

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025 AT APRIL'S FARM, SMANNELL, HAMPSHIRE

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Paul Dunning (Chair), Cllr. David Martin, Cllr. Erica Mason, Cllr. Rob Price, Cllr. Sue Rogers

In attendance:

Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Marianne Black – Smannell Parish Council
County Cllr. Kirsty North – Hampshire County Council
Borough Cllr. Phil North – Test Valley Borough Council

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None recorded

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded.

4. TO RESOLVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 JULY 2025

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 7 July 2025. Members unanimously RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of this meeting as a true and correct record. The Chair signed the Minutes accordingly.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD – 7 JULY 2025

The Chair reviewed all the action points that were raised from the meeting held 7 July 2025.

Pursuant to Minute 17, the Parish Clerk advised that he wrote to the National Grid Group to request a site survey to understand the permutations of obtaining an electrical supply to the field/lock-ups and has been advised that this is not within the area of the National Grid remit and to refer back to SSE. Cllr. Erica Mason suggested an alternative contact at SSE to use.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Clerk advised members of all correspondence received, which was sent to all members per email previously. All items of correspondence were noted without further comment.

The Parish Clerk advised members that Stephen Jenkins has tendered his formal resignation as a Parish Councillor. The Parish Clerk explained that he must now declare to Test Valley Borough Council that a vacancy exists on the Parish Council, which must be legally advertised accordingly. Members noted this information and advice accordingly and instructed the Parish Clerk to carry out the necessary required legal action.

ACTION

Members requested that the Parish Clerk carry out the necessary legal actions in connection with the parish councillor vacancy.

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The Chair advised members that he is in receipt of an email from a parishioner who was also in attendance at this meeting. The concerns raised were that no-one appears to ever tackle the issue with the speed of vehicles leaving and entering Frenches Farm. There is no signage at the new play area stating that children are playing and there are hazards. Issues focusing on speeding in the village and dog mess especially walking up past the park and along the bottom of the woods were raised.

The Chair informed all present of his written reply to the parishioner. The speed of vehicles along Frenches Farm Lane is a constant worry for the Parish Council. The Parish Council can only carry out stated legal enabling powers. The Speed indicator device for traffic coming from the farm direction has been set up and this has been in place for over a month on this occasion. The Speedwatch campaign monitored vehicles from the end of Frenches Farm lane earlier this month. The Chair explained that the Parish Council does not have the power of arrest and can only report speeding vehicles to the Police during a Speedwatch session. If any member of the public witnesses a speeding vehicle, they have the same limited powers as that of Parish Councillors.

The Chair agreed that the children playing sign has not been purchased or installed and discussion took place on this point. Members agreed to purchase two metal triangle signs with fittings advising Children Playing and the same quantity and specification for Slow Elderly People.

The Chair stated that in his recent editorial in The Oak magazine, he made reference to dog faeces. The only thing that the Parish Council can do is provide suitable bins for the use of responsible dog walkers to use. Two more are now in place than two years ago, so the problem is not a lack of bins. The woods are not owned by the Parish Council so all that can be done is to potentially make recommendations to the land management company to make alterations. It is a public space and open to everyone.

Members discussed the feasibility of procuring the largest dual purpose bin placed at either nearest to the play area, at the forest entrance gates or optimally between the two locations. The Parish Clerk was requested to obtain a quote for the largest dual purpose bin and associated maintenance from Test Valley Borough Council.

A discussion took place on the feasibility of requesting the placement of double yellow lines where people are parking inconsiderately on the corner between Frenches Farm land and Green Lane. The Parish Clerk was instructed to submit a request for consideration of double yellow lines at this location to Hampshire Highways.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to purchase two metal triangular signs with fittings advising Children Playing and the same quantity and specification for Slow Elderly People.

The Parish Clerk to submit a request for consideration of double yellow lines at the corner between Frenches Farm land and Green Lane to Hampshire Highways.

7. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

The Parish Clerk advised members of the income and expenditure of the Parish Council

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for August/September 2025, amounting to £586.32 expenditure and £311.75 income, as scheduled below and the Parish Clerk advised members of the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

EXPENDITURE

£200.00 – PCC of Smannell with Enham – Deposit Return for use of BBQ equipment dated 29 July 2025 - £200.00 (VAT - £0.00) £200.00

£35.17 – HMRC Shipley – PAYE due for period April/May/June - £35.17 (VAT - £0.00) £35.17

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 461908806 dated 10 July 2025 – Bank charges from 10 June 2025 to 9 July 2025 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

£173.35 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – July 2025 Salary – Gross payment £216.75 - £43.40 PAYE – Net Payment £173.35

£173.55 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – August 2025 Salary – Gross payment £216.75 - £43.20 PAYE – Net payment £173.55

INCOME

PCC of Smannell with Enham – Deposit received for use of BBQ equipment dated 14 July 2025 - £200.00 (VAT - £0.00) £200.00

Lloyds Bank – Interest received from Lloyds Bank 32 Day deposit account from 30 May 2025 to 30 June 2025 at 2.05% - £56.07 Gross

Lloyds Bank – Interest received from Lloyds Bank 32 Day deposit account from 30 June 2025 to 31 July 2025 at 2.05% - £55.69 Gross

Members RESOLVED the financial income and expenditure schedule as prescribed for the parish council amounting to £586.32 expenditure and £311.76 income.

8. TO RESOLVE APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT AND CERTIFICATE SECTION 3 OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2024/2025 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR END 31 MARCH 2025

The Parish Clerk reported that he has not yet received the documents from BDO, Members DEFERRED this agenda item until the November Smannell Parish Council meeting.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LLPF AND EVENTS TEAM AND ACTIVITIES

It was reported that the LLPF and Events team are meeting on 3 September 2025 to start planning for the fireworks event and the proposed date for this will be 8 November 2025, which will be confirmed at this meeting.

The Chair advised that he recently emailed Cllr. Marianne Black with his thoughts in respect of the forthcoming fireworks event. Last year drew record numbers and there are no reasons why these numbers will not be repeated or increased.

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The Chair stated that he has spoken with Will Brook and he has said that the Parish Council can use the field again this year for the bonfire and to let the fireworks off. The field can also be used for car parking but **only** if the ground is fairly dry and firm and won't be destroyed if driven on. A larger team of car parking attendants will be required if the field cannot be used. The Chair has suggested a team of at least 10 people whatever the case, all in hi-vis vests. Attendants will be required from the main road, up the lane well into the woods and the field. It is possible to get a dozen cars on the grass verge tightly against the field fence adjacent to the road. This would cover the disabled requirement and it would be advisable to have disabled parking signs. Cllr, Rob Price volunteered his services to be a parking attendant at the event and also stated he would be prepared to prepare and laminate twelve disabled parking signs.

Billy Whitmore will take charge of the bonfire and already has a supply of trees that Will Brook has stored on his farm. The Chair commented that one of the main concerns is the safety of pedestrians on the road and the field, which is used for parking and the diminishing number of lights that are working on the two string of lights that are owned. Both issues can be addressed if the Parish Council purchases a couple of additional strings of lights. It is considered that additional lighting in the parking field and along the fence where pedestrians are walking back to the entrance gate are needed. This would be in addition to the lighting in the BBQ area, the entrance gate, the toilet area and the gazebo selling glow sticks etc. Members considered two options below. The cost is less than £100 per string but should help out considerably. With the increased lights comes increased generator requirements and it was agreed to look for an additional larger unit to enhance the two that the Parish Council obtains free of charge.

Members made a RECOMMENDATION to the LLPF and Events Team to purchase 2 x 50m string of lights for additional lighting and consider the necessary additional generator requirements.

ACTION

Cllr. Rob Price to provide twelve laminated disabled parking signs.

ACTION

The Clerk to advise Cllr. Marianne Black of the Parish Council recommendation to purchase 2 x 50m string of lights for additional lighting and consider the necessary additional generator requirements.

10. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None recorded. Matters of enforcement were discussed.

11. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE

Cllr. David Martin advised members that he had nothing significant to report in regards to footpaths. He advised members that he has been advised by Hampshire County Council that the on-going application for a change on the designated footpath order has been passed to the Planning Inspectorate and that they are looking to schedule a public inquiry. It is hoped that a date will be secured soon but these conversations can often take a very long time.

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12. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

None received.

13. MEMBER QUESTIONS

The matter of obtaining a Christmas Tree was discussed. Members agreed that two Christmas trees are needed, one in a pot and the other attached to a stake approximately between 8 to 10 foot in height and to ask Nigel Sully from the Enham Trust/Astor Group to supply these requirements.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to ask Nigel Sully if he would kindly supply two Christmas Trees, one in a pot and the other being between 8 to 10 foot in height and capable of being attached to a stake.

The Chair advised members that a book exchange has been set up and is running in the bus shelter in Smannell.

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.05 hours.

The next meeting of the Smannell Parish Council will be on 3 November 2025 at April's Farm, starting at 6.30pm. Cllr. Erica Mason offered her apologies for this meeting.