

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11TH MAY 2026 AT APRIL'S FARM, SMANNELL, HAMPSHIRE

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Marianne Black, Cllr. Paul Dunning (Chair), Cllr. David Martin, Cllr. Erica Mason, 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 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 2 MARCH 2026

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 2 March 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- 2 MARCH 2026

The Chair reviewed all the action points that were raised from the meeting held 2 March 2026 that have been carried out accordingly.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Clerk advised members of all correspondence received, which was sent to all members per email previously. He especially drew members attention to an email received from Andy Ferrier (Chief Executive – Test Valley Borough Council). In May 2027, there will be elections for parish and town councils. Those councillors elected to the shadow councils will serve a five-year term, one year on the shadow council and four years on the unitary council. That means that the first elections, once the new Mid Hampshire unitary council has been established in April 2028, will take place in May 2032. A standard four electoral cycle will then follow for future elections.

The Government has now asked Principal Councils for views of a preferred cycle for parish and town councils during this period. The suggestion from Andy Ferrier is that the parish and town council elections should follow the same pattern i.e. elections in May 2032 with a standard four electoral cycle thereafter. That would mean that any parish councillors elected in May 2027 would be elected for a five-year term. Members agreed with this rationale.

7. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR APRIL/MAY 2026

The Parish Clerk advised members of the income and expenditure of the Parish Council for February/March 2026, amounting to £4,468.16 expenditure and £5,135.47 income, as scheduled below and the Parish Clerk advised members of the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 11 MAY 2026 – PAGE 2 (CONT'D)

EXPENDITURE

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 479139196 dated 11 February 2026 – Bank charges from 10 January 2026 to 9 February 2026 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 481631660 dated 11 March 2026 – Bank charges from 10 February 2026 to 9 March 2026 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

£1,600.00 - D Thomas Tree & Hedge Care – Invoice 0018 dated 27 March 2026 – Tree works at Little London - £1,600.00 (VAT - £0.00) £1,600.00

£150.36 - Kevin Glyn-Davies – Refund of Expenses – Invoice I294504 WEL Medical dated 13 March 2026 – Defibrillator Pads - £125.30 (VAT - £25.06) £150.36

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

£195.00 – Hampshire County Council – Invoice 1306878 dated 7 April 2026 – 20mph Speed Limit Technical Assessment - £195.00 (VAT - £0.00) £195.00

£129.72 – HMRC Shipley – PAYE payments for January, February and March 2026 - £43.40, £43.40 and £43.40 LESS 0.48p held on-account from previous financial year - £129.72 (VAT - £0.00) £129.72

£50.00 – G A Knowles – Invoice 1413841 dated 7 April 2026 – Annual renewal of .gov.uk domain name - £50.00 (VAT - £0.00) £50.00

£390.00 – G A Knowles – Invoice 1414497 dated 9 April 2026 – Website Design package annual fee includes a discount of £50.00 - £390.00 (VAT - £0.00) £390.00

£450.00 – J. Humphry Associates Limited – Invoice 19848 dated 20 April 2026 – Audit and Accounts Preparation - £375.00 (VAT - £75.00) £450.00

£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

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 484139737 dated 10 April 2026 – Bank charges from 10 March 2026 to 9 April 2026 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

£180.00 – Kevin Glyn-Davies – April 2026 Salary – Gross payment £225.00 - £45.00 PAYE – Net payment £180.00

£365.00 – Lightatouch – Invoice 260506 dated 5 May 2026 – Internal Audit provision to the Smannell Parish Council accounts - £365.00 (VAT - £0.00) £365.00

£704.48 – Clear Councils – Invoice LCC001452 dated 6 May 2026 – Annual insurance Renewal for 2026/2027 - £704.48 (VAT - £0.00) £704.48

**SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 11 MAY 2026 – PAGE 3 (CONT'D)**

£67.50 – Enham Trust – Invoice B60-012365 dated 6 May 2026 – Grass cutting at Little London on 30 April 2026 - £56.25 (VAT - £11.25) £67.50

INCOME

£1,000.00 – Hampshire County Councillor Grant – Reference 1000 9706527673

£1,333.77 – HMRC VAT Refund for financial year 2025/2026

£37.70 Gross – Lloyds Bank Interest received from 31 March 2026 to 30 April 2026 at 1.85%

£2,764.00 – First instalment of the Precept from Test Valley Borough Council

Members RESOLVED the financial income and expenditure schedule as prescribed for the parish council amounting to £4,468.16 expenditure and £5,135.47 income.

7. TO RESOLVE THE ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk presented the Annual Internal Audit Report prepared by Tim Light from Lightatouch relating to the accounts. There are no items of concern that have been highlighted by Tim Light and all is correct and Smannell Parish Council meets all the legal and audit requirements. Members RESOLVED acceptance of the annual internal audit report to the accounts for 2025/2026 as prepared by Tim Light from Lightatouch.

8. TO RESOLVE APPROVAL OF THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR END 31 MARCH 2026, TO COMPLETE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2025/2026 AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/2026 AND ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk advised members of the legal audit requirements in the completion of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/2026. As the Parish Council's income and expenditure is below the £25,0000, the Parish Council can lawfully exempt themselves from an intermediate audit. The Parish Clerk explained that the Parish Council MUST approve the Section 1 Annual Governance Statement before approving Section 2 Accounting Statements and both documents must be approved and published on the Smannell Parish Council Website before 1 July 2026. The Parish Clerk presented the Internal Audit report as prepared by Tim Light (Internal Auditor) for members consideration. No matters of concern have been raised from the internal audit.

Members RESOLVED to exempt the Parish Council from an intermediate audit and RESOLVED approval of the unaudited accounts of the Smannell Parish Council as at 31 March 2025, which were previously circulated to all. Members carefully considered Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement and RESOLVED to complete this with 'Yes' statements accordingly. The Chair and the Parish Clerk signed this section as required. Members then considered Section 2 Accounting Statements and RESOLVED agreement for this to be signed by the Chair and the Parish Clerk as necessary. Members RESOLVED the Annual Internal Audit Report accordingly

**SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 11 MAY 2026 – PAGE 4 (CONT'D)**

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

Cllr. Marianne Black provided a verbal report per the below:

The LLPF&EC has met twice in the last two months, 10th March 2026 and 29th April 2026.

Financial Strategy

We reviewed the financial forecast at the first meeting and noted the higher expenses for the playing field in the current financial year due to the tree work and water bills. Consideration was given to future years when funds raised may exceed expenses for the upkeep and maintenance of the playing field – it was flagged that a replacement marquee may be needed in the short/medium term and in the medium/longer term replacement playground equipment.

Events

Consideration was given to this year's events. With Fireworks being the main fundraiser event, we have planned two summer events with the primary objective of community building. Given we have had two fetes in the last two years, it was agreed that we should try something different that might reach different sectors of the community and were family friendly.

Car Boot Sale – Sunday 5th July 2026

This will be held from 9-12pm with sellers setting up from 8am. Entry to be lower than other major local car boot sales at £5 per car and £1 entry. We have measured the field and can fit up to 60 cars across 4 rows with room for ice cream and coffee van, area of grass around the playground and eating area. We will offer bbq (bacon/sausage baps), snacks and drinks and also a sweet stall. We intend to offer the Parish Church group a table to sell cakes to support their fundraising. Residents will have priority for spaces. Reservations in advance by name and car registration, payment on the day. Consideration has been given to parking – a team of minimum of 4 people will be needed for the duration as cars will be coming/going – walkway alongside the playing field will be cordoned off. Mowing will need to be arranged for the parking field which is now leased out. The marquee is not needed.

Family Quiz – Saturday 5th September 2026

This is still in the planning stage – investigating if April's farm is free that evening. Ticket event offering cheese/wine.

General tasks/actions.

We are in the process of arranging a repair of the marquee frame which was damaged when lent out for the Parish BBQ.

The toilets will have their annual emptying and cleaning out in the next month. We will be using the same company and cost will be £25 + vat per toilet (an increase of £5).

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 11 MAY 2026 – PAGE 5 (CONT'D)

There has been a leak in the kitchen area of the container. Cllrs. Paul Dunning and Dave Martin will be assessing this.

10. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications requiring determination

11. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE

The Parish Clerk advised members that he is in receipt of an email from David Clerk representing Andover Ramblers. They are looking at the possibility of getting a new public footpath created that would serve Smannell and Enham. The proposal is that a path is created that stays inside the boundary linking Smannell 14 to the junction of the A343 and Green Drove directly opposite Tangley 10. Test Valley Borough is willing to take this forward and discuss with the landowner under Section 26 of the Highways Act 1980. There is a legal requirement to consult Smannell Parish Council and Enham Alamein Parish Council accordingly. Members supported this concept.

There will be a quasi-legal public inquiry on 16 June 2026 at Test Valley Borough Council offices at which the status of the footpaths will be discussed and a decision expected.

12. ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

Cllr. David Martin advised members that a response has been received from Hampshire County Council in respect of the assessment of the 20mph road application. Approximately half of the cost of a 20mph scheme covers the legal process to introduce the traffic regulation order and the rest covers the design and delivery of the scheme. The traffic speed data for the length of road under consideration has been submitted and the data meets the prescribed criteria. The estimated implementation cost of a standard 20 mph scheme is typically in the region of £30,000. Members have agreed to pay an initial £195.00 representing an assessment evaluation.

13. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

Members congratulated County Cllr. Kirsty North on her recent re-election as a County Councillor.

She tabled the below report from Borough Cllr. Phil North.

I want to start by thanking Smannell Parish Council for all your help and support over the past 12-months and for everything you do to serve our communities. Please see below a report from me on some of the main issues I have been dealing with as your Test Valley representative and leader of the Borough Council over the last 12-months:

Local Government Reorganisation

In March, the Government issued their decision on the future of Local Government in Hampshire and the Solent – with most of Test Valley set to become part of a new Mid-Hampshire Council. I have explained in previous reports the government plan to abolish the current district and county council system in Hampshire and replace it with unitary authorities that are responsible for all local services. Test Valley is set to join Winchester, New Forest and East Hampshire to create a new Mid-Hampshire unitary council, but disappointingly our communities of Chilworth, Nursling, Rownhams and Valley Park will

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 11 MAY 2026 – PAGE 6 (CONT'D)

join Southwest Hampshire.

From the very beginning, my approach has been to secure the best outcome for our residents – and whilst other proposals would have seen all of Test Valley join Southampton and Eastleigh – we were very clear that was not acceptable to us. And although the new authorities would be on bigger footprints, to try keep local government as local as possible. Recognising the way we do business in here in Test Valley.

I, therefore, welcome the government's decision to create five new unitary councils for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, which crucially includes a new Mid-Hampshire authority. Whilst it's disappointing there will be some boundary changes, we have at least managed to keep the vast majority of Test Valley together. Joining with other market towns and rural economies across mid-Hampshire and giving a voice to communities in the new arrangement that aren't Southampton, Portsmouth and Basingstoke. By working collaboratively and in a cross-party way, we were also able to prevent greater boundary changes that were on the table during the process.

Though Local Government Reorganisation was never our choice – and indeed I'm still concerned about the cost pressures of upper tier authorities pushing down on all services – this is clearly something the government were going to push through, so we had to engage with the process. Councils will now work together to build the new unitaries and prepare for the shadow council elections in May 2027. The shadow authorities are temporary councils that will plan and prepare the new unitary councils before they officially start work on the 1 April 2028.

In the meantime, I am determined to make sure that Test Valley continues to shape the future: Using our experience, expertise and commitment to place-based working to ensure the new larger authorities remain as local as possible; to hand over successful and solvent services; and to deliver on the promises we made to you at the last election. Finishing the job on town centre regeneration.

Andover Town Centre Regeneration

Delivering a brand-new theatre and public square right in the heart of the town continues to progress well with demolition of the former Poundstretcher building now essentially complete. Unit 62 has been carefully dismantled over recent months by specialist demolition contractor, Erith. As a result of careful planning and management, around 99% of the materials from the building were recycled. These were either reused on site or transferred to be used on other construction projects. Thankfully, there were no important archaeological finds or any major issues that now need solving before construction can begin later this year.

As well as delivering the Western Avenue scheme, we are also taking forward plans to invest in the Chantry Centre making it fit for the 21st Century, investing in a new pavilion for Vigo Park and demolishing the former Magistrates Court. All of which I want to get over the line by early 2028.

Local Plan

The consultation on our regulation 18 stage of the Local Plan closed last autumn. We have

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 11 MAY 2026 – PAGE 7 (CONT'D)

been busy working through the responses, understanding the level of speculative development already in the system and getting clarity on supply buffers and our obligations under duty to cooperate. The government's decision to flick the switch on a huge increase in housing numbers without adequate transitional arrangements continues to be a huge problem. Due to constant government changes, the number of speculative applications coming in, the lack of a five-year housing land supply and no realistic prospect of addressing the land supply by the time this council ceases to exist, it is becoming increasingly difficult for us to produce a meaningful Local Plan. Details on next steps will be published shortly.

Weekly Food Waste Collections

We rolled out our weekly food waste collections in mid-October 2025. So far it has gone well with no major issues. In fact, the feedback I've received from residents is that the comms were excellent and that they really value the service.

Recent Fly-tipping successes

Following recent court successes, I thought I would share some statistics with you on our record of prosecuting fly-tippers. Before I became Leader, we had only prosecuted one person in 14 years, but in the last 9 years we have successfully prosecuted 139 individuals. I don't say that to blow my own trumpet. I remember the Cabinet discussion on it in 2017 and the collective decision to be much more robust on those that blight our beautiful borough. Test Valley's Environmental and Legal services were delighted with our change in policy, and since then have an outstanding record of successful prosecutions.

Test Valley's Budget

Finally, I wanted to add a word on the finances. Whilst every budget round seems to have an element of uncertainty, whether that's on government grants, a lack of clarity on business rates resets, or wider economic pressures like high inflation. This year was particularly challenging with the prospect of local government reorganisation on the horizon. We, therefore, set the budget with a clear rationale that we want to hand Test Valley over to the new organisation in the best possible shape.

Our tax increase this year was a below inflation 2.96%, meaning an average council tax bill of just £173.91 (on an average band D) for an entire year of Test Valley Borough Council services. That's the 29th lowest out of 164 district councils in the country, and £44 lower than the average charge for the rest of England. It is a budget for the future but also for now, continuing to build resilient services and delivering on the promises we made during the 2023 election. Finishing the job on Town Centre regeneration.

In terms of Bourne Valley matters, as well as assisting residents with individual cases, I've also been pleased to:

- Work closely with Enham Trust and Aster to completely refurbish the Landale Wilson Hall - offering TVBC grant funding.
- Campaign to keep the Smannell and Enham Primary School site open as an educational establishment.

**SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF 11 MAY 2026 – PAGE 8 (CONT'D)**

- Look to help fund a complete resurfacing of the Cinder Track that links Enham Alamein and Smannell.
- Work closely with Tanglely Parish Council and local residents to try and secure village green status for the open space in Hatherden, protecting it from potential development. We should know the outcome from the inspector shortly.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you all over the coming year.

County Cllr. Kirsty North provided her report per the below:

I have been privileged to serve as the Executive Lead Member for Universal Services in the County Council's Cabinet for the past year. This has involved leading on strategy for areas such as countryside and country parks, the registration service, property and Trading Standards, waste disposal and recycling, as well as large scale highways and infrastructure projects. I remain hard at work locally and am committed to pursuing the best services for Andover North residents as we navigate the whole system changes the national Government have placed upon local government in Hampshire which will see us move into a Mid-Hampshire unitary council.

Recipients of my Devolved Budget for 2025/26 were as follows:

Little London Playing Fields Association – Update Boundary Fence
Tanglely Parish Village Hall CIO – Commercial Dishwasher replacement
Andover Community Engage – Young at Heart, Body and Mind seated exercise classes
Andover Town Band – Developing Musicians in Andover

Over the course of the year, I have:

- Visited Me and My Dad Club in Andover to see the new shed they received grant funding for.
- Reported and chased up pothole repairs and secured resurfacing works such as Vigo Roundabout.
- Visited Poppy Park, Augusta Park Community Garden, to follow up on Antisocial behaviour concerns.
- Liaised with Parents, Officers at HCC and the Diocese on the future of Smannell and Enham Primary School.
- Attended a site meeting with Conholt Park, HCC Highways, Tanglely PC and Vernham Dean PC to discuss highways.
- Raised education and social care queries on behalf of residents
- Congratulated new British Citizens from Andover and Winchester at formal Citizenship Ceremonies.
- Visited Herriard Anaerobic Digester near Basingstoke to see how our food waste is processed once collected as well as the Incinerator at Chineham which processes the black bin waste into energy.
- Held meetings to discuss local school performance
- Visited countryside sites and thanked volunteers for their help maintaining our countryside access, including opening the new boardwalk at East Woodhay.
- Celebrated the 10,000th journey booked on Connect Test Valley; modern bookable public transport serving the rural surrounds into Andover.

SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 11 MAY 2026 – PAGE 9 (CONT'D)

- Met Vigo Primary School pupils on their activity week at Calshot Activities Centre learning to ski, cycle at the velodrome, try archery and climbing.
- Met Highways engineers to discuss improvements for walking and cycling across Andover and Picket Piece
- Visited Andover Community Engage to talk about potential funding opportunities
- Attended Andover Town Centre Regeneration meetings to discuss projects such as the new theatre, Western Avenue riverside park and Vigo Rec playground and new bowls club.
- Attended the FarmWell Event at Hurstbourne Tarrant in support of the farming community locally and with an interest for our County Council tenant farmers, whom I also met.
- Attended the official opening of Enham Alamein's Community Garden
- Met to discuss improvements to Danebury Hill Fort countryside site near Andover
- Visited Vigo Primary School to discuss managing special education within a mainstream setting.
- Met Andover Trees United at Harmony Woods
- Ensured grit bins were replenished throughout the Division
- Took part in a blossom tree trail planning meeting in Augusta Park, with trees coming in the Autumn

HCC Budget:

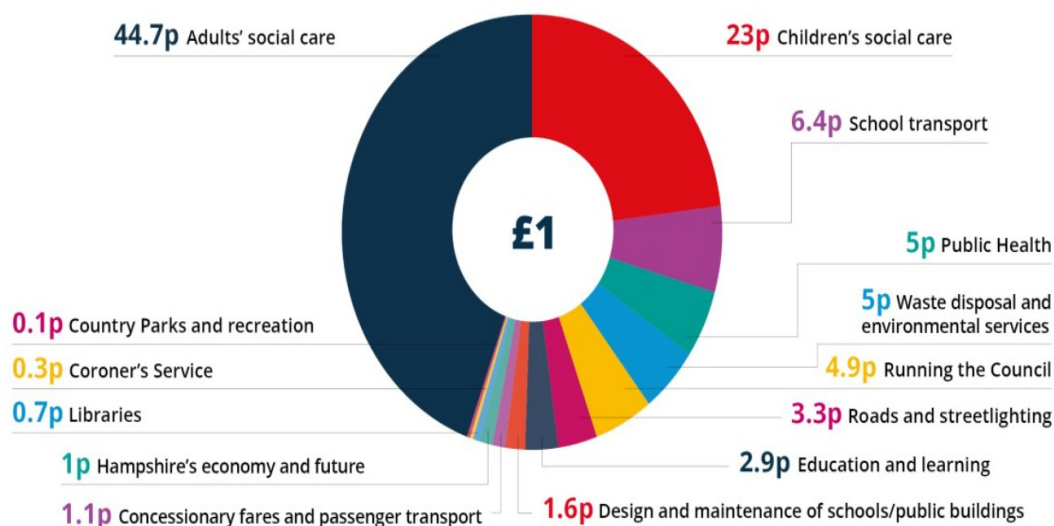
Hampshire County Council's budget includes £3.1billion of spending, covering the hundreds of services delivered by the council to its 1.4million residents. Every £1 of council tax from an average band D, is spent as follows:

The Band D council tax charge for 2026/27 is £1,690.11 – the second lowest of any county council in England.

We continue to look at best practice and efficiencies to drive down the budget in the context of ever-rising demand for care. To balance the budget, the Council has identified £40 million of savings in 2026/27, while also managing a £10.9 million reduction arising from changes to the Government funding formula from the Labour Government, which has redirected funding to cities. The Council remains focused on protecting statutory services, improving efficiency, and securing long-term sustainability.

Hampshire County Council's budget

This is how each £1 of the budget will be spent on essential services in 2026/27.



14. MEMBER QUESTIONS

Cllr. Dave Martin requested that the matter of resilience planning be an agenda item at the July Smannell Parish Council meeting.

Cllr. Erica Mason requested an update to obtaining an additional dog bin. The Parish Clerk advised that he has repeatedly been lobbying Test Valley Borough Council for this to be effected and certainly has not been overlooked. County Cllr. Kirsty North advised that Borough Cllr. Phil North be informed so he can chase this matter as well.

The next meeting of the Smannell Parish Council will be on 6 July 2026 at April's Farm, starting at 6.30pm.

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 20.03 hours.