

Greatham Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
Greatham Village Hall
Wednesday January 14th 2026 at 7.30 pm

Present Cllr R Lafferty (Chair), Cllr C Rudd, Cllr S Pond, Cllr A Cheesman

Also present : 8 Residents.

26.1: Chairman's Announcement: Cllr Lafferty accepted the apologies of Cllr Cheesman having heard that his mother had taken ill and needed an ambulance, and he left just before the meeting started. He thanked all residents that had taken part with erecting the village Christmas tree, and also taking it down on twelfth night, including Ollie Rook, Adam Payne, Mike Snelling, and Cllr Bartlett. And was pleased to wish all residents a very Happy New Year.

26.2: Apologies for Absence: Cllr R Oppenheimer, Cllr M Steevens, and Cllr K Mitchell.

26.3: Declarations of Interest: Cllr C Rudd declared an interest in the planning application for Sharon, Longmoor Road, as done in previous meeting.

26.4: Approval of Minutes: It was **RESOLVED** to approve minutes from the council meeting held on 10th December 2025. **Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Pond.**

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

- As per appendices.

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

- None Received.

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

- As per attached report, which was summarized by Cllr Lafferty.

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

- A question was asked about whether the parish council were going to comment publicly on the website for the local government re-organization consultation.
- GPC Comment : The parish council were happy to make the following statement and will request that the clerk actions : To state that the parish council wish that the normal democratic process should continue regarding elections for parish and town councils in May 2027. **Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Lafferty.**
- A question was asked about the footpath by the rugby pitch opposite the houses in Longmoor Road. It is being churned up by horses, although they have no right to use the footpath. Cllr Lafferty to follow up.
- A question was asked about the status of the old Apple Pie Depot.

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- GPC Comment : no information has been received about the site. It sits within the parish of Whitehill, and the District Councillors may have information.
- A question was asked about parking infringements on Longmoor Road and Bakers Field corners. Cllr Lafferty will follow up.

Meeting reconvened

26.9: Parish Council Finances/Administration:

- a. **Payment Schedule:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payment schedule. **Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Lafferty.** (Appendix 4).
- b. **Finance Report:** To note the Finance Report for December 2025. (Appendix 5) It was **RESOLVED** to approve and accept the bank reconciliation for December 2025. **Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Lafferty.**
- c. **Clerks Report** (Appendix 6)

26.10: Budget 2026 – 2027 (Appendix 7)

- Item to be deferred to February 2026 meeting.

26.11 : Planning Applications

- **Sharon, Longmoor Road.** Cllr Pond highlighted a point of order that as Cllr Rudd had declared an interest, the meeting was not quorate to discuss this application, or to comment on the portal.
- **Hill View, Petersfield Road.** No objection subject to all demolition works having been undertaken following due planning rules and no enforcement notices being breached. **Proposed by Cllr Lafferty and seconded by Cllr Rudd.**

26.12 : Project List Update

- Cllr Lafferty reviewed the list and advised where projects were ongoing.

26.13 : Reports from other organisations and outside bodies :

- **PCC :**
 - Quiz night on 28th February.
- **Greatham Village Hall :**
 - Problem discovered with the roof of the village hall, which will be discussed at the next village hall committee meeting.
- **Community Hub Action Group :**
 - No update received.

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- **The Old Church :**
 - No report received.
- **The Greatham Allotment Charity :**
 - A new cooker and saucepans have been provided to a resident.

26.14: Agenda Items for next meeting :

- **Budget v Actual Spend**
- **Speed indicator device**

26.14: The Date of the next meeting: 11th February 2026 @ 7.30 pm

26.15: The meeting closed at 20.58

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Appendix 1 : Matters Arising

- Potential work for the post and chain at St Johns was to be discussed at the January meeting but will now be moved to February 2026, and linked with the war memorial remedial works.
- Quotes are being obtained for the Old Church remedial works.

Appendix 2 : District Councillors Report

Appendix 3 : County Councillor Report

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT
TO
ALL PARISH COUNCILS
IN PETERSFIELD HANGERS

2 JANUARY 2026

Happy New Year to you. I hope you all had a joyous and restful Christmas.

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1. Government currently consulting on May 2026 elections.

The Labour Government has invited Hampshire County Council to make formal representations regarding the capacity constraints which the May 2026 elections could create, and the potential impact of those constraints on the progress of local government reform in Hampshire.

My view and the view of the Leader of HCC is that democracy is far more important than administrative convenience, so elections should go ahead this May. A Full Council meeting and a Cabinet meeting has been hastily scheduled for the next two weeks to debate and agree our position. Our general view is that the Government has created this problematic situation, and so Ministers themselves should take a decision about the elections.

In any case, Councillors are inherently conflicted when it comes to any decision to extend their current term. I note that the Electoral Commission agrees with this point. I thought this was rather a good statement from their Chief Executive:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media-centre/electoral-commission-responds-potential-election-postponements>

Finally a reminder that the deadline for the Government's LGR consultation is 11 January. If you have not already done so, please take 15 minutes to respond to the consultation at this link:

[Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space](#)

2. Enhancement to Connect to Support website

To meet our statutory duties, the County Council provides information and advice for families, young people, and those with special needs. This advice has hitherto included the Families Information and Services Hub (FISH) and the Local Offer. In order to streamline our web presence for the benefit of residents, I would like to let you know that both FISH and the Local Offer have now moved to the Connect to Support Hampshire (CTSH) website.

The website is managed by HCC to meet statutory requirements under the Care Act 2014 and will now serve as an **all-age information hub** for care and support, offering one website for residents and professionals to access information regardless of age, rather than different locations as previously. You can access the website via this link: [Connect to Support Hampshire](#).

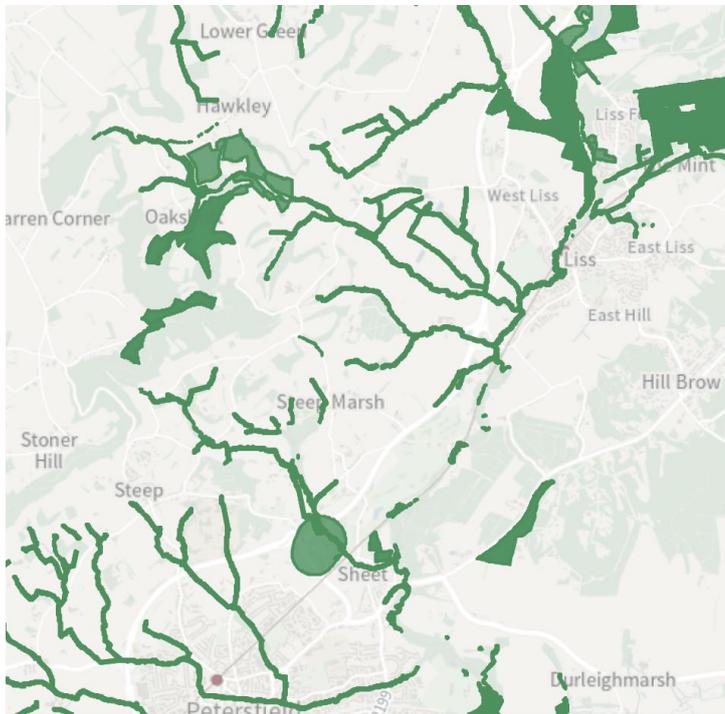
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3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire published

You may recall that HCC consulted on its Nature Recovery Strategy last year. On 8 December 2025, HCC published its final Strategy. The plan aims to restore nature, protect precious habitats, and create more opportunities for people to connect with the outdoors. This new strategy brings together expertise from organisations and authorities across the region and sets out practical steps for how Hampshire can ensure a minimum of 30% of land and sea is secured for biodiversity by 2030.

To achieve these shared goals, everyone needs to keep playing their part in nature recovery. This strategy sets out how, together, we can protect and enhance our natural environment. The strategy has been designed to help guide land use choices, inform planning decisions, and encourage investment in nature-based solutions to wider environmental challenges such as climate change and flooding.

The Strategy introduces a new acronym of “ACB’s”, which stands for: **Areas that Could Become** of Particular Importance for Biodiversity. We seem to have quite a lot of ACBs in Petersfield Hangers. I have pasted the ACB map for our area below.



The full strategy is available to read here:

[Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire | Environment | Hampshire County Council](#)

4. Update: Love Lane Space for Nature

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You may have noticed this attractive natural bench which is now installed at the Love Lane space for Nature. This bench was donated by a resident of Love Lane who was selling her house and no longer needed the carved oak bench. The carved wooden bench is incredibly heavy; I actually did not think that the Hampshire Monday Group would be able to get it across the road and up onto the bank. But somehow they managed it – there is seemingly no challenge they cannot meet.



I continue to chase Hampshire Highways regarding the pile of rubble. I have been promised that it will be cleared several times. I will keep chasing until it is gone.

Following the clearing of laurel and scrub, the copse is going to take some time to re-establish. I have sprinkled some wildflower seeds around the steep areas where people cannot easily walk, so there is chance of them sprouting. It will be interesting to see what comes up in the Spring.



RUSSELL OPPENHEIMER

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County Councillor for Petersfield Hangers

Appendix 4 : Payment Schedule

Payments 1st December 2025 to 31st December 2025

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net Total	Vat	Total
01/12/2025	Disking	IT/website	69.70	13.94	83.64
01/12/2025	GiffGaff	Mobile phone contract	5.00	1.00	6.00
01/12/2025	RFO	Salary	340.62	0	340.62
04/12/2025	Rother Projects	Christmas Tree	280.00	0	280.00
04/12/2025	SLCC	Membership fee	80.00	0	80.00
16/12/2025	SJ Bartlett	*see breakdown below			243.63
16/12/2025	AP Carpentry	Sign for St John Church	1947.79	0	1947.79
16/12/2025	Reg White	Old Church Maintenance	168.00	0	168.00
30/12/2025	Giff Gaff	Mobile phone contract	5.00	1.00	6.00
30/12/2025	RFO	Salary	340.62	0	340.62
31/12/2025	Unity Bank	Bank Charge	6.00	0	6.00
		*Flower Bulbs	49.26	9.85	59.11
		Photocopies	21.66	4.34	26.00
14/11/25	Vista vision	Thank you card for Reg			2.60
14/11/25	U-D-DIY	Bungie for wreaths			3.90
17/11/2025	Peta Print	Printing Flyers for carols	75.00	15.00	90.00
05/12/2025	Robert Dyas	Baubles for Village Christmas Tree	12.72	2.55	15.27
06/12/2025	Tesco	Food & Drink for carols			46.75
		Invoice to pay			
07/01/2026	SJ Bartlett	Licence for xmas tree	108.40	0	108.40
07/01/2026	Greatham VH	Hall Hire for 10/12/25	10.00	0	10.00
10/12/25	Peta print	Meeting Photocopies			4.40
04/12/25	Reg White	Work at St Johns			168.00
09/01/2026	Wright Gardening services	Disposal of Christmas Tree			100.00

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Appendix 5 : Finance Report and Bank Reconciliations

Receipts 1st December to 31st December 2025

Total Receipts : £1049.76

Balances as at 31st December 2025

Current Account £35,047.44

Deposit Account £27,324.37

Total at Bank £62,371.81

Appendix 6 : Clerks Report

- Attended the GPC Christmas meal, which was organised by Cllr Cheesman at the Temple Inn. Each Councillor paid their own bill.
- Kept a watch on the River level during the recent high rain fall, in case of flooding.
- Chased up repair works on the playground Zip Wire, and the Swing.
- Provided information on support available for a resident in need.
- Discussed with Cllr Pond new planning application, and reviewed the associated documentation.
- Obtained quote for updating Clerk laptop with memory and a new battery, on approval booked for work to be carried out.
- Met with Cllr Lafferty to discuss Christmas tree lights and provision of power for the duration of their usage. Issued MPAN number to Greatham Village Hall to use their electricity account, with the parish council paying them for the electricity used.

Appendix 7 : Budget v Actual spend 2025- 2026

Link to be added

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Appendix 8 : Project List update

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

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/Cllr Cheesman		<i>Sort out drainage issue. Playground maintenance to be done by Eibe. Review after 1 year.</i>
Speedwatch equipment	Cllr Lafferty		<i>Equipment functional but without a camera not operational. Review next steps.</i>
Lengthsman	Cllr Bartlett		<i>Ongoing planning of work.</i>
Bus Shelter maintenance	RFO		<i>Quote received, Grant application made. Grant refused. Further grant applications to be made.</i>
Review of salt bins	Cllr Cheesman		<i>Todmore salt bin to be relocated to other side of Rd to provide better access.</i>
Footpath	Cllr Bartlett		<i>Quote received from Local maintenance team. To be implemented.</i>
Maintenance of Footpaths and bridlepaths	Cllr Bartlett		<i>As above.</i>
Longmoor Bridge	Cllr Cheesman		<i>Safety measures to be installed to ensure children cannot fall into the river.</i>
Quick Wins			
Speedwatch	Cllr Lafferty/Cllr Bartlett		<i>Review locations of speed camera. Obtain grant support for additional permanent camera position.</i>
G15			<i>Reviewed for new parish council</i>
Councillor Drop In	All		<i>Date for 2026 to be decided.</i>
Telephone box	Cllr Lafferty		<i>Telephone box complete. Usage to be agreed.</i>
Wildflowers	Cllr Rudd		<i>Look at creating Wildflower and pollinator corridors in the village. Clerk to forward pollinator email, and to link to RP Commerical.</i>
Village Footpath & Ecology Signboards/Gateways	Cllr Bartlett	S106	<i>Find out where we are and get production moving.</i>

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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>Cllr Lafferty attended GVH car park</i>
Old Church laurel hedge	Cllr Bartlett		<i>To agree boundary with L'Abri.</i>
Major Initiatives			
Cycle route from Greatham to Liss	Cllr Bartlett		<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.</i>
Other Initiatives			
Community Hub engagement			
Recruitment of Clerk by May 2027.			