

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

HEADLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th January 2026 at the Parish Office, Arford Road, Headley at 7.30pm

Present:

Cllr Mark Dickens

Cllr Neville Merritt

Cllr Sally Laker

Cllr Stephen Thair

Cllr Ann Sherburn-Hall

Cllr Anthony Williams

Cllr Deborah Chamberlain

Cllr Rebecca Hudson

Cllr Paul Tansley

In attendance: Mrs Rachel Audsley (Clerk & Executive Officer) and four members of the public.

C162/25

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Tony Williamson and Lesley Coombes of which reasons were accepted.
C. Cllr Curnow-Ford also forwarded apologies.

C163/25

Declaration of Interests

Cllr Williams in relation to allotments.

Cllrs Merritt and Thair in relation to Headley CAN

C164/25

Cllr Dickens requested an additional item on the agenda to be discussed at the appropriate time in relation to drawdown of current bank to the Pavilion Project. This was proposed by Cllr Dickens, seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed by all those present.

C165/25

Public Participation

Four members of the public were in attendance. One member of the public requested permission to access the Village Green for delivery and storage of building materials. It was agreed that vehicular access should be ok, but to liaise with the Clerk in regard to further details and proposed times etc.

Consideration for materials to be stored temporarily on the green would need to have proper Council consideration at the next meeting.

The three remaining members of the public were attending in relation to item 13d on the agenda. It was therefore agreed to bring this item forward.

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Two members of the public requested permission to hold an allotment for community use. The intention being to grow food for the community and donate to the local foodbank. This was to be managed by four members of Headley CAN to ensure allotment guidelines were adhered to. If successful and demand is there, possible seeking of an alternative site if more community access is required. One member of the public was there to represent Headley Allotment Holders Association (HAHA) which would like to understand the scope and management of the proposal.

It was agreed that an independent meeting of the two groups are held and HAHA to feed back their thoughts to Council prior to further consideration by the Council at the February meeting.

The Council also raised a possible alternative site on the Village Green next to the orchard.

- C165/25 **Council Minutes**
RESOLVED: To confirm the Minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 8th December 2025.

RESOLVED: To confirm the Minutes of the Confidential Council meeting held on 8th December 2025.
- C166/25 **Committee Minutes**
The Planning Minutes from 5th January 2026 were received.
- C167/25 **Chairman’s Report**
The Chairmans report had been previously circulated and is attached to these minutes.
- C168/25 **Hampshire County Council Matters**
a. County Cllr Debbie Curnow-Ford circulated her report which is attached to these Minutes.
b. None
- C170/25 **East Hants District Council**
Cllr Williams report had been previously circulated and is attached to these Minutes.
- C171/25 **Council Representative reports**
a. Headley Village Hall – Are currently seeking ways to make the hall more energy efficient. Due to recent break-ins to the sheds, security surveillance measures are being investigated. The stage curtains are due to be shortened and cleaned and the centenary hanging is ready to be hung.
b. HSA – nothing to report. The next meeting being Thursday 15th January.

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- c. River Wey Trust – The interviews for the Co-ordinator and Publicity position are commencing this week. Testing sites at Standford Mill and the Fullers Vale Wildlife Pond are due to be undertaken.
- d. Transport – Following the recent social media post by Andy Tree, there is a plea to Cllr Curnow-Ford to get active travel for Headley.
- e. Parish Enhancement Group – The Group have revised their Terms of Reference and refined to include areas such as road safety, the bench and memorial policy and revitalisation of the monitor/warden roles for parish council owned land. Cllr Thair gave an overview of the current bus shelters and the intention of applying for the bus shelter grant scheme towards funding improvements.

Financial matters

- C172/25 **Bank Reconciliations and Trial Balance for 30th November 2025**
RESOLVED: Members received and approved the bank reconciliations and trial balance for November 2025.
- C173/25 **Payments (including credit card payments) for December 2025**
RESOLVED: Members received and approved the payments (including credit card payments) for December 2025 consisting of 29 transactions totalling £12,520.29.
- C174/25 **Pavilion Payments & Receipts (including credit card payments) for December 2025.**
RESOLVED: Members received and approved payments (including credit card payments) for December 2025 consisting of 9 transactions totalling £279,291.43
- C175/25 **Receipts for December 2025**
RESOLVED: Members received and approved the receipts for December 2025.
- C176/25 **Income & Expenditure against budget as at 31st December 2025**
RESOLVED: To approve the income and expenditure for December 2025.
- C177/25 **To note any payments made outside of meetings under the Scheme of Delegation.**
None.
- C178/25 **Internal Council Matters**
 - a. To agree quotation for HR advice.
RESOLVED: To agree to spend £200 if necessary, sourcing advice. The Clerk is due to meet Croner UK for a complementary discussion.
 - b. To note Classic Car event on the Village Green on Saturday 18th July 2026.
RESOLVED: To agree the use of the Village Green advising hirer of any liability for loss or damage.

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- c. To approve Financial Risk Assessment
RESOLVED: To include a section on the Internal Auditor and adopt the circulated copy.
- d. To approve Asset Register
RESOLVED: To adopt the circulated copy.
- e. Update on email/Assertion 10
The Clerk gave an update on the recent changes to email address of which all Councillors and website are .gov.uk. An overview of Assertion 10 was given and the need to make the necessary internal changes to comply with updated legislation,

C179/25 Open Spaces & Sport

- a. To consider and agree quotation for post and rail fencing fronting the orchard on the Village Green
RESOLVED: To agree with split knee rail fencing at a cost of £1500.00 and installation costing £890.00
- b. To consider request to permit metal detecting on Arford Common
RESOLVED: To decline request for metal detecting on any HPC owned land.
- c. To note grant donations for Christmas lights and consider quotation for the remaining works
RESOLVED: To agree to the purchasing the Christmas lights following the recent donation from EHDC District Cllr and HCC Cllr.
- d. To consider proposal for community garden/allotment
RESOLVED: To add to February meeting
- e. Fullers Vale Pond update
Cllr Merritt gave an update to advise that Legal representatives have now been appointed and Heads of Terms have been signed.
- f. To consider adopting updated Tree Policy
RESOLVED: To adopt the circulated tree policy with one small amendment to section 8.2 in relation to tree circumference.
- g. To consider quotation to mole electricity and/or water on Village Green
RESOLVED: To proceed with SK Engineering quotation. Clerk to investigate installation of a meter and liaise with Village Hall.

C180/25 New Playing Fields and Pavilion

- a. Update on variation budget tracker
RESOLVED: Cllr Laker gave an overview of the current tracker.
- b. To note latest invoice relating to pavilion contractor Flint Construction Ltd.
RESOLVED: To note and approve the latest invoice for £149,436.55 inc. VAT
- c. To consider closure after drawdown of Nationwide Account and withdrawing some funds from Unity Trust to cover the Pavilion invoices.
RESOLVED: To drawdown from both accounts but keep the Nationwide account open with the minimal amount.
- d. To note and approve Working Party notes of 6th January 2026 and recommendations contained therein.

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RESOLVED: To accept and approve Working Party recommendations as per the notes of 6th January 2026.

- e. To note and consider site meeting notes of 12th December 2025 including Q&A on points Cllrs wish to raise.
- f. Club updates
An update on progress with communications and agreements with clubs was given. This is currently an ongoing process.
- g. To note Petanque Terrain quotation agreement for £29,280.
- h. To agree to place curtain order at a cost of £3,542.09 plus VAT
RESOLVED: To agree to place the curtain order at £3,542.09 plus VAT
- i. To note decoration of the pavilion at a cost of £2,950 plus VAT
- j. To note recent S106 applications x 3 totalling £89,910
- k. Recruitment and Process update – To note the application for Caretaker/Facilities Co-ordinator is now live with closing date of 20th January. Recruitment committee consisting of The Clerk, Chairman and Cllr Chamberlain.

Meeting closed 9.08pm

Chairman's Report to Council – January 2026


Notable occurrences since the last meeting have been few with the downtime of the Christmas season. Equally, those other items that would likely be of interest are handled in the extensive agenda we will plough through this evening.


There has been much talk recently of the revised consultation being undertaken by Farnborough Airport. Notably, mid December, our MP Greg Stafford weighed in on the discussions. In a letter addressed to the Executive Head of Property & Growth (whom we might call Chair of Planning?) citing significant correspondence from affected constituents, he has urged Rushmoor Council to reject the application by Farnborough Airport. Whether his urging has impact we will probably never know but his is a welcome voice in the consultation.

Council was asked by one of our residents in the December meeting to get involved in the discussion around unauthorised paintings on the Beech Hill Roundabout and unauthorised flag hangings in its vicinity. Our Clerk contacted the leader of Hampshire County Council (Nick Adams-King) to seek a personal intervention. In a comprehensive and cogent reply he detailed reasons why HCC would be unable to assist us. Two key points emerge in regard to the roundabout:

- Anti graffiti paint could not be applied as it would diminish the visibility of the roundabout from the road traffic perspective
- Any solution that could be applied would likely be overpainted in short order and render the initial works irrelevant

We will report this response back to our concerned resident.

Of note, is the subsequent development. The crudely painted black masking has been slightly better overpainted in white. Additionally the roundabout has a new graffiti - the phrase: "Love  Peace" is now visible in green.

We will probably never know who painted this latest graffiti. One thing I am pretty sure of, however, is that you are likely never to see a  symbol in any future Chairman's report!

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR's REPORT January 2026

Well another (Calendar) year over, and from a Local Government perspective the Local Government Review/(LGR) has been the most important event with the forthcoming replacement of Districts and Boroughs by Unitary Authorities, although as I write the make up of the Unitaries in Hampshire has yet to be decided by Central Government, and the date of the Shadow elections is awaited. The election for the new Hampshire and Solent Mayoral Authority due in May 2026 has been postponed. I think 2026 will be the year of the new NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework, which will be Policy based, not Paragraph based! The East Hants Local Plan, due to be ready for Inspection in Summer 2026 will be based on the existing NPPF although by the time of adoption, post inspection, many of the policies may be redundant! But when was planning ever straightforward?

December and the Christmas/New Year period has always been a fairly quiet time at the District Council. I have attended only two TEAMS weekly planning briefings, plus the regular Local Plan Working Group, also on TEAMS. The December Planning Committee was preceded by site visits for the new Plymouth Brethren POW at Applegarth and a new housing development at Four Marks. Both were allowed during the four hour Committee Meeting – the lack of a five year housing land supply (the “Tilted Balance”) meant that the Four Marks application, and similar applications, was permitted. On 15 December I attended a TEAMS LGR update. I also attended a consultation with Officers and Local District Councillors with the proposers of a forthcoming planning application for 450 homes on either side of Lymington Bottom Road in South Medstead. I await the views of HCC as to whether the local roads have the capacity to deal with the traffic arising from this proposed application.

A Happy New Year to all members and officers of the Parish Council.

Anthony