

EAST TYTHERLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON THE
13th JANUARY 2025
AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

PRESENT: Parish Cllrs R Scoones, S Brigdale, and E Foan, Steve Lees, Planning Consultant for The Star Pub, the pub owner Cressida Pollock with a member of her staff, Adam Crookshank, 4 members of the public and Clerk to the council Sue Holder.

25/051 Open Forum - None

25/0052 Apologies: Apologies received from Cllrs Bascombe and MacDonald.

25/053 Declarations of interest relating to agenda items: None

25/054 Minutes of the last meeting to be approved: Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th October 2024 be confirmed as a correct record of that meeting.

25/055 Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting: None

25/056 The Star Pub

Cressida Pollock, the owner of The Star Pub addressed the council with her plans to re-open the pub in 2027 as a local village pub offering food (55-60 covers) plus approximately 7-8 rooms. She reported that whilst the front of the building will hopefully remain the same, the back is in a very poor state or repair and will therefore require significant work. The building is also suffering from damp, and the kitchen and cellar require considerable work. Whilst the building is not listed, the planning department deem it to be of some historic significance.

Members of the public present and the parish council welcomed the project and are pleased it will remain a pub.

25/057 County Council Report

Cllr Adams King reported on a Government White Paper for devolution. The goal is a Hampshire and Solent, where less bureaucracy means quicker, simpler processes. Devolution means moving powers, and the money to enact them, from Central Government to a more local level. These powers would be devolved to a Combined Authority, in our case covering Hampshire and the Solent (including Southampton, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight), overseen by an elected mayor. The Government wants us to be one of their priority areas, targeting implementation by May 2026. The Government must carry out full consultation on their devolution proposals. They aim to complete this and conclude any negotiations by Summer. The uncertainty of an election, and the inability to complete a consultation during the pre-election period, would disrupt the consultation and negotiation process too greatly.

Hence, the Government expects those on the Priority Programme to request their elections be postponed. If Hampshire is accepted as a priority area, they will need to submit their proposals for new Council areas by the autumn. Before Christmas local leaders met with Local Government Minister Baroness Taylor and several important principles were clarified:

- The size of new Unitary authorities: populations of at least 500,000 but less than 1.2 million: Hampshire is too large to become a single unitary authority.
- Southampton and Portsmouth must expand and cannot remain unchanged.
- Existing district and borough boundaries should be retained as much as possible when creating new Unitary Councils.

Cllr Adams King felt devolution to be a good thing. It brings power and money from Government and provides a strategic over-view helpful to the entire area, but is much more concerned about local government reorganisation, particularly if we have to create unitary councils of over 500,000 people.

A member of the public questioned whether the new boundaries would match health care boundaries and inequality in areas were discussed.

Cllr Adams King also reported that the County will be charging utility companies a £1000 disruption charge per day to close roads, and household food waste collections will commence in the summer.

25/058 Planning

24/02964/FULLS Lockerley Water Farm

Single storey side extension and window alterations. No decision on this application was made at the meeting.

25/059 Play and community area

A tree survey as part of the insurance programme needs commissioning.

25/060 Lengths man / Footpaths

The Lengths man will be asked to remove mud off the roadside footpath and clean the village signs.

25/061 Highways:

The potholes at Queenwood have now been repaired and it was noted that flooding at the business units is much better since a new culvert was installed by Hampshire County Council.

It was reported that following some work by Aster, the road by the garages has been left very muddy and the Clerk will ask that it is cleared.

The road near the old village hall was reported to be slippery recently during the very cold weather, and whilst there is a grit bin here, members of the public or councillors are not covered by insurance to use it.

Erosion of the side of the road outside of Bonner Cottage was noted.

25/062 Finance

Cllr Brigdale, Treasurer, presented a Parish Yearly Expenditure and Reserves report to the council. On the basis of this report, Cllr Scoones proposed, and the council voted unanimously not to increase the precept this year.

25/063 Correspondence

All correspondence had been sent to the parish council before the meeting.

25/064 Any other business: None

25/065 Date of next meeting: 18/03/2025 full council

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 7.30 pm.