



Council Meeting

Minutes

Hamble Parish Council, Parish Office, 2 High Street, Hamble, Southampton SO31 4JE

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Assembly** of **HAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL**
Meeting held on **Wednesday, May 7, 2025** at **19:00 - 21:00** in the **Roy Underdown Pavilion;**
Meeting Room

Present: Chair Chris Jones, Trevor Dann, Michelle Nicholson, Ian Underdown, Serena Alexander, Nick O'Donnell, Malcolm Cross,

Apologies: Simon Hand, Sue Kendall, Tony Moody, Mark Venables, Andy Thompson

Staff In Attendance: Clerk, Reception & Team Administrator

Partners: Claire Price SmartMarketing

Public: There were 49 members of the public in attendance

Minute Reference for this meeting is (DD/MM/YYYY) + agenda item number

MINUTES

1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed and thanked everyone for joining the meeting of our Hamble Annual Parish Meeting. He said it was a pleasure to be here and reflect on the past year and to share our plans for the year ahead.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Resolved to approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly held 8th May 2024. Proposed by Ian Underdown and seconded by Michelle Nicholson and those present in favour. Proposed by Ian Underdown and Michelle Nicholson and those present in favour.

3 ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORT

The Chair opened by noting that while CEMEX has dominated attention this year, the Council has continued to deliver on a wide range of important work across the village, despite the ongoing distraction and financial pressure the issue has brought.

Over the past 12 months, Hamble has demonstrated its resilience, community spirit, and pride. It has been a busy and productive year, focused on improving local services, enhancing open spaces, and enriching the experience for residents and visitors alike.

Key highlights included:

- The completion of the Mount Pleasant playground, marked by an official opening with the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire and Olympian Ewan Thomas, who inspired local children with a talk about the value of active play.
- The return of the Hamble Valley Regatta, celebrating the village's rich maritime heritage and reaffirming its place as a premier destination for sailboat racing worldwide.
- Early steps towards shaping a “Life after CEMEX” through the registration of a local plan, enabling future funding opportunities and ensuring community priorities are reflected in forthcoming regional plans under the new unitary authority.
- The rollout of full-fibre broadband infrastructure—disruptive in the short term, but vital for Hamble's digital future.
- Continued work on infrastructure and community services, including:
 - A new electric maintenance vehicle (“Sparky”),
 - Improvements to public rights of way, particularly the Beech Close path to the water,
 - Commemoration of the 80th D-Day anniversary,
 - Installation of new defibrillators at Mount Pleasant,
 - Ongoing living Christmas tree initiatives.

Hamble Parish Council was also named runner-up for “Council of the Year” in Hampshire and ranked top in the “Best Social Media” category.

Daily efforts continue in tackling antisocial behaviour, maintaining highways, cutting grass, planting flowers, maintaining sports pitches, trimming hedges, and even managing burial services.

The Chair closed by recognising and thanking the Clerk and her team, whose hard work underpins everything that makes Hamble such a special place to live, work, and grow.

4 LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025/206

The Council's priorities for the coming year centre on maintaining high standards across Hamble and continuing the work that has made the village such a vibrant and award-winning community. This includes ongoing improvements to local facilities and services, with hopes to remove High Street wheelie bins, enhance road conditions, and expand sports and recreation amenities.

However, several significant external issues are expected to demand time and resources:

1. Local Government Reorganisation (Devolution):

Major changes are underway, with Eastleigh Borough and Hampshire County Councils set to be replaced by a single unitary authority—likely a “Greater Southampton Council.” Ensuring Hamble's voice is heard, its assets protected, and its priorities reflected in new governance structures will be crucial. The Council plans to work closely with neighbouring parishes and aims to take ownership of certain assets currently held by Eastleigh Borough Council. Residents are encouraged to flag any land or assets that would benefit from local control.

2. Maintaining and Upgrading Local Assets:

Some community facilities, including the Mount Pleasant pavilion and foreshore public toilets, are in need of repair and renewal. A maintenance programme is underway, and residents are invited to join working

groups to support these efforts. The Council also remains committed to its strong communication and transparency practices.

3. The Ongoing CEMEX Appeal:

Despite successfully opposing the original quarry application last year, CEMEX has appealed, and Hampshire County Council planners are no longer supporting the previous objections. The Parish Council, alongside the residents group and Eastleigh Borough Council, continues to lead the defence.

The Chair praised the community's extraordinary contributions—from the detailed work of the residents group to the involvement of local schools and a well-coordinated legal effort. The appeal is ongoing, with more hearings expected next month. A final outcome is still uncertain, but hope remains.

Future Quarry Applications – A Community Decision:

Experts warn that even a successful appeal may only delay future applications. Sustained opposition would likely require an annual fund of around £100,000—equivalent to a 25% increase in the village precept, or about £50 per household. The Council will be seeking community input on whether to continue this level of commitment or reconsider future responses.

The Chair closed by expressing hope that by this time next year, Hamble will be celebrating the end of the CEMEX appeal—and looking forward to a more secure future.

5 COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Chair said he would move to the main event of the evening.

We asked the village to make nominations in 3 categories:

- Community Recognition Award for Young People
 - Community Recognition Award for Groups
 - Community Recognition Award for Individuals
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- Anyone who lived or worked in Hamble could be nominated – unless they worked for or were on the Parish Council.
 - We had a great response given this was the inaugural awards, with over 20 nominations.
 - The nominations were presented at the last Full Council meeting in April, and Councillors voted for the winners in each of the 3 categories.

YOUNG PERSON AWARD

Nominee and Winner:

- Martha Hart:
 - Martha was nominated for doing such an amazing job representing the pupils of Hamble Primary School when speaking at the Cemex Inquiry. She represented the school and Hamble very well indeed.

GROUPS

Nominees:

- Cherubs:
 - Run by a team of volunteers who regularly provide their time to enhance play provision for parents and young children in Hamble. They have made a long-standing impact on the

community by offering a supportive and nurturing place to go for new parents to meet other parents, talk to adults, and build friendships and support networks

- Hamble Beavers:
 - Chrissy and her team work tirelessly to support local children through positivity, positive role modelling and being active community members. They volunteer their time regularly to help encourage good habits and healthy exercise, develop skills for life, and resilience in our young people.
- Hamble Good Neighbours:
 - Nominated because they provide an indispensable service for the disabled and elderly in Hamble on a voluntary basis. This includes transporting people to hospital appointments, and organising outings, meals and entertainment.
- Hamble Players:
 - Hamble Players deserve recognition for their unwavering commitment to uplifting the community through the world of storytelling and performing arts. At a time when many face various challenges, they provide a vital escape and an inspiring platform for creativity which enriches our community.
- Poppy's Place:
 - Kay, Kim and their team of helpers provide a valuable space where people can meet to talk and have fun. These events encourage talking and provide a space for people to meet. They have a massive impact on the enjoyment of all those who attend their events.
- Hamble Sea Scouts:
 - Nominated because they provide local children and young people with an outlet for adventure, learning, and personal growth. Their impact extends beyond scouting as many young members go on to use the skills they have been taught in their careers. By offering a safe, supportive environment, Hamble Sea Scouts ensure that every child, regardless of background, has the chance to build confidence, friendships, and essential life skills.

The Hamble School:

- The school has been instrumental in campaigning against the proposed quarry in Hamble, organising petitions, visiting Dowing Street, organising three protests, producing banners, and being interviewed by the press. However, they have done this while also running the school and developing it into the High Performing Local School of Choice. In October 2024 they were awarded the SENDIA Award for Inclusive Education and the Leading Parent Partnership Award which recognised the school's work in the community. The staff work incredibly hard to support over 1,000 Hamble children and their families with much of this work completed outside of normal school hours.
- The Mercury Library & Community Hub:
 - Nominated because the team are all volunteers who provide an excellent service for the village. They provide local information, craft skills, board games, children's activities, and fundraising, as well as offering a friendly place to drop in for a coffee and a chat.
- Wet Wheels:

- Wet Wheels is a fantastic organisation which makes the sea an accessible place for disabled people and those with neurodiversity. They give independence to those who have little control over their own lives. They are a credit to the local community.

WINNER:

- Hamble Conservation Volunteers:
 - Nominated because of the fantastic work they complete throughout the village:
 - Maintaining and protecting Hamble Common
 - Supporting local wildlife, and maintaining over 50 bird boxes
 - Organising regular activities like litter cleaning, beach cleans, and maintenance tasks
 - Fostering a sense of community and encouraging local participation
 - Providing educational opportunities for those who participate

INDIVIDUALS

Nominees:

- Bill Pepper:
 - Bill is 94 years old and has served the village with a passion and determination to assist anyone in need. Bill has been nominated because of the 70 years of dedication he has given Hamble
- Emma Westmacott:
 - Emma was nominated due to the incredible work that she has led in fighting the Hamble Airfield planning application. Emma and the Residents' Group have worked tirelessly for years alongside full time jobs and businesses to represent the village.
- Janet Bradley:
 - Janet is the landlady of the King and Queen in Hamble. She looks after the community through arranging events, campaigning against the quarry, and raising money to help keep the lifeboats operating. In the nomination, Janet was described as selfless and dedicated to the community of Hamble.
- Michelle Main-Miller:
 - Michelle has run the Brownies group in Hamble for over 25 years. She is an inspiration – selfless with her time, involved in charity work, and a constant source of love, care, and support for all the girls, parents, and siblings that have attended the 2nd Hamble Brownies Unit for generations of Hamble girls.
- Louisa Cambridge:
 - Louisa is the Headteacher of Hamble School. Over the last 18 months, she has completely transformed the school and as a result has made the entire community a better place for children and their families. She leads with the community at heart, and has developed an inclusive school which also serves as a hub for the community.
- Philip Rawlinson:

- Philip founded the Hamble Conservation Volunteers in 2010. He runs the group with good humour, sources the equipment, maintains the tools, and transports them to the site of the tasks. As well as chairing the regular committee meetings, he keeps records of volunteer hours, sorts out insurance, safety protocols and fundraising. Through his vision and tenacity, Philip has created a group of volunteers who do so much good for the community, come rain or shine.

WINNER

- Kay Baker:
 - Kay gives an enormous amount of her time and energy to help the community, expecting nothing in return. She organises the Christmas Day Lunch for those who would otherwise be alone or lonely. She volunteers at the Place 2B Coffee Mornings, making cakes which are then sold with hot drinks to raise funds for charities such as the Food Bank and St. Andrew's Church. She helps to run the Men's Breakfast, where local men come together for a good cooked breakfast and friendship. Kay volunteers for Poppy's Place, which is open to anyone wanting a good freshly cooked lunch and friendship. This grew from the 'Warm Place' which Kay started during lockdown. Kay also runs a regular quiz night, and has been a member of Hamble Players for many years.
 - Kay does so much work, often unseen and quietly done, to make Hamble a better place, and a lot of people would be worse off or lonely without all that she does.

6 AOB AND RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

We have only received one question which relates to parking and traffic control.

Essentially it is 'what can we do about people that exceed the speed limit in our village, particularly areas where people and cars are close to each other, and what can we do to enforce parking restrictions'.

As the Parish Council, the short answer is not a lot. As a Parish Council we have no powers to enforce highways restrictions or prosecute people exceeding the speed limit. However, along with other highways duties, like manual control of temporary traffic lights at peak times linked to road works, the Clerk and her team are constantly pushing Hampshire Highways to do what they have promised and what the rules require of them.

If Hampshire, or their contractors decide to ignore those rules, there are not many easy options for us.

I am sure matters will only get harder in the coming months as Hampshire Highways gets reorganised, but hopefully we will be able to persuade our new unitary authority that these are important matters and they will be willing to take more effective action in the future.

In closing, I want to thank my fellow councillors, our Clerk and staff, our volunteers, partners and everyone in Hamble who takes the time to support our community in big and small ways.

Together, we are shaping the future of our village. Here's to another positive and productive year ahead.

MEETING ENDED AT 20:05

CHAIR _____