

Langrish Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Langrish Parish Council held at The Cow Shed, Ramsdean on

Monday 14 September 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors Debbie Luff (Chair), Robert Bewes, Ian Blackwell, Cheryl Walder and Huw Evans.
Sam Marchant (Clerk).

1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor David Podger, District Councillor Rob Mocatta and Cllr Roger Hetherington.

2. Declaration of Interests: Cllrs were asked to declare any pecuniary interests.

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes for review & approval: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 July 2026
The Chair asked Councillors to consider whether the minutes were a true record of the meeting. Councillors who had attended the meeting confirmed that they were accurate, the minutes were approved as read and signed as a true and correct record.

4. Councillor Responsibilities: to appoint

Discussion points:

Suggestion was made for Cllr Evans to assist Cllr Hetherington with Planning responsibilities.

Cllr Blackwell agreed to take on Church liaison responsibility.

It was agreed to delay appointment of Tree Warden for the time being.

Actions:

DL to speak with RH regarding HE assisting with Planning.

DL to contact a member of the public in regard to Tree Warden position.

IB to liaise with the LPCC

5. Open Forum: Members of the Public were invited to comment.

A representative from PCC introduced the letter circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

They emphasised the task would be long and involved—possibly 2–5 years.

PCC would continue to provide presence to check the building and outside areas, including protecting the property from water ingress by volunteers.

Two Langrish parishioner representatives will continue to sit on the combined PCC (with East Meon).

The PCC requested a liaising Councillor to keep in touch and be a point of responsibility especially regarding the churchyard (which will remain open for visitors and certain services).

It was clarified that it was not expected for the nominated Councillor to attend PCC meetings; instead, the PCC would come to the Councillor as a close link.

Maintenance of the churchyard would continue as is.

Cllr Blackwell to provide the Hampshire Monday group contact for churchyard maintenance.

Actions:

IB to be point of contact for the PCC

IB to provide the Hampshire Monday group contact

6. Finance & Admin Matters:

a) Finance summary Actuals vs Budget & list of Payments and Receipts report: to approve

The RFO presented the financial report, which was unanimously approved by Councillors. (Appendix A)

b) Budget 2027/28: to ask Cllrs to think about potential projects to include for November

Discussion points:

Projects to be included and considered: 20mph in Ramsdean to include signage possibilities, village gateways at entrances.

Suggestion for budgeting over a set number of years for larger projects such as the 20mph network, more research to be done for this.

Councillors were asked to have a think of potential projects and send them to the Clerk to be included.

Actions:

All Cllrs to submit potential budget projects to the Clerk for inclusion ahead of November.

Clerk to add proposals to the budget planning list for November.

7. Matters Arising

a) PCC letter: to review and approve any action

Discussion points:

Discussion was covered earlier in the meeting during open forum.

Actions:

As above in open forum

b) Remembrance Sunday: to review arrangements

Discussion points:

Due to the Church closure alternative service arrangements were being explored.

The Chair explained the history of the war memorial issues.

It was agreed to ask Stroud whether there would be an event at the Village Hall.

Once arrangements determine the Clerk to order a wreath.

Actions:

Clerk to contact Stroud Village Hall re any planned arrangements

Clerk to purchase wreath

8. Reports and Updates

a) Langrish Meadow/Community Orchard (IB)

Discussion points:

Cllr Bewes reported that the area was “not looking its best”.

The area had been rewilded; however, all the trees/saplings had now died.

The Chair provided an update on the grant application, further information had been requested in regard to size of area and number of trees, once this information had been submitted there had been no further response received.

It was noted that keeping things alive this summer had been impossible due to lack of a water source on site. The Chair described the situation as a “great pity” but suggested considering naturally rewilding with wildflower seeds and keeping it low maintenance.

Concern was raised that new trees would require watering every day and in turn create a significant responsibility.

Another issue raised was the perimeter fencing approaching end of life; with an estimated 3–4 years remaining. Options to be considered include replacing gates and fencing.

Fencing to consider included the area around the car park and measured approximately 20m this was to be included in the budget for November.

Cllr Evans noted the kissing gates are not worth repairing and are not working properly; possible alternative for the main gate access could be a combination lock.

Action:

Clerk to include fence replacement in the budget for November

b) BOATs (DL)

Discussion points:

The Chair had copied Councillors that afternoon that she had sent to Jonathan Woods at Hampshire County Council.

It was noted that County Councillor David Podger had taken a positive step to challenge Hampshire County Council and to raise questions at the next full meeting.

The view was expressed that very little is being done to protect BOATs and that HCC finances were being blamed.

Repair works following damage made by motor bikes had been funded by CiL had been wasted due to further damage.

Pressure from SDNPA to question HCC why CiL funding had been used, while still not closed to motorised vehicles and bikes.

The Chair said that she would write to the CiL Planning Officer with this question.

Actions:

DL to write to the CiL Planning Officer.

c) Footpaths and Rights of Way

i. Report

Discussion points:

Report circulated prior to the meeting.

Action:

None.

ii. Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO)

Discussion points:

To continue works.

Action:

RB and DL to continue with work.

d) Lengthsman: to note recent works and call for jobs (RB)

Discussion:

The lengthsman had cleared the footpath along the A272 path to the church, which had been done very well. Copse still awaiting to be cut; Cllr Bewes to chase the lengthsman for this and also clearance of the bus shelters.

Action:

RB to chase LM regarding copse path and bus stop clearance.

e) Roads/Highways (IB)

i. Report

Discussion points:

Nothing to note.

Action:

None.

ii) C28 7.5 tonne weight restriction

Discussion points:

IB had received a reply from HCC stating that they did not want to interfere with flow of traffic and that local businesses relied on HGVs using the turning.

It was noted that enforcement/policing would also be difficult.

Action:

Clerk to take off the agenda for now.

iii) SID unit and solar panel (IB/SM)

Discussion points:

Concluded to continue with the exploration the two sites proposed at the July meeting.

Action:

IB/Clerk to continue works.

9. District Councillor report: to receive a report from Cllr Robert Mocatta

Report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. (Appendix B)

10. County Councillor report: to receive a report from Cllr David Podger

No report to discuss.

11. Items for the next Agenda

Budget projects: Possible CFI 20mph/traffic calming in Ramsdean

Questionnaire for Ramsdean on how strongly felt within the residents regarding 20mph/30mph

Actions:

HW to explore questionnaire options.

12. To confirm the date of the next meeting: Monday 9 November 2026

The Parish Council meeting closed at 20:50pm.

Signed:

Date:

Financial Report September 2026

Below is the summary of Actual v Budget 1 April - September 2026 for Payments & Receipts

Summary of Cost Centres - Payments	Actual	Budget	Variance
Room Hire	£ 35.00	£ -	-£ 35.00
Clerk and Cllr Admin Expenses	£ -	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Clerk Salary (inc PAYE)	£ 541.65	£ 1,400.00	£ 858.35
Audit Fee	£ 245.00	£ 250.00	£ 5.00
Insurance	£ 314.48	£ 350.00	£ 35.52
Donation	£ -	£ 500.00	£ 500.00
Asset Maintenance	£ 470.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 1,530.00
Asset Purchase	£ -	£ 150.00	£ 150.00
Miscellaneous	£ -	£ 150.00	£ 150.00
Election Expenses	£ -	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Subscriptions	£ 262.00	£ 350.00	£ 88.00
Training	£ 25.00	£ 150.00	£ 125.00
Website & Email Accounts	£ 104.94	£ 500.00	£ 395.06
Langrish Meadow Orchard Project	£ -	£ 650.00	£ 650.00
Total	£ 1,998.07	£ 6,650.00	£ 4,651.93
VAT	£ 99.00		
Summary of Cost Centres - Receipts	Actual	Budget	Variance
Precept	£ 3,341.52	£ 6,683.04	£ 3,341.52
Grants	£ -	£ -	£ -
Bank Interest	£ -	£ -	£ -
Total	£ 3,341.52	£ 6,683.04	-£ 3,341.52
VAT Reclaim 2025-26	£ 233.97		

Payments from 7 July - 8 September 2026

Date Paid	Payee	Description	Amount
31/07/2026	Clerk	Salary	£86.73

Appendix A

31/07/2026	HMRC	PAYE	£21.60
04/08/2026	HugoFox	Email Accounts	£20.99
05/08/2026	The Reliable Gardener	Grass Cutting	£78.00
01/09/2026	CLerk	Salary	£86.73
01/09/2026	HMRC	PAYE	£21.60
04/09/2026	HugoFox	Email Accounts	£20.99
07/09/2026	EMPC	CiLCA Training	£25.00
07/09/2026	The Reliable Gardener	Grass Cutting	£78.00
07/09/2026	The Reliable Gardener	Grass Cutting	£78.00
07/09/2026	The Reliable Gardener	Grass Cutting	£78.00
08/09/2026	Petersfield Men's Shed	Ramsdean Bench Refurb	£80.00
		Total	£675.64

Receipts from 7 July - 8 September 2026

Date Received	Company	Description	Amount
		Total	#REF!

Opening Bank Balance 1 April 2026

£9,222.35

Bank Balance 8 September 2026

£10,700.77

East Hampshire District Council report

September 2026

Cllr Rob Mocatta

1) Food waste collection

EHDC is rolling out food waste collection in the next month. Food kitchen caddies and outdoor caddies will be delivered to all households in the next few weeks. EHDC has 7 food waste collection vehicles, and there will be 7 new food waste collection routes as every household will have a weekly food waste collection.

The food waste will be taken to an anaerobic digester in Basingstoke, and will help increase recycling rates and reduce the weight of non-recycled (or residual) waste from the households in EHDC. The latest DEFRA figures (to the end of March 2025) showed that Hampshire households on average produced 440 kg of waste per year – or just over 8kg per week. The government targets in the Environment Act are 333kg per household in 2030 and 287 kg per household in 2042. The recent experience of Winchester City Council is that food waste collection has reduced their residual waste collection by just over 15% to 368 kg per household. This reduction of residual waste is the driver behind food waste collection.

EHDC will put out considerable publicity in the next few weeks to encourage as many residents as possible to use the food waste collection service – it is part of the waste collection charge included in all council tax bills.

2) Local Government reorganisation

Having wasted considerable time and effort over the past year, the national Labour government has shelved/postponed/cancelled the planned local government reorganisation in Hampshire. It is totally unclear which of these is the correct conclusion. EHDC will try to recoup its costs for this government imposed incompetence, but without much expectation of recovering spent costs.

What this means for our residents is that the existing structure of parish/district/ county councils will continue until a decision is made to change them. This will certainly mean an election in May 2027 for a new East Hampshire District Council on the same basis as today, and the responsibilities of the council are unchanged. It will still collect waste, is responsible for planning (outside the SDNP) and provides over 100 other services to residents. The whole LGR process has been very disruptive for the staff, and it is very difficult to give a clear steer on what happens next.

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news>

The information from the government to the leaders of the County and District councils is that devolution is the highest priority across the country (“good growth in every postcode” in the prime minister’s cryptic soundbite). This should mean that the election for the Hampshire & Isle of Wight mayor takes place next year, not in 2028 as currently scheduled. But that is far from certain. The structure below that, the opaque “Mayoral Combined Authority, or MCA” is already established and is hiring staff. It will have a range of statutory responsibilities, including transport, post 18 education and “spatial planning”. It is very

unclear whether council tax bills will include a charge for the MCA, but I suspect that in time it will.

My guess is that local government reorganisation has merely been postponed, and that a new proposal will come forward, probably on a different basis to the one in March that looks like it was gerrymandered to suit the local Hampshire Labour MPs in the urban areas. But that is very much a guess based on some opaque comments from ministers who do not appear to have a plan, and who ignored the advice of their civil servants last time.

3) EHDC News

EHDC regularly updates all residents on what it doing in the District. I encourage all residents to keep an eye on the District's press releases. The best source is here:

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news>

