

**Parish Council Meeting  
Held at East Meon Village Hall on  
Monday 14 July 2025 at 18:30.**

**Minutes**

Present: Councillors Matt Atkinson (Chair), Charles Ritchie (Vice Chair), Steven Ridgeon, Trudie Lang, Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake, Jerry Silence and Chris Brooker  
Cllr Robert Mocatta (District/County)  
Sam Marchant (Parish Clerk)  
3 members of the public

**1. Apologies for Absence**

No apologies had been received however Cllr Round was not in attendance.

**2. To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest**

No declarations were made.

**3. Resignation**

The Council acknowledged the resignation of Richard Downer, expressing gratitude for his contributions to the council.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

a) Annual General Meeting held on 28 May 2025

The Chair asked Councillors to consider whether the minutes were a true record. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were accurate.

Proposed by Cllr Ritchie

Seconded by Cllr Sillence

Approved and signed by the Chair.

b) Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 10 June 2025

The Chair asked Councillors to consider whether the minutes were a true record. Councillors confirmed they were accurate.

Proposed by Cllr Brooker

Seconded by Cllr Ritchie

Approved and signed by the Chair.

**5. Open Forum: for residents to raise any concerns**

Two representatives of the Bowmen of Petersfield Club were present in relation to 7d. It was agreed to bring this item forward for discussion.

No other comments were made.

**6. Reports and Updates**

a) Lengthsman: to note works done and call for jobs (TL)

Cllr Lang reported that the Lengthsman had completed works within the last week including clearance of vegetation around the Yew tree in Frogmore.

The Chair had met with him on site to discuss ongoing work, including the maintenance of footpaths and public areas.

Concerns were raised about overhanging branches on the footpath running alongside the Frogmore Allotments; the Chair would inform the landowner to address the issue.

It had also come to Cllr Lang's attention that a couple of allotments appeared to be neglected; an email had been sent earlier in the season regarding upkeep expectations, she would look to speak with individual holders. (TL/MA)

b) EHAPTC AGM (TTD)

Cllr Tyrwhitt-Drake reported on discussions regarding proposed options for devolution at the East Hampshire Association of Parish and Town Councils (EHAPTC) AGM.

Future, in person meetings, were planned to focus on collaboration among parishes to share resources and best practices. (TTD)

c) Environment & Nature (SR)

Cllr Ridgeon reported positive developments in local wildlife, including butterfly and hedgehog populations despite the recent dry weather.

River fly monitoring had expanded along the River Meon, incorporating more testing sites.

SDNP notices were to go up along the River Meon encouraging good river behaviour. Cllr Ridgeon hoped to bring an example to the next meeting for approval. (SR)

d) CIL Projects working group (TTD)

A meeting of the working group would be organised before the September PC meeting to discuss projects.

The Green path work was expected to commence soon. (TTD)

## 7. Matters Arising

a) Village Hall: to appoint Councillor Liaison (MA)

Cllr Brooker volunteered to be the liaison for the Village Hall, ensuring effective communication between the council and the hall committee. (CB)

b) All Sports Pavilion refurbishment: to receive quotations (CR/JS)

Cllr Sillence looked to have quotations by the end of the week. (JS/CR)

c) EMCC agreement: to note drafting (CR/SR)

Cllr Ritchie had completed the first draft of the agreement; Cllr Ridgeon would be reviewing this ready for approval at the September meeting. (CR/SR)

d) Bowmen of Petersfield Club - Football Pitch hire: to agree to a trial period (CR)

This item was brought forward for discussion.

The Football Pitch had been considered by Archery GB as a suitable location for the club to hold sessions with the understanding that the surrounding field would be used as an overshoot area for safety, confirmation of this from the landowner was required.

The club hold their own insurance under Archery GB and have their own Health and Safety processes in place.

Currently there were 40 club members, outside sessions were normally held Friday evenings and Sunday morning in the lighter months. It was hoped that new members locally would look to join.

Due to the football team using the pitch on Sunday mornings during the playing season the archery club were happy to work around these times.

A trial period was agreed upon for the end of August, with specific dates proposed for club members to assess the site and provide feedback on its suitability for a longer-term contract. Cllr Ritchie would check these dates with the football team.

Cllr Ritchie agreed to draw up the agreement with the help of Cllr Ridgeon, hire fees were to be confirmed. (CR/SR)

- e) Signpost/Fingerposts Refurbishment: to consider quotes & references (CR/MA)  
Cllr Ritchie reported that he had now received a second quotation from a second contractor.

A reference for Osbourne Signs had been circulated before the meeting.

Councillors unanimously agreed to proceed with the quotation from Osbourne Signs. The Clerk would apply for an EHDC Cllr Grant of £1000 to go toward the project, the remaining costs would come from CiL funds.

Cllr Ritchie agreed to investigate the small blue parking signs to add to the fingerposts. (CR/PC)

- f) Hedging Whips on The Green: to agree for the hedge to be extended (CR/MA)  
Cllr Ritchie informed Councillors that he had been approached by a member of Nature Group/TWiG asking to extend the mixed species hedge along the Workhouse Lane edge of The Green up to the car park entrance.

Councillors agreed for the hedge to be extended with TWiG responsible for planting the whips. (CR/CB)

- g) SDNPA Partnership Management Plan: to agree to respond & assign Councillor (MA)  
The Chair and Cllr Brooker agreed to submit a response on behalf of the Council. (MA/CB)

#### **8. County/District Councillor Report: Cllr Mocatta**

Cllr Mocatta informed Councillors that a consultation was to open the following week giving residents the opportunity to respond to the proposed options regarding the devolution and reorganisation of local government.

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting. (Appendix A)

#### **9. Planning Report by Chair of the Planning Committee (SR)**

Cllr Ridgeon presented the Planning Committee report circulated prior to the meeting. (Appendix B)

## **10. Finance**

- a) Finance Actuals vs Budget & Payments and Receipts report (20 May – 7 July): to approve  
The RFO presented the Actuals vs Budget and Payments and Receipts report between the dates of 20 May – 7 July.  
The report was unanimously approved by Councillors.
- b) Money Market account update  
The RFO reported that as agreed at the May AGM meeting, £40,000 had been put into a 12months fixed account and £10,000 had been put into a 6month fixed account.
- c) Engagement Letter for Lightatouch Internal Audit Services 2025-2026: to approve  
The engagement letter for Lightatouch Internal Audit Services for 2025-2026, independent from the PC, was reviewed and approved.

## **11. Items for the next agenda**

No new items were brought forward.

## **12. Next meeting:** Monday 15 September 2025 at 18:30.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20:08.

Signed:

Date:

## July 2025 Update

### **1) Hampshire County Council plans over 100 transport improvements for 2025/26**

Hampshire County Council is planning over 100 transport improvement projects across the county in the coming year to make everyday journeys safer, greener, and easier for everyone.

[Hampshire County Council plans over 100 transport improvements for 2025/26 | Hampshire County Council](#)

The full list is here:

[The Transport Strategy and Scheme Development Programme-2025-06-27-EMH2050 Decision Day](#)

The top scheme in East Hants is the Clanfield Accessibility scheme: *“Scheme to mitigate impact of development traffic. Includes improvements to Drift Road”*.

### **2) Go-ahead given for introduction of Hampshire-wide food waste recycling**

Plans to enable Hampshire residents to recycle household food waste from April 2026 have been confirmed. Hampshire County Council has agreed to progress with arrangements that will see an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 tonnes of food waste from Hampshire households recycled through anaerobic digestion – a process where bacteria breaks down organic matter producing valuable by-products such as renewable gas and organic fertilizer.

[Go-ahead given for introduction of Hampshire-wide food waste recycling | Hampshire County Council](#)

### **3) Hampshire County Council to consider ‘lane rental’ proposals to minimise roadworks disruption**

Proposals that could lead to the introduction of a new lane rental scheme aimed at reducing roadworks delays on over 550 miles of Hampshire’s busiest roads during peak times, are set to be considered by Hampshire County Council later this month

[Hampshire County Council to consider ‘lane rental’ proposals to minimise roadworks disruption | Hampshire County Council](#)

### **4) HCC is appointing a new CEO.**

Over 100 people applied, and after longlisting 11 candidates, and short listing 4, the new CEO is the current deputy CEO Gary Westbrook.

[Hampshire County Council to confirm appointment of new Chief Executive | Hampshire County Council](#)

### **5) Decisions due this summer on future services**

From older adults’ day services to school transport and planned road maintenance, this summer will see key decisions made on the future of some important County Council services delivered to Hampshire residents after April 2026

[Decisions due this summer on future services | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **6) Bookings open for Hampshire's Holiday Activities and Food summer programme**

Hampshire County Council's popular Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is back for the 2025 summer holidays – and eligible families can now browse and book free places for their children at local schemes across the county

[Bookings open for Hampshire's Holiday Activities and Food summer programme | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **7) Upgrades completed on popular Hayling Billy Trail to create 'all weather' surface**

People using the Hayling Billy Trail, on Hayling Island in Havant, can now benefit from a brand-new 'all-weather' surface, making it easier for walkers, cyclists, mobility scooter users, and horse riders to use in all seasons throughout the year

[Upgrades completed on popular Hayling Billy Trail to create 'all weather' surface | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **8) Hampshire County Council reviews early options for simpler, stronger, secure councils of the future**

Hampshire County Council is assessing four potential options for local government across Hampshire and the Solent as it closes in on identifying the best way of delivering simpler, stronger and secure councils in the future under Government plans to shake up councils across the country

[Hampshire County Council reviews early options for simpler, stronger, secure councils of the future | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **9) Hampshire County Council announces £12.5 million support package for vulnerable households**

Vulnerable Hampshire households struggling with rising costs can access a range of support thanks to a comprehensive £12.5 million package unveiled by Hampshire County Council

[Hampshire County Council announces £12.5 million support package for vulnerable households | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **10) More special needs school places for children in Gosport and the New Forest**

More children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Gosport and the New Forest will access the right support closer to home, thanks to the addition of new special needs places in two local schools.

[More special needs school places for children in Gosport and the New Forest | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **11) Festival at The Fort: a vibrant celebration of music and culture comes to Gosport next week**

An exciting creative arts festival is coming to Gosport next week, celebrating local heritage and culture and involving more than 700 schoolchildren from the town.

[Festival at The Fort: a vibrant celebration of music and culture comes to Gosport next week | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **12) Hamble Airfield – Planning Inquiry re-commences**

The planning appeal in relation to plans by CEMEX to develop a new quarry at the former Hamble Airfield in Hampshire, re-commences on Tuesday 24 June, lasting for three days.



[Hamble Airfield – Planning Inquiry re-commences | Hampshire County Council](#)

## **13) New Parent? You're not alone.**

If you're adjusting to life with a little one and craving some connection, Hampshire's Libraries are here for you.

**Hampshire County Council**'s free 'New Parents Meet and Connect' events offer a relaxed space to share the highs and lows of parenthood—no pressure, just friendly faces, gentle chat, and maybe a few laughs too.

Harry, a new dad who attends his local session, shared: "It's an informative group for a new Dad. I enjoyed quality time with my baby – we especially enjoyed the sensory play."

 No need to book—just drop in when it suits you.  Find your nearest session:  
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../lib.../services/support-parents>

## **Simpler. Stronger. Secure (more details)**

Last week a consultation was launched by some councils in Hampshire and the Solent about the future shape of local government in our area. Each council is being asked to submit a proposal for how new council areas should be created. The consultation asks respondents to draw on a map their "local" area and to define what localism means to them. There is no back up material to explain the different options available. Neither HCC nor EHDC is part of this group of councils.

Hampshire County Council is also reviewing early options for the future shape of local councils across Hampshire and the Solent and will be consulting on our proposal later this summer.

Under Government plans, all two-tier areas must transition to single-tier unitary councils by 2028—meaning changes to how local services are delivered. The aim? To create simpler, more efficient councils that are financially resilient and responsive to residents' needs. I absolutely recognise there is a huge risk this will not be the outcome, which is why HCC are undertaking a rigorous assessment of options before suggesting a solution.

It's vital that any new councils created protect the high-quality services upon which residents rely—and ensure long-term financial strength.

Four possible options are now being assessed, each grouping local authority areas differently. Here's a quick look:

## Appendix A

### Option 1: Three-unitary model

North: Basingstoke & Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, New Forest, Rushmoor, Test Valley, Winchester

South: Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth, Southampton

Isle of Wight: Remains as a stand-alone unitary

(Let me be very clear, I do not believe this model should be promoted, the areas are too large, and the risks created by merging the services of so many councils together are too great. This model though should be explored to provide a base line for our deliberation.)

### Option 2: Four-unitary model (South split in two)

North: Basingstoke & Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Test Valley, Winchester

South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton

South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth

Isle of Wight: Stand-alone unitary

### Option 3: Variant four-unitary model (Test Valley shifted)

North: Basingstoke & Deane, East Hampshire, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester

South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton, Test Valley

South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth

Isle of Wight: Stand-alone unitary

### Option 4: Five-unitary model (more localised focus)

North-East: Basingstoke & Deane, Hart, Rushmoor

Central: Test Valley, Winchester, East Hampshire

South-West: Eastleigh, New Forest, Southampton

South-East: Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Portsmouth

Isle of Wight: Stand-alone unitary

*What's next? A preferred option will be selected this summer for public feedback. Final proposals will be submitted to Government this autumn, before a further Government led consultation in 2026*

**Planning Applications since previous Parish Council Meeting**

<b>Ref Number</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Application for...</b>	<b>PC comment(s)</b>
SDNP/25/02278/FTP	Westbury House Nursing Home	Diversion of footpath east of existing route	No objection + comments
SDNP/25/02000/FUL	Horsedown Farm, Winchester Road	Proposed 36 ground mounted solar panels for domestic use on field adjacent to house.	No objection + comments
SDNP/25/02151/HOUS	Park Farm, Park Road	Single storey extension to outbuilding, with solar panels to roof.	No objection
SDNP/25/02422/PNTEL	Coombe Road	New low voltage pole and stay for the purposes of distributing electricity	No objection

**Planning Appeals in progress**

<b>Appeal address</b>	<b>Application under appeal</b>	<b>Date of appeal</b>	<b>Status</b>
Parsonage Barn, Oxenbourne Lane	Change of use of land to equestrian use consisting of the formation of a new access and sand gallop track around the perimeter of the field.	Aug 2023	In progress
Riplington Barn, West Meon Road	Conversion and re-use of redundant agricultural building as a dwelling	April 2025	In progress

**EMPC Finance Report****Jul-25**

Below is a summary of Actual vs Budget 2025/2026

**Summary of Cost Centres - Payment**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Administration	£ 8,350.47	£ 21,117.32	£ 12,766.85
Capital/Improvements	£ -	£ 4,000.00	£ 4,000.00
EHDC Cllr Grant	£ 150.00	£ -	-£ 150.00
FM Car Park	£ -	£ -	£ -
FM Allotments Water	£ 56.42	£ -	-£ 56.42
Grants/Donations	£ 400.00	£ 900.00	£ 500.00
Kews Meadow	£ 3,549.66	£ 3,760.00	£ 210.34
Parish Land	£ 2,155.25	£ 9,350.00	£ 7,194.75
Play Equipment	£ -	£ 1,700.00	£ 1,700.00
WH Lane Allotments	£ -	£ -	£ -
CiL Monies	£ 3,669.00	£ 69,792.96	£ 66,123.96
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 18,330.80</b>	<b>£ 110,620.28</b>	<b>£ 92,289.48</b>
VAT	£ 324.98		

**Summary of Cost Centres - Receipts**

Bank Interest	£ 2,377.31	£ 2,000.00	£ 377.31
Precept	£ 17,263.00	£ 34,526.00	-£ 17,263.00
EHDC Cllr Grant	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00
Grants (Other)	£ -	£ -	£ -
CiL Monies	£ 20,704.76	£ -	£ 20,704.76
FM Car Park	£ -	£ 400.00	-£ 400.00
FM Allotments	£ -	£ 360.00	-£ 360.00
WH Lane Allotments	£ -	£ 450.00	-£ 450.00
All Sports Pavilion Income	£ 190.00	£ 1,000.00	-£ 810.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 40,685.07</b>	<b>£ 38,736.00</b>	<b>£ 1,949.07</b>
VAT	£ 2,413.88		
Total CiL Monies Held to date	£ 66,123.96		

<b>Bank Account Balances</b>	
<b>07/07/2025</b>	
HSBC Current	£ 756.32
HSBC Bussiness	£ 44,126.66
HSBC Money Market - Fixed 1 Year	£ 40,000.00
HSBC Money Market - Fixed 6 Months	£ 10,000.00
Unity Trust Current	£ 446.80
Unity Trust Instant Access	£ 14,731.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 110,060.93</b>
<b>CiL Monies</b>	<b>£ 66,123.96</b>
<b>Reserves Total</b>	<b>£ 43,936.97</b>

**Payments 23 May - 7 July 2025**

## Appendix C

Organisation	Amount	Date Paid
CR - FB Pitch Sign	£ 9.98	28.05.2025
Clerk - Printer Paper	£ 5.00	28.05.2025
Hiscox - Insurance	£ 3,211.13	29.05.2025
Unity Trust - Bank Charge	£ 6.00	31.05.2025
Clerk Salary	£ 856.04	31.05.2025
HMRC - PAYE & Emp NI	£ 108.18	31.05.2025
Clerk - Printer Ink	£ 83.00	03.06.2025
Chris Smith - Mowing	£ 22.50	03.06.2025
Aztec - Laptop Backup	£ 20.21	03.06.2025
Stuart Powney - Caretaker	£ 35.00	06.06.2025
EM Village Hall - Hire	£ 10.00	09.06.2025
HSBC - Bank Charge	£ 5.00	12.06.2025
QLS - Grass Cutting	£ 1,656.00	16.06.2025
MacDonald Oates-Legal Fees	£ 687.90	17.06.2025
Castle Water - FM Allotments	£ 56.42	19.06.2025
CR - Replacement padlock	£ 21.58	24.06.2025
HMRC - PAYE & Emp NI	£ 108.18	26.06.2025
Clerk Salary	£ 856.04	30.06.2025
Unity Trust - Bank Charge	£ 6.00	30.06.2025
Chris Smith - Mowing	£ 173.25	02.07.2025
Aztec - Laptop Backup	£ 21.30	02.07.2025
Stuart Powney - Caretaker	£ 35.00	04.07.2025
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 7,993.71</b>	

## Receipts 23 May - 7 July 2025

Aspire - FB Pitch Hire	£ 90.00	26.05.2025
HSBC - Bank Interest	£ 130.45	22.06.2025
Cllr Grant - VE Day Film	£ 150.00	23.06.2025
Unity Trust - Bank Interest	£ 85.67	30.06.2025
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 456.12</b>	