

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH JANUARY 2026 AT APRIL'S FARM, SMANNELL, HAMPSHIRE

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

In attendance:

County Cllr. Kirsty North – Hampshire County Council

1. APOLOGIES

Borough Cllr. Phil North – Test Valley Brough Council

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

The Parish Clerk advised members of one application received that being David Singleton. The Chair welcomed David Singleton to the meeting and invited him to provide a brief summary of himself to members. Members RESOLVED to co-opt David Singleton as a serving Smannell Parish Councillor. Cllr. David Singleton signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Parish Clerk accordingly.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None recorded.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded.

5. TO RESOLVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2025

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 3 November 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 – 3 NOVEMBER 2025

The Chair reviewed all the action points that were raised from the meeting held 3 November 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.

All items of correspondence were noted without further comment.

The Parish Clerk made reference to the quotation received from Arbor Call Limited for urgent works to diseased trees at the Little London Play Area and the costs involved of £5,650.00 plus VAT. The Chair stated that some of the works have already been undertaken in-house and via contacts so the costs will be reduced. Cllr. David Singleton advised that he knows of an arboriculturalist and will ask him accordingly to quote for the necessary works

ACTION

Cllr. David Singleton to approach a tree arboriculturalist known to him to look at the trees and situation and quote accordingly for necessary works.

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The Chair stated that he would obtain a quotation for pollarding and the Parish Clerk was requested to ask Arbor Call to revise their quote for pollarding only.

ACTION

The Chair to obtain a quotation for pollarding of the trees and the Parish Clerk to request Arbor Call to revise their quote for pollarding only.

Of specific note, the Parish Clerk advised members that he is in receipt of the Parish Council dog bin package costs from Test Valley Borough Council and advised members of the current costs involved. Members agreed to purchase a Glasdon Jubilee Litter Bin without ashtray at a cost of £440.92 plus VAT and agreed to the cost of servicing at £242.57 plus VAT per year. The Parish Clerk was requested to place this order and progress accordingly.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to place an order with Test Valley Borough Council for 1 x Glasdon Jubilee Litter Bin without ashtray at £440.92 plus VAT to include annual servicing at £242.57 plus VAT

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

The Parish Clerk advised members of the income and expenditure of the Parish Council for November/December 2025, amounting to £2,239.67 expenditure and £6,053.69 income, as scheduled below and the Parish Clerk advised members of the latest financial position of the Parish Council. He also stated that Lloyds Bank has informed the Parish Council of an interest rate reduction from the Gross interest rate of 1.9500% to the new Gross interest rate of 1.8500% with effect from 20 January 2026.

EXPENDITURE

£39.54 – Paul Dunning – Refund for petrol for generators – Tesco Invoice A00000031010 dated 1 November 2025 - £32.94 (VAT - £6.59) £39.54

£83.46 – Paul Dunning – Refund for Jack Chain, galvanised Hookplates – CEF Invoice 004996 dated 13 November 2025 - £69.55 (VAT - £13.91) £83.46

£1,728.00 – Shire Gate Limited – Invoice 0578 dated 10 November 2025 – 50% costs to works to recreation ground fencing - £1,440.00 (VAT - £288.00) £1,728.00

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

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 4717211105 dated 10 November 2025 – Bank charges from 10 October 2025 to 9 November 2025 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 474212555 dated 10 December 2025 – Bank charges from 10 November 2025 to 9 December 2025 - £37.52 (VAT - £0.00) £37.52

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

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INCOME

Cardnet – Credit Card Terminal Test on 12 November 2025 – 0.04p

Cardnet – Takings from Firework Event per Credit Card terminal - £1,093.54

Further takings paid-in following cashing up and production of income and expenditure schedule - £4,380.00

Further takings paid-in following Fireworks Event - £500.00

Lloyds Bank – Interest received from Lloyds Bank 32 Day deposit account from 31 October 2025 to 27 November 2025 inclusive at 1.95% - £36.72 Gross

Lloyds Bank – Interest received from Lloyds Bank 32 Day deposit account from 28 November 2025 to 31 December 2025 inclusive at 1.95% - £43.39 Gross

Members RESOLVED the financial income and expenditure schedule as prescribed for the parish council amounting to £2,239.67 expenditure and £6,053.69 income.

9. TO RESOLVE THE BUDGET FOR THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2026/2027

The Parish Clerk presented the budget and his comments to members. He stated that the confirmed and actual taxbase for Smannell Parish Council for 2026/2027 is 156 and this represents an increase of 3 or 1.96% from the 2025/2026 taxbase of 153. There is **no** grant from Test Valley Borough Council to help cushion the effects of the decrease in the Central Government Settlement Grant. A 'taxbase' is the number of Band 'D' equivalent amount of dwellings in the applicable local authority area.

The Parish Council's taxbase is 156 and to calculate the Council Tax average Band D, you always divide the precept requirement by the taxbase and you will then obtain the average Band D Council Tax, which is the most often quoted variable. An authority's taxbase is taken into account when it calculates the Council Tax. It is calculated by adding together the number of dwellings for each valuation band and then multiplying that result by Test Valley Borough Council's collection rate for the year.

The 2025/2026 Average Band D Council Tax for Smannell Parish Council is currently £31.42 on a precept of £4,807. At the 10 January 2022 Smannell Parish Council meeting, members Resolved under Minute 10 to commit to a 15% increase in the precept over 5 years. This means that this commitment is valid for the financial years 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024/2025, 2025/2026 and 2026/2027. Delivering the 15% commitment for 2026/2027 would mean that the Precept will increase to £5,528. ($4,807 \times 15/100 = 721$). Add the £721 to the 2025/2026 figure of £4,807 = £5,528. In respect of Average Band D Council Tax terms, this equates to £5,528 divided by the Taxbase of 156 = £35.44. This is an increase of £4.02 from the 2025/2026 figure of £31.42. It means that for the budget, this will return a surplus for 2026/2027 going forward of £306.00. The reserves will therefore be £36,055 (£35,749 plus £306).

Members felt that the Clerk's salary should be increased in line with inflation by 3.8% from 1 April 2026, which will adjust the budget allocation from £2,601 to £2,700 rounded.

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Members RESOLVED to set the precept requirement for Smannell Parish Council for 2026/2027 at £5,528.00 and continue the 15% commitment increase in the precept.

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

Cllr. Marianne Black made the following report on behalf of the LLPF and Events Team Committee.

Summary:

- Event income in 2026-7 to be allocated to playing field expenses.
- Income projections: Fireworks Night the main fundraiser with aim in 2026 to at least match 2025 profit. Expected small increase in profit as decrease in expenses as no additional items required and additional catering/food items to be offered.
- Summer social evening: community social & fundraising event – cheese & wine dinner with band – income from ticket & bottles of wine sales
- Tree work, fencing and water in 2026-7 continues to drive up expenses in this next year. Significant decrease expected in 2027-28 of around £4500 with regular annual regular expenses of approx. £2000.
- General maintenance in 2026-7 to include portaloo emptying & repair of frame of marquee

Christmas Lights Switch On:

Christmas lights switch on took place on Wednesday 3 December. It was not possible to hold on first Monday of December due to volunteer availability. Tree in a pot was donated by Enham. Event was attended by around 40 members of the parish and included carols, an address by Vicar Alex and raffle. Consideration will be given as to how more could be made of this event; with the closure of the school there was no specific involvement from children and they could be asked to do readings/carols. This also could be an event where the Parish Church team could raise funds e.g. selling Christmas items/gifts and cakes.

It was agreed that a donation of £150.65 should be made to the Parish Church as part of the agreement when discussion took place on funding for the Parish Oak as part of the profit that has been made.

Cllr. Marianne Black advised members of prospective future events that are being considered by the committee.

The Chair thanked Cllr. Marianne Black and her colleagues on the committee for their hard work and success of the Christmas Lights Switch-On event.

11. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Clerk advised members of one planning application that has been received requiring determination.

25/02966/FULLN - Change of use of existing workshop building (Use Class B2) to a dog day care facility (Sui Generis), including minor internal alterations, replacement of existing workshop doors with a glazed entrance, installation of a side access door and associated parking at Green Lane Farm, Green Drove, Upper Enham, Andover.

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RESOLVED: No Objection.

12. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE

Cllr. David Martin advised members that a Notice of Order under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 has been issued, which is a consultation by Order. The inquiry will be held at Test Valley Borough Council office on 16 June 2026 commencing at 10.00am. Cllr. David Martin stressed the importance of members being present at the inquiry. There was some concern at the formal terminology contained within the Order to the term 'new footpaths', which is certainly not the case and could be misleading. Cllr. David Martin stated he would discuss this with Noel Pope accordingly.

ACTION

Cllr. David Martin to discuss the terminology and referencing to 'new footpaths' with Noel Pope accordingly.

13. ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

Cllr. David Martin advised members that he has studied the self-assessment 20mph forms and guidance notes on the Hampshire County Council website to understand the necessary procedures. The intended area to reduce the speed limit is just beyond the end of the playing field towards Frenches Farm and this will be the intended location for submission. The Parish Council will be required to demonstrate that community consultation has taken place and that this is a necessary request. Members felt that the best results are obtained by canvassing residents on a door-to-door basis. Cllr. David Martin stated that he and the Chair can obtain the necessary data and statistics from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) and produce the requisite spreadsheets to support the submission.

ACTION

Cllr. David Martin to obtain the recorded statistics from the Speed Indicator Device for the intended area and prepare data and required spreadsheets. Members to prepare and devise a suitable consultation document and exercise strategy and to ensure every household is approached.

14. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Cllr. Kirsty North advised members that last month, Hampshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services sadly confirmed the closure of Smannell and Enham Church of England Primary School following the statutory consultation. The decision, while disappointing, was not unexpected given the school's unsustainably low pupil numbers, which had dropped to 5. The meeting, which Cllr. Kirsty North attended and gave her views, is available to watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yl8aoYEOOv>

Borough Cllr. Phil Nprth and County Cllr. Kirsty North are campaigning to keep the school as an educational establishment. Although Hampshire County Council own the playing field, the Diocese own the school building. Therefore, persuading the Diocese will be key, but Hampshire County Council has confirmed that they will open discussion with them on the future use of the site.

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They are pressing the Diocese and are keen to get as much local support as possible to strengthen their hand. The campaign has got off to a great start, with over 50 residents signing up. Supporters are urged to sign-up to show their support, here:

<https://www.northwesthampshireconservatives.org.uk/campaigns/save-smannell-school>

County Cllr. Kirsty North expressed her thanks to the Cabinet Members for authorising a discretionary payment for uniform for pupils that have moved from the school this term, which County Cllr. Kirsty North pressed for at the decision meeting.

County Cllr. Kirsty North reminded members that her County Councillor grant pot is still open, though the criteria has changed, she is looking for charities and organisations who may need a small pot of funding to help with a capital project and grants to parish councils are now restricted.

Members felt that a grant application could be made for £1,000 contribution for the costs of the remaining fencing to the play area in the name of the Little London Playing Fields and Events Team.

15. MEMBER QUESTIONS

None recorded.

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.32 hours.

The next meeting of the Smannell Parish Council will be on 2 March 2026 at April's Farm, starting at 6.30pm.