

Council Meeting

Minutes

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

Minutes of the **Full Council** of **HAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL**

Meeting held on **Monday, November 10, 2025** at **19:00 - 21:30** in the **Royal Southern Yacht Club**

Present: Chair Chris Jones, Simon Hand, Trevor Dann, Ian Underdown, Michelle Nicholson, Serena Alexander, Sue Kendall, Malcolm Cross, Mark Venables, Nick O'Donnell, Andy Thompson,

Apologies: None

Staff In Attendance: Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Operations Officer

Partners in Attendance: Claire Price SmartMarketing

The minute reference for this meeting is following format (DD/MM/YYYY) + item reference

MINUTES

1 WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and for all the emails that had been sent over the past week, he explained there would be a short adjournment after item 4.

The RSrNYC Manager advised on the housekeeping.

There were no apologies for absence.

Dispensations for Cemex for Cllr Underdown, Cllr Dann, Cllr Alexander, Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Venables.

There were no interests declared.

2 APPROVE MINUTES

Resolved to approve the Minutes of the 13th October 2025 Cllr Underdown Proposed and Cllr Dann seconded and all in favour.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were between 250 and 300 members of the public present.

The Chair outlined the purpose and expectations for the meeting. He provided background information to the community regarding the potential next steps and the decision to be made by the Council.

The Chair noted that it could be assumed that those present were opposed to the proposed quarry development and expressed the view that the Council should consider taking further action.

The Chair advised that two main questions had been raised:

1. Financial Implications

The Chair reported that the only available course of action would be to pursue a Statutory Review. He outlined the indicative cost structure provided by the Council's legal team, noting that the total cost was estimated at approximately £60,000, which included a likely capped costs figure of £10,000, should the Council be liable for other party costs. This would equate to an estimated contribution of £15–£20 per household per year over a period of two to five years.

2. Likelihood of Success

The Chair acknowledged that most Statutory Reviews were unsuccessful but confirmed that there was an arguable case in this instance. If the necessary legal thresholds were met, the process could result in a second Inquiry.

The Chair requested that all participants conduct themselves in a generous, respectful, and time-efficient manner throughout the meeting.

Ten members of the public addressed the Council, expressing various reasons why the community and the Parish Council should continue to pursue action to oppose the proposed quarry in Hamble.

One member of the public asked whether the current five-year timetable, as outlined in the Inspector's Report, would be paused if a Statutory Review were initiated. The Chair advised that this question would be referred to the Council's legal team for clarification.

4 HAMBLE AIRFIELD

Having previously presented two possible resolutions to the Council, the Chair stated that he would be proposing Option 1, namely to allocate £25,000 from General Reserves in the current financial year and establish a Committee with the authority to spend these funds and progress the challenge to Statutory Review.

The following Councillors then spoke in turn: Cllr Hand, Cllr Cross, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Underdown, Cllr Venables, Cllr Dann, and Cllr Thompson—all expressing their support for this resolution.

Cllr O'Donnell thanked the Chair for the way he had managed both the process and the meeting. He added that, alongside pursuing the statutory review, it was important for the village to prepare a comprehensive plan involving discussions with all landowners.

Cllr Underdown commented that, due to the previous hard work of the Rule 6 Party, improved planning conditions had been achieved. He emphasised that while the Council listens to the community, it must also exercise great care in the use of public funds.

Cllr Venables then provided statistics relating to the size of the airfield site and comparable housing developments.

Resolved to approve that the Council authorises the allocation of £25,000 from General Reserves in the current financial year to support the Statutory Review process, and grants authority to a Committee comprising Cllr Jones, Cllr Venables, and Cllr Hand to approve expenditure from these funds as required.

Furthermore, the Committee shall establish a Working Group to include representatives from the Residents Group and other relevant stakeholders, in order to advise the Committee and to achieve the effective coordination and smooth running of the process.

Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Venables and all in favour.

Cllr Jones then adjourned the meeting at 20:05pm for 15 minutes to be reconvened at 20:20pm

5 LGR/DEVOLUTION AND ASSET TRANSFER

The Council noted the report previously circulated and agreed to provide feedback to the Deputy Clerk together with questions and observations in relation to Asset Transfers.

This item will be on the December agenda and Council will be required to make some final decisions.

6 COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

6.1 CHAIR UPDATE

The Chair advised that both Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Dann (Vice-Chair) would be stepping down at the conclusion of the meeting. He expressed the Council's appreciation to both Members for their commitment and contributions during their terms of office.

The Chair further reported that a formal resignation had also been received from Cllr Moody, and he extended thanks on behalf of the Council for his service.

The Chair confirmed that, as a result, three vacancies now existed on the Council. The Clerk would commence the process of advertising these vacancies in accordance with the usual procedures.

The Chair noted that the position of Vice-Chair was now vacant and advised that Cllr Hand had indicated his willingness to serve in this role until April.

6.2 TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR OF HAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chair proposed that Cllr Hand be elected as Vice Chair, there were no other nominations and Cllr Nicholson seconded. Cllr Dann abstained but all others in favour. **Resolved** to appoint Cllr Hand as Vice Chair. He would sign his Vice Chair declaration of office after the meeting.

6.3 ASSETS UPDATE

The Parish have secured the grant from the Borough's Developer Contributions of £15,514.28 for Phase 2 of the Play Park and the Clerk is preparing the Purchase Order for Kompan to go ahead with these works as informed by the community engagement and the quote from Kompan. **Resolved** to approve the spend of these funds proposed by Cllr Alexander and seconded by Cllr Ian Underdown and all in favour

6.4 PLANNING UPDATE

Cllr Underdown advised that the Arboriculture Manager from Eastleigh Borough had attended the last Planning Committee meeting and it had been informative as well as good to have a point of contact given that many of the recent planning applications had been in relation to trees.

6.5 FUNCTIONS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Clerk and Chair had used their delegated authority with the support of the HR Functions Working Group to agree to a salary evaluation by South East Employers for all 7 roles within the Parish Council. If the Council joins South East Employers they would receive a reduced cost of £1750. This evaluation is important to determine the relative value of its staff roles, ensure fair and consistent pay, support clear

grading structures, promote transparency, aid effective workforce planning, and comply with employment and equal pay legislation.

Council ratified and supported this decision

Cllr O'Donnell suggested that the Council invest in some Artificial Intelligence support for the Clerk and he would offer advice if required.

6.6 BHH & LAC

Nothing to report.

7 STANDING ITEMS

7.1 HEALTH & SAFETY

Nothing to report.

8 POLICIES

Resolved to approve the IT policy as per Assertion 10 of the Governance Statement. Proposed Cllr Underdown and seconded by Cllr Nicholson and all in favour.

9 BUDGET

The Deputy Clerk had prepared a draft budget and circulated this to all Councillors. The Chair and Clerk highlighted the importance of all Councillors spending time studying this in order to come back to Council in December prepared.

10 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT

To note and implement as necessary the actions from the Interim Internal Audit.

The Chair praised (thanked?) the Clerk and team for their effective financial and governance management.

11 ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Resolution: To approve the monthly financial reports and information. Proposed Cllr Alexander and Cllr O'Donnell seconded and all in favour.

12 EXEMPT BUSINESS

To consider passing a resolution under section 100a(4) of the local government act 1972 in respect of the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it is/they are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 of part 1 of schedule 12a of the act. the schedule 12a categories have been amended and are now subject to the public interest test, in accordance with the freedom of information act 2000. this came into effect on 1st March 2006. it is considered that the following items are exempt from disclosure and that the public interest in not disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Resolved to move to Exempt Business by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Underdown and all in favour.

Partners and public left the meeting.

13 COUNCIL LEASES

The Chair provided an update on the current position regarding a lease. The details of this are confidential and are recorded separately under Exempt Minutes.

The Deputy Clerk reported that the lease for the Pink Ferry had been agreed in principle by the tenant. Following minor amendments to Clause 10, the solicitor would prepare the final engrossed version.

Resolution: That the revised lease for the Pink Ferry, incorporating amendments to Clause 10, be approved and finalised by the solicitor. Proposed by Cllr Jones and Seconded by Cllr Alexander Cllr O'Donnell abstained; all others in favour.

14 HUMAN RESOURCES

The Clerk advised that she was progressing a staffing matter and would report to the HR Working Group as soon as possible.

Meeting ended at **20:40**

CHAIR _____