

## **Langrish Parish Council**

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

**Monday 10 March 2025 at 7:30pm**

Present: Cllrs Roger Hetherington (Acting Chair), Robert Bewes, Cheryl Walder, Ian Blackwell and Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby.

Cllr Mocatta (District & County Councillor)

Sam Marchant (Clerk) taking minutes.

Attendance: 0 member of the public.

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the Debbie Luff (Chair).

#### **2. Declaration of Interests**

None were declared.

#### **3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27 January 2025**

The Chair asked Councillors to consider whether they felt the Minutes were a true record of the meeting held on 27 January 2025. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were, and they were approved as read and signed as a true and correct record.

#### **4. Open Forum**

No MOP present.

#### **5. Planning Applications:** to consider & agree comments for submission

a) SDNP/25/00093/HOUS – Deans Farm, Widow Knights Copse Lane, Buriton, GU32 1RU  
Replacement of modern truncated roof over link. Internal reconfiguration of utility.

Due to deadline for comments the Cllrs had agreed via email that 'no objection' be submitted.

b) SDNP/24/05280/TCA – Fir Tree Cottage, Ramsdean Road, Ramsdean, GU32 1RU  
Conifer Group (G1) – Reduce heights leaving final height at 8m. Have previously been reduced, outgrowing location and becoming long and extended, with recent branch failure into the garden. Reduction to retain rather than remove. Ash x 2 (G2) – Fell. In decline with Ash Dieback, Canker and in poor health. In falling distance of the Highway, remove to avoid potential hazard to public.

'No Objection' comment agreed.

c) SDNP/25/00209/FUL – Land between Rookham House and Gowans, East Meon Road, Langrish - Proposed track and hard standing to barn.

'No objection' comment agreed.

## **6. Financial & Admin Matters:**

- a) Financial summary of payments and receipts report (21 January – 3 March 2025)

The RFO presented her report on all payments between the dates of 21 January to 3 March. Councillors unanimously approved. (*Appendix 1*)

- b) Risk Assessment including finance

Document was approved.

- c) Asset Register

Langrish Meadow orchard trees, fencing and gate to be added along with the kissing gate on the border with Stroud.

Items already on list to be investigated were the defibrillator sign, speed sign, kissing gate locations

## **7. Correspondence received**

- a) Langrish PCC letter re: Langrish/Stroud War Memorial: to note

Cllrs considered the PC taking the lead in finding a new home for the Langrish and Stroud Memorial, to be removed from the Langrish Church on closure.

Following discussion regarding costs and potential location it was agreed to contact both the EMPCC and Stroud PC to have their views, once these were received Cllrs planned to meet before the May PC meeting to discuss further. All to be done in consultation with Commodore Mowlam, Secretary to the Langrish Parochial Church Council.

The item would be included on the May agenda to include resolution to create a subcommittee to take the lead.

Cllr Talbot-Ponsonby offered to investigate an estimate of works involved in moving the memorials.

- b) Grant request – Citizens Advice Bureau: to consider & approve

It was agreed that unfortunately the PC were not in a position to make a donation at this time.

## **8. Matters Arising**

- a) Site suggestions for 10 trees (PeCAN)

No sites had been identified as suitable, Cllrs agreed that the PC were unable to site any more trees.

- b) Parish Plan

It was agreed to defer this item to the May meeting.

c) APM arrangements: to note preparations

It was agreed that the APM would be advertised in the 'Squeaker', PC Noticeboards and Website.

Wine and nibbles to be provided by the PC and reports to include a piece about the War Memorial and introduction of new PC website and email addresses.

## **9. Reports and Updates**

a) SDNPA Local Plan Consultation: to note comments submitted (DL)

It was reported that the Chair had made her submission and that all Cllrs should submit their own comments.

b) Kissing Gate at Reeds Meadow quotations and application to SDNPA Call for Projects: to review progress (IB)

It was agreed that the existing gate was, with some remedial works applied, adequate.

Cllr Talbot-Ponsonby would look to find out costs for remedial works discussed.

The PC would not be submitting an application for SDNPA funds.

c) Telephone Box & Bench refurbishment – Langrish Green: to agree quote for bench (CW)

Following discussion regarding ownership and need for works on the bench it was agreed to not go ahead with quoted works.

Further investigation of ownership and paint colour would be done by Cllr Walder and the Clerk.

d) .gov email and website domains: to review progress (RB)

Cllr Bewes reported that the new PC website with the .gov domain was now ready and that once Cllrs .gov email accounts were sorted he would go ahead and launch into the public domain.

Thanks were noted to Cllr Bewes for all his work on this project.

e) BOATs: to provide an update (DL)

It was agreed to defer this item to the May PC meeting.

f) Langrish Meadow/Community Orchard: to report works undertaken (IB)

Cllrs had received the Langrish Meadow report. (Appendix 2)

Cllr Blackwell said that the goal posts had now been removed by the contractor and that he planned to speak with grass cutting contractor to increase cuts for 2025/2026.

g) Footpaths and Rights of Way: general report (RB)

Cllr Bewes had circulated his report prior to the meeting (*separate attachment on website*)

Thanks were noted to Countryside Services who had carried out extensive works in the local area.

Safety concerns were raised regarding the bottom of Mustercombe steps, a sign would be request from HCC to warn drivers.

Cllr Talbot-Ponsonby felt that waymark signs were desirable to delineate the public footpath in the Froxfield Parish area. The Clerk would contact Froxfield PC and Cllr Bewes to speak to Countryside services via CAMS.

h) Lengthsman: to note recent works & call for jobs (RB)

Jobs agreed for the Lengthsman worksheet were clearing the path along the A272, digging the ditch at the bottom of Ham Lane and litter picking on the A272.

i) Roads/Highways: general report (IB)

Damaged posts had been re-erected, and some potholes had been repaired.

Potholes outstanding had been reported and were included on work list.

The broken grit bin was discussed, ownership was believed to be Sovereign, Cllr Blackwell would contact for removal. If this was not possible Cllr Mocatta said that he would ask EHDC to remove as could be classed as fly tip.

The litter along the A272 was to be picked by volunteers where safe and the Lengthsman would be asked for areas out of reach.

**10. District and County Councillor (RM)**

Cllr Mocatta's reports can be found on the website and in the local 'Squeaker'. (*Appendix 3*)

**11. Any other business**

None.

**12. To confirm the date of the next meeting: PC/APM Wednesday 14 May 2025**

The Parish Council meeting closed at 20:50pm.

Signed:

Dated:

## Appendix 1

### Langrish Parish Council

#### Account Details as at 3 March 2025

	£	£
<b>Balance 21 January 2025</b>		7839.16
<b>Income</b>		0
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Hugofox Website Subscription		143.86
T N Luff & Partners - Langrish Meadow materials		562.01
The Reliable Gardener - Langrish Meadow cut		78
Sam Marchant - Clerk Salary January		86.73
HMRC - PAYE January		21.6
Sam Marchant - Clerk Salary February		86.73
HMRC - PAYE February		21.60
Meon Valley Meadows - Removal of Goal Posts		110.00
<b>Total Payments made between 21 January - 3 March 2025</b>		<u>1110.53</u>
<b>Balance at 3 March 2025</b>		<u>6728.63</u>
<b>Total of Accounts 3 March</b>		
Current Account	<u>6728.63</u>	

Signed by the Chair

Signed by the RFO

Appendix 2

Underwood Cottage

Langrish

Petersfield

Hants

GU32 1QY

5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

On behalf of the Langrish Parish Council I have this day inspected the Community Land forming Langrish Meadow and the access and play equipment thereon and have found all to be in order.

The goal posts have been removed from the site and have been disposed of by Meon Valley Meadows.

Low levels of litter continue to be an issue throughout the meadow.

The spring on the stile gate closing mechanism has become dislodged and requires reattaching and litter is present in the vicinity of the entrance gates.

The re-wilding project was completed in November this year and remains in its "as laid" condition.

The Roger Deadman Memorial tree has not survived last year's drought conditions and will require replacing in due course.

*Ian Blackwell*

## March Report: EHDC

### The budget for 2025/26

EHDC approved a precept of £8,024,919. This is £151.92 per band D property. To put this into context, the Council tax paid to HCC for basic services (again Band D) is £1609.83, Hampshire Police services another £275.46 and Hampshire Fire services £87.84. The average payment for a parish council was a further £106.59.

EHDC is the billing authority, so the entire council tax payment is collected by EHDC, although the bulk is passed on to HCC.

The full breakdown of the budget is here:

[EHDC Full Council Budget Report 2526.pdf](#)

Details are here:

[Appendix A Revenue Budget.pdf](#)

The full text of the parish precepts are here:

<https://easthants.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s26847/Appendix%20H%20Council%20Tax%20resolution.pdf>

### Local precepts over past 9 years

This table shows how the cost of the local parish has changed over the past 9 years.

Band D £	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26	CAGR
Petersfield	100	102	106	112	148	153	158	166	179	208	8.5%
East Meon	44	45	48	47	49	51	52	55	58	60	3.6%
Buriton	47	46	50	51	54	57	62	62	64	65	3.7%
Langrish	24	26	26	26	30	31	35	41	43	44	7.3%
Stroud						69	72	98	102	105	
Clanfield	41	59	58	59	76	78	79	84	91	100	10.4%
Alton						103	108	110	114	117	
EHDC Average	66	71	75	77	84	86	90	94	99	107	5.5%

### Community Climate Action Fund

Following the success of the first three rounds of the EHDC Climate Action Fund, EHDC decided to allocate a minimum of £132,000 to the fourth round of this fund.

Over 30 projects were funded in the first three rounds from March 2023 to August 2024. This fund was very popular with a large range of community groups, sports clubs, and local organisations.

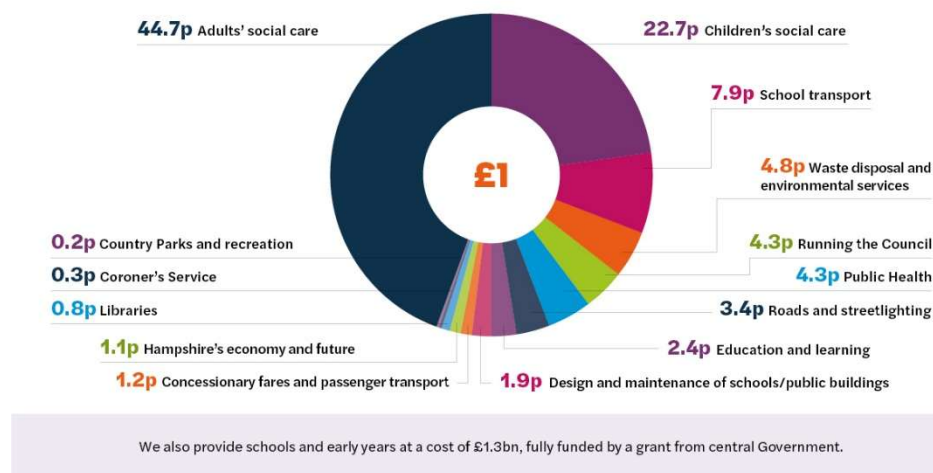
Full details of the grants awarded are here:

[Community climate action fund | East Hampshire District Council](#)

# Hampshire County Councillor Update March 2025

## 1. Hampshire County Council's Budget

This graphic below shows you how each £1 of your Council Tax will be spent next financial year in Hampshire. When you include schools spending then social care, school transport and education make up almost 87% of our budget.



At the budget setting meeting last month HCC agreed the budget for the year ahead which sees an increase of 4.99% in Council Tax. HCC had asked the government to increase it by a larger amount and they refused the request.

Why did HCC ask for a larger rise?

- The County Council's services are underfunded, and the reason for that in large part is HCC's historically low Council Tax rate, which is why HCC requested an above 5% increase from Government.
- Hampshire's Council Tax this financial year is £1533.24 for a band D property - the second lowest in the country. In Surrey the equivalent rate is £1,758.60, West Sussex £1,714.95, and Oxfordshire £1,820.56 for example.
- Each 1% of Council Tax increase in Hampshire nets an additional £8million in revenue for the Council. So, a 5% increase results in £40 million in additional revenue this year.
- Offset that against the ever rising cost of social care. Every month in Hampshire HCC see a net increase of 30 people living in care homes who become reliant upon the County Council to pay their costs - even at the most basic level of care these 360 people add a further £18.7 million of cost to the budget each year.
- Every month HCC are seeing an additional 200 applications for Education Health and Care Plans - the first step for children to register for SEN support. That exponential rise is the reason its budget for Home to School transport (for which SEN children qualify for free) has increased from £24 million per year at the end of the pandemic to £105 million next year.

- Add to this the effect of employers National Insurance, which will cost HCC £10.5 million this year - HCC will get a one off reimbursement of £8 million from Government with nothing for future years.
- Inflation and pay rises add further to the bill. HCC have cut over £700million from its budgets in the last 10 years, and will continue to look for further savings, but reserves will, by 2026/27, be exhausted.
- The County Council does not want to raise council tax above the 5% limit. HCC want to be given the tools to become more entrepreneurial, be given powers to decide where to spend and raise money free of Whitehall diktat.
- HCC were left with no choice but to agree to give the government reasons to increase Council Tax above the referendum limit because it is all they asked HCC to do after finally replying to its letters calling for a meeting.
- Hampshire County Council is well run. It has the second lowest council tax nationally. HCC sought the increase only due to the rising costs of social care, special educational needs and those increased costs and lack of funding from the government. HCC have used its reserves to balance the budget so far but this is not sustainable and by the end of the next financial year they will be gone.

## **2. Stubbington Outdoor Centre and proposed Secure Children's Home**

There is much misinformation circulating about the proposals for a new Secure Children's Home at Stubbington. Once a consultation has commenced there is a process through which HCC must go to reach a decision.

- NO decision has been taken.

- The consultation responses have NOT been ignored.

- Both the Select Committee (last week) and Cabinet meetings (this week) will be held in public and will be broadcast on the HCC Youtube channel.

- There are confidential appendices to the report which include commercially sensitive information, and we will only need to go into a private session of either the Select Committee or Cabinet if anyone wishes to interrogate the information contained within these.

HCC are working very hard to find a solution to the challenge it faces over balancing the need for a Secure Children's Home (taking into account the constraints the Department for Education are placing on us in attempting to do so) vs the desire to maintain a study centre at Stubbington.

## **3. Struggling to keep your home warm in Hampshire? 🌡️**

The Hitting the Cold Spots service, funded by Hampshire County Council, is here to help!



Get FREE support from experienced advisers at the Environment Centre (tEC), an independent charity. They can assist with:

Resolving energy billing issues

Saving money & energy at home



Advice line open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm



Call: 0800 804 8601



Email:

staywarm@environmentcentre.com

Find more info & advice at Hitting the Cold Spots – the Environment Centre (tEC) and the council's website, including energy efficiency tips and grant details: <https://hantscoldspots.environmentcentre.com>

#### 4. Apprenticeships

This National Apprenticeship Week, 10 to 16 February, Hampshire County Council is coordinating a series of special online and in-person events for both employers and those wishing to develop their career, to find out more about the benefits of apprenticeships, how they work, and the wide-ranging opportunities on offer across Hampshire.

[Apprenticeships – the gateway to a brighter future | Hampshire County Council](#)

#### 5. Devolution in Hampshire – public consultation

Hampshire County Council has been accepted onto the Government's fast-track Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) – marking a significant milestone in the journey towards devolution for Hampshire and the wider area.

Hampshire residents are invited to have their say on once-in-a-generation devolution proposals for Hampshire and the Solent region in the eight-week public consultation launched today by central government.

[Devolution for Hampshire – have your say in the Government's consultation | Hampshire County Council](#)

## 6. Reporting Highway Problems

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving>

Broken or missing signs: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensigns>

Faulty street lights: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight>

Faded or missing road markings: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings>

Problems with rights of way:  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

**When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.**