

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2ND MARCH 2026 AT APRIL'S FARM, SMANNELL, HAMPSHIRE

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

In attendance:

Margaret Henstock
Mr & Mrs Evers

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Marianne Black – Smannell Parish Council
Cllr. Rob Price – 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 12 JANUARY 2026

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12 January 2026. 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 – 12 JANUARY 2026

The Chair reviewed all the action points that were raised from the meeting held 12 January 2026 that have been carried out accordingly.

At this point in the meeting, the Chair took the following agenda item.

6. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications requiring determination but a discussion took place in connection with the recent Test Valley Borough Council Northern Area Planning Committee (NAPC) meeting that took place on 19 February 2026. On that Agenda was the Outline Planning Application from Bloor Homes regarding the proposal for up to 190 houses on the edge of the Smannell parish. Cllr. David Martin attended this meeting and provided a detailed report on what took place.

The NAPC had conducted a review and settled on a proposal to approve the application and this was upheld by a majority vote, despite several Councillors making strong objections and 32 letters of objection from local residents, Andover Town Council and Smannell Parish Council. He stressed that the application that was discussed is an outline planning consent application and detailed planning setting out the intricacies is still to come. It was explained that as it is an outline application, all of the detail is yet to be determined and another application will need to be submitted to resolve that for agreement.

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Mr and Mrs Evers, who also attended the Northern Area Planning Committee meeting, presented their concerns to members and discussion took place on flooding, traffic and the logistics of construction traffic access and the impact that this will have on the surrounding areas.

Cllr. David Martin stated he was disappointed by the concerns of some of the other Test Valley and Hampshire County Council Councillors, who seemed to concentrate on allotments, heat pumps and solar panels, all of which seemed quite trivial compared with the more important key items. This view was shared by Mr & Mrs Evers.

The submission of a proposal for 8 affordable houses by English Rural on the paddock behind The Oak was also discussed. The Chair advised members that there is a Test Valley Borough Council Northern Area Planning Committee meeting on 12 March 2026 to determine whether or not to grant permission for this development with associated access.

He requested that members attend this meeting if they can and it was acknowledged that representations must be kept to a minimum if anyone wishes to speak at the meeting. It is a requirement that speakers must register with Test Valley Borough Council by noon on the working day prior to the meeting.

Members also commented that the outline proposal is within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), that the development is not necessary especially now that 40% of the proposed 190 houses that Bloor will build are 'affordable'. The development will have an adverse affect on the only commercial business in the Parish. As regards the next steps, the Chair advised that he and Cllr. David Martin have requested a meeting with Borough Cllr. Phil North to discuss matters and the potential grounds for an objection. They are meeting with Borough Cllr. Phil North on 6 March 2026.

In the meantime, members are pursuing measures to apply for an extension to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty so that Smannell Parish Council is best placed to protect the community against further development.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

8. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

The Parish Clerk advised members of the income and expenditure of the Parish Council for February/March 2026, amounting to £2,713.77 expenditure and £73.87 income, as scheduled below and the Parish Clerk advised members of the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

EXPENDITURE

£173.35 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – January 2026 Salary – Gross payment £216.75 - £43.40 PAYE – Net Payment £173.35

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£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 476665290 dated 12 January 2026 – Bank charges from 10 December 2025 to 9 January 2026 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

£1,728.00 – Shire Gate Limited – Invoice 0619 dated 23 January 2026 – Final instalment for fencing works - £1,440.00 (VAT - £288.00) £1,728.00

£350.00 – Anthony Tomkins – Invoice 036 dated 27 January 2026 – Aid in the removal and processing of Ash Trees - £350.00 (VAT - £0.00) £350.00

£150.65 – PCC of Smannell with Enham Alamein – Grant Donation - £150.65 (VAT - £0.00) £150.65

£130.00 – HMRC Shipley – PAYE due for period October/November and December 2025 - £43.40, £43.40 and £43.20 - £130.00 (VAT - £0.00) £130.00

£173.35 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – February 2026 Salary – Gross payment £216.75 - £43.40 PAYE – Net payment £173.35

INCOME

Lloyds Bank – Interest received from Lloyds Bank 32 Day deposit account from 31 December 2025 to 30 January 2026 inclusive at 1.85% - £38.86 Gross

Lloyds Bank – Interest received from Lloyds Bank 32 Day deposit account from 30 January 2026 to 27 February 2026 inclusive at 1.85% - £35.01 Gross

Members RESOLVED the financial income and expenditure schedule as prescribed for the parish council amounting to £2,713.77 expenditure and £73.87 income.

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

In the absence of Cllr. Marianne Black, no formal report was provided.

The Chair informed members that a successful grant application has been made by the LLPF and Events Team to Hampshire County Council for £1,000.00 by kind agreement of County Cllr. Kirsty North.

Three quotations have been obtained for the proposed works to crown reduce two ash trees by 3.5-5 metres at the Little London Playing Field. These were from a tree surgeon for £2,126.00 (VAT - £0.00), with a truck and shredder or without £1,976.00 (VAT - £0.00) Arbor-Call - £4,600.00 (VAT - £920.00) £5,520.00 and Dylan Thomas Tree & Hedge Care - £1,600.00 (VAT - £0.00). Members agreed that Dylan Thomas should carry out the works at £1,600.00 as he was the cheapest. Furthermore, the contractor will remove all brush from site and any log wood can be left on site for villages to process and take for firewood.

Cllr. David Singleton offered his help to clear the site should it be required. The Chair stated that his call for people to plant tree saplings that are personal to them has met with a good response.

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A quote has also been prepared by Shire Gate to supply and install replacement posts and rail fencing for the remaining area requiring the fencing at £1,885.00 (VAT - £377.00) £2,262.00. Members felt this works needs to be awarded especially as the grant application for £1,000.00 has been approved.

10. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE

Margaret Henstock briefed the Parish Council regarding the Notice of Order under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which has been issued. It is a consultation by Order and a public inquiry relating to Long Copse and Rag Copse and will be held at Test Valley Borough Council offices on 16 June 2026 commencing at 10.00am. She stressed the importance of members being present at the inquiry.

She explained that she and colleagues have been liaising closely with Jennifer Holden-Warren at Hampshire County Council who is the Senior Definitive Map Officer. She, in turn, has been liaising with key partners involved in the public inquiry. Representatives at the public inquiry will be cross-examined by a barrister and Margaret Henstock is compiling a list of those who wish to attend and speak. She has set up a briefing meeting with Jennifer Holden-Warren at Hampshire County Council, The Castle, Winchester on 8 April 2026 at 11.00am. The Chair stated he would try and attend this meeting if he could.

It was clarified that the footpaths are 'new' in that they have not been formally adopted but have been used for many years by a variety of locals, establishing potential legal rights of way and supported by statements provided to Hampshire County Council. They have since identified six paths for consideration.

11. ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

Cllr. David Martin advised members that work continues with the proposal for a 20mph speed limit through Little London from the playing field to the junction with Green Lane. He stated that a months worth of statistics have been collated from the Speed Indicator Device that shows regular speeding, but critically a mean average speed of vehicles in the mid-20s. This happens to be one of the criteria required to meet when justifying a reduction of the speed limit to 20mph but another important part is evidence of consultation with local residents. To that end, members agreed with conducting a door to door survey in an effort to get consensus. That said, members agreed that this would be conducted late afternoon/early evening on 10 March 2026.

If Smannell Parish Council is ultimately successful in getting this speed limit reduction, it will enable members to look at installing speed bumps to further control traffic speed and improve the safety of all road users, whether in vehicles, cycling or on foot.

ACTION

Cllr. David Martin and some members to carry out consultation on the proposal for a 20mph speed limit through Little London on 10 March 2026.

12. TO RESOLVE THE RESERVE POLICY AND STATEMENT FOR 2026/2027

The Parish Clerk referred to the reserve policy and statement for 2026/2027 and members considered the position in respect of the financial provision for the parish council and the projects for 2026/2027. The accounts have been prepared for the financial year end 31 March 2026 and the retained reserves brought forward are £34,110. Members felt that a

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reserve of £7,000.00 of these reserves should be made towards further enhancement of the Little London Playing Fields. This will leave a reserve balance of £27,110.00 as at 31 March 2027. It was RESOLVED to earmark £7,000.00 towards the enhancement of the Little London Playing Fields, which would leave a reserve of £27,110.00.

13. TO RESOLVE AGREEMENT AS TO THE FIXED ASSET REGISTER FOR 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk made reference to the previously circulated fixed asset register for the Parish Council for the financial year 2025/2026. The total value for all items totals £69,303.00. Members RESOLVED agreement of the value of the fixed asset register for 2025/2026 at £69,303.00.

14. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

None received.

15. MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair advised members that he will be attending the Commonwealth Flag raising event on 9 March 2026. He will be attending the next Smannell with Enham Alamein Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting and will attend and speak at the Test Valley Northern Area Planning Committee meeting on 12 March 2026.

The next meeting of the Smannell Parish Council will be on 11 May 2026 at April's Farm, starting at 6.30pm. It will start with the Annual Parish Assembly followed by the Annual General meeting and conclude with the ordinary May Smannell Parish Council meeting. The Parish Clerk explained that all three meetings must be held as separate meetings.

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