

MINUTES OF THE SMANNELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2026 AT APRIL'S FARM, SMANNELL, HAMPSHIRE

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

In attendance

County Cllr. Kirsty North – Hampshire County Council

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Marianne Black – Smannell Parish Council

Cllr. David Martin – 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 – 6 JULY 2026

The Chair reviewed the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 6 July 2026. Members unanimously RESOLVED to accept the Minutes of this meeting as a true and correct record. The Chair signed the Minutes accordingly.

At this stage of the meeting, the Chair elected to take the following agenda item.

5. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCIL REPORTS

County Cllr. Kirsty North advised members of a consultation as she has been told that some of the current pupil cohort reside in the Andover North Division. Hampshire County Council is currently consulting on a proposal to close The Clere School, Burghclere, with effect from 31 August 2027 (the end of the academic year.) The consultation is open until 2 October 2026. The school's governors have formally requested that the County Council consider closure, believing the school is no longer financially or educationally sustainable in the long term. The school currently has around 382 pupils on roll and is forecasting an increasing budget deficit. Should the proposal proceed, the County Council's preferred option is for pupils remaining on roll at The Clere School, to transfer to The Hurst School in Tadley, subject to the necessary approvals and consultation outcomes, though of course parents can choose any alternative school with a place available. She understands this would likely take the form of a satellite 'The Hurst' at the current 'The Clere' site whilst a long-term solution is sought.

The current consultation is intended to gather views from parents, pupils, staff, residents and other stakeholders before any decision is taken. Drop-in sessions are also being held during September to allow questions and discussion with County Council officers. Full details of the proposal, supporting information, consultation timetable, frequently asked questions and details of how to submit comments can be found on the Hampshire County Council consultation webpage:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/theclereschool-burghclere>

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She advised members on the latest regarding the Local Government Review and that the Government have withdrawn the decision taken in Hampshire and paused all work on merging councils. A further update is awaited following the Minister's short review, which is expected later this Autumn.

County Cllr. Kirsty North touched on highways, footpaths and planning matters.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD – 6 JULY 2026

The Chair reviewed all the action points that were raised from the meeting held 6 July 2026 and they have all been carried out accordingly. Further to Item 8, the Parish Clerk reported that he contacted Kevin Hodder at the Enham Trust and they have a corporate resilience policy, which would not incorporate collection of vulnerable Smannell residents in the event of an emergency. The emergency hub would be the Enham Trust offices but this rather depends on the nature of the given emergency.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

8. TO RESOLVE THE FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR JULY/AUGUST 2026

The Parish Clerk advised members of the income and expenditure of the Parish Council for July/August 2026, amounting to £3,442.48 expenditure and £39.07 income, as scheduled below and the Parish Clerk advised members of the latest financial position of the Parish Council.

EXPENDITURE

HMRC Shipley – PAYE Due for period May/June and July 2026 - £45.00, £45.00 and £45.00 - £135.00 (VAT - £0.00) £135.00

£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 491779323 dated 10 July 2026 – Bank charges from 10 June 2026 to 9 July 2026 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

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

£107.98 – David Martin – Refund of Expenses - Invoice TO044410 dated 18 August 2026 2 x sealed lead Acid Batteries £89.98 (VAT - £18.00) £107.98

£1,131.00 – Shire Gate – Invoice 0751 dated 19 August 2026 – Remaining 50% for fencing project at Little London - £942.50 (VAT - £188.50) £1,131.00

£1,700.00 – Jimmy's Fireworks/Epic – Invoice EPIC16543 dated 19 August 2026 - Bespoke Fireworks Package - £1,416.67 (VAT - £283.33) £1,700.00

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

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£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Invoice 494307615 dated 10 August 2026 – Bank charges from 10 July 2026 to 9 August 2026 - £4.25 (VAT - £0.00) £4.25

INCOME

£39.07 Gross – Lloyds Bank Interest received as at 31 July 2026 at 1.85%

Members RESOLVED the financial income and expenditure schedule as prescribed for the parish council amounting to £3,442.48 expenditure and £39.07 income.

8. TO RESOLVE APPROVAL OF THE CONCLUSION OF AUDIT TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR 2025/2026

The Parish Clerk advised members that no queries were raised on the accounts and that the accounts have been audited with no matters of concern raised. Members RESOLVED approval of the conclusion of audit to the accounts for 2025/2026.

9. TO DISCUSS AND UPDATE MATTERS RELATING TO RESILIENCE PLANNING

The Chair stated that he and Cllr. David Martin are currently discussing the possibility of using the school or church with County Cllr. Kirsty North and Kit Malthouse MP and will be raised when they meet them next month.

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

Cllr. Marianne Black provided the following written report:

Family Quiz

Despite focused marketing using The Oak, flyers and social media, there was insufficient take up for the Family Quiz and the team decided not to go ahead at our meeting on 1 September 2026. The team found the lack of community engagement with the initiatives this summer disappointing but at least it is now known that there isn't the engagement for different events and they need to keep with the 'tried and tested' events of the past - fetes, music and barbecues. There were no cancellation charges or other charges incurred.

The team are in agreement that next summer, it should try to co-ordinate with the parish church group to co-host the Parish barbecue at the playing field with possibly a music event the day after.

2. Playground

Various initiatives are on going in relation to the playground.

- (i) Working with Paul Dunning to have the sign altered.
- (ii) Fixed Bench & Picnic Bench. Contacted County Cllr. Kirsty North to enquire regarding grants to cover the cost of their replacement.
- (iii) The matting underneath the swings has now eroded and needs replacing. Paul and Dave spent a morning clearing the matting. Paul is seeking replacement quotes with a view to applying for a grant.
- (iv) The matting underneath the carousel also needs clearing. A working party is being organised.

The hedge running along the boundary with Ridges Close needs cutting. Julian Heathcote

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Hobbins is happy to top it but unable to cut the sides which will need to be done with a hedge cutter. Timing being co-ordinated for Julian to do the top, then Julian/another to do the sides and a working party to clean up.

3. Fireworks.

Team discussed pricing and marketing for fireworks. Entrance cost to remain the same (given it went up last year) and cost of food but there will be increased supply for those items that ran out (e.g. cookies, sausages) and additional food/items on offer. Marketing arranged with adverts going live early October.

Several aspects need discussion: (i) generators (ii) walkie talkies. These may involve additional costs.

By next meeting on 6th October 2026, First Aid supplies, risk assessment and preparations schedule to be reviewed.

A discussion ensued regarding the provision of picnic benches. Cllr. Sue Rogers offered (on behalf of her family and not The Oak) to provide three plastic composite benches if the Parish Council were to agree to match her offer and purchase three as well. Members considered this and accepted her offer, as a result, the LLPF will get six high quality benches. They are maintenance free but are expensive and therefore desirable. Members agreed that they must be secured to the ground to prevent theft. This was a particularly generous offer and the Chair thanked Cllr. Sue Rogers for her generosity. It was also suggested that she might want to place metal plaques on three of them to show the public that they are from her and her family.

As concerns generators, Cllr. David Singleton advised that he is unlikely to be able to source generators for LLPF. The Chair advised that he will forward a link to a potential grant scheme for community resilience to the Parish Clerk to apply for funding. He stated that Cllr. David Martin and himself have worked long and hard regarding Parish resilience and that Test Valley Borough Council has asked Smannell Parish Council to apply for some funding. The Council can add to the £1,000 grant and buy two 6KVA generators. The grant would be towards a lock up facility for energy water storage as well as the two generators. Test Valley Borough Council would like Smannell Parish Council to explore this avenue.

These will be solely used for Community resilience but they will need to be tested for 6 hour periods in early November to ensure winter capability. The Parish Clerk was asked to obtain costs for the generators and members agreed to match the grant to improve Parish resilience preparedness.

Members expressed their concerns as to why there was a need to purchase new Walkie Talkies so soon after buying 8 less than two years ago. Cllr. Rob Price advised that he would investigate the opportunity of borrowing up to five from Sparsholt College. These will be more powerful and more than capable of doing the job required.

In respect of bonfire parking, the Chair agreed that he would speak to Will Brooks to ensure that the field can be cut so that it is suitable for parking and arrangements will be

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made for the Bonfire.

In connection with remedial works to the play area, the Parish Clerk was asked to chase Kompan for a quote.

11. TO DETERMINE PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Clerk advised members of one planning application requiring determination.

26/01668/CLEN – Homelea, Woodhouse, Smannell – Application for a certificate of lawfulness for existing use of land as residential garden. **RESOLVED – NO OBJECTION**

The Parish Clerk advised members of an appeal having been made by English Rural against the decision of Test Valley Borough Council's refusal of planning permission in relation to application 24/00507/FULLN – Land Adjacent to The Oak, Smannell Road, Smannell – Erection of 8 dwellings with associated access and parking.

12. FOOTPATHS AND ROADS UPDATE

The Chair advised members that formal documents have been received from Hampshire County Council regarding the Planning Inspectors' decision of the Rights Of Way Order Decision ROW/3349927. The Inspector has concluded that no inference of dedication at common law arises and has adjudged that the Order should not be confirmed and the formal decision is recorded as Order not Confirmed.

It was reported that some road repairs, patching pot holes have been carried out along the Smannell Road, just at the village boundary but it was felt that road surface is still a mess and there appear to be no further repairs scheduled.

13. ROAD SAFETY MATTERS

The Parish Clerk reported that he did contact Julie Watts (Principal Engineer) from the Hampshire County Council's Safer Roads and Policing Unit in respect of the Smannell 20mph assessment.

Julie Watts has advised that the fee the Parish Council paid is an admin fee to assess whether your application meets the requirements for a 20mph rather than prepare an estimate, however, as promised I have prepared a desktop design and estimate.

The outline design has been sent and there is not much change from the existing 30mph speed limit.

The estimate for a 20mph scheme as per the layout is;

- £12,000 Traffic Regulation Order (Legal & Advertising)
- £ 3,000 Design Fees
- £ 6,500 Works costs
- £ 600 Works Supervision Costs
- £22,100 Estimated total cost

At this stage, the estimate is very high level but this is to help gauge the level of finance that the Parish Council will need to raise to implement a 20mph scheme. It is based on

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current contractors' rates for this financial year.

Comment was made that two new batteries for the SIDs have been purchased but more may be required in the near future at a cost of £55.00 per battery. Members agreed that six at £55.00 should be purchased to ensure backups. The Chair advised members that he would speak to Cllr. David Martin.

14. MEMBER QUESTIONS

None recorded.

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

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.48 hours.