

All minutes are draft until ratified by the Council at the next meeting

## HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Village Hall, Arford Road, Headley.

**Present:**

Cllr Anthony Williams	
Cllr Deborah Chamberlain	Cllr Mark Johnson
Cllr Tony Williamson	Cllr Sally Laker
Cllr Peter Ellens	Cllr Paul Tansley
Cllr Stephen Thair	

**In attendance:** Mrs Rachel Audsley (Clerk & Executive Officer)

C241/24      **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies were accepted for Cllr Dickens, Cllr Coombes and Cllr Bettin

C242/24      **Public Participation**  
Three members of the Plymouth Brethren attended to give an overview of their intended plans to build a new Gospel Hall along the Headley Road, Grayshott boundary. During this update, they shared their plans and were seeking feedback. Whilst they have undertaken some public consultation, Headley Parish Council encouraged the use of the local village facebook, Nextdoor app and public noticeboards to engage the wider community.  
<https://grayshottgospelhall.co.uk/>

C243/24      **Declaration of Interests**  
None declared.

C244/24      **Council Minutes**  
**RESOLVED:** To confirm the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

C245/24      **Committee Minutes**  
**RESOLVED:** To confirm the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 until the next Full Council meeting.

**RESOLVED:** To note comments made outside of the cancelled Planning Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 as set out below.

**PLANNING APPLICATION**

EHDC-24-0104-HSE – Ms E Gill – First floor balcony to rear, 2 Assisi, Hammer Lane, Grayshott - NO OBJECTION however have concerns about the extent to which the new balcony might overlook the neighbouring properties.

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TREE APPLICATION

EHDC-24-0111-TPO – Mr Simmons – Crown reduce one Oak, Waggoners House, Alma Road, Headley Down – NO OBJECTION subject to the approval of the Arboricultural Officer.

C246/24

**Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave an update on Woodlands Hall ownership and encouraged Councillors if available to consider attending the Community First session on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 10.00 – 12.00.

Fullers Vale Pond roadworks are due to commence tomorrow, 11<sup>th</sup> March.

The Chairman reminded everyone that the recent South Downs National Park (SDNP) Consultation was due to close on 18<sup>th</sup> March.

The Chairman noted that Central Government has opened a consultation on Devolution proposals. It was agreed that Cllr Williams will draft a response on behalf of HPC.

C247/24

**Hampshire County Council Matters**

a. The County Councillor's Report was received and is attached to these minutes.

b. No Highways Orders received.

C248/24

**East Hants District Council**

Cllr Williams report had been previously circulated and is attached to these Minutes.

C249/24

**Council Representatives**

Headley Village Hall

The Centenary Celebration is due take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May. The Village Hall are looking for photographs of past events to display. Any photographs or queries please contact Jo Smith.

Twinning Association

The Twinning Association is holding their AGM on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 7pm for 7.30pm start at the Headley Pavilion.

**Financial matters**

C250/24

**Bank Reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**

**RESOLVED:** Members received and approved the bank reconciliations as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

C251/24

**Payments (including credit card payments) for February 2025**

**RESOLVED:** Members received and approved the payments (including credit card payments) for February 2025 consisting of 21 transactions totalling £8,418.90.

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- C252/24      **Receipts for February 2025**  
**RESOLVED:** Members received and approved the receipts for February 2025.
- C253/24      **Income & Expenditure against budget for the period to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**  
**RESOLVED:** To approve the income and expenditure against budget report as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025.
- C254/24      **To note any payments made outside of meetings under the Scheme of Delegation.**  
None.
- C255/24      To consider appointment of Internal Auditor for financial year 2025/26.  
**RESOLVED:** Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Chamberlain to appoint Lightatouch as the Internal Auditor for 2025/26.
- C256/24      To consider quotation to repair and install a bollard by the Telephone Box by the Holly Bush.  
**RESOLVED:** To approve the quotation for £450 to carry out the installation of the bollard and reinstate the window in the telephone box.

**Internal Council Matters**

- C257/24      Annual Parish Meeting – to review date and format.  
**RESOLVED:** The Clerk to circulate two dates to Councillors and will select the majority vote. Format to be based around a speaker on Devolution. Wider communication of event through noticeboards, website and social media.
- C258/24      To consider instructing Trusted PC Man to review current IT infrastructure and software with recommendations for compliance in carrying out Council functions including .gov.uk domain.  
**RESOLVED:** To provisionally accept the quotation for two new laptops including set up and disposal of old equipment. The Clerk would question the time estimated for set up.

**Open Spaces & Sport**

- C259/24      To approve the updated Memorandum between Headley Parish Council and the Headley Allotment Holders Association (HAHA).  
  
**RESOLVED:** Approved by all those present to adopt the updated Memorandum between Headley Parish Council and the Allotment Holders Association (HAHA).
- C260/24      HPC to consider and agree retaining responsibility for pipework and associated costs in the Allotments.  
**RESOLVED:** To be deferred to future meeting.

**Pavilion & Playing Fields**

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- C261/24 To receive update and consider Working Party Recommendations.  
Cllr Merritt gave an update on previous actions and a summary of next steps to be undertaken.  
**RESOLVED:** To accept all Working Party Recommendations.
- C262/24 To permit approval for the Chairman and Clerk to sign contracts for the Pavilion Contractor and issue a letter of intent.  
**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk will sign the contracts and letter of intent on behalf of Headley Parish Council
- C263/24 All to consider and feedback name suggestions for the Pavilion.  
**RESOLVED:** It was agreed by all those present to name the pavilion 'Headley Pavilion'.
- C264/24 To confirm anticipated commencement date of works.  
**RESOLVED:** The anticipated commencement date is 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- C265/24 To permit approval for draw down of the PWLB Loan in readiness for commencement of works.  
**RESOLVED:** It was agreed for the Clerk to start the process of the loan draw down.
- C266/24 To permit approach for discussion with HSA and Clubs in the future running of the Pavilion.  
**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that a meeting would be scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.
- C267/24 Approval to apply for CIL top up funding.  
**RESOLVED:** For the Clerk to submit top up funding.
- C268/24 Approval to apply for S106 funding.  
**RESOLVED:** For the Clerk to apply for additional S106 funding.
- C269/24 To consider quotations for associated groundworks at Playing Fields.  
**RESOLVED:** It was agreed in principle to submit the quotations received to support the CIL and S106 funding application.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.13pm.

Signed.....Date.....

## DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT March 2025

During the month there was the usual mixture of Teams and physical meeting. The Planning Meeting had about 50 members of the public attending to hear our consideration of a planning application in Petersfield. Speakers against the application were greeted with applause – as was the Committee's decision to refuse the application! Another important meeting was the Full Council meeting to discuss and approve the Council's Budget for the forthcoming year. This is probably the most political meeting of the Council each year. The Budget was duly accepted after the mandatory recorded vote. The Audit Committee covered the Draft Audit Report of the external auditors, discussion on the 2023/24 Accounts, a progress report from our internal auditors and their Plan for 2025/26, and the quarterly performance report of the District Council for Q3. I also attended the Constitution Liaison Panel which endorsed the use of descriptions such as Chair for Chairman – although individual "Chairman" can request their title of choice.

Teams briefing included the weekly planning briefing, an all member update on the NPPF, a briefing and update for the Local Plan Working Group, and a briefing by our local police.

General Press Releases during the month included:

An announcement that Bordon is to get a Banking Hub in April, initially located in The Shed. A permanent venue is being sought.

Central Government has opened a public Consultation on their Devolution proposals – this runs to 13 April.

One of the proposals in the Budget is to increase District Councillors' Grants to £7,000pa for community projects plus £3,000 for environmental projects!

Anthony Williams

## **Update from your Hampshire County Councillor – Mar 2025**

Greetings to the Officers, Staff and Members of Bramshott and Liphook, Headley, and Grayshott Parish Councils. I hope this monthly report finds you all well.

### **Bramshott & Liphook**

Landowners continue to obstruct Thames Water's plans to remove the trees overhanging their sewer pipe suspended over the River Wey adjacent to London Road. TW have had to follow legal process which means the work is now scheduled to start on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

A concerned resident has highlighted the issue of roadwork signs and barriers being left behind on the A3 slip road. I am afraid that due to limited staff resources and very high enquiry levels HCC Highways does not have the capacity to undertake further work on this matter as it is not on the HCC highway network. Please contact National Highways direct on this issue <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/help-centre/>

The footway surface treatment on Headley Road was suspended following an inspection. This work will recommence. I also asked for the broken up footpath adjacent to Woodland Vets and Premier to be resurfaced as a priority.

Highways are working with our Contractor to move the Hobbs Bridge, Woolmer Lane, Bramshott repair scheme forward and (dependent on a number of factors) are aiming to be on site towards the end of April.

### **Headley**

Highways will be undertaking pond desilting works in Pond Road, Headley from Beech Hill to Furze Hill. This is due to start Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March and expected to take up to 11 days to complete, during which time the road will be closed to vehicular traffic between 07:30 to 18:00hrs (Monday – Friday working). The road will be open outside of these hours.

### **Grayshott**

EHDC Cllr Tom Hanrahan and I received a briefing from members of the Plymouth Brethren and their consultants regarding proposals for a renewed Gospel Hall on Headley Road next to Applegarth.

### **Councillor Grants**

My 24/25 pot is all spent. My apologies to everyone who's contacted me recently. Normally, this year's grant round would reopen on 1 June 2025. But the delay to the elections and the budget gap at HCC have complicated matters for this coming year. No decisions have yet been taken on the availability or not of County Councillor grant pots for the year 2025-26. I am expecting that the decision will be taken in September 2025. I am afraid that this means that I will not be able to consider any new grant requests until September.

For transparency, every year I publish my list of grants awarded. Here is the list for the year ending March 2025.

<b><u>Applicant</u></b>	<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Grant</u></b>
Headley Down Nature Reserve Trust	Commemorative Canadian Wolf Carving	£750
Grayshott Cricket Club	Replacement of Artificial Cricket Pitch	£1000
Life Education Wessex and Thames Valley	Helping Children Make Healthy Choices – Holme Primary School	£145
Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council	Defibrillator for Hammer Vale	£1070
Liphook Carnival Committee	PA for Annual Liphook Carnival & Fun Day Events	£989
Grayshott Tea Party	Annual Outing for Tea Party members by coach	£1000
Fullers Vale Wildlife Pond Association	Community Wellness Bench	£1000
Conford Village Hall	Repair and repainting of external woodwork and broken window replacement	£870
Headley Twinning Association	Welcome guests from Corné	£426
Grayshott Parish Council	Village Map	£750
		£8000

### **News from Hampshire County Council (HCC)**

#### **Government consultation on Devolution underway**

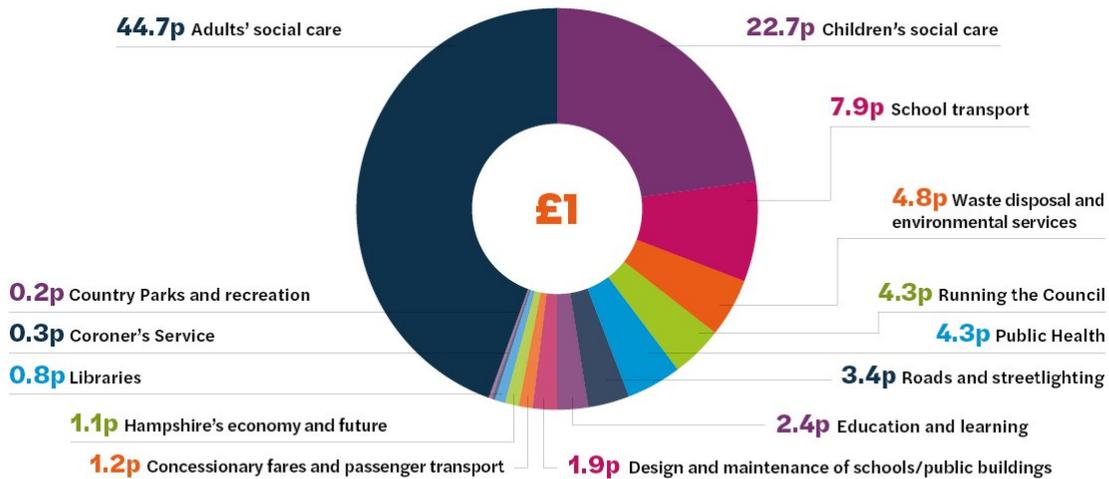
Hampshire residents are invited to have their say on devolution proposals for Hampshire and the Solent region in a Government consultation which is ongoing. The consultation runs until 13 April 2025, and I encourage everyone to respond. The consultation can be found here: [Hampshire and the Solent devolution consultation - GOV.UK](#)

Commenting, Leader of Hampshire County Council Leader, Councillor Nick Adams-King said: “Devolution represents the biggest change to local government in a generation and as such, it is really important that local people across the wider Hampshire area have the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Collectively, alongside our three partners, joining the Government's Devolution Priority Programme is a fantastic opportunity for Hampshire to self-determine and shape devolution proposals in the best interests of our residents and communities.”

HCC has also developed its own web pages about devolution, including Q&As, which can be found at [www.hants.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.hants.gov.uk/devolution).

## Hampshire County Council's Budget 25/26

The graphic below shows you how each £1 of your Council Tax will be spent next financial year in Hampshire. When you include schools spending then social care, school transport and education make up almost 87% of our budget.



We also provide schools and early years at a cost of £1.3bn, fully funded by a grant from central Government.

At the budget setting meeting last month Hampshire's Full Council agreed our budget for the year ahead which sees an increase of 4.99% in Council Tax. We had asked the government to increase it by a larger amount and they refused our request.

Why did we ask for a larger rise?

None of us want to increase Council Tax. But the County Council's services are underfunded, and the reason for that in large part is our historically low Council Tax rate, which is why we needed to request an above 5% increase from Government.

Hampshire's Council Tax this financial year is £1533.24 for a band D property - the second lowest in the country. In Surrey the equivalent rate is £1,758.60, West Sussex £1,714.95, and Oxfordshire £1,820.56 for example.

Each 1% of Council Tax increase in Hampshire nets an additional £8million in revenue for the Council. So, a 5% increase results in £40 million in additional revenue this year.

Offset that against the ever-rising cost of social care. Every month in Hampshire we see a net increase of 30 people living in care homes who become reliant upon the County Council to pay their costs - even at the most basic level of care these 360 people add a further £18.7 million of cost to our budget each year.

Every month we are seeing an additional 200 applications for Education Health and Care Plans - the first step for children to register for SEN support. That exponential rise is the reason our budget for Home to School transport (for which SEN children qualify for free) has increased from £24 million per year at the end of the pandemic to £105 million next year.

Add to this the effect of employers National Insurance, which will cost us £10.5 million this year - we will get a one-off reimbursement of £8 million from Government with nothing for future years.

Inflation and pay rises add further to the bill. We have cut over £700million from our budgets in the last 10 years, and will continue to look for further savings, but frankly there is little left to find, and our reserves will, by 2026/27, be exhausted. This is the context within which we find ourselves and the background to both well founded concerns around services and council tax.

### **The Hampshire Pledge**

The Hampshire Cabinet have developed a “Hampshire Pledge” which we are launching this month. The intention is to set out what people can expect from the County Council whilst also encouraging people to take pride and interest in their local community and in their own health and wellbeing. I hope you agree that this is a worthwhile initiative, I would welcome any feedback.



### **Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs)**

Following years of sustained lobbying by Councillors across East Hampshire, we are getting closer to a new HCC policy on management of our BOATs which will reduce conflict, damage and nuisance caused by vehicles.

I am optimistic that the new policy will be approved by the Summer. In future, the intention is that the County Council will seek to maintain its unsurfaced road network as natural unsurfaced corridors for all

users to use and enjoy; it will not surface routes to cater for vehicle use. Instead, the County Council will seek to sustainably preserve the physical character of the route and may seek to reduce levels of usage to allow for fluctuations in the condition of the route.

The County Council may then take action to limit or prevent access by motor vehicles, to prevent damage, to ensure that non-motorised users are able to use the routes, and to protect and preserve the nature and character of the route. A new Byways Operating Procedure will give greater weight to environmental designations. Seasonal Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) will be applied to a wider range of byways thanks to a new High Amber category. Signage and barriers will continue to be implemented, and further TRO measures may also be considered. I feel that this is a step in the right direction which will benefit local communities and the environment.

### **Beavers return to the South Downs after 600 years**

In December 2024 a pair of Beavers named Willow and Wilson were introduced to the River Meon near Petersfield, having been transported from Scotland by the Beaver Trust. The semi-aquatic mammals, which were hunted to extinction in the 16th Century, create wetlands and wildlife habitats. The impact they have on their new environment will be tracked by a team of academics from Southampton University. They have been busy beavers and have almost chewed their way through a crab apple tree! You can follow the adventures of the Beavers on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Meonsidemeats/>

### **News from Hampshire Highways**

Despite another wet winter with unprecedented rainfall and several severe storms, Hampshire Highways have kept our road network in relatively good condition. We have not seen an overload of defects as happened two years ago. Over 1,000 fallen trees were cleared from roads overnight during storms. I appreciate that Parish Councils and residents have had to show patience at times. Now that we have some drier weather, I am confident that the Highways teams will quickly address all the outstanding issues including flooding in Bramshott, Standford and Hewshott.

The Highways Engineers have a difficult job, and I think they deserve huge credit for their professionalism. The greatest difficulty this year has been surface flooding. The high water table and the heavy rain have caused many localised problems. The reality is that the flooding teams are stretched. The best advice is to keep [reporting flood problems on the website here](#) and also make use of the tips in the [Community Toolkit](#) on flooding.

### **Reporting Highway Problems**

Links to report road issues are here:

**Potholes:** <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

**Tree/hedges:** <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

**Flooding/drainage:** <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

**Pavement problems:** <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

**Rights of Way:**

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference (Enquiry) number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

Please check for planned and emergency road closures and diversions at <https://uk.one.network/> and for problems relating to the A3 please go to Highways England at <https://m.highwaysengland.co.uk/>

**Keep up to Date with HCC News**

You can keep up to date with HCC news through these channels:

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[Hampshire County Council | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

[Subscribe to our resident newsletters | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

[Hampshire County Council | Winchester | Facebook](#)

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Please do not hesitate to email me with any feedback, suggestions, and questions.

Kind regards– Debbie

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9<sup>th</sup> March 2025