

CANDOVERS PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date:	Monday 24 th March 2025	Time: 6:30pm
Venue:	Candover Valley Club	
Present:	Jonathan Moseley Adam Willmott Edwina Curtis Hayward Antonia Cunningham Emily Martin Wendy Simson	Chair Vice Chairman Clerk
Apologies:	Antonia Cunningham Juliet Henderson Paul Gaskell	County Councillor Borough Councillor

1680 Public Forum

No members of the public attended the meeting.

1681 Declaration of Public Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary or personal interests declared.

1682 Any additional Agenda Items

No additional agenda items were suggested.

1683 Apologies

The Clerk informed the Councillors that Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Henderson and Cllr Gaskell sent their apologies.

1684 Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes for the last meeting held on 29th January 2025 were reviewed and agreed by the Council as an accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting.

1685 Matters arising

Defibrillators contact list – The Chairman informed the Council that this was still to be completed.

Action: Clerk to add to next agenda

Register of Members – Cllr Martin confirmed that the form had been completed and given to the Clerk, the Clerk confirmed that it has been passed to Basingstoke & Deane's Electoral Team.

1685 Financial update

The Clerk circulated the financial statement prior to the meeting along with posting on the Parish Council website.

The following payments were due to approval:

- Clerk's salary (January to March) - £320.00
- PAYE (January to March) - £80.00
- Final Lengthsman invoice for 2024/25 - £3,000.00

All payments were approved.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Lloyds bank changes have been activated from 1st January, the monthly fee is £4.25 plus 50p for each cheque processed. The Councillors discussed options including alternative banks to protect the public funds from this charge. It was suggested that the Clerk enquire if the charges are the same if the Council uses electronic banking instead of cheques.

Action: Clerk to contact Lloyds and report back.

The Clerk informed Councillors that the VAT claim has been made for £2,099.97 which is paid into the Lengthsman account as £2,000 of this claim relates to the Lengthsman invoices.

Cllr Curtis Hayward asked about the payment of \$106 for £465.61, the Clerk explained that this was the portion of the \$106 funding allocated to "Playing Fields" which was given to the Cricket Club for a new roller. Cllr Curtis Hayward also asked why the PAYE budget line was overspent by £327.66, the Clerk explained that this relates to the PAYE due on the Clerk's Administration work for the Lengthsman fund for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as the first payment was not cleared before year end in 2023/24.

The Year End paperwork has not yet been received but will be completed and Internally Audited prior to the next meeting ready to be signed off.

1686 Candover Valley Club (CVC) Update

The Chairman informed Councillors as the Woolpack is currently close, that the CVC opened on Friday 21st March from 6pm to 8pm. Approximately 50 members and guests attended, and the evening was a huge success. It is planned that the CVC will open again on Fridays once or twice a month while the Woolpack is closed.

The Pickleball is being promoted and been used regularly. The CVC has also been given a piano which was used at the weekend.

Sadly, the door to the ladies toilet was damaged on Friday evening, it has been repaired by Paul Curtis Hayward, but Councillors agreed that it was disappointing that all residents didn't respect the building.

The Councillors asked that their thanks be recorded to Paul Curtis Hayward.

1687 Flooding

The Chairman informed Councillors that the length of the river has recently been walked to identify any pinch points and blockages. The landowners with riparian responsibility for the river have been reminded of the need to monitor and clear any debris.

1688 Lengthsman

The Clerk informed the Councillors that dates for 2025/26 have not yet been circulated but were due to be received in the next few weeks.

The Purchase order number for the Clerk to claim the funding will not be produced until after year end for 2024/25.

1689 Planning

The Council received one application since the last meeting; it is for:

- Barn at Moth Farm (25/00450/LDPU) – Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed use of building and adjoining land for agricultural purposes including storage of machinery, fertiliser and crops. The Councillors had no objections to the application.

1690 Website

The Clerk has updated the website.

The Clerk informed the Councillors that the site has about 100 views a month.

1691 General correspondence

Hampshire County Council devolution and reorganisation

Local Government Reorganisation

For Hampshire, Local Government Reorganisation will bring together the County Council, 11 borough and district councils and neighbouring unitary authorities into a number of new unitary authorities that will provide the same services as both county and district councils. How services are currently delivered to communities in Hampshire is not equally spread across all the councils that make up the Hampshire and Solent geographical area. The County Council is the single largest organisation of them all - responsible for the vast proportion of local government services and budgets across the area. Delivering vital services like social care for children and adults, public health, education, libraries, roads and registration, to transport, strategic planning, waste disposal, trading standards and countryside services, all of the County Council's services benefit from its significant scale of operation as well as being deeply embedded in local communities and people's homes. The Council has a significant duty as an upper tier local authority in Hampshire, and any LGR proposals that look to break up core services like social care and special educational needs support must take into account the grave responsibility of keeping the most vulnerable in society safe. The County Council has worked in collaboration with its Local Authority partners across Hampshire and Isle of Wight to develop the interim plan which will be jointly submitted to Government on behalf of all 15 councils by 21 March 2025. After this, further work will take place collectively over the coming months to agree final proposals to be submitted in the Autumn.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Nick Adams-King said: "LGR is not just about the merger of district councils, it includes the redistribution of the responsibilities of the County Council; most particularly social care, education, children's services and highways and waste. These services provide the vast proportion of local government services across Hampshire and the Solent, and we must focus on their attendant costs and risks. As one of the largest local authorities in the country, serving over 1.4 million residents, we currently deliver 85% of the council services people receive in the Hampshire, including across Hampshire's schools.

Devolution

On 6 February 2025, the Government announced that Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and Isle of Wight Council had been successful in their joint bid for inclusion on the Government's fast-track Devolution Priority Programme (DPP).

A regional Mayor will be elected to head up a new Strategic Authority across the wider region. The mayor will be responsible for driving local economic growth, strategic planning and infrastructure, strategic transport and other areas. Their powers and funding will be transferred from government departments.

This change will bring significant investment and additional powers to improve economic growth, skills, transport and regional collaboration in the area. The Mayoral Strategic Authority will work closely with local councils, focusing on responsibilities currently held by Central Government in Whitehall.

Elections for a Mayor are expected to be held in May 2026.

To enable our region to progress Devolution to the most ambitious timeframes, the Government has confirmed that local elections for Hampshire County Council will be postponed until May 2026. They were due to take place in May 2025.

A consultation which seeks the views, particularly from interested parties, including those who live and work across Hampshire and the Solent, on the effect of establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority in the area is open until 13th April 2025. It includes questions on the proposed geography and how the Combined County Authority will make decisions, together with questions on the effects of working across this geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority.

Further information along with the link to take part in the consultation can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution-consultation>

Speed Indication Device

The Clerk informed Councillors that the device would be returned to Brown Candover and installed.

1692 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 6:30pm, this will include the AGM.

The meeting closed at 7:20pm.