

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026

Present: Cllr J Hogson (Chairman), Cllr J Dumper, Cllr S Dunn , Cllr A Taylor, Cllr J Mann & Cllr C Brooks.

In attendance: Heather Bourner-Parish Clerk

HCC David Drew

Andrew Illingworth- Broughton Community Energy

2 Members of public

### **Apologies for Absence**

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs. K McAllister, Cllr M Mossman, Cllr J Morrison, Cllr Y Ezra & TVBC Ali Johnson

### **Report from Broughton Nature Group**

2) Lucie Almond reported on the newly formed nature group. She said 20 volunteers have come forward to work with nature, restoration and conservation in the village. Core group members met with HIWWT and walked through the village identifying areas where work could take place to improve grass land, introduce wildflowers and create a variety of spaces to encourage a wide variety of flora and wildlife.

Working with HIWWT they are now exploring which areas could benefit and how to put this in place. Areas identified include Salisbury Green which has potential for grassland management & wild flower planting and Centenary Gardens where an already mature area can be improved. In time they hope to organise guided nature walks, carry out river monitoring and get village children involved. Parish Councillors suggested School Green could also benefit and that the Parish Council have funds available to support the maintenance of both Salisbury and School Greens.

HIWWT are preparing a report highlighting beneficial work and once received the nature group will share this with the Parish Council via Cllr Mossman who is one of the volunteers.

### **Public Participation**

3) One of the members of public present spoke about the newly formed group Broughton Sustainable Development. In light of the recent agreement to the outline application to the Coolers Farm application she had spoken to a planning officer from TVBC and established when an application with matters reserved is given permission any detailed proposals will not go back to committee. She explained that TVBC had agreed to consider adding a condition of construction that traffic be channeled away from the high street during construction. The planning officer advised the Parish Council and parishioners to engage with developers at the earliest stage, regarding details such as landscaping, drainage etc. She suggested this also applied to the Hasley application although this has not reached the committee stage and urged the Parish Council to engage with developers in the context of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Declarations of Interest**

4) Cllr Taylor declared an interest in a planning application at his residence, Cllr Hodgson declared an interest in Broughton Community Energy as a director. There were no other declarations of interest. All Cllrs present confirmed no amendments were required to register of interest documents.

## **Minutes**

5) Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2026 were confirmed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Mann, seconded Cllr Taylor. All agreed.

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 18th June 2026 were confirmed as a correct record. Proposed Cllr Mann, seconded Cllr Taylor. All agreed.

## **6) County and Borough Councilors' Report**

HCC David Drew had circulated a full report which can be seen at appendix 1.

TVBC Cllr A Johnston had sent apologies.

## **Planning**

7) The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

26/00455/FULLS-installation of single casement window- Rectory Lane Cottage-refuse

26/00920/TREES-Tree works, Old Coach House, High St- no objections

26/00316/FULLS-demolish rear extension & replace with oak frame building- Beehive Cottage, High St-consent

Reviewed between meetings: None

To review the following applications were reviewed:

26/01322/VARS-variation to agreed application- reduce size-6 Queenwood Road- no objections

26/01354/FULLS-change of business use-unit 4 Nine Mile Water Business Park-no objections

26/01317/VARS- variation to agreed application to allow retention of outbuilding-Land rear of The Cottage, Rookery Lane-no objections

## **Report on outline application for 9 Houses Coolers Farm**

Cllr Hodgson had attended the Southern Area Planning meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> June when the above application was discussed and subsequently given approval, despite a report from a planning consultant which highlighted four strong reasons to object to the application. It was not clear that all on the committee had read this report. There was also a question raised to the officer who had written the TVBC report that she could not answer because the information had been taken straight from the developers report. All agreed the manner in which this case had been dealt with was completely unsatisfactory and that the chairman should write to the Chief Executive at TVBC who have suggested Parish Councils talk to developers to see how they can facilitate this.

It was also suggested the Chairman write to the local MP. While it was understood the unrealistic housing targets and the change in the national planning framework were led by central government support from her is required to put pressure on TVBC on behalf of her constituents.

## **Policies**

8) The following policies had all been updated and circulated to all Councilors for review

Grant policy

Data Protection policy

Complaints policy

Equal opportunities policy

FOI publication scheme

Recruitment policy

Website Accessibility policy

## Statement of Internal Controls

All councilors had reviewed these documents and Cllr Brooks proposed these all be re adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Hodgson, all agreed.

### **Accounting Package**

9) Following instruction from the internal auditor the Clerk reported she had been able to review the accounting package Scribe which the Parish Council had been advised to use. An online demonstration provided an insight into what the package could be used for and once embedded this could prove to be a useful tool to manage finance. The cost to the Parish Council was a one off set up fee of £299 and an ongoing monthly fee of £37.00. After a short discussion Cllr Brooks proposed the Clerk should complete the necessary documentation to acquire the package, make the payment of £299.00 and set up a direct debit to pay the monthly ongoing fee. This was seconded by Cllr Hodgson. All agreed.

The Clerk agreed to spend time over the summer break transferring all the necessary details to start using this package to record all Parish Council finance.

### **Play Area Reports**

10) The annual ROSPA inspection of the play area had taken place and formal reports had been sent to Cllr Dumper for review. He confirmed there were no items of great danger which required immediate attention. Some items were looking tired in particular the fence and gates and some surfaces were very worn. The report on the skate park showed the equipment would not meet current safety standards and there was a debate regarding how much use this equipment actually has. This will be reconsidered at a later date.

Given the large sum of S106 funds held by TVBC to upgrade the children's play area Cllr Dumper will ask the school and pre-school to survey the children about what equipment they would like in play areas. He will also contact some companies for some ideas of what is available and costings and report back to the Parish Council in due course.

### **Budget for planning consultant**

11) Cllr Ezra had submitted a formal proposal to establish a budget to contest planning applications and any other related activities that are contrary to Broughton Neighbourhood Development Plan policies. This had been discussed at the annual meeting and as the Parish Council cannot adopt the power of competence any budget would need to be within the remit of S137 and would be subject to the financial limits therein.

The Clerk pointed out that while there were funds not officially reserved without knowing the probable cost of the MUGA it was not clear if these could be allocated to a budget of this manner.

The matter was discussed and questions raised as to the validity for a consultant report that might not be considered at planning committee. Eventually Cllr Mann proposed a budget is set aside of £10000 for this purpose. The unused budget of £4000 set aside for the NDP and £6000 from reserves. This was seconded by Cllr Hodgson. All agreed with a caveat that extreme caution should be used when spending the funds, particularly on a planning consultant report.

### **Parish Council Banking & Investment Policy**

12) The Clerk had circulated a paper to all Councilors providing details of all Parish Council funds, which bank accounts they were held in and interest rates on the funds invested.

She had also provided details of potential other Parish Council investment accounts and the interest rates they attracted.

The information was discussed and it was unanimously agreed the funds for the MUGA should not be placed in any account where the investment was not secure.

It was agreed the Clerk should place the maximum sum possible in the interest bearing TSB account transferring to the current account when payments were necessary. The funds in the United Trust Bond were secure with a reinvestment date of August 2027 when this can be reviewed.

If the anticipated transfer of S106 funds from TVBC occurs then a further review of investment plans will take place.

The investment policy was reviewed and it was agreed the Parish Council should keep a general reserve of 6 months operating expenditure. Subject to this addition and the correction of two spelling errors Cllr Brooks proposed the policy be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Hodgson, all agreed.

### **Sports Field Update**

13) Cllr Dunn reported that work to finish the car park, the new sewage tank and some general tidying took place on 29<sup>th</sup> June. He has now provided the necessary discharge notice regarding the lighting and will provide the sewerage condition notice as soon as it is received.

Cllr Taylor reported the adult gym equipment, with the exception of the all access piece, has now been installed and is of very good quality. There are however some issues with installation and the company will revisit on 7<sup>th</sup> August to carry out the final work required.

### **School Lane MUGA & management plan for open spaces**

14) Cllr Dunn reported that a planning application for the MUGA is likely to be submitted in early August. An operating plan which needs to consider such things as a booking system, locking gates, charges etc needs to be submitted with the application. He will draw up a document and circulate to all Councillors for agreement so that this can be included with the planning application.

The project to install EV chargers was progressing, the machines were in place although not yet connected. Some incidental items were required and Cllr Morrison had prepared and sent a power point to all Councillors asking for four points to be considered.

### **1.Request approval from BPC to share quotes and recommendations with the BPC Clerk and proceed with signage installation.**

A minimum of three quotes have been obtained for both metal & tarmac signage and BCE are in a position to make a recommendation. This will be circa **£850** net of VAT. The materials cost of these is covered within the grant funding. Andrew Illingworth will provide all the details of the quotes with a recommendation for preferred supplier. The Parish Council authorised spending of £850.00

### **2.Meter Install & RFID Tokens. Meter install by 100Green at £175 and six RFID tokens at a total of £90.Request that this is included as an installation & set up cost and funded by BPC. Total cost circa £265.**

The Parish Council agreed to meet this expenditure

### **3. Request BPC to agree a process so that additional funds, if required, can be made available to allow completion of Project over the summer**

Budget Overspend. To date, the Project (which has included provision of a power source for the MUGA) has been entirely funded by grants from SSEN & TVBC totalling just over £26K. The selected contractor gave a competitive quote, the working relationship has been productive, and the quality of work has been good. The core components of the Project have been delivered on time and within budget, but there have been a few items that were not within the original specification that

have been added reactively, lamp post extensions and signage posts, PIR lighting, as well as some additional labour costs.

The Parish Council said they cannot agree to spending on any additional items without full details which would need to be supplied to the Clerk.

#### **4. Request that current MUGA funds are made available to contribute to standing charge following meter install.**

MUGA Connectivity. Access to connectivity has been put in place which will allow the MUGA to connect directly via the installed box. BCE would like the MUGA to contribute to half the standing charge for the supply which will total an annual cost of approx. **£270**.

It was agreed as the meter will be the power source of the MUGA this was legitimate expenditure and will be met by the Parish Council

#### **Broughton Community Energy**

15) Cllr Hodgson confirmed work to establish a site for solar panels continues.

#### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

16) Cllr Mann confirmed the steering group had met to review all consultation responses. 93% supported the Draft Regulation 14 document as presented to Parishioners and 7% raised objections. As there were objections raised and with the approval of the Parish Council, it has been decided to undertake a further consultation providing the Parish with the opportunity to choose between two Parish Council owned sites. The use of Parish Council land enables true low cost housing to be provided in accordance with outcome of the 2022 Housing Needs Survey.

The group are meeting with TVBC planners on 9<sup>th</sup> July to discuss finer points of the regulation 14 consultation in the hope that they can move to regulation 16.

#### **Clerks Report**

17) The Clerk reported

She had spoken to TVBC regarding the rates invoices she had received for the Sports Pavilion and established that as the Parish Council had leased the field the Sports club were responsible for business rates in respect of the pavilion and making any claim to rate relief that might be due. Cllr Hodgson had been passed a letter from the valuation office addressed to the Parish Council and asking for further details. The Clerk will contact the valuation office to discuss.

Following a change in legislation all personal address details need to be redacted from Councilor register of Interests forms. The Clerk confirmed she had provided all the relevant details to TVBC.

The official documents regarding land ownership of School Green & Salisbury Green have now been received and have been retained by the Clerk with all other legal title documents.

She had spoken to Simon Finch Head of Planning at TVBC for an update on the transfer of the S106 funds for School Lane and he has confirmed a decision regarding the transfer should be made very soon. She confirmed she has also established it is possible to claim out of date S106 funds by process of risk assessment and will contact TVBC regarding two sums which while out of date may not have been claimed back by the developer.

#### **Footpaths.**

18) Cllr Morrison was absent but had sent a report confirming

The long grass around the Buckholt Road signs and the Salisbury Road /School Lane junction have now been strimmed by a footpath volunteer.

Clearing of a couple of sections of FP15 towards Manor Farm are on the list of work to do.

The hedge on Footpath 4, alongside the allotments requires a trim and this will either be done by the footpath volunteers, or the Lengthsman over the school holidays.

Permission was requested to access funds in the CAPDP grant to purchase a couple of rakes and possibly some more shears. Cost likely less than £100 and it was therefore agreed the Clerk can action this before the next meeting.

Finally, Cllr Morrison reported that a parishioner has raised concerns regarding the presence of a toxic plant, Hemlock Water Drop, by shallow ford. This was reported to the Environment Agency by Cllr Ezra and to a Hampshire County Council (HCC) Rights of Way Officer.

The feedback from both was essentially that as this is a 'naturally occurring part of the ecosystem' and this and 'other similar toxic plants are natural hazards' there is no active management plan in place. However, when their teams do encounter it, strict health and safety procedures are followed and any material removed is disposed of safely. As well as humans, this plant is though also a threat to pets and livestock. The short section of footpath by the shallow ford generally needs cutting back a couple of times a year and has been a short while ago.

Given that the footpath volunteers have not had training as to how to deal with this plant they will not be asked to tackle this section of footpath again.

Cllr Morrison has asked HCC if they could meet in Broughton me to assess the prevalence of the plant and the size of the problem, but they are yet to respond.

## **2025-26 Internal Audit report review**

19) As agreed at the June meeting Cllr Brooks has, after liaising with the Clerk produced a statement to send to the external auditor with the audit report. This was reviewed and agreed.

He had reviewed the year end accounts and audit papers and proposed these were agreed, this was seconded by Cllr Dunn, all present agreed. The Audit return was reviewed. Section 1 was reviewed and agreed followed by section 2 which was also reviewed and agreed, both were signed by the Chairman.

Dates for public rights to review the financial records were agreed as 8th July to 18<sup>th</sup> August 2026.

## **Finance**

### **20) Finance**

i) To note the bank balances 29/06/2026: -TSB Charity £64902.13

TSB Business Instant £203650.76

United Trust £34180.06

ii) To approve the following payments and authorise on line transactions: -

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| H Bournier sal         | £828.00  |
| Clerk exp              | £26.00   |
| HMRC                   | £232.77  |
| Hugo Fox website       | £23.99   |
| Hugo Fox email         | £29.99   |
| RPL Maintenance        | £450.00  |
| RPL Maintenance        | £90.00   |
| Amport PC              | £1000.00 |
| Monxton PC             | £1000.00 |
| Charlton PC            | £1000.00 |
| Lengthsman admin clerk | £400.00  |

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| HMRC                     | £175.00  |
| RPL Maintenance          | £450.00  |
| RPL Maintenance          | £90.00   |
| Sports Facility Planning | £2280.00 |

### **Items to Carry Forward**

21) None

### **22) Correspondence**

The Clerk highlighted two items of correspondence

An email from a villager with advice regarding Parish Council banking and investments

The latest Clerks and Councillors magazine

### **23) New Items for next agenda**

Large oil bill for generator at the Village Hall

Village hall grant

### **Community news**

24)

### **Date of next meeting**

24) 7.pm on Tuesday September 1st 2026

### Appendix 1

Report from HCC David Drew

## **Boost for local communities as Hampshire County Councillors Grants Scheme opens this July**

Vital support to local organisations, projects and initiatives that strengthen communities across the county will be available from Hampshire County Council's popular Members Grants Scheme which will reopen on 1 July 2026

The scheme allocates a budget of £5,000 for each County Councillor to support worthwhile projects within their community.

The grant scheme is open for applications of between £100 and £1,000 from a wide range of not-for-profit organisations and community groups such as sports clubs and youth groups. The scheme is designed to support a diverse range of community-focused projects and initiatives funded through previous Hampshire County Councillor Grants Schemes include arts performances, social support groups, outdoor projects and defibrillator installations.

Applications can be submitted online once the scheme opens on 1 July. Full guidance, eligibility criteria and the application form are available [here](#).

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260626MembersGrantsScheme>

## **Thousands of Hampshire residents to benefit from expanded weight management support programme**

More Hampshire residents will be supported to improve their health and wellbeing after plans for continued investment in adult weight management services were approved today

Hampshire County Council has approved investment of up to £6.2 million from April 2027 to help residents across the county access practical support to lose weight, become more active and reduce their risk of serious long-term health conditions.

The expanded programme builds on the success of existing services, which already support around 5,000 residents each year, with many participants achieving clinically meaningful weight loss and developing healthier long-term habits. The future service is expected to support between 6,000 and 7,000 residents annually.

The new service model will provide a wider range of support options tailored to residents' needs, including face-to-face programmes, physical activity-based support, and specialist services for people living with severe mental illness or learning disabilities. Additional support will also be targeted towards communities experiencing the greatest health inequalities.

Across Hampshire, around two-thirds of adults are currently overweight or living with obesity, increasing the risk of conditions including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and some cancers.

The programme will continue to focus on long-term behaviour change, supporting residents to improve their diet, increase physical activity and build healthier routines that can be sustained over time.

The services will continue to be funded through Hampshire County Council's ring-fenced Public Health Grant as part of the authority's duty to improve population health and reduce health inequalities across the county.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260623WeightManSupport>

### **Hampshire confirms longer-term help for residents facing financial hardship**

Hampshire residents facing financial hardship are set to benefit from a major package of support, agreed today by Hampshire County Council

At her Decision Day, Councillor Zoe Huggins, Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, approved plans to allocate up to £33 million from the Government's new Crisis and Resilience Fund up to March 2029.

The package includes direct crisis payments for eligible residents, extra support for households struggling with the rising cost of heating oil and continued backing for food support networks such as community pantries. Alongside this the County Council will invest in longer-term support to help residents build financial resilience and reduce the risk of future hardship.

Plans also include appointing a delivery partner to manage crisis payments and provide wider advice and support, as well as recommissioning an expanded Community Wellbeing Worker Service across Hampshire for adults who need more than simple signposting, including ringfenced funding from Public Health.

The [Crisis and Resilience Fund](#) replaces the previous Household Support Fund and is designed to help councils provide both immediate crisis support and longer-term financial resilience for low-income households. For 2026/27, Hampshire's allocation is £11.035 million, including £586,000 to support residents who rely on heating oil.

Further information on claiming grants and support in Hampshire can be found at [connect4communities](#).

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260623crf>

### **Free summer holiday activities now open to book in Hampshire**

Families across Hampshire can now book free holiday activity sessions as the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme returns for summer 2026

Open to children who receive benefits-related free school meals, the scheme offers a wide mix of activities – from sports and outdoor sessions to crafts and creative workshops – alongside a healthy meal each day.

This summer, more than 190 schemes are running across the county, delivered by over 70 trusted local organisations.

The programme comes as families are increasingly looking for ways to keep children active, social and engaged away from screens. HAF offers a safe, structured way for children to get out, try something new and spend time with others during the long break.

The latest summer programme is funded by a £3.6 million Government grant secured in January for Hampshire to continue and strengthen delivery up to 2029.

Parents and carers can visit Hampshire County Council's new and improved [HAF booking page](#) to search and book sessions by area, age and activity. Families are asked to check session details carefully and attend booked places wherever possible.

More information and FAQs are available via the [connect4communities website](#). Queries can be sent to: [connect4communities@hants.gov.uk](mailto:connect4communities@hants.gov.uk).

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260623HAFsummer>

### **Hampshire approach to domestic abuse highlighted at House of Lords committee**

House of Lords evidence showcases Hampshire's partnership approach as new campaign warns of increased domestic abuse risk during major men's football tournaments

House of Lords evidence showcases Hampshire's partnership approach as new campaign warns of increased domestic abuse risk during major men's football tournaments.

Hampshire County Council's Director of Public Health has given evidence to a House of Lords committee, highlighting the strength of Hampshire's partnership approach to supporting victims and preventing domestic abuse.

Simon Bryant chairs the [Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership](#), which brings together organisations from across local government, health, policing, housing, education and the voluntary sector to tackle domestic abuse and improve support for residents. Simon explained how these agencies are working together to provide coordinated support for victims and survivors, while also focusing on prevention and early intervention.

It comes as the House of Lords Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Committee is examining the impact and effectiveness of the Act, including how local authorities and partner organisations are delivering support and measuring progress.

During the session, Simon highlighted the value of the Act in strengthening local partnership working and ensuring organisations across Hampshire take shared responsibility for supporting those affected by domestic abuse. He also spoke about the importance of investing in early intervention, community-based support and services for children and young people impacted by abuse.

Simon's appearance at the committee coincides with the launch of a new Hampshire-wide awareness campaign highlighting the increased risk of domestic abuse during major men's football tournaments, ahead of this summer's FIFA World Cup. The campaign, which features the message 'When is kick-off at your place?', aims to encourage people experiencing abuse or controlling behaviour to seek support, while raising awareness that incidents of domestic abuse can rise by over 25%\* during such events.

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Advice Line (03300 165 112), run by [Stop Domestic Abuse](#), offers free, confidential and independent support for anyone affected by domestic abuse, including children and young people.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260610DAWorldCup>

## **Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority formally established following parliamentary approval**

The Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority (HSCCA) has been formally established following parliamentary approval of the statutory instrument, marking a major milestone in the creation of a new authority to lead strategic decision-making across the region

The new authority will provide a strong foundation for greater local leadership on priorities including transport, housing, skills, investment and economic growth. It will help unlock opportunities for stronger coordination across partners and deliver improved long-term outcomes for communities and businesses across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The establishment of the HSCCA represents an important step forward in the devolution of powers and funding from central government, ensuring that decisions about the region are made closer to the people they affect.

The HSCCA will enable a more collaborative approach to public investment and delivery, supporting councils, public bodies, businesses and investors to work together at scale on shared economic and social priorities, and to maximise the region's collective strengths.

HSCCA will now begin establishing an organisation that will deliver on its priorities across the region, building on the strong foundations already in place to realise the full benefits of devolution. This marks the next step for the HSCCA, moving from legal establishment to delivery. At its inaugural meeting, expected to be held in July, the new authority will establish itself as an operating organisation, adopting its Constitution and Local Assurance Framework, the governance that sets out its role, its decision-making and how it will work with partners across the region on its areas of competence.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260605HSCCA>

## **Boost for electric vehicle use as Hampshire County Council unveils plan for 17,000 community chargers**

People across Hampshire are set to benefit from the introduction of around 17,000 electric vehicle charge points, with new infrastructure set to be installed in local areas where 'off-street' charging from home is not an option.

This is part of a government-funded Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund - supported by significant private investment from Charge Point Operator, Believ - which is designed to meet the rising demand for places where drivers can recharge their electric vehicles. The Hampshire scheme forms part of a national strategy to expand neighbourhood provision, addressing the current challenges faced by households without access to private off-street parking such as driveways or garages. RAC data shows that a third (33%) of Hampshire residents don't have access to off-street parking options, with that figure rising to 38% in Winchester and Rushmoor, and 39% in Basingstoke.

The County Council has secured £6.662 million from the Department for Transport – which has unlocked significant private capital investment totalling up to £90million, enabling the programme to be delivered at no cost to the County Council. This also places Hampshire currently as the largest Local Authority-led EV infrastructure project in England. Moreover, the Local Authority will receive a portion of income from the scheme once operational.

Installations are expected to begin later this year, with around 500 charge points planned for delivery in the first year of the programme.

To register a location for consideration in the scheme, visit [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/electric-vehicles](https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/electric-vehicles).

## **Boost for passengers as Hampshire County Council confirms funding for 100+ bus shelter upgrades**

Passengers across rural areas in Hampshire are set to benefit from an improved travel experience as 41 parish councils have been awarded grants to refurbish or replace 137 bus shelters

The funding, totalling £554,124, has been made available through Hampshire County Council's bus shelter improvement scheme, supported by the Department for Transport's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) 2025/26 Bus Grant.

The grant scheme is designed to help parish councils that own and maintain bus shelters to upgrade their facilities. Improvements could include upgraded structures alongside enhanced features such as new seating and lighting.

Parish councils were able to apply for a grant to carry out essential upgrades or replace ageing infrastructure. The grants will support a mix of refurbishments and new installations at existing sites.

Over this financial year, Hampshire County Council has an allocation of £14,877,662 of Local Authority Bus Grant (LABG) from the UK Government to deliver the priorities set out in Hampshire's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). This funding supports a wide range of measures, including improvements to bus stops, stations and interchanges; real-time passenger information; bus priority schemes; zero-emission bus depot charging infrastructure; community-led transport grants; fare initiatives; and rural bus shelter funding for town and parish councils.

For 2024/25, there were 26.6 million journeys a year made by bus in Hampshire – an increase of 1.7 million journeys from 2023/24 levels.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20260106BusShelterGrants>

*David Drew*  
Test Valley Central Division, HCC  
Harewood ward, TVBC