

Greatham Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
Greatham Village Hall
Wednesday February 11th 2026 at 7.30 pm

Present Cllr C Rudd (Chair), Cllr SJ Bartlett (Clerk), Cllr S Pond, Cllr A Cheesman

Also present : 6 Residents, & Cllr Russell Oppenheimer (part)

26.16: Chairman's Announcement: Cllr Rudd explained that Cllr Lafferty had sent his apologies as he was stuck in London with work, and would try and make part of the meeting if possible. In his absence Cllr Rudd as Vice Chair will run the meeting.

26.17: Apologies for Absence: Cllr R Lafferty, Cllr M Steevens, and Cllr K Mitchell.

26.18: Declarations of Interest: None to note.

26.19: Approval of Minutes: It was **RESOLVED** to approve minutes from the council meeting held on 14th January 2026. **Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Pond.**

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

- As per appendices.

26.21 : Report from District Councillors: Report from Cllr Mitchell/Cllr Steevens

- There is a small amount of budget left available to relevant projects.
- Cllr Mitchell is talking to BT about the school using their land adjacent to the school property for their forest school.
- They continue to support the community hub.

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

- Cllr Oppenheimer apologized for the state of the roads at present with the number of pot holes. The volume of rain has severely hampered repairs over the winter months. Additional resource has been put towards supporting this work.
- Anyone can report pot holes, so please do, and if any are very serious please do email Cllr Oppenheimer directly.
- Cllr Oppenheimer advised that he will not be standing for re-election in May 2026, and suggested it might be interesting to invite all the candidates standing to attend a meeting to introduce themselves.
- A question was asked about the signage at the Old Apple Pie Depot regarding the road narrowing. Mike Snelling was asked to email Cllr Oppenheimer with the exact location of the issue.
- A question was asked about using cones to mark the very dangerous pot holes in the village. Cllr Oppenheimer thought that it is possible for the council to put out their own cones.

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

- Is it possible to have bleed kits provided alongside the Defib units within the village?
- GPC Comment : We can look at the options available and if suitable locations can be found.
- Waste bins at the bus stops by the pub are showing wear and tear and the bottoms are starting to come lose.
- GPC Comment : Cllr Cheesman will review and advise action at next meeting.
- It was requested that a report from the Coryton Almshouses be provided to the parish council to use at the annual parish meeting.
- GPC Comment : A report will be requested.
- There have been issues with Lorries delivering to Cove Homes site parking in the road at the pinch points close to the school. Is it possible to have this marshalled in the mornings for early deliveries.
- GPC comment : An email will be sent to Cove Homes requesting effective management of the lorries.

Meeting reconvened

26.24: Parish Council Finances/Administration:

- a. **Payment Schedule:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule. **Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Cheesman.** (Appendix 4). A request was made that all the decimal points to aligned to make reading the document easier.
- b. **Finance Report:** To note the Finance Report for January 2025. (Appendix 5) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and accept the bank reconciliation for December 2025. **Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Cheesman.** It was noted that monies have been collected in donations to the old church that need to be banked.
- c. **Clerks Report** (Appendix 6)
- d. **Review of statutory Documents :** Cllr Pond, Cllr Cheesman and Cllr Bartlett all advised their Register of Interests had not changed. Cllr Lafferty was not at the meeting so the Clerk will email him for a response. Cllr Rudd needs to amend her details and will do so with the Clerks assistance.

The Clerk and RFO will review the standing orders and the Financial documents between them and update the parish council on necessary changes.

26.25: Budget v Actual Spend 2025 - 2026 (Appendix 7)

- Spending needed to year end :
 - Bus Shelters basic work
 - Stream protection
 - Playground maintenance and inspection
 - Zip Wire Platform – age concerns / signage.
 - Footpath clearance 2/3 days.
- Simpler version of this document required for the March meeting. Showing cost centre budget and actual only.

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26.26 : Planning Applications

- **Pook Cottage** : A query was raised regarding the name of the property. According to the official planning application letter from EHDC it is as stated.
- After discussing the request the Parish Council have no objection to this application. **Proposed by Cllr Pond and seconded by Cllr Cheesman.**
- There was a planning application for review in the January 2026 meeting, however due to a Cllr being away for the meeting, another being called home due to family illness, and a third having declared an interest it was not possible to discuss the application as the meeting was not quorate. As a note to the meeting Cllr Pond explained that the request had been approved by EHDC on Monday 9th February 2026.

26.27 : Speed Indicator Device

- Cllr Lafferty was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments so this item was moved to the March 2026 meeting.

26.28 : Flag Pole on the village Green : Two quotes have been received. The parish council felt this was sufficient rather than the required three. The quotes will be reviewed at the March 2026 meeting, with a view to the work taking place during the summer of 2026.

26.29 : Annual Parish Meeting : The meeting date was agreed to be April 17th 2026. The meeting will start at 6.30 pm with Drinks and Nibbles for a meet and greet starting at 6 pm. The clerk will check that Cllr Lafferty, as chair, is available to attend the present at the meeting. Options for speakers are :

- Coryton Almshouses
- Greatham Amicable Charity
- Army to discuss closures to the walking areas.
- County Council candidates standing for election in the May 2026 elections if they would like to attend.
- Village Hall Update : Report or Speaker.
- Cove Homes update : Report or speaker.

26.30 : Reports from other organisations and outside bodies :

- **PCC :**
 - Quiz night on 28th February. There will be a fish and chip supper. Teams of 6. 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start.
 - The parish council will promote on their website.
- **Community Hub Action Group :**
 - The business plan is being finalised with a view to presenting to the village hall stakeholders in March 2026.

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- **The Old Church :**
 - A meeting of the working group will be held during March 2026. The clerk will invite all relevant parties.
 - There are ongoing issues with The Manor House and works being carried out without reference to the Parish Council.
- **The Greatham Allotment Charity :**
 - The advertisement for a new trustee will be created for the March issue of the parish magazine.

- **Cove Homes :**

Please see below a progress update regarding our works on the above site

- The demolition has been completed
- We have now started installing the roads and sewers
- Once the roads and sewers are complete we will start on the house foundations

Our Roads, sewer and groundworks contractor will be carrying out these works for the next 10-12 weeks.

Regarding the off site works the plan we are working towards is

- Monday 23rd March to Friday 17th April the company installing the electric supply for us will be working under traffic light control – the specific details of this is currently being discussed with Hampshire Highways, though the plan is all work in this 4 week period will be between Church Lane and the B3006.
- Monday 20th July to Friday 4th September the company installing the electric supply will complete their works and we will form our new entrance – the specific details of this is currently being discussed with Hampshire Highways.

Hopefully we aren't causing too much disruption – please let me know if you do have any concerns.

Once we get the off site works booked with Hampshire Highways we will update you.

26.31: Agenda Items for next meeting :

- **District Councillor update regarding new primary school in Bordon.**
- **Speed indicator device**
- **Council Year End**
- **Budget from April 2026**
- **Bus stop bin replacement due to wear.**

26.32: The Date of the next meeting: 11th March 2026 @ 7.30 pm

26.33: The meeting closed at 21.10

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Signed (Chairman)

Date

Appendix 1 : Matters Arising

- The parish council reviewed the options to comment on the local government re-organization but found the consultation had been closed.
- Cllr Lafferty spoke with the equestrian center regarding the use of the horses on the footpath. He will also request a new sign from the MOD to denote the footpath status.
- Cllr Lafferty is yet to have an answer regarding the parking infringement.

Appendix 2 : District Councillors Report

Nothing Received.

Appendix 3 : County Councillors Report

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

1 FEBRUARY 2026

1. Highways maintenance update

I am acutely aware that the state of our roads is bad at the moment, and that residents are upset by it. I drive to various places in my car every day and so I share the frustration. I wish to assure you that the problems we are seeing are not the result of a lack of focus by Hampshire County Council. The main culprits are: increasingly extreme weather, heavier vehicles and rampant materials inflation over the last five years. Of course, the funding crisis in local government caused by escalating care costs and escalating special educational needs costs has played a key part. We are 100% reliant on the Highways funding we get from central Government, which is totally inadequate. The experts tell us that it would cost £600m a year properly to restore and maintain Hampshire's roads. Yet we are actually in receipt of just £60m per year in Hampshire.

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Since Christmas, wintry and wet weather has hit our highway network particularly hard. The impacts of regular freeze–thaw cycles and persistent rain have accelerated road deterioration, leading to a significant surge in pothole reports and repair requests. This level of degradation leads to weakened road surfaces and the failure of the underlying layers. To tackle the damage and spike in demand, the Highways Team, working closely with our contractor M Group, have successfully secured extra supply-chain resources - and they have managed this despite a significant rise in demand for frontline resources nationally from other highway authorities.

Highways have extra Jet/Dragon Patchers already out on the Hampshire network with more due soon. In addition, extra carriageway patching gangs started on 12 January, and more are expected to join by the end of this month. Further resource increases are likely over the coming weeks. However, their work has been hampered by ongoing heavy rain and low temperatures. You cannot repair potholes when the road surface temperature is below 8 degrees or when it is raining heavily. We need to hope for a clear fortnight for the teams to really get a grip on it.

While dealing with potholes will remain the main focus over the coming months, the winter weather is also placing pressure on other parts of the network, especially drainage assets. To help manage the increase in flooding, there are also additional jetting machines available to respond to issues related to piped drainage systems. A team is also available to tackle other localised flooding problems. In addition, an extra white-lining team is now on the network addressing small, localised sites where markings have deteriorated.

In light of the increased demand, it is inevitable that some reported defects will need to be temporarily infilled to ensure road safety. Whilst permanent first-time repairs are always preferred, the level of demand is currently so high across Hampshire that infill repairs will need to be considered as a quick-fix for safety reasons while longer term permanent repairs are scheduled. Nobody likes infill repairs because they sometimes fail within days. But I trust the Highways engineers when they say that this is the best way to maintain safety for road users. They are the experts.

In summary, we are doing everything we can to bring our highways back to a safe and acceptable state as swiftly as possible. I appreciate your patience and I would be very grateful for your help with explaining the situation to residents.

2. May 2026 elections.

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As you know, Hampshire County Council refused to request a delay to elections despite pressure from Ministers to do so. I am proud of our principled stance. Thankfully, the Government has not imposed a delay on Hampshire so the May elections are proceeding.

Town and Parish Councils may wish to consider organising village hustings for candidates in April so that residents can hear directly from the candidates. This can be an important and helpful part of local democracy.

3. County Councillor grants

I wish to draw attention to a change to the rules around County Councillor grants to Parish Councils. Recently, a grant which I had approved to Ropley PC was caught by this rule and rejected by officers. This was vexing for me and even more vexing for Ropley PC.

The rule quoted at me by the Grants Team was this one:

iv) Grants will continue to be available for Parish Councils, however grants should not support normal business operation or projects that can be revenue funded (including through precepts) or funded through alternative sources like the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Please could I ask Town and Parish Councils to be mindful of this constraint when making applications in the future. We may need to check with the Grants team in advance which I can always do.

4. New Partnership Management Plan for South Downs National Park

The SDNPA have published their new 5-year management plan covering the period 2026-2031. This is a key document for the National Park and is a requirement of the National Parks legislation. I was interested to note a shift towards nature recovery which I think is welcome.

A range of ambitious targets have been agreed, including increasing tree canopy and woodland cover by 4,200 football pitches (2,625 hectares) by 2031 to help store carbon, soak up water and create vital new havens for wildlife.

A goal of restoring or creating more than 3,300 hectares of wildlife-rich habitats by 2031 has been agreed – an area the size of Worthing or Hayling Island. These new havens are outside current protected nature sites and will help significantly boost regional biodiversity in the long-term and increase resilience to higher temperatures and flooding.

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Meanwhile, a key goal is that all water bodies in the National Park achieve “high” or “good” status by the end of 2027. It comes after a major study last year showed that most bodies of water are failing to meet good ecological standards.

The Plan also commits to engaging with 2,500 schools, inside and outside the National Park, and delivering 500 nature-based activity sessions for young people. I do not think any of us would argue with that one.

The plan is for the whole National Park and it can only be delivered in partnership with farmers, landowners, local authorities, the health sector, water companies, businesses, schools, charities and communities. There is an important role for Parish Councils in identifying areas for nature recovery and getting plans in place for designating those areas and restoring them through planting and other measures.

You can read the full plan at this link:

<https://partnership-management-plan.southdowns.gov.uk/>

RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER
County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Appendix 4 : Payments 1st January 2026 to 31st January 2026

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net Total	Vat	Total
02/01/2026	Disking	IT/website	69.70	13.94	83.64
21/01/2026	Mathew Wright	Christmas tree disposal	100.00	0	100.00
21/01/2026	SJ Bartlett	Reimburse for Xmas tree licence	108.40	0	108.40
21/01/2026	Greatham VH	Hall hire	10.00	0	10.00
30/01/2026	Giff Gaff	Mobile phone contract	80.00	0	80.00
30/01/2026	RFO	Salary	340.62	0	340.62
31/01/2026	Unity Bank	Bank Charge	6.00	0	6.00
		Invoice to pay			
08/01/2026	Eibe Play Ltd	Zip wire repairs	3775.34	755.07	4530.41
05/02/2026	Greatham VH	Hall Hire	10.00	0	10.00

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Summary of Receipts and Payments

All Cost Centres and Codes

7 February 2026 (2025-2026)

Earmarked Reserves

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
26	EMR Trees				900.00	900.00	900.00 (100%)	
27	EMR Community Engagement				250.00	250.00	250.00 (100%)	
28	EMR NDP						(N/A)	
29	EMR Elections				1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00 (100%)	
30	EMR CFI						(N/A)	
31	EMR S106						(N/A)	
32	EMR Grants						(N/A)	
33	EMR CIL + £2K Grants (old chu				1,720.00	1,720.00	1,720.00 (100%)	
34	EMR Telephone Box				850.00	447.32	402.68 (47%)	
42	EMR King's Coronation				500.00	500.00	500.00 (100%)	
43	EMR Old Church				2,500.00	1,344.00	1,156.00 (46%)	
44	EMR Defibrillator Maintenance				150.00	150.00	150.00 (100%)	
45	EMR Bus Shelters				250.00	250.00	250.00 (100%)	
SUB TOTAL					8,620.00	1,791.32	6,828.68 (79%)	

Equipment & Repairs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
10	Repairs & Maintenance				1,000.00	100.00	900.00 (90%)	
11	Equipment Purchase				350.00	416.66	-66.66 (-19%)	
12	SLR				350.00	295.30	54.70 (15%)	
SUB TOTAL					1,700.00	811.96	888.04 (52%)	

Grants

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
14	Grant Allocation		900.00	900.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,900.00 (190%)	
SUB TOTAL			900.00	900.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,900.00 (190%)	

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Insurance & Fees

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
15	Subscriptions & Fees				1,500.00	452.00	1,048.00	1,048.00 (69%)
16	External Auditor				450.00	315.00	135.00	135.00 (30%)
17	Internal Auditor				450.00	450.00		(0%)
18	Insurance				1,000.00	894.85	105.15	105.15 (10%)
SUB TOTAL					3,400.00	2,111.85	1,288.15	1,288.15 (37%)

Meeting Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
8	Room Hire				100.00	92.50	7.50	7.50 (7%)
46	APM Costs					52.10	-52.10	-52.10 (N/A)
54	Printing costs					21.66	-21.66	-21.66 (N/A)
SUB TOTAL					100.00	166.26	-66.26	-66.26 (-66%)

Other Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
24	VAT Payments		12,977.46	12,977.46		531.97	-531.97	12,445.49 (N/A)
25	Bank Charges				100.00	60.00	40.00	40.00 (40%)
50	Mobile Phone					41.00	-41.00	-41.00 (N/A)
51	Xmas Tree					550.42	-550.42	-550.42 (N/A)
52	subscriptions					80.00	-80.00	-80.00 (N/A)
55	misc costs					6.50	-6.50	-6.50 (N/A)
SUB TOTAL			12,977.46	12,977.46	100.00	1,269.89	-1,169.89	11,807.57 (11807%)

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Outside Spaces

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position +/- Under/over spend
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	
19	Grass Cutting				2,000.00	980.00	1,020.00	1,020.00 (51%)
20	Maintenance / Lengthsman				4,000.00	1,470.00	2,530.00	2,530.00 (63%)
21	Play Inspection				400.00		400.00	400.00 (100%)
22	Playground				1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00 (100%)
23	Old Church				1,000.00	3,175.48	-2,175.48	-2,175.48 (-217%)
49	Footpath Clearance							(N/A)
53	outside spaces					49.26	-49.26	-49.26 (N/A)
SUB TOTAL					8,400.00	5,674.74	2,725.26	2,725.26 (32%)

Receipts

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position +/- Under/over spend
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	
35	Precept	25,000.00	25,000.00		25,000.00		25,000.00	25,000.00 (50%)
36	Bank Interest	400.00	460.14	60.14				60.14 (15%)
37	Grants	1,000.00		-1,000.00				-1,000.00 (-100%)
38	VAT Repayments							(N/A)
39	Other Income		20.00	20.00				20.00 (N/A)
40	Old Church Income	200.00		-200.00				-200.00 (-100%)
41	S106/CIL	400.00	701.88	301.88				301.88 (75%)
SUB TOTAL		27,000.00	26,182.02	-817.98	25,000.00		25,000.00	24,182.02 (46%)

Section 137

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position +/- Under/over spend
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	
13	Section 137 Payments							(N/A)
SUB TOTAL								(N/A)

Staff Costs

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position +/- Under/over spend
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	
1	Clerks Salary				6,000.00	340.62	5,659.38	5,659.38 (94%)
2	Travelling Costs				100.00		100.00	100.00 (100%)
3	Training Staff				140.00		140.00	140.00 (100%)
47	RFO Salart					2,384.34	-2,384.34	-2,384.34 (N/A)
48	Tax/NI					85.00	-85.00	-85.00 (N/A)
SUB TOTAL					6,240.00	2,809.96	3,430.04	3,430.04 (54%)

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Stationary & Printing

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
5	Printing Newsletters & Leaflets				250.00	75.00	175.00	175.00 (70%)
6	Stamps / Stationary				50.00		50.00	50.00 (100%)
7	Publications				50.00		50.00	50.00 (100%)
SUB TOTAL					350.00	75.00	275.00	275.00 (78%)

Training Councillors

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
4	Training Councillors				240.00		240.00	240.00 (100%)
SUB TOTAL					240.00		240.00	240.00 (100%)

Website / Email

Code	Title	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
		Budgeted	Actual	Variance	Budgeted	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
9	IT / Email / Website				1,050.00	879.90	170.10	170.10 (16%)
SUB TOTAL					1,050.00	879.90	170.10	170.10 (16%)

Summary

NET TOTAL	27,000.00	40,059.48	13,059.48	56,200.00	15,590.88	40,609.12	53,668.60
V.A.T.					1,523.41		
GROSS TOTAL		40,059.48			17,114.29		

Appendix 8 : Outside Bodies

Community Hub Update : We are putting the final touches to the business plan which we hope to share with the Village Hall trustees in March and then more widely with stakeholders including the Parish Council and residents.

Please send any questions to greathamhub@gmail.com