



Bramshaw Parish Council

New Forest Hampshire

📧: clerk@bramshaw-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Bramshaw Parish Council held in the Main Hall of Bramshaw Village Hall on Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 19:30

MINUTES

Minutes are draft until ratified at the next meeting.

Present: Cllr Thomas, Vice-chair

Cllr Bennison

Cllr Coutts

In attendance: Clerk and RFO, Diana O'Grady

2 x members of the public

District Cllr Reilly

54/26 Apologies for absence

- Cllr Loveless. Reason given and apology accepted.
- Cllr Medley. Apology accepted.

55/26 Public Participation period

- A member of the public spoke on the Green hut restoration. Men's Shed are keen to use the space. Bramshaw Trust plan to repair the exterior then Men's Shed will fit out the interior. The shed will not be just for the use of Mens' shed but for other local community groups too.
- Bramshaw Trust have applied to many organisations for grants.

56/26 Declaration of Interests and dispensation requests

- None declared.

57/26 To confirm the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 23rd June 2026.

- Amendment to Item 36/26 on the June 2026 Minutes:
 - Following discussion Cllrs decided for Cllrs to take on responsibilities as they arise rather than have a list of allocations.
 - Cllr Bennison has agreed to continue to represent the Parish Council on NFALC, New Forest Consultative panel and NE Quadrant meetings.
- Brief explanation of reason for not approving the July Minutes.
- The July meeting will be discussed in a closed session, item 77/26.

58/26 District / County Councillor Reports

County Councillor report

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE - Reporting Period: 1 July – 31 July 2026

For Parish and Town Councils in the Lyndhurst and Fordingbridge Division

- Recent Hampshire County Council Business

16 July County Council Meeting

Various items were covered in the meeting, the first since the AGM:

1. Strategic Infrastructure and Local Planning

Signed Chair

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Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Adoption

The Council engaged in a robust debate regarding the updated Minerals and Waste Plan. The plan provides a strategic framework for managing minerals and waste, essential for preventing "speculative applications" from developers that the Council might otherwise be unable to defend against.

I raised concerns about site allocations which had gone ahead despite clear and considerable complaint from residents, specifically relating to the proposed quarry at Midgham Farm (in Fordingbridge). Other councillors raised similar concerns about Ashley Manor Farm (New Milton), and Hamble Airfield.

Despite several votes against, the plan was formally adopted via a recorded vote to ensure Hampshire maintains planning control and certainty for the coming years.

2. Highways, Traffic, and Safety

Highways Maintenance and Potholes

The Council acknowledged a £600 million backlog in highway repairs.

The LibDem group brought forward a motion was carried requesting a major step change in how highway maintenance is delivered. The motion calls for a shift toward proactive maintenance and better tracking of "return repair rates" to eliminate repeat visits for the same potholes. It required that a report be brought to the next council meeting outlining what a new approach might look like. The motion passed despite opposition from the leading party – the first time anyone can recall this happening.

Traffic Safety and 20mph Limits

The Council received significant deputations regarding traffic safety in Winchester and the Itchen Valley, but the issue seems relevant for all parishes.

- **20mph Policy:** A call to facilitate easier implementation of 20mph zones was referred to the Universal Services Select Committee for review. Current policy was criticized as being too complex and expensive for local communities to navigate.
- **Satnav and Rat-running:** Residents in Itchen Valley highlighted the dangers of narrow lanes being used as rat-runs by HGVs following satnavs. The Council is exploring the use of Digital Traffic Regulation Orders (DTROs) to better inform satnav providers of road restrictions.
- **Lane Rental Scheme:** The Council expects to implement a disruption charging scheme for utility companies by early 2027, pending government approval.

3. Finance and Public Services

2025/26 Financial Outturn

The Council reviewed its end-of-year financial position. The actual requirement from reserves was £20.7 million, £44.2 million better than the budgeted £64.9 million.

While this achievement was lauded, the leader warned that the forecast budget gap for 2027/28 remains approximately £179.7 million, necessitating continued fiscal discipline.

Children's Services and SEND

- The Council is investing £90 million over three years to create additional specialist school places for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- New "Best Start" Family Hubs are set to open in Gosport, Andover, and Alton to support early years and school readiness.

4. Local Governance and Community Matters

- **Lymington High Street Parking:** A motion to reinstate one hour of free parking on Lymington High Street was debated. Business owners believe current 20-minute limits have reduced footfall. The Council resolved to have the Universal Services Select Committee review the impact of these parking restrictions on local businesses.

Signed Chair

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- Water Safety: Ahead of the school summer holidays, the leader urged members to promote water safety messaging following several tragic incidents in open water.

Action Points for Parish Councils

- *Parish councillors are encouraged to use the "OurHants" app for specific pothole or pavement defects to ensure they are logged for inspection.*
- *The Executive Member for Highways encouraged parish council engagement with County Councillors so HCC priorities reflect local need.*

Other items of news

- Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority met and elected Cllr Prad Bains as Chair. Cllrs David Harrison and Fran Carpenter are the New Forest members.
- The Councillor Grant scheme came into effect. I have £5000 in grant funding for the current year. Bids from suitable organisations can be made for a minimum of £100 and maximum of £1000. Full details online.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor>

Local Government Reorganisation

Four Joint Committees have been established to begin the process of establishing the new unitary authorities. For our area the members are:

These are just the Hampshire County Council members - the full committee is made up of councillors from all District and Borough councils in the area.

At the same time, the council is pursuing a judicial review against the government's reorganization plans. The legal challenge is estimated to cost under £500,000, funded from budget contingencies.

The council argues there is a £95.2 million "delta" between its assessment of costs and the government's chosen reorganization option. The council contends that the government's plan could be "incredibly costly" to residents if the projected £63.9 million in annual savings is not realized.

Hampshire and Solent Devolution

The leader reported that the Hampshire and Solent Combined Authority Board met for the first time on July 3. The deal is set to bring £1.4 billion in investment over the next two decades. The Board agreed to petition the government to bring forward the mayoral election to next year to fully unlock the powers and funding promised.

Upcoming Hampshire County Council Meetings

Very few meetings in August given the holiday period. The next County Council meeting is not until 1 October 2026.

Cllr David Millar, 2 August 2026

- Cllr Bennison queried who the members of the joint committees for our area are, and Clerk has emailed Cllr Millar with this question, Cllr Bennison copied in.

District Councillor report, District Councillor Reilly

Local Government reorganisation has been paused.

Parishes and district will have elections for the full 4 x year term.

The Local Plan consultation is ongoing, after which a new Local Plan will be produced.

New planning rules coming in on 1st November 2026.

Quite a few waste collection issues around Bramshaw.

Signed Chair

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Cllr Bennison

Attended the Consultative panel and NE Quadrant meetings.

New Forest Consultative Panel

3rd September 2026

- Hurst Split to Lymington Strategy

A draft 100-year coastal strategy for the Hurst Spit to Lymington area sets out how communities, wildlife, heritage, recreation, tourism, and businesses can adapt to climate change and sea level rise. It highlights risks if no action is taken, including increased flooding, erosion of historic landfill, loss of public rights of way, damage to heritage and archaeology, loss of internationally important habitats, and greater vulnerability of Hurst Spit. The area is divided into management units and assessed through “adaptation pathways,” allowing actions to change over time as conditions evolve. High-level options include restoring saltmarsh, improving property flood resilience, and ongoing beach management, alongside choices such as holding the line with strengthened defences or managed realignment. Implementation is estimated to cost about £412 million over 100 years, and public engagement is invited through events and the project website.

- *Forestry England’s September 2026 update*

Outlines a major heathland wildfire that started from a vehicle fire on the A31 and spread rapidly. A multi-agency response kept fire services on site for two weeks, with more than 100 hectares of heathland and woodland damaged and recovery expected to take decades. Forestry England staff supported operations around the clock by managing access, cutting new firebreaks, supplying water and damping down, monitoring for hotspots after crews left, and closing car parks and patrolling for public safety. Enforcement action was needed after repeated BBQ use during high risk conditions, and campsites temporarily banned cooking equipment and BBQs. The fire destroyed vegetation, rare pillwort, soil seed banks, and many ancient beech and oak trees, while some bogs limited spread. Recovery plans include using local heather cuttings to protect and reseed soils and expanding wetland restoration to improve drought and flood resilience.

- *NPA Partnership Plan – Nigel Stone*

Focused on recovery after a wildfire and wider partnership work. The incident has moved from response to recovery, led by a Recovery Coordinating Group chaired by Kate Ryan with subgroups for environment, business and economy, and communities. A Local Resilience Forum debrief and lessons-learned process is planned from early October, alongside local and organisational reviews. General updates included publication of the 2025/26 Annual Review on the website, engagement at the New Forest Show to inform thinking about the Forest in 2050, and continued summer “Care for the Forest” and New Forest Code campaigns. The Youth for Climate & Nature (YouCAN) project has ended, with additional closing funding secured and a bid submitted for a further five years. Work is starting on the 2027–2032 Partnership Plan, with consultation planned for early 2027 and publication targeted for July 2027

- *NPA Local Plan Update – David Illsley*

15M people live within 90 minute drive of the Park. Regulation 19 draft Local Plan review explains how the plan guides planning decisions and must be updated to reflect current evidence. It summarises identified needs: about 260 net new homes a year to 2043 (mostly 1–3 bed), Around 13,550 square metres of additional employment floorspace, 11 Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and 6 Travelling Showpeople plots. The draft approach proposes limited housing allocations providing about 50 homes a year (around 20% of need), alongside size limits, principal residency conditions for new market homes, local occupancy rules for affordable and some care housing, rural exception sites, and tied dwellings. Specific housing and care sites at Ashurst, Winsor, Landford, Redlynch, Lyndhurst and Sway are listed. Employment needs are addressed through support for small-scale growth, protecting existing sites, and a new allocation at Fawley linked to the Solent Freeport. The document outlines soundness tests and the independent examination timeline through 2027.

- *NFDC Update – Cllr Derek Tipp*

Local Planning Committees will not meet very often, applications will be decided by Planning Officers instead. CIL payments by the end of 25 years will be £25M, expected to raise £15M in the next 5 years. Totton is to have a civic Square, must be used for new projects. New Forest Together is taking a petition to Government.

- *AOB – Harriet Standeven*

Harriet showed two photographs showing a line of vehicles congested on a narrow rural road. One image is taken from inside a car facing a queue of traffic along a hedge-lined lane. The other shows a large white box van stopped at an angle near the edge of the road with several cars queued behind it in a wooded area. To contact, her email address is harrietstandevenpc@minstead.org.uk

Next Meeting is 3rd December 2026

North East Quadrant Parish Meeting

6th August 2026

Chaired by Mary Davies – N.F.N.P.A. member

- *Forestry England Update – Nick Wardlaw – Head of Recreation*

There will be some felling at Dearleap in Mid August taking pine trees out.

Question: from Netley Marsh who are getting displaced carparking.

Answer: Rangers must say don't park on the verge, park in car parks.

Question: Will F.E. collate Cost of parking

Question: Is the revenue going to be invested in the Forest.

Question: Risk Assessment for fires

Answer: Guidance on how to deal will be sent to P.C.'s

- Clerk to ask Nick Wardlaw which guidance will be sent to the PCs

- *NFDC Update – Dean Brunton*

Advice on Safety Strategy. Will not progress the local Plan by December 2027, will start a new plan in December will take 30 months. Planning Policies will be adopted by new unitaries in April 2027. Housing needs are unknown. There have been 70 bids for infrastructure from P.C.'s, money coming from CIL. Not going to pursue judicial review. Devolution through the new Authority. Planning Applications will be

Signed Chair

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delegated to Officers rather than by committee. No members or P.C.'s will have call in powers.

- 4. Climate Change – John Stride

Flooding due to climate or development changes. “National /flow Management” can slow force peaks. In the future there will be less rain in summer and more in winter for example. *Parish Councils are not the authority responsible for maintaining watercourses, which is anything other than rivers. Environment Agency advises the N.F. catchment flood management plan is online where charts are available.*

- NPA update – Nigel Stone

Update on ground nesting birds, 1st breeding pair of Red Shanks. There was a fire at Ashurst, talking to people at campsites, Junior Rangers very enthusiastic to get the message out to the public. If you see anyone using a BBQ phone 999.

They are going ahead with Local Plan. 17th August on the website there is a consultation document for Regulation 19 for open afternoon sessions.

Call for Sites – some came in very late which means some P.C.'s do not have a chance to comment on it.

2027 five year partnership plan starts in February 2027. Bidding for funding for landscape connections covering 10 years to solve connections problems found.

Enforcement team are dealing with 300 cases.

Planning Applications not going to committee does not apply in the N.P. Application Fees should cover 90% of the cost across the country.

- A.O.B. – None.

Date of next meeting 15th October – venue to be confirmed.

Cllr Coutts

Cllr Coutts will speak with the Lengthsman about trimming brambles through the Parish. However, it was decided it will be best to wait for Forestry England to cut back as they have said they will, before engaging the Lengthsman.

- Clerk has emailed Dave Morris of Forestry England asking when and where they plan to do their tidying works. Chair, Vice chair, Cllr Bennison and Cllr Coutts copied in.

Items ongoing

60/26 Village flooding

- Nothing to report.

61/26 New email addresses

- Nothing to report.

62/26 Printer purchase

- Report comparing 4 x options as circulated to all councillors 06/07/2026
- Option 3, the Brother was chosen.

63/26 Completion of Declaration of Interest forms

- One Councillor DoI form yet to be received.
- The Clerk should hold addresses for all Councillors but has this information for just two Councillors.

- Clerk to check which addresses are still needed

64/26 Update on signage around the village.

Signed Chair

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- Cllr Thomas has had some quotes.
- Suggestion of moving the sign at Brook onto manorial waste land.
- 65/26 Village Hall administrator has sent evidence that the defibrillator is checked and working.
- 66/26 Lengthsman has been paid for works carried out earlier in the year.
- Discuss and agree further works to be carried out by the Lengthsman.
- See Cllr Coutts' report above.
- 67/26 Clerk to email National Trust re the length of Blackhill Road, Furzley cross road to Newbridge, Porters Farm green, Vice Lane to stocks Cross, Furzley cross road to Crock Hill. Willow trees are growing out of the ditches.
 - Email sent 17/09/2026, Chair, Vice Chair and Cllr Coutts copied in.
- 68/26 Review approved banking authorisers and amend or delete where necessary to comply with GDPR.
 - Clerk spent 2hrs waiting on NatWest attempting to check and sort out the remaining list of authorisers. Current list is Chair, Vice chair and one Councillor. Financial Regulation state the Council must have 3 x Councillors able to authorise payments.

<https://eforms-external-cb.natwest.com/#/form/universal-mandate-request>

New Items

- 69/26 Agree to remove Cllr Sue Bennison from the NatWest banking authorisation mandate.
 - Agreed by all Councillors present.
- 70/26 Name and agree to add a third Councillor to the NatWest banking authorisation mandate.
 - Cllr Adam Coutts has agreed to be the third authoriser. Council agreed for Cllr Cutts to be added.
- 71/26 Agree to adopt Equality and Diversity policy
 - Council agreed to adopt the policy as circulated.
- 72/26 Agree to adopt Health and Safety guidelines
 - Council agreed to adopt the policy as circulated.
- 73/26 Agree to adopt Disciplinary policy and Procedure
 - Council agreed to adopt the policy as circulated.
- 74/26 Agree to adopt Grievance policy and Procedure
 - Council agreed to adopt the policy as circulated.
- 75/26 Agree to adopt Staffing Committee terms of reference
 - Council adopted the Terms of reference as circulated.
- 76/26 Bramshaw Trust grant application
 - Council proposed that the money is granted to Bramshaw Trust.
 - Clerk transferred £1,000 to Bramshaw Trust 17/09/2026
- 77/26 Clerk has posted the NPA draft Local Plan notice on the village hall noticeboard.
- 78/26 Closed session for members of Bramshaw Parish Council only.
 - Clerk took the meeting through decisions some made by the Council which weren't in line with legislation.
 - Quality Control
 - Council was asked to note that:
 - the annual audits are the formal quality control process for Local Government.
 - the Auditor's comment that the 'PC is in the best place it has been for 10 years'
 - this was achieved without a tracking system in place

Signed Chair

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Trees

26/00793CONS Wadworth And Company, Green Dragon, LYNDHURST ROAD, BROOK, LYNDHURST, SO43 7HE

Prune 1 x Lime tree (T1 on the plan)

Prune 1 x Horse Chestnut tree (T2 on the plan)

Prune 2 x Ash trees (T3 & T4 on the plan)AOB for discussion only

No comments received

26/00817CONS Brook Green Cottage, BROOK GREEN, Bramshaw, LYNDHURST, SO43 7JB

Prune 1 x Cherry tree (T1 on the plan)

Fell 2 x Cherry trees (T2 & T6 on the plan)

Prune 1 x Prunus tree (T3 on the plan)

Prune 2 x Acer trees (T4 & T5 on the plan)

Fell 1 x Turkey Oak tree (T7 on the plan)

No comments received

26/00902CONS Bramleys, ROAD THROUGH FRITHAM, FRITHAM, LYNDHURST, SO43 7HJ

Prune 3 x Apple trees

No comments received

80/26 Finance

Invoices, grant applications and receipts circulated

Bramshaw Trust grant application circulated 2/9/2026

Payments for approval

Bramshaw Trust grant application requesting £1,000.

A grant of £1,000 was approved by the Council and was transferred to Bramshaw Trust by the Clerk.

Signed Chair

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BRAMSHAW PARISH COUNCIL				
CASH FLOW REPORT		Period: June 2026 to 08/09/2026		
PAYMENTS				
Date Paid	Method	Payee	Details	TOTAL
27-Jun-25	SO	Clerk	June salary and expenses	453.68
25-Jul-25	SO	Clerk	July salary and expenses	453.68
19-Jun-26	DD	Hugo Fox	Website and email addresses Inv 27450	20.99
29-Jun-26	Online	HALC	Affiliation fees 2026-2027 and levy INV-8188	357.00
27-Aug-25	SO	Clerk	August salary and expenses	453.68
20-Jul-26	DD	Hugo Fox	Website and email addresses Inv 28666	20.99
19-Aug-26	DD	Hugo Fox	Website and email addresses INV-29871	20.99
23-Jul-26	DD	HMRC	Quarterly tax and NI	310.30
06-Jul-26	Online	Bramshaw Trust	Community room hire 28th July 1255	30.00
			TOTAL	2,121.31
RECEIPTS				
Date	Method	Payer	Details	TOTAL
			TOTAL	0.00
FOR APPROVAL				
Inv Date	Method	Payee	Details	TOTAL
	Online	Bramshaw Trust	Grant for green hut restoration, amount TBD	
			TOTAL	0.00
UPCOMING				
Date	Method	Payee	Details	TOTAL
25-Sep-25	SO	Clerk	September salary and expenses	453.68
			TOTAL	453.68
BANK	BALANCE 8th September 2026			
		2,574.99		
	FORECAST	2,121.31		
Payments Approved		Printed Name and Date		

BANK RECONCILIATION 2025-26			
Opening Balance Current Account at 01/04/2026	£14,246.15	Opening Balance Business Reserve at 04/04/2025	£0.63
Receipts	12,852.48	Receipts	0.00
Payments	6,379.45	Payments	0.00
Uncleared Payments 2024/25	0.00		
Uncleared Payments 2025/26	30.00		
Balance Current Account	£20,749.18	Closing Balance Business Reserve	£0.63
		Total Funds	£20,749.81
Nat West Balance	£20,749.18	Nat West Balance	£0.63
Discrepancy	£0.00	Discrepancy	£0.00

Signed Chair

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I agree that the NatWest bank account balance on 4th September 2026 is as shown on the Bank reconciliation statement above.

Signed Date..15th September 2026

81/26 Future Meeting

The next ordinary meeting of Bramshaw Parish Council will be held on **27th October 2026** at 19:30, in the Community room of Bramshaw Village Hall.

Meeting Closed at 21:32

Signed Chair

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