

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2025 AT APRIL'S FARM, SMANNELL, HAMPSHIRE

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

In attendance:

Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Erica Mason – Smannell Parish Council
County Cllr. Kirsty North – Hampshire County Council
Borough Cllr. Phil North – Test Valley Borough Council

2. TO CO-OPT AND RESOLVE A PARISH COUNCILLOR AS A SERVING MEMBER TO THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL

This agenda item was DEFERRED until the January 2026 Smannell Parish Council meeting.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Representatives from the PCC of Smannell with Enham Alamein attended seeking an increased grant aid towards the upkeep and maintenance of the church cemetery and that of the Parish Oak. They explained their financial position and the increasing costs and overheads and provided a financial statement for members. It was explained, as a guide, that current advertising revenue, assuming existing adverts are renewed, amounts to £2,225.00 per annum. Printing costs, the only cost incurred by the Oak (everything else is done on a voluntary basis bar the cost of email hosting) amounts to at least £2,736.00 depending on the size of each issue. This results in a current deficit of some £500+ a year. Members discussed the request to increase the grants for the churchyard maintenance and for the Parish Oak. Members RESOLVED by 3 votes FOR, 2 votes AGAINST, that the current grant level will remain at £250.00 for the churchyard maintenance and £140.00 for the Parish Oak. That said, members were hopeful that the parish council may be able to increase the grant to the previous level in the future. Furthermore, members were happy to advise the representatives on maximising grant opportunities and raising revenue as necessary.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded.

5. TO RESOLVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1 September 2025. Members unanimously RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of this meeting as a true and correct record. The Chair signed the Minutes accordingly.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD – 1 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Chair reviewed all the action points that were raised from the meeting held 1 September 2025 that have been carried out accordingly.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Clerk advised members of all correspondence received, which was sent to all members per email previously.

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All items of correspondence were noted without further comment.

The Parish Clerk advised members of a letter received from Hampshire County Council dated 13 October 2025 advising of a consultation on the future of the Smannell and Enham Church of England Primary School, Smannell. A decision has been made to open an initial phase of consultation on the potential closure of the school from 13 February 2026. The consultation is running from 13 October 2025 until 10 November 2025.

The Parish Clerk advised members that the Internal Auditor, Tim Light, has advised that he is retiring from audit work from 2026/2027. He will honour internal audit arrangements for 2025/2026 but thereafter, he has recommended Mulberry Local Authority Services.

8. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

The Parish Clerk advised members of the income and expenditure of the Parish Council for October/November 2025, amounting to £6,396.76 expenditure and £2,512.49 income, as scheduled below and the Parish Clerk advised members of the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

EXPENDITURE

£80.00 – April's Farm – Invoice 1093 dated 1 September 2025 - Hire of Hall for Parish Council meetings - £80.00 (VAT - £0.00) £80.00

£2,403.50 – Lloyds Bank – Investment of monies to 32 Day Bond - £2,403.50 (VAT - £0.00) £2,403.50

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 466759964 dated 10 September 2025 – Bank charges from 10 August 2025 to 9 September 2025 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

£378.00 – BDO – Invoice 00733674 dated 11 September 2025 – External Audit Services - £315.00 – (VAT - £63.00) £378.00

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

£189.48 – Refund to Marianne Black – Superlec Invoice 5115934 dated 24 September 2025 – 50 metre 8W LED Festoon Kit - £157.90 (VAT - £31.58) £189.48

£168.76 – Enham Trust – Invoice B60-002886 dated 26 June 2025 – Little London Grass Cutting - £140.63 (VAT - £28.13) £168.76

£1,634.94 – Epic Fireworks – Invoice 16543 dated 9 October 2025 – Bespoke Fireworks Package - £1,362.45 (VAT - £272.49) £1,634.94

£57.30 – Refund to Kevin Glyn-Davies – Your Parking Sign Invoice 4603159 dated 13 October 2025 – Slow Children Playing Signage - £47.75 (VAT - £9.55) £57.30

£134.60 – Refund to Kevin Glyn-Davies – Safety Signs and Notices Invoice SSAN-105148 dated 10 October 2025 – Frail elderly pedestrians and accompanied horses or ponies

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signage - £112.17 (VAT - £22.43) £134.60

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 469238458 dated 10 October 2025 – Bank charges from 10 September 2025 to 9 October 2025 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

£15.00 – PCC of Smannell with Enham Alamein – Invoice dated 13 October 2025 – Bonfire Night Leaflet to be included with the Parish Oak distribution - £15.00 (VAT - £0.00) £15.00

£135.00 – Enham Trust – Invoice B60-005684 dated 10 October 2025 – Little London Grass Cutting - £112.50 (VAT - £22.50) £135.00

£130.00 – HMRC Shipley – PAYE due for period July/August/September 2025 - £43.20, £43.40 and £43.40 - £130.00 (VAT - £0.00) £130.00

£25.28 – Refund to Paul Dunning – Safety Signs and Notices Invoice SSAN-105451 dated 20 October 2025 – Channel clips/Sign Post Clips and Fixings - £21.07 (VAT - £4.21) £25.28

£600.00 – Will Brook – Invoice 13 dated 17 October 2025 – Removal and tidying of tree debris and other degradable objects at Little London Playing Field - £500.00 (VAT - £100.00) £600.00

£89.70 – Refund to Paul Dunning – Lidl Invoice 019344/71 dated 29 October 2025 – 30 bottles of Mulled Wine for Fireworks Event - £74.75 (VAT - £14.95) £89.70

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

INCOME

Test Valley Borough Council – Second Instalment of Precept - £2,403.50

Lloyds Bank – Interest received from Lloyds Bank 32 Day deposit account from 31 July 2025 to 29 August 2025 inclusive at 2.05% - £50.38 Gross

Lloyds Bank – Interest received from Lloyds Bank 32 Day deposit account from 29 August 2025 to 30 September 2025 inclusive at 1.95% - £58.61

Members RESOLVED the financial income and expenditure schedule as prescribed for the parish council amounting to £6,396.76 expenditure and £2,512.49 income.

9. 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 advised members that the audit has been returned as an unqualified audit opinion on the accounts, which is the best result with no comments made.

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Members RESOLVED approval of the external auditor's report and certificate Section 3 for the financial year end 31 March 2025

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

Cllr. Marianne Black provided the following update report.

The team has met 3 times in the last two months to prepare for Fireworks Night. A different approach has been taken this year in many ways:

First, by assigning event team members to lead and be responsible for different areas of responsibility (Entrance Gate, Food & Beverage, Parking & Pedestrians, Fireworks & Bonfire and Health & Safety). This should lead to greater efficiency and thoroughness with a shared responsibility approach.

Second, Fireworks Event Action Plan, Firing Plan and Risk Assessment have been prepared after consulting a number of Government and Government recommended guidelines. The police have been notified of the event and a resident active fireman in Little London has advised on fire safety, including parking for emergency vehicles.

Third, due to the unexpectedly high numbers and limited parking facilities, the price has increased to match other main local events, such as the Andover Golf Club. It is hoped by doing this, it will attract fewer numbers but maintain the amount taken from ticket sales.

Risks remain the same as last year with the highest risk being the weather, in terms of going ahead with the event and then turnout - Sunday 9th November 2025 is a back up day but forecast is very unsettled at the moment and changing daily. The wet forecast between now and 8th also increases risks in relation to parking and pedestrian safety.

Measures have been put in place to reduce these risks but are limited by the facilities available and physical make up of the roads. This year, there is a team of 8 parking volunteers using red flashing batons, disabled parking situated in Ridges Close driveway, signage directing pedestrians to stay to the left on the road, cordoning off the grass verge to make a pedestrian walkway alongside the playing field from the car park. Additional risks arise if wet weather and less cars can park in the field and have to park along the roadside.

The Chair advised members that he has obtained three quotes to supply and install replacement post and rail fencing at the Little London Playing Field with the cheapest quote received from Shire Gate at £2,880.00 (VAT - £576.00) £3,456.00. Members agreed that this needs to be undertaken in the interests of health and safety.

11. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None recorded.

12. TO DISCUSS CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE BUDGET 2026/2027

The Parish Clerk advised members of the importance of considering capital projects for the budget for the financial year 2026/2027.

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The Chair stated that it was essential to have a robust tree budget going forward as quotes are currently being obtained to evaluate the ash die back around the Little London Play Area and surround. This is likely to be quite expensive.

Members suggested that in light of proposed speed measures, that a potential road safety budget be considered but DEFER to the next meeting, pending an understanding of the costs involved from County Cllr. Kirsty North.

13. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE

Cllr. David Martin advised members that he had nothing vital to report at the present time.

14. ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

The Chair and Cllr David Martin advised members that they recently met with County Cllr. Kirsty North and Borough Cllr. Phil North to discuss road safety matters. They were exploratory talks at this stage and centred on Little London safety from the junction with Green Lane to the playing field.

Initially, the suggestion was made to have speed bumps and a 20mph limit as they can have them installed without the need for street lighting in a 20mph zone.

County Cllr. Kirsty North and Borough Cllr. Phil North were asked about the inception of a 20mph zone past the school with some sort of traffic calming in the Smannell Road, maybe a chicane with priority for vehicles exiting the village towards Andover. In addition, speed bumps and 20mph heading up the Stoke Road. It was made clear that any such measures would need to be funded by the Parish Council as Hampshire County Council has very limited funds. If the proposed development in Smannell goes ahead, there may be an opportunity of using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to subsidise suggested speeding measures. In terms of financing, ideally, it would be funded by Hampshire County Council and if the Bloor plans are passed, conditions could be argued for demanding a speed reduction on the Smannell Road and maybe even the Area of Outstanding Beauty extension.

The Chair stated that County Cllr. Kirsty North and Borough Cllr. Phil North advised that they would provide details of the process to follow in order to request a change of speed limit to 20mph. They would also provide an estimated cost that other Parishes may have faced when going through such suggested speed measure proposals.

15. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

None received.

16. MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair advised members that he has been asked to be part of a formation of a coalition of leadership for taking action in respect of what is currently called 'Smannell and Enham Church of England Primary School'. The coalition has the sole purpose of moving forward at pace on deciding the future for the Primary School, even if this may mean that the school takes a different name, specialism, or is taken forward by a new multi-academy trust. There are eleven invitees and a meeting is proposed to discuss the way forward.

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Members considered the invitation and the inclusion of the Chair carefully. It was agreed that this meeting may be beneficial in keeping the school open albeit that the school may be re-branded and that the Chair should attend representing Smannell Parish Council.

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.20 hours.

The next meeting of the Smannell Parish Council will be on 5 January 2026 at April's Farm, starting at 6.30pm.