

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH JULY 2025 AT APRIL'S FARM, SMANNELL, HAMPSHIRE

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

In attendance:

County Cllr. Kirsty North – Hampshire County Council

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Stephen Jenkins – Smannell Parish 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 19 MAY 2025

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19 May 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 – 19 MAY 2025

The Chair reviewed all the action points that were raised from the meeting held 19 May 2025.

Pursuant to Minute 7, the Parish Clerk advised that he wrote to six local dog walking companies asking for a contribution towards a fifth dog bin but no replies have been received. Members expressed their concern that dog owners are not picking up the dog faeces and this is a health hazard. The Chair stated he would make mention of this in his upcoming Parish Oak article.

ACTION

The Chair to refer to the importance of dog owners being responsible and picking up their dog faeces.

Further to Minute 12, the Parish Clerk advised members that he has now received a full belated reply from Mayur Patel in respect of the request submission for a speed limit reduction along the Smannell Road. Hampshire County Council has examined the last five years of reported Personal Injury Accident (PIA) on the route in question and found that no reported collisions have taken place. Therefore, the request for a reduction in the speed limit will not be considered.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Clerk advised members of all correspondence received, which were noted without further comment. The Parish Clerk drew members' specific attention to the following matters:

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- Test Valley Borough Council consultation on shaping the future of local government in Hampshire and the options for consideration.
- RoSPA Inspection Report – May 2025

7. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR MAY/JUNE 2025

The Parish Clerk advised members of the expenses of the Parish Council for May/June 2025, amounting to £1,506.11 as scheduled below and the Parish Clerk advised members of the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 457135849 dated 12 May 2025 – Bank charges from 10 April 2025 to 9 May 2025 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

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

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 454709198 dated 11 April 2025 – Bank charges from 10 March 2025 to 9 April 2025 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

£935.00 – South Coast First Aid – Invoice 2001 dated 31 May 2025 – Emergency First Aid at Work training - £935.00 (VAT - £0.00) £935.00

£110.40 – Playsafety Limited – Invoice 88782 dated 5 June 2025 – Annual Playsafety Inspection - £92.00 (VAT - £18.40) £110.40

£101.26 – Enham Trust – Invoice 571507 dated 1 April 2025 – Little London Playing Field grass cutting 31 October 2024 - £84.38 (VAT - £16.88) £101.26

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

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 459606533 dated 11 June 2025 – Bank charges from 10 May 2025 to 9 June 2025 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

Members RESOLVED the financial expenditure schedule for the parish council amounting to £1,506.11

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

Cllr. Marianne Black reported that there has been no recent LLPF and Events team meeting so consequently, there is little to report. The marquee erection is taking place on 14 July 2025 and Cllr. Marianne Black agreed to co-ordinate arrangements and requirements for parish council equipment with Rev'd Elliott. She also agreed to chase the signed Hire Agreement and the deposit that must be paid. She advised that there has not been a great response to the suggestion of having a car boot sale. Members agreed that this is a good income generator but it would be difficult to keep the event local.

In respect of the failed transplanted Christmas tree, the Parish Clerk advised members that Nigel Sully (Enham Trust) has offered a Christmas Tree that he has been nurturing in a pot, in addition to a larger cut Christmas Tree.

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Members agreed to accept the nurtured Christmas tree in a pot but needed to clarify whether the larger cut tree for the season would be donated or whether there is a cost implication.

ACTION

Cllr, Marianne Black to liaise with Rev'd Elliott and co-ordinate arrangements and requirements for parish council equipment and chase the signed Hire Agreement with the necessary deposit payment.

The Parish Clerk to advise Nigel Sully that Smannell Parish Council would be happy to accept the Christmas tree in a pot and nurture it accordingly. The Parish Clerk to clarify with Nigel Sully whether the larger cut Christmas Tree for the season will be donated or whether there is a cost.

9. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None recorded.

10. TO DISCUSS AND RESOLVE THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REVISED LOCAL PLAN 2042 REGULATION 18 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Parish Clerk advised members that a strategic housing allocation of approximately 200 dwellings is proposed at Land East of Smannell Road, Andover. The Enham Alamein/Smannell local gap has been amended to reflect the proposed site allocation. The amended local gap boundary will be to the south of the site and will still preserve the gap. Development will seek to conserve and enhance the setting of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. Matters need to be considered in combination with the proposed allocation to the south, Land at Finkley Down Farm (Policy NA11). Appropriate landscaping will need to be provided that responds to this and provides a strong defined settlement edge to the north east of Andover.

A strategic housing allocation of approximately 1,150 dwellings is proposed at Finkley Down Farm in Andover and there is also a proposal for 900 dwellings at land at Manor Farm, Enham Alamein.

Members considered the importance of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the strategic significance of this in the formal response.

Whilst Smannell Parish Council understands the need for housing across the United Kingdom, members were hugely concerned about continued development, effectively extending Augusta Park towards the village of Smannell and the impact that this will have on the character of the village.

Apart from Northern Area Policy NA12, Smannell Parish Council are also aware of other plans to develop land for housing at Finkley Down Farm, Northern Area Policy NA11, 1150 dwellings and another development proposal at Knights Enham for a further 900 dwellings. These developments would also impact, Smannell, Little London, Upper Enham and Woodhouse, compromising their character and generating significant through traffic as drivers access the A343.

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Smannell Parish Council members are keen to protect the parish and minimise the impact that current and future plans might have on already compromised hamlets. Smannell Parish Council will comment on actual plans as and when they are submitted, but in the meantime, members made the following suggestion to be submitted to Test Valley Borough Council as part of the formal consultation response for consideration.

The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) starts at Smannell Road/Green Lane and extends Northwards and a definitive map shows the defined boundary as it currently pertains to Smannell. As part of the Local Plan, the suggested proposal would be to possibly petition for an extension to the AONB such that it starts at the edge of the tree break and environmental conservation areas, proposed in NA12, extending out past Smannell House, Woodhouse, Malthouse Lane and Upper Enham, taking in all of Little London. Smannell Parish Council members were of the opinion that the hamlets specified above and the landscapes occupied by them, are equally as beautiful as those in the current AONB and that they deserve to be equally protected against future developments that may compromise that beauty.

It was RESOLVED to agree to submit the above formal Smannell Parish Council response to the Test Valley Revised Local Plan 2042 Regulation 18 public consultation.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to submit the above stated formal consultation response to Test Valley Borough Council coupled with a copy of the definitive map of the North Downs National Park, to illustrate and underpin the comments and suggestions made.

11. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE

Cllr. David Martin advised members that he had nothing significant to report in regards to footpaths. He reminded all present that the Parish Council still awaits the Secretary of State decision in respect of the application for a change on the designated footpath order but this can take a very long time.

He commented on the large pot hole on the Smannell Road, which the Parish Clerk reported to Hampshire Highways. Members have noted that the pot hole has been marked with a large red ring but do not believe this has been carried out by Hampshire County Council operatives. County Cllr. Kirsty North advised that she is aware that general pot hole repairs are scheduled for August/September and a Traffic Management Order has been raised and signed.

12. TO RESOLVE AGREEMENT OF THE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT, ICO PUBLICATION SCHEME, IT POLICY AND RISK ASSESSEMENT

The Parish Clerk advised members of the previously circulated updated policies that are a legal requirement and have been updated accordingly for consideration by members. There is also a new requirement that the Parish Council must have an IT policy and this has also been drafted and circulated to all members. Members considered the policies most carefully and it was RESOLVED to accept and adopt the policies accordingly.

13. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Cllr. Kirsty North advised members that food waste collections are being introduced and will be ready for rollout by 13 October 2025. Food waste will be collected weekly,

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alongside regular waste and recycling collections. She advised that collected food waste will be sent for anaerobic digestion, a process that breaks down organic matter to produce biogas and fertiliser. Residents will receive a kitchen caddy and a roll of liners to collect food waste, with larger outdoor bins provided for collection. Food waste like fruit and vegetable peelings, plate scrapings, tea bags, eggshells, and bones can be placed in the food waste caddy.

She stated that there are plans to construct a new, state of the art recycling facility for Hampshire and this has been given the go ahead enabling residents to recycle a wider range of household materials at the kerbside in the future. It will be based in Eastleigh and the new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is expected to be up and running by the end of 2027 and will support all households across the Hampshire region to recycle:

- a much wider range of plastics, including pots, tubs, trays, cartons, and soft plastic film
- glass
- metal
- paper and cardboard

She reminded members of the significant changes happening in local government and that there is a current consultation issued by Test Valley Borough Council entitled 'Our Place, Our Future' on the future of local government services.

14. MEMBER QUESTIONS

Cllr. David Martin provided a resilience update and information in respect of his recent contact with Colin McMillan from SSE and the many options available to the Parish Council. He felt that the concept of enabling an electricity supply to the lock-ups was of paramount importance and members discussed the feasibility of achieving this goal. It was acknowledged that this would be costly but the hope is to cover this with grants. The Chair advised members that he is aware that Test Valley Borough Council has launched a new Climate Change Grant to help community groups and parish councils to take action against climate change. The grant is designed to support projects that improve energy efficiency and eligible organisations can apply for funding of up to £10,000. Applications to Test Valley Borough Council can be made online and any project must be completed by 31 March 2026.

Members agreed that the project of enabling an electricity supply to the field/lock-ups is essential and as a first-step, the Parish Clerk was asked to contact the National Grid Group to request a site survey to understand the options and cost implications.

ACTION

The Parish Clerk to contact the National Grid Group and request a site survey to understand the permutations of getting an electrical supply to the Little London Playing Field and the associated cost implications.

The subject of procuring a better value for the grass cutting at the Little London Playing Field was raised and members were aware of a local parishioner who has recently personally purchased a ride-on mower. The Chair agreed to approach the parishioner and

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ask whether they may consider undertaking the regular grass cutting of the Little London Playing Field for which an agreed payment would be made.

ACTION

The Chair to approach a local parishioner with a view to enquire whether they would consider undertaking the regular grass cutting of the Little London, for which an agreed payment would be made.

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.10 hours.

The next meeting of the Smannell Parish Council will be on 1 September 2025 at April's Farm, starting at 6.30pm.