updated February 2025

Colour Code :

2025 projects

2026 Projects

2027 Projects and new Parish Council

Task	Lead	Cost	Comments/Progress
General Parish Council Work			
Playground maintenance	Cllr Lafferty		<i>Sort out drainage issue. Ensure ongoing checking of equipment and play area.</i>
Speedwatch equipment	Cllr Lafferty		<i>Fix owned camera and utilise within village on permanent basis</i>
Lengthsman	Cllr Bartlett		<i>Ongoing planning of work.</i>

Bus maintenance	Shelter	Cllr Lafferty/Cllr Cheesman		<i>Review roof of shelters and re paint</i>
Review of salt bins		Cllr Cheesman		<i>Look at state of bins and if any need replacing, and if need cleaning/re-filling.</i>
Foliage management at Digby Way		Cllr Bartlett		<i>Look at improving visibility for cyclists and road users on the roundabout. ASAP using Lengthsmen. Look at Pedestrian Signage.</i>
Footpath		Cllr Bartlett		<i>Make up footpath from church to Farnham road junction. And alongside the village green. Look at using probation service. Also consider lengthsmen.</i>
Footpath		Cllr Bartlett		<i>Clear all footpaths so minimum walking area is available to pedestrians. Note : footpath to Snailing lane and to ham barn roundabout.</i>
Maintenance of Footpaths and bridlepaths		Cllr Bartlett		<i>Ongoing maintenance during summer months. Ask Sue Booton, Sue Godby and other residents to report on specific footpaths.</i>
Longmoor Bridge				<i>Maintenance and Painting.</i>
Village Green Posts		Cllr Lafferty/Cllr Cheesman		<i>Replace all posts around the village green. Clerk to source costs for Ash posts.</i>
Quick Wins				
Speedwatch		Cllr Lafferty/Cllr Bartlett		<i>Review locations of speed camera. Find volunteers to run village speedwatch sessions.</i>
G15				<i>Reviewed for new parish council</i>
Councillor Drop In		All		<i>Look to hold in April. Consider 12th if available. 10 – 12.</i>
Telephone box		Cllr Lafferty		<i>Concrete base to be organised. Windows to be installed.</i>
Wildflowers		Cllr Rudd		<i>Look at creating Wildflower and pollinator corridors in the village.</i>
Village Footpath & Ecology Signboards/Gateways		Cllr Bartlett	S106	<i>Find out where we are and get production moving.</i>
Old Church Strategy		Cllr Bartlett		<i>Book meeting with old church working group.</i>
Flood alleviation		Cllr Lafferty		<i>Work to be done on the river to reduce chance of flooding.</i>
Parking issues with school run		Cllr Cheesman/Cllr Rudd		<i>Review options to improve village access at peak times. HCC follow up and parking enforcement – Cllr Bartlett.</i>
Bakers field Parking				<i>Review issues and look at resolution options</i>
Old Church laurel hedge		Cllr Bartlett		<i>To agree actions regarding stumps of laurels that have been sprouting on bank. To agree boundary with L'Abri.</i>
Christmas tree		Cllr Bartlett		<i>Are we having one? Location? Power? Look to secure permanent site. Raised bed to be created.</i>
Litter pick		Cllr Bartlett		<i>Litter pick all areas currently in need to clearance : Forest Road, Petersfield Road, Selbourne Road to Snailing Lane, Farnham road to ham barn roundabout. Encourage support at Drop in to support Green Week</i>
Cove Homes Update		Cllr Bartlett		<i>Member of cove homes to visit parish council meeting and update on plans. Suggest attendance at March/April meeting.</i>

Budget Review	Cllr Lafferty/Cllr Bartlett		<i>Ongoing financial planning.</i>
Major Initiatives			
Cycle route from Greatham to Liss			<i>Utilise plans from previous parish council to see if route possible and look at finance.</i>
Old Church power and light	Cllr Bartlett		<i>Review option of having power and light installed at old church to allow for greater usage to be made of site to aid with cost of maintenance.</i>
Traffic calming initiatives	Cllr Lafferty/Cllr Bartlett		<i>Follow up with HCC regarding crossing, Farnham road junction works, traffic calming options. Consider planters.</i>
150 th celebration of St Johns church	Cllr Rudd		<i>Agree what the parish council will do to note this event. Look at funding a new noticeboard – Cllr Bartlett to source.</i>
Other Initiatives			
Community Hub engagement			
Recruitment of RFO and Clerk			
War Memorial – Post/Chain at front of memorial. Flower border to surround. Look at Funding options.			
Gift for Ven. Peter Sutton to Thank for his service : Cllr Bartlett to review option of print of painting of old church.			

Appendix 8 : Community Hub

Update from the Greatham Community Hub Action Group The members of the Action Group visited more than 12 community hubs in the area and shared a selection of these at the two consultation events in January. The Action Group were very encouraged by the excellent turnout at these meetings, which were attended by approximately 100 people over the two dates. We had lots of very useful feedback from the people who came along that will form the basis of a wider survey which will be going out in the next couple of months.

We note that the petition for a community shop/café now has over 500 signatories

Members of the Action Group are Sue Godby, Helenka Vedna, Kay Henrie, Zoe Coltart, Emily McCubbin and Helen Perry. For enquiries please contact Sue or Zoe for any questions or offers of help! sue.godby@sky.com or zoe_p@hotmail.com

We will be keeping everyone informed via the Parish magazine as well as providing regular updates to GVH and the Parish Council