

## Langrish Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Langrish Parish Council held at The Cow Shed, Ramsdean on

Monday 9 March 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors Debbie Luff (Chair), Roger Hetherington (Vice Chair), Robert Bewes, Ian Blackwell, Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby and Cheryl Walder.

District & County Councillor Robert Mocatta

Sam Marchant (Clerk).

1 member of the public.

#### 1. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence were received.

#### 2. Declaration of Interests: Cllrs were asked to declare any pecuniary interests.

No declarations were made.

#### 3. Minutes for review & approval: Parish Meeting held on Monday 19 January 2026

The Chair asked Councillors to consider whether the minutes were a true record of the meeting. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were accurate, the minutes were approved as read and signed as a true and correct record.

#### 4. Open Forum: Members of the Public were invited to comment.

A Parishioner raised concerns that the Parish Council were considering a weight limit of 7 tonnes to be imposed along the C28 as this would make access to farms and the business estate difficult. The Chair explained that the Council were only considering putting a weight limit where the C28 forks onto the A272 on alongside The Old Hop Kiln. Three accidents had occurred at this junction recently because large vehicles were trying to turn right onto the A272 from The Old Hop Kiln side. Councillors also considered that a right turn prohibition may be a better alternative.

#### Action:

RM to follow up with Hampshire Highways Safety Team and to liaise with Highways Officers to arrange a site visit and provide recommendations. RM to let IB know the outcome.

IB to forward the response email to RM to assist follow-up.

The Parishioner also asked the Parish Council to find out who was responsible for a dead Oak Tree. They were unsure where the boundary to the property and HCC lay.

#### Action:

RM to investigate with EHDC Tree Team and requested a photo of the Oak. to identify ownership and requested photo of the oak.

Parishioner to check Property Deeds.

## **5. Finance & Admin Matters:**

a) Finance summary Actuals vs Budget & list of Payments and Receipts report (13 January – 2 March 2026)  
The RFO presented the financial report, which was unanimously approved by Councillors. (Appendix A)

b) Internal Audit 2026/27: to review quotations for approval

Discussion points:

Clerk to request referrals from SILC for internal audit quotation

Action:

SM to obtain referrals and present quotes by next meeting (13 May 2026).

c) Asset Register: to review and approve

Discussion points:

Proposal to remove kissing gates from Asset Register as once installed would therefore be the landowner's responsibility.

Action:

Asset Register approved subject to confirmation of kissing-gates removal.

SM to update register.

## **6. Matters Arising**

a) APA Plans: to discuss and agree

Discussion points:

Low resident attendance historically; consider a speaker to attract attendance.

Incorrect date printed in the Squeaker; need correction and reminder.

DL to provide wine and nibbles.

Actions:

IB to contact Squealer editor to request correction and a reminder notice.

DL to provide refreshments.

Clerk to publicise APA/AGM and encourage attendance.

b) CAB Grant Application: to discuss and approve

Discussion points:

Councillors agreed not to proceed with the grant.

Action:

SM to notify applicant.

## **7. Reports and Updates**

a) Unstable bank and trees along A272 (NTP/SM)

Discussion points:

Reported via Hampshire Highways website; referral sent directly to Hampshire Highway contact.

Action:

NTP/SM to continue liaison with Hampshire Highways and chase site attendance.

b) SID unit and Solar panel (IB/SM)

Discussion points:

Grant funding received.

Need to confirm pole locations with Highways contacts.

Action:

IB/SM to contact Hampshire Highways to confirm suitable pole locations and installation requirements.

c) Langrish Meadow / Community Orchard: to include update on new sign (IB)

Discussion points:

In a report circulated by Cllr Blackwell it was confirmed that a new sign including an address for Langrish Meadow had been put in place to meet Health and Safety requirements.

Only 4 of the 15 trees planted in November 2024 had survived the long drought in 2025. The Chair had purchased a further 16 small trees which she was nurturing until strong enough for planting in the Meadow. It was agreed that larger holes should be dug with plenty of mulch, protection from wildlife and strong stakes for support to give the trees the best start when planted.

The Chair confirmed that the trees would not be planted until next November at the earliest and that the Council would only be charged for the trees that are planted in the Meadow.

Actions:

IB/DL. To confirm planting plan in the autumn.

d) BOATs (DL)

Discussion points:

Buttons Lane in Priors Dean had been closed due to serious damage from motorised vehicles, and a consultation was taking place by HCC to all interested parties. HCC have made a permanent Closure Order and expected that this will be contested by the Trail Riders Fellowship. Errors had been found in the BOAT Closure Order which could be easily contested by any opposition to the order. Nevertheless, the Chair encouraged all Councillors to send their support for the Buttons Lane Closure and asked the Clerk to encourage support from other Local Parish Councils.

Actions:

DL to monitor HCC consultation and report back

SM to notify neighbouring parish contacts.

e) Footpaths and Rights of Way

i. Report

Discussion points:

Continuing issue of trail bike riders damaging and removing barriers (Paths 40 and 50); photographic evidence required; incidents should be reported to 101.

Excessive rain had left footpaths in a poor state.

The Big Feet event had caused substantial damage to foot paths; despite claims by the organisers, landowners had not been informed, and substantial damage had been done to the footpaths and the surrounding crops.

No offer to rectify had been given by the organiser. The Chair considered that as there had been 17" of rain

since January and the paths were already in an unfit state, HCC should have taken early action to close the paths to stop damage by all users. The Organisers would have then had no option but to reroute. Cllr Mocatta had submitted a report to Countryside Services and the Clerks email address had been added to the mailing list for notification of further events. Cllr Mocatta offered to act as liaison with the event organiser. RM offered to act as liaison with event organiser.

Action:

RB to collate and submit photographic evidence of path damage to ROW officer and to 101 where appropriate.

RM to act as liaison with event organiser.

ii. Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO)

Discussion points:

No progress to report.

Action:

RB to continue pursuing and update when progress made.

iii. Footpath handrail repair (CW)

Discussion points

Repair complete.

Action:

None.

f) Lengthsman: to note recent works and call for jobs (RB)

Discussion:

Clearance of the path along the A272 with spoil to be placed on heap with landowner permission.

Oak tree at Langrish Lodge: tree ownership to be confirmed (landowner/EHDC) clearance of ivy needed.

Check remaining Lengthsman hours.

Actions:

RB/DL to seek permission for placing spoil from path repair.

SM to check and report remaining Lengthsman hours and schedule additional tasks.

RM to discuss concurrent tree project coordination with HCC regarding ivy removal from affected trees.

g) Roads/Highways (IB)

i. Report

Discussion points:

C28 weight limit / A272 junction matters discussed earlier.

C28 and Ham Lane drain issues: drain clogged; bottom of Ham Lane had been reported with photos sent to Hampshire Highways.

Verge tidy-up at A272 junction: bags awaiting collection; query whether leftover road repair signage is scheduled work or abandoned.

Potholes were considered severe and had been reported to Hampshire Highways.

In Ramsdean a telecoms inspection chamber had been overflowing with rainwater into the road, this was considered a contractor issue; a report had been made to Hampshire Highways.

Actions:

RB to report clogged drains.

IB to report potholes.

IB to continue pursuing clarity on C28 weight/turning proposals with Hampshire Highways and to report timescale for scheduled works.

Clerk to report abandoned road signs.

**8. District and County Councillor report:** to receive a report from Cllr Mocatta

Reports for both EHDC and HCC had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. (Appendix B) Including overview of council spending and local plan updates.

### **9. Items for the next Agenda**

Discussion points:

No new items were raised.

Noted a letter of thanks had been received from the PCC for the grant monies.

Action:

SM to include action-list review on the 13 May 2026 agenda.

### **10. To confirm the date of the next meeting: APA/AGM Wednesday 13 May 2026**

The Parish Council meeting closed at 20:40pm.

Signed:

Dated:

## Financial Report March 2026

Below is the summary of Actual v Budget 13 January - 02 March 2026 for Payments & Receipts

<b>Summary of Cost Centres - Payments</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Room Hire	£ -	£ -	£ -
Clerk and Cllr Admin Expenses	£ 24.49	£ 100.00	£ 75.51
Clerk Salary (inc PAYE)	£ 1,191.63	£ 1,400.00	£ 208.37
Audit Fee	£ 225.00	£ 250.00	£ 25.00
Insurance	£ 297.83	£ 350.00	£ 52.17
Donation	£ 550.00	£ 500.00	-£ 50.00
Asset Maintenance	£ 1,135.95	£ 2,000.00	£ 864.05
Asset Purchase	£ -	£ 150.00	£ 150.00
Miscellaneous	£ -	£ 150.00	£ 150.00
Election Expenses	£ -	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Subscriptions	£ 318.00	£ 350.00	£ 32.00
Training	£ -	£ 150.00	£ 150.00
Website	£ 242.31	£ 500.00	£ 257.69
Langrish Meadow Orchard Project	£ -	£ 650.00	£ 650.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 3,985.21</b>	<b>£ 6,650.00</b>	<b>£ 2,664.79</b>
VAT	£ 217.47		
<b>Summary of Cost Centres - Receipts</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Precept	£ 6,426.00	£ 6,426.00	£ -
Grants	£ 500.00	£ -	-£ 500.00
Bank Interest	£ -	£ -	£ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 6,926.00</b>	<b>£ 6,426.00</b>	<b>£ 500.00</b>

## Appendix A

VAT Reclaim 2024-25	£ 164.05		
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**Payments from 13 January - 02 March 2026**

Date Paid	Payee	Description	Amount
14/01/2026	LPCC Grant - Agreed in Nov	Grants/Donation	£550.00
14/01/2026	The Reliable Gardener	Langrish Meadow	£78.00
22/01/2026	HugoFox	Website/Emails	£143.86
02/02/2026	Sam Marchant	Clerk Salary	£86.73
02/02/2026	HMRC	PAYE	£21.60
04/02/2026	HugoFox	Website/Emails	£20.99
20/02/2026	The Reliable Gardener	Langrish Meadow	£78.00
02/03/2026	Sam Marchant	Clerk Salary	£86.73
02/03/2026	HMRC	PAYE	£21.60
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,087.51</b>

**Receipts from 13 January - 02 March 2026**

Date Received	Company	Description	Total
25/02/2026	HCC	Grant - SID & Solar	£ 500.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 500.00</b>

Opening Bank Balance 31  
March 2025

£6,542.30

**Bank Balance 02 March 2026**

**£9,429.67**

## HCC REPORT MARCH 2026

**Council Tax:** There will be 149 Band D equivalent houses in Langrish in 2026/27. The Band D council tax will be £2,275. I have shown below how this is allocated. Langrish residents will collectively pay £340,000 in council tax: £7,000 to Langrish PC, £23,000 to EHDC, £24,000 to Hampshire Fire services, £43,000 to Hampshire Police and £252,000 to Hampshire County council. The breakdown of these amounts is shown below,

**Langrish**

Number of Houses 149

Band D council tax per house 2,275

Recipients of council tax

	FOR LANGRISH RESIDENTS		FOR HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS
	Per House £	Total £m	
<b>Hampshire County council</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>0.252</b>	
Police & Crime	290	0.043	
Hampshire Fire	93	0.014	
EHDC	<b>157</b>	<b>0.023</b>	
Langrish Parish Council	45	0.007	
Total	2,275	0.340	

	Per		£ M
	House £	Total £m	
<b>Hampshire County Council breakdown</b>			
Adults' Health and Care	1,295	0.193	712
Schools Net	148	0.022	81
Children's - Non schools	742	0.111	408
Home to school transport	127	0.019	70
<i>Highways</i>	59	0.009	33
<i>Waste disposal</i>	126	0.019	69
Other / grants (net)	-807	-0.121	-444
Total	<b>1,690</b>	<b>0.252</b>	930

	Per		£ M
	House £	Total £m	
<b>EHDC</b>			
Waste services	122	0.018	6.5
Planning	36	0.005	1.9
Other (net)	-1	0.000	0.0
Total	<b>157</b>	<b>0.023</b>	8.4

Remember – the bill comes from EHDC, the collection authority, but the bulk of the money goes to Hampshire County Council’s social services. It is worth noting that 93% of Hampshire schools are rated good or outstanding, the children’s social services are “outstanding” and the adult services are “good”

## 1. New budget approved by County Council

In February, the County Council approved its annual budget which included approval of a 4.99% increase in Council Tax. While we are mindful of the cost-of-living pressures our residents face, this increase of £1.54 a week on average will allow us to keep safeguarding vital services for children at risk of harm, our growing older population, and people with disabilities and additional needs. By continuing to make savings and to transform the way we operate, we want to be able to limit the scale of any future council tax increases.

Alongside the revenue budget, Councillors have also approved the County Council’s £971 million capital programme for 2026/27 to 2028/29, funded largely through developer contributions and Government grants. The agreed programme includes:

- £178m for structural maintenance of roads and bridges
- £216m for Integrated Transport Plan schemes
- £187m for new and extended school buildings
- £49m to support High Needs provision
- £71m for children’s social care, including a new secure children’s home
- £124m for condition-based improvements to school buildings
- £47m for waste and recycling infrastructure to improve recycling services

## 2. A £633m Boost for Hampshire’s Schools

At a time when councils up and down the country are teetering on the brink, Hampshire is doing something rather extraordinary: investing hundreds of millions of pounds in the future of our children. In February, Hampshire County Council also approved a £633 million capital programme for new schools, better facilities, and vital improvements to children’s services. Ten new schools — including two special schools — and hundreds of additional specialist SEND places will be delivered across the county.

This is only possible because of the careful, responsible financial management we’ve maintained for years. Hampshire has kept its books balanced, protected taxpayers’ money, and ensured we can still invest where it truly matters. This programme will deliver:

- ◆ New mainstream and special schools in growing communities
- ◆ Over 390 new specialist SEND places
- ◆ Major upgrades to school buildings and early years settings
- ◆ Investment in Best Start Family Hubs
- ◆ Support for foster carers and adaptations for children with disabilities

This is long-term, serious investment — the kind that shapes a county for generations. And it's being delivered because this council has chosen to plan ahead, spend wisely, and protect Hampshire's future. I'm proud of what we're achieving for our young people. This is what responsible leadership looks like — and Hampshire's families deserve nothing less.

### 3. Hampshire Highways

I would like to acknowledge that this has been a challenging year for Hampshire Highways. In fact, it has been the worst year since I was elected nine years ago in 2017. On behalf of everyone at Hampshire County Council I would like to say sorry to all residents for the poor state of the roads so far this year.

What has made this year so bad is the persistent rain combined with overnight freezing. It is impossible to fix potholes properly when it is raining, or when the road surface is below 8 degrees. As you all know, there has been no let-up since Christmas. This has never happened before. As soon as we get a dry fortnight, I am confident that the teams will get out there and address all the defects rapidly. We have brought in extra crews and additional equipment such as dragon patchers.

We have truly excellent people at all levels in Hampshire County Council. They are professional, hardworking and conscientious. They are doing their very best to rectify the situation in challenging circumstances.

The problems arise due to increasingly wet winters, more vehicles, heavier vehicles, and a lack of routine investment. **Given the impacts of climate change, I believe we should now be routinely resurfacing ALL of Hampshire's 5,500 miles of road every seven years.** This would make our roads more resilient to the changing weather. To do this would probably cost ten times what we currently spend on Highways (which is around £60m per year). Unfortunately, there is no short-term prospect of this happening.

Sadly this means we will be hostages to the weather in Hampshire until we get more funding for our roads.

### 4. Devolution and Local Government Reform

The challenge of fixing our road infrastructure and calming traffic will be a key issue for the future Mayor of Hampshire. For absolutely no good reason, the Labour Government has delayed our Mayoral election until 2028. I found this incredibly disappointing. We really need a Mayor to fight our corner and to lobby for more investment in infrastructure.

We also need Local Government Reform, which will help to close our budget gap by delivering savings and efficiencies. I sincerely hope that we can stick to the current timetable and hold elections to the new Unitaries in May 2027. At present, there is no certainty about that.

By the way, I think Hampshire County Councillors have been vindicated in our decision to refuse to request a delay to our elections this year. Ministers were encouraging us to do so but we thought it was wrong and we stood firm. Our principled stance was right, and the Government was forced into a u-turn on their election delays. There is now real concern that the process of LGR will be delayed due to the Labour mix-up over elections. As a result of the mix-up, most of the department's LGR funding (£67m) has had to go to the 30 areas which now need to organise elections at short notice. That means less for us.

## 5. Update: Hampshire Forest Partnership

Since it was founded by me in 2022, the Hampshire Forest Partnership (HFP) has now delivered 177,008 trees across over 500 sites in Hampshire. We are well on our way to achieving our target of one million trees by 2050!

For context, the Trees for the Downs scheme run by the South Downs National Park has delivered 117,700 trees across 150 sites in Sussex and Hampshire since 2019, including 3,500 disease-resistant elms. The 177,008 total includes the following key delivery strands:

- Hedgerow planting: 118,842 hedge whips, equating to approximately 23.8km of hedgerow, delivered through Shoots Along the Routes and Linking Leaves (funded through Trees Outside Woodland Fund (TOW), Hampshire County Council (HCC), and partner contributions).
- Community orchards: 42 new community orchards, delivering 765 fruit and nut trees, funded through the King's Coronation Living Heritage Programme.
- Mini forests: 14 mini forests, delivering 16,190 trees, funded through the King's Coronation Living Heritage Programme and other partners.
- Disease-resistant elm trees: 5,840 trees, delivered through multiple funding schemes over successive years, enabling this important project to continue annually.
- Standard trees in parks and public open spaces: 457 trees (included within the Linking Leaves and Elm delivery totals), funded through the Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) and Trees Outside Woodland Fund (TOW).
- Trees for gardens: 4,439 trees, funded solely by Hampshire County Council. Individual trees: 30,932 individual trees delivered through Shoots Along the Routes and Linking Leaves (LATF and TOW).

All of the above tree planting has been delivered through the Hampshire Forest Partnership's strategic bidding for external funding, complimented by some HCC funding, linked to countywide programmes such as 'Shoots Along the Routes' and 'Linking Leaves', which focus on strategically important habitat and connectivity projects across Hampshire, working with farmers, businesses, charities and local communities.

## 6. Local Nature Reserves

I would like to highlight the opportunity for Town and Parish Councils to create Local Nature Reserves. Nature recovery is a key priority in the new Partnership Management Plan of the South Downs National Park. Town and Parish Councils can play a crucial role in nature recovery by identifying pockets of land which

can be converted into Local Nature Reserves. As well as supporting local wildlife, this can also become a wonderful amenity for the community.

Often there are forgotten or neglected bits of land which people have stopped noticing. This was the case with the Tor Way triangle in Petersfield, which we have now renamed the Love Lane Space for Nature. I would encourage you to look closely at hidden parts of your Parishes and see whether a Local Nature Reserve could be created. It is easy to designate a Local Nature Reserve, but you do have to consult Natural England by emailing them at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk). You should state that you want to declare a local nature reserve and include a management plan detailing:

- Site map and ownership of the land
- any nature reserve agreements, leases or partnerships
- why the local nature reserve site was chosen: aims and objectives
- biodiversity management and environmental education
- community participation, access and visitor management
- costs and funding arrangements

## 7. Tackling Problem Pavement Parking in Hampshire

Pavement parking is one of the issues I hear about regularly — and for good reason. When cars block pavements, it isn't just inconvenient. It can be dangerous and deeply unfair to people who rely on clear, safe routes: wheelchair users, those with sight loss, older residents, and parents with buggies and prams. It also damages our verges and leaves some communities looking uncared for.

The Government has now confirmed that new legislation is on the way to give councils like Hampshire County Council far greater control over pavement parking. This is something I've long argued for, and I welcome the change.

Under the new proposals:

- Local transport authorities will be able to prohibit pavement parking across their areas, rather than dealing with it street by street.
- A new regulatory framework will allow councils to tailor solutions to local needs, including accessibility and disabled parking.

From 2026, councils will also be able to enforce against unnecessary obstruction of pavements as an interim step, giving us more ability to act where parking is clearly causing problems.

Most drivers are considerate, but the small minority who park without thinking create real barriers for others. These new powers will help us protect vulnerable residents, keep pavements clear, and prevent the sort of verge damage that blights too many neighbourhoods.

8. Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs)

The noise and nuisance caused by motorbikes and 4x4s continues to be a blight on our communities and our green lanes. I have lobbied persistently on this issue and there has been a change of policy at Hampshire County Council. We now have more winter closures, more gating and more noticeboards.

We also have a proposed Traffic Regulation Order from Hampshire County Council to close Buttons Lane in Colemore. This is important progress but more needs to be done. The damage and disturbance is completely unacceptable. I am grateful to all the Parish Councillors who keep up the pressure on this issue.

## 9. Here are the grants that I helped with for the past year, in which I had £5,000 to give out, and the previous year where I had £7,000.

	<b>2025/26</b>		<b>£</b>
102155	1927 Petersfield Air squadron	Aviation training	199
102108	Petersfield Society	Petersfield Town Trail	500
102060	Petersfield Town FC	Kitchen upgrade	500
	Petersfield and District Angling Club	BoPeep Pond restoration	500
102057	Club	Replacement dishwasher	1,000
102009	Winton House	Supporting younger Petersfield residents	500
102002	Off the Record	Replacment of Pavilion roof	800
101930	Petersfield Cricket Club	ALS Annual Gathering	250
102174	Edward Thomas Society	Speed Indicator Device	500
102189	Langrish Parish Council	Pond restoration	251
102192	Buriton Parish Council		<b>5,000</b>
	<b>2024/25</b>		
100913	Petersfield Twinning	Exchange visits	1,000
100927	Pals of Petersgate	Outdoor learning environment	1,000
101022	Girl guiding East Hants	Malta trip	450
101104	Home start Butser	Service provision	1,000
	Petersfield Armed forces Drop in	Drop in Centre	500
101158	in	2025 Festival	500
101171	Petersfield Musical Festival	Outdoor sauna	500
101173	Petersfield Swimming Pool	Outdoor woodland area	1,093
101303	Clanfield Junior school PTA	Speed indicator device	500
101334	Clanfield PC	Refurbish pond	457
101401	Clanfield Pond wardens		<b>7,000</b>