

Greatham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday April 2025, 7.30 pm

Present Cllr R. Lafferty (Chair), Cllr SJ Bartlett (clerk), Cllr C Rudd, Cllr Cheesman

Also present : 9 residents

25.01 : Chairman's Announcement : The first two agenda items will be moved to the May 2025 Annual General Meeting, following advice from a fellow Liss councillor.

25.02 : Apologies for Absence : Cllr R Oppenheimer, Cllr K Mitchell, Cllr M Steevens, Cllr S Pond.

25.03 :Declarations of Interest : None

25.04 :Approval of Minutes: It was **RESOLVED** to approve minutes from the council meeting held on 12th March 2025.

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

- The council will look to obtain CIL funding to support the ongoing traffic calming measures that they wish to install.
- The clerk will chase up a response from Traffic Enforcement and Cllr R. Oppenheimer regarding parking issues linked to the school.

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

- An email was received from Cllr Mitchell and read to the meeting.

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

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

- A comment was made about the placement of the road closure signage at the junction of Longmoor Road and Petersfield Road and that several near misses have occurred given the limited space for vehicle access turning off the main road onto the subsidiary road. The Chair agreed this is an issue and was going to talk to the contractors about the signage.
- The council were asked what the Precept increase was for this year. The clerk stated it was a little over 8%.
- A comment was made regarding abusive people in the village hall car park. A dog walker was berated by someone, thought to be a parent dropping off a child at school, for having their dog off the lead. They pointed out it was a public space. The Chair pointed out that this should be addressed to and by the Village Hall Committee.
- A question was asked about where is the Enterprise Park on Longmoor Road. It was explained that the old Apple Pie Depot has been renamed by the new owners.
- A question was asked about the Greatham Allotment Charity and if the parish council are going to seek a replacement for Rev Kate who had to step down. Cllr Rudd commented that we do now need to seek to replace her as she is no longer able to stand. This will be advertised and added to the agenda for the May meeting.

Meeting reconvened

25.09 : Parish Council Finances/Administration:

- a) **Payment Schedule:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule. (Appendix 4).

- b) **Finance Report:** To note the Finance Report for March 2025. The Bank reconciliations for this month will be produced and signed in the May meeting.
- c. **Council Insurance :** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the renewal of the council insurance with Zurich based on their quote of £1002.23. This is a small increase from 2024 and was considered reasonable. **Proposed by : Cllr Lafferty and seconded by Cllr Rudd.**
- d. **Clerks Report (Appendix 6)**
- Cllr Bartlett was the only person available to litter pick on the 22nd March and worked along the trench on Forest Road.
 - No Councillor was available on the 5th April, but it was noticed that two people were litter picking the main road to Ham barn roundabout. The council would like to thank the people that spent time clearing this area.
 - It was requested that Posters be produced with future litter pick dates, and dates shown on the parish website rather than just promoted on Facebook. The next dates will be during the week to see if that is easier for people to help. Wednesday 16th April AM will be the next litter pick.

25.10 : Planning Applications :

The Chair commented that he had taken advice from Cllr Pond who had reviewed all of the planning applications presented at the meeting, and whilst she could not attend had offered her comments.

- **Cove Construction :** It was **RESOLVED** to offer No Objection to this planning application subject to the approval of the Arboricultural report from EHDC. **Proposed by Cllr Lafferty and seconded by Cllr Cheesman.**
- **BGO Moor Propco Limited :** It was **RESOLVED** to offer No Objection to this planning application in principle, however the council did express a concern regarding the light intensity of the totem at night. It was requested that consideration is given to the SDNP dark skies policy. **Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Cheesman.**
- **The Old Coach House :** It was **RESOLVED** to offer No Objection to this planning application subject to the approval of the arboricultural report from EHDC. **Proposed by Cllr Lafferty and seconded by Cllr Rudd.**

25.11 : Reports from other organisations and outside bodies :

- **Community Hub :** See appendix 7 for update. There is a survey currently underway, and responses are being sought. Once the results have been analysed they will be presented to the wider community.
- **PCC :** A very successful quiz night was held in the village hall. Upcoming events are a Fete with model railway and dog show. The committee is working on the Parish Profile which will soon be finalised. The Oaks are going to hire the parish hall once a week, which will help with meeting the running costs of the church.
- **Greatham Village Hall :** The Bike rack is ordered. A children's scooter hub is going to be installed. Consideration will be given to closing the village car park at certain times to reduce the issues with school parking. Re-decoration of the ladies lavatories and repairs will be carried out, along with a rolling program of works around the village hall spaces. The In-post is still not working but it is hoped that this will soon be resolved.
- **Greatham Old Church :** The meeting was advised of an issue arisen between the parish council and the management of L'Abri regarding the mound delineating the graveyard and the path to the manor. The clerk will write to the owners of the Manor house, and seek advice from Portsmouth Diocese and English Heritage.

25.12 : Annual Meeting Date : The meeting date will be fixed as 14th May 2025.

25.13 : Annual Parish Meeting date : The meeting will be fixed for Saturday 31st May subject to the Village Hall confirming availability. It is hoped that Gregory Stafford MP will attend as the guest speaker, and we are waiting on his confirmation.

25.14 : Future Parish Council Meetings : It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following dates for the next 12 months parish council meetings. **Proposed by Cllr Bartlett and seconded by Cllr Lafferty.**

14th May 2025, 1st June 2025, 9th July 2025, 10th September 2025, 8th October 2025, 12th November 2025, 10th December 2025, 14th January 2026, 11th February 2026, and 11th March 2026.

25.15 : Agenda Items for next meeting :

- Review and approve the end of year accounts for the last fiscal year.
- Review the first draft of the AGAR.
- Review and discuss the Internal audit information.
- Elect a member of the Greatham Allotment Charity.

24.212 : The Date of the next meeting : 14th May 2025 @ 7.30 pm

24.218: The meeting closed at 21.35

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Appendix 1 : Matters Arising

- Dates of devolution meetings provided on Facebook.
- Cove development traffic direction of travel explained during the meeting.
- Traffic Calming measures are constantly under review, and assessment. Cost of implementation to be sought and funding options considered.
- Wooden posts surrounding the village green to be replaced. Clerk to seek quotes and schedule of works. Consideration for inclusion of dragons teeth posts for verge on left as you exit church lane.
- School parking issues under review. Clerk to chase traffic enforcement update.

Appendix 2 : Report from District Councillors

- Last week we had the launch of the new library at Greatham School which was lovely and which three of us councillors helped to fund. Please remember that we have our councillor grants now and that they are double this year, please let us know if there is anything that you would like us to consider for funding.

Appendix 3 : Report from County Councillor

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT TO ALL PARISH COUNCILS IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 APRIL 2025

1. Retirement of HCC Chief Executive

HCC Chief Executive Carolyn Williamson has announced her retirement after four years in the role. She will depart HCC in July. A selection process to recruit her replacement will commence in the coming weeks. This is likely to be a crucial appointment coming as it does at a time of transition for local government in Hampshire.

2. Future Services Consultation on possible changes

In order to bridge our budget gap, HCC is currently consulting on some service changes. I thought it would be appropriate to report on them. Here is a brief summary of the savings proposals:

Planned highway maintenance

This withdrawal of funding is possible due to an increase in National funding of £15.2m. The proposal is to remove £4.32m funding provided each year by the County Council to supplement Department for Transport funding for planned highway maintenance activities including larger-scale structural repairs, surface treatments on roads, and drainage improvements.

Older Adults Day Services

The proposal is for HCC Care and Support Service to stop running the older adult day care services at Chesil Lodge (Winchester), and Newman Court (Basingstoke). These day care services provide a range of individual and group activities (e.g. crafts, exercise, singing) together with personal care.

Post-16 Transport

- To focus the County Council's resources on those most in need, by amending the eligibility criteria for Post-16 transport assistance so that the County Council would only assist with travel for Post-16 students with special educational needs or a disability, and who are from a low-income family.
- To make Post-16 Transport provision more sustainable in the long-term by requiring all families of students who receive County Council-provided Post-16 transport assistance to contribute to the costs of transport for their child.
- To support SEND students to develop their independent travel skills by introducing mandatory Independent Travel Training (ITT) for some Post-16 students.
- To make Post-16 Transport provision more sustainable in the long-term by requiring parents/carers/responsible adults to act as a Passenger Assistant where it is reasonable for them to do so.

Both School Transport and Post-16 Transport

- To reduce the number of unused seats by utilising bus pass usage data.
- To increase flexibility to meet short-term variations in demand by using the full licensed capacity of buses.
- To make discretionary transport more viable by asking parents to increase their financial contribution towards the cost of the transport.
- To promote the most independent forms of transport assistance.

The service change proposals outlined within the consultation would contribute around £9.9 million in total towards balancing the budget for 2025/26 while ensuring that the delivery of essential services is maintained.

If you would like to respond to the consultation, you can do so until 7 May at this link:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/future-services-consultation-spring-2025>

3. Consultation on new layout for junction

HCC has commenced a formal consultation on a new layout for the Causeway/Sussex Road/Hylton Road/Dragon Street junction, also known locally as the “Tesco junction”.

As well as making it easier for everyone to cross the road, we also hope that this crossing will have a traffic-calming effect.

A Public Notice was published on 21 March and representations can be made until 18 April.

More information is available at this link to the scheme web page:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/petersfield-dragon-street>

4. HCC enters Purdah due to by-elections

Due to the resignation of sitting councillors Dominic Hiscox and Adrian Collett, by-elections have been triggered for two County Divisions. They are Winchester Eastgate and Yateley East & Blackwater Electoral Divisions.

This means that HCC is now in Purdah and consequently will not make any substantial announcements until the by-elections have taken place on Thursday 1 May. This may mean that there is not anything meaningful for me to report in my next monthly report but let's see.

5. Easter activity QE Country Park

Queen Elizabeth Country Park has organised an Easter trail for kids called the “Big Butser Egg Roll” Trail. For £6 you get a pack including a trail guide, a pack of pencils, a springtime craft to take home, and a rubber egg to decorate. The idea is that you throw the rubber egg up Butser Hill, see how far it goes, and then watch it roll down. The trail will be in place from 5-21 April. Tickets can be purchased online here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryparks/qecp/visit-us/whatson/the-big-butser-egg-roll-2025>

6. South Downs celebrates its 15th birthday



The South Downs National Park is marking its 15th birthday by announcing a major upcoming consultation that will help decide future priorities.

The South Downs National Park came into being on 31 March, 2010 after first being mooted in the 1920s. Fifteen years on, a great deal has been achieved for nature, climate and communities.

Yet there's still so much more to be done to protect and enhance the landscape, as well as create opportunities for people to enjoy it, all while facing growing challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, water pollution and economic uncertainty.

A public consultation will run from June to August on a new draft 5-year Partnership Management Plan, which is an overarching plan setting out the goals for the National Park over the next five years. It will replace the current Partnership Management Plan.

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Appendix 4 : Payment Schedule

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net Total	Vat	Total
07/04/2025	Reg White	St Johns Churchyard maintenance	168.00	0.00	168.00
04/04/2025	Greatham village Hall	Booking 12/03/25 & 18/03/25	15.00	0.00	15.00
07/04/2025	Giff Gaff	Mobile phone charges	5.00	1.00	6.00
01/04/25	Disking	Monthly support and m/soft subscriptions. Paid by DD	63.97	12.79	76.76
25/03/2025	Zurich Municipal	Insurance Cover	894.85	107.38	1002.23

Appendix 5 : Finance Report and Bank Reconciliations

Receipts 1st March to 31st March 2025

Total Receipts **£168.08**

Balances as at 31st March 2025

Current Account £11,907.73

Deposit Account £26,864.23

Total at Bank **£38,771.96**

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 **£26,401.96 (Total at Bank less Earmarked funds)**

Appendix 6 : Clerks Report

- Carried out Litter pick on Saturday 22nd March on Forest Road. No one else attended the session.
- Dads been in hospital unexpectedly since 23rd March so difficult to do much clerking work.

Appendix 7 : Community Hub Update

Greatham Community Hub Update for GVH meeting April

The survey was sent out in the April Parish magazine to all Greatham residents; the Action Group are very keen to get as many responses from people living in the village as well as those who use other services in Greatham or would be potential customers.

For additional copies of the paper survey or to contact the Action Group us please email greathamhub@gmail.com

The Action group members have so far been funding initial expenses ourselves, so we are hoping to gain some seed funding and are in the process of creating a more formalised body, which will be a Community Benefit Society.

Once we have the survey results, we will be producing a report and proposal which will be shared with all stakeholders.

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