



DRAFT MINUTES

Hambledon Parish Council
01 Sept 2025; 7.30pm; Hambledon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Encke (Chair); Cllr Lamb; & Cllr Mills-Goodlet

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Wallace (HCC & WCC; left 7.55pm); & Cllr White (WCC; left 7.55pm); and one member of the public.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
2734	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
2735	Apologies	Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs Hand & Clarke. Apologies were also received from Cllr Lee (WCC) & PCSO Wheeler-Osman.	
2736	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None.	
2737	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
2738	Resignation of councillor	Councillors acknowledged the resignations of both Verena Daly (31/07/25) and Chris Silcock (27/08/25) and formally expressed thanks for their work on the Parish Council.	
2739	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. Member of the public (Vineyard employee who is covering for Hannah Marks) updated councillors as follows: • Footpath 13 route amendment needs to be progressed. • Stile on fp 15b (between Vineyard and Whitedale) will be replaced by a gate. Hoping to have an update for the next PC meeting.	
2740	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	

2741	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (see Appendix A). Additional points discussed as follows: • LGR briefing this evening - will issue large joint statement (circa 400 pages) Wednesday (03 Sept). • Nov 2025 - new food waste bins should be received by Hambledon residents. • Action Hampshire - parishes can request a housing profile which may be useful for proving/disproving a need for affordable housing in the village.	
2742	County councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (see Appendix B). Additional points discussed as follows: • Large review of salting routes. Hambledon is a secondary route, apart from main road through (primary).	
2743	Mins of previous meeting (07/07/25)	Agreed as a true record.	
2744	Clerk's progress report	Parish Lengthsman Agreement- schedule for 2025/26: 05/11/25; & 05/02/25. Flooding @ bottom of Bury Lodge Lane - no update. Flooding on road near Kings Rest - reported to HH 13/10/23. Response 'could not locate defect'. Likely that they visited when there was no road flooding but didn't look into the cause of previous flooding. Suggest wait for next flooding, take photos & re-submit. Useful/Emergency Info Leaflets - WCC Small Grant fund awarded £150. On-going. Drain clearance - E-mail sent 05/02/25 to Gina Chandler (HH) re blocked drains throughout Village. Member of the Highways Customer Support team has reported online on PC's behalf. Last updated 25/03/25 - initial assessment has taken place & further investigation will be carried out. Checked 06/05/25 - no change to status. Response received from HH via Cllr Wallace 23/05/25 - 'We have made several attempts to identify and clear the various drainage features on Green Lane, with limited success. The site is currently with our colleagues in the Planned Maintenance team to develop and design a scheme to permanently resolve the issue.' CityFibre works - • £1000 received for bed reinstatement. • Adrian Smith still investigating whether chamber can be moved. Last e-mail sent 28/05/25 to chase update. • Cllr Clarke in direct contact with Ashley Adams (CCN). On-going. West St hedge overgrown - Chris Silcock was asked to speak to owner of Manor Barn. Awaiting update. Villager drop-in surgeries - Verina Daly no longer on the PC to take this forward. E-mail sent to Denise Lance to explain why VD would not be at the next Lunch Club, and to give responses to the questions raised at the previous event. Some of the LC organisers felt that it wasn't the right forum for PC presence, so suggest NFA but PC may want to pick this up again in the future but consider a different venue. Remove from report.	

2745	Planning Committee & Play WG Members	Resolved: that the PC appoints Cllrs Mills-Goodlet & Encke as a Planning Committee members; Cllr Mills-Goodlet as Vice-chair of this committee, and Cllr Mills-Goodlet as a Play WG member.	
2746	Review of PC policies	Resolved: that the PC has reviewed and approved the following policies: • Planning Committee Terms of Reference • Complaints & Vexatious Complaints Procedures • Financial Reserves Policy • Media Relations Policy • Equality and Diversity Policy • Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures • Expenses Policy • Health and Safety Policy • Social Media Policy • Publication Scheme • Information and Data Protection Policy • Tennis WG Terms of Reference (The Accessibility Statement requires further work and should be available for consideration at the Oct PC meeting.)	Clerk
2747	Conclusion of audit	Resolved: that the approval of the annual return, including the external auditor certificate for y/e 31/03/25 will be postponed until the Oct PC meeting (external audit not yet received). Clerk to double-check date for publishing the Notice of Conclusion of Audit.	Clerk
2748	Bank account	Bank balance - £52,665.06 @ 31 Aug 2025; bank statements 188 (01 July to 31 July 2025) & 189 (01 Aug to 31 Aug 2025) have been forwarded to cllrs.	
2749	Grant Application	Resolved: that the PC has approved the grant request from Hambledon PCC for £600.00 to assist with churchyard maintenance.	Clerk
2750	Clerk's salary 2025/26	Resolved: that councillors have approved the increase (including back-pay from April to July 2024) in the Clerk's salary for 2025/26 as per the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2025/26.	
2751	Multipay Bank Card	Resolved: that, due to the costs involved, the PC does not provide the Clerk with a multipay card linked to the bank account. This is to be reviewed on a regular basis.	
2752	Payment of accounts	Mrs J C Tester Clerk salary July 2025 £965.47 NEST Clerk pension July 2025 £78.67 Mrs J C Tester Clerk salary Aug 2025 £1,107.49 NEST Clerk pension Aug 2025 £91.14 Mrs J C Tester Clerk expenses Aug 2025 £80.17 (overtime - 3 hrs @ £15.56/hr; additional printing @ £24.50; & basketball net replacement @ £8.99) Hambledon Village Hall Hall hire July 2025 £32.50 Biffa Recycling bin collection July 2025 £88.85 Biffa Recycling bin collection Aug 2025 £88.85 JH Tree Services Ltd £375.00 (Village maintenance July 2025) JH Tree Services Ltd £375.00 (Village maintenance Aug 2025)	Clerk

2752 cont.	Payment of accounts cont.	HMRC Clerk's NI/tax Q1 2025/26 £443.11 BDO External audit for 2024/25 £tbc Hambleton PCC FAG flyer distribution £30.00 Hambleton PCC Glebe maintenance 2025 £700.00 Murray Mahon Reimbursement for HG printing £33.56 Moritz Flohr Tennis coaching July 2025 £60.00 JH Tree Services Ltd £390.00 (Wood baton replacement @ tennis court) <u>The following payment is in addition to those listed on the agenda:</u> Alice Goodwin-Hudson £179.99 (reimbursement for DBS checks x3) [Post-meeting note: councillors approved £237.87 but correct total is £179.99, since volunteers do not have to pay the full amount.]	
2753	Planning applications	The following were received after the July PC meeting and had a consultation deadline of before this Sept meeting. Responses were drafted by the Planning Committee members (Cllrs Clarke & Silcock) and approved by remaining councillors via e-mail, before being submitted by the Clerk to the Planning Authority: • SDNP/25/02808/LIS - Peoples Market, 1 West Street, Hambleton, Hampshire, PO7 4RW. (Address given as old fire station) - Minor internal and external alterations and associated works to the existing old garage building in order to convert it from the current part business use to a single three bedroom dwelling. [Hambleton PC OBJECTS to this proposal. When considered in conjunction with associated applications SDNP/25/02710/FUL, SDNP/25/02711/FUL and SDNP/25/02678/LIS, the resulting development would place heavy demands on on-street parking within what is already a congested part of the Village. Whilst the PC is fully supportive of the applicant's desire to retain the shop, it has serious concerns about the negative effect that increased resident road-side parking would have on passing trade, and hence the viability of the shop going forward. In addition, road safety is of utmost concern: many school families park in the vicinity and walk to and from the primary school along West and East Streets or Speltham Hill, and then up the High Street (no pavements). An increase in on-street parking will put more strain on an already crowded area and has the potential to pose an increased danger to our pedestrians, particularly children and the elderly.] • SDNP/25/02783/LIS & SDNP/25/02784/HOUS - Verney Cottage, East Street, Hambleton, Hampshire, PO7 4RX Alterations to the rear and roof of the existing garage / workshop storage / ancillary building in order to revise the defective existing roof structure and provide garden room, utility boot room, storage and bicycle area and revised first floor attic roof plan and associated works. [NO OBJECTION.]	Clerk
2754	Planning apps received after 26/08/25	SDNP/25/03197/TCA - Verney Cottage, East Street, Hambleton, Hampshire, PO7 4RX. This is a request to fully remove the Eucalyptus tree in the garden of Verney Cottage. [NO COMMENT.]	
2755	Planning decisions	Noted.	

2756	Flood Action Group	No report received.	
2757	Flood Action Plan and Policy	Resolved: that the PC replaces the now out-dated Flood Action Plan with the new FAG Policy.	Clerk
2758	Remembrance Sunday	Resolved: that the PC has discussed plans for Remembrance Sunday Nov 2025 and agrees upon the following actions by the Clerk: • liaise with Chris Silcock re any existing plans (message has already been sent; awaiting response); • e-mail Toby Finch to confirm attendance of Scouts; and • make contact with bugler from 2024 to ask for attendance this year.	Clerk
2759	BASS WG	No report received. The Clerk updated councillors on the PC's application for entrance gates as follows: • HH have finally responded. They have concerns regarding positioning at two out of three locations. BASS content with amendments to Park, but not at Three corners (HH had suggested underneath the current directional sign, which would also entail a £300-400 fee for them to increase the height of what is there already). BASS has responded with the request for HH to attend a joint site visit. Awaiting response. • HH also informed PC that a separate HCC department would need to be approached to apply for a licence to carry out the installation. Awaiting a response as to whether a fee is involved.	
2760	Tennis WG	The Clerk noted the following: • The wooden baton enclosing the stones around the tennis court has been replaced. • Meeting held with Alice G-H 27/08/25. Main action points: • AG-H to arrange DBS checks (all 3) & safeguarding training for coaches. • Clerk to seek advice from LTA regarding what should be displayed on noticeboard. • Clerk to set up MailChimp for members' e-mails. • Clerk to create an authorisation form for all parents/carers to sign. • AG-H to send form and a copy of the Tennis Safeguarding policy to all parents/carers.	Clerk
2761	Play WG	No report received. Updates as follows: • Rust treatment & re-painting of infant swings at VH - awaiting update. Clerk to chase this week. • Basketball net - replacement has been received. Needs fitting. Cllrs to assist Clerk. • Missing bolt caps (play tower; VH) - now replaced. • Loose pull-up bar (SG) - Clerk attempted to tighten bolts but bar remains loose. Needs sorting asap. Cllrs to assist Clerk.	All cllrs/ Clerk

2762	Ad hoc Village maintenance work	Resolved: that the PC accepts quotes from JH Tree Services for ad hoc Village maintenance work, as follows: • Replacement of damaged rubber matting on Stewarts Green play area (£85.00 + VAT). • Replacement of damaged chainmail fencing adjoining ball-wall at VH (£240.00 + VAT). • Re-fixing of slat on VH bench - NOT REQUIRED. However, councillors have rejected the quote for the replacement of three slats on the table located at the Glebe Field (£127.50 + VAT). It was agreed that the table is old and of low value, and it will be more economical to source a secondhand replacement, or not replace at all.	Clerk
2763	Hambledon Greening WG	Report received (Appendix C).	
2764	Reports & Issues	• HCC Notification 11/07/25 of made order - route from Old Mill Lane at Scotland Farm to Dog Kennel Lane at Scotland Cottage (DMMO 1108) to be recorded as a bridleway. • HCC Notification 13/08/25 of made order - PPO 5249 Hambledon Footpath 38 (diversion around Hole Farm Barn).	
2765	Date/time of next meeting	• Mon 6th Oct 2025 at Hambledon VH; 7.30pm. Cllr Lamb is unable to attend & offers apologies.	
2766	Confidential matters	No members of the public or press were present and no confidential matters were discussed.	

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Signed:

Signed:

Cllr Encke (Chair)

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

Dated:

APPENDIX A

Winchester City Councillor Report Sept 2025

Cllr Malcolm Wallace (mwallace@winchester.gov.uk)

Cllr Danny Lee (dlee@winchester.gov.uk)

Cllr Suzanne White (SWhite3@winchester.gov.uk)

Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The largest shake-up of English local government in 50 years continues. The Government still intends to re-organise the structure of local government in Hampshire and the Solent by 2028.

Devolution

Devolution work is progressing to deliver a Mayor-led County Combined Authority (MCCA) covering Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton & IOW with Mayor elections in May 2026.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Current situation:

Following public surveys in the summer, all Hampshire local authorities will submit their preferred options to the government on 26 September 2025. It is not clear at present how many different submissions will be put forward to the government but that information will be published in the next few weeks. Representations and concerns about LGR can be made in person by asking a question at a WCC Full Council meeting on 24 Sep 2025. Registration and application should be made via the WCC website by 17 Sep 2025. A similar option will be available for HCC. Details for both these public speaking opportunities have yet to be published. Please keep a look out on the local authority websites.

Estimated timelines for Local Government Reorganisation

24/25 September: Winchester Full Council/Cabinet agree final LGR option proposal(s).

26 September 2025: Final proposals submitted to the Government by all Councils.

November 2025- Government expected to hold a public consultation.

March 2026: Government expected to announce new structure before the election period.

May 2026: 'Mayor for Hampshire and the Solent' elections, County/District elections

Summer/Autumn 2026 - New government legislation prepared and laid.

May 2027: Creation of a Winchester Town Council

May 2027: Shadow unitary council elections held.

April 2028: New local Govt structure with Unitary Authorities for Hampshire and the Solent goes live.

Weekly food waste recycling collections

Residents should be starting to receive a food waste introductory letter with their new bin collection calendar. Food waste collections will be starting in phases from October and residents can find out when their collections start on the WCC website: winchester.gov.uk/foodwaste In the three weeks before the food waste collections starts, residents will receive a kitchen caddy, compostable caddy liners, an information leaflet and small, grey outdoor bin. The food waste will be used to generate green energy and a soil improver.

Action Hampshire: Rural Housing Enabling Service

Action Hampshire is a local charity who provide Rural Housing Enabling (RHE) services to support communities and parish councils to deliver the homes needed in their community. RHEs act as an independent advisor providing impartial assistance in developing affordable and community led housing for people with a local connection and will work with and on behalf of rural communities to address the shortage of affordable homes within the parish.

What the service offers Parish Councils:

Parish Councils can **request a free Parish Housing Profile**. This provides an overview of the current housing situation in your area. You can also commission a **Housing Need Survey** to be carried out by Action Hampshire. This survey identifies the type and amount of housing needed locally. It provides evidence to help communities make informed decisions about housing in their parish. Rural Housing briefing sessions are also provided for parish councillors to attend. Dates for upcoming Rural Affordable Housing briefings are as follows (follow the links below to book your place at any of these free events):

- [Thursday 18 September 2025, 10:30 - 13:30 \(including lunch\) - Brockenhurst Community Hub, New Forest](#)
- [Thursday 13 November 2025, 10.30 - 12:00 - online](#)

For further information, follow this link: <https://actionhampshire.org.uk/get-support/working-with-communities/housing/>

WCC Consultation on draft Housing Development Strategy:

The Council is in the process of developing a new Housing Development Strategy. To find out more about the draft strategy and have your say, follow this link for the consultation (closes 5 Sep 2025):

[Housing Development Strategy - Winchester City Council - Citizen Space](#)

New planning laws proposed under the Planning & Infrastructure Bill

New legislation threatens to undermine essential environmental protections, placing our most cherished landscapes, communities and long-term prosperity in jeopardy. Recent Government amendments to the Bill do not address the fundamental issues in Part 3 of the Bill, which removes the requirement to avoid harm to protected species and habitats in the first instance. The Bill weakens existing environmental planning protections under the Habitat Regulations, constituting a dangerous regression in law. Your Councillors are supporting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOWT) campaign. To add your voice, [sign the letter here](#). Full letter [here](#). Please sign by the 6th of October. For more information about the HIOWT Planning and Infrastructure Bill campaign, visit: <https://www.hiowt.org.uk/planning-and-infrastructure-bill>

Landline (PSTN) Switch-Off: Provider Schedules, Battery Backup Options, and VoIP personal alarms plus superfast gigabyte broadband

As many residents continue to ask questions about these issues, the following information is offered by your Councillors as an updated guide only. Please verify the general information here with your providers as what is provided is not validated by WCC.

Expected Provider Migration Schedules

- Final PSTN/ISDN switch-off across the UK is scheduled for 31 January 2027.
- BT urges business customers to migrate by December 2025.
- BT paused non-voluntary migrations in December 2023 to protect vulnerable users, then resumed roll-out.
- Vulnerable and telecare-reliant users began being contacted in Spring 2025 to ensure safe migration.
- 'Zero-use' landline customers (no landline use in the past year) are being prioritised for migration.
- Plusnet (part of BT Group) is phasing out landline services and moving users to VoIP or digital alternatives.
- Industry-wide, providers are migrating regionally through 2024–2026 ahead of the 2027 deadline.

Battery Backup Options

- Ofcom requires providers to ensure uninterrupted access to emergency services (999 calls) for at least 1 hour during a power cut once PSTN is retired.
- Broadband Battery Backup devices are offered by BT, Vodafone, KCOM, Zen and others, typically providing 4–7 hours of connectivity during outages.
- Vulnerable or landline-dependent customers can often receive these devices free of charge, while other users may purchase them (~£150).
- Government has encouraged providers to move towards offering up to 8 hours of backup, though this is not yet mandatory.

VoIP-Compatible Alarms and Telecare Devices

- Under the PSTN Charter, providers must not migrate telecare-dependent users unless their devices are confirmed as compatible with digital voice systems.
 - Providers are responsible for checking the compatibility of telecare devices, personal alarms, security alarms, fax machines, and similar equipment when migrating customers.
 - Where incompatibility exists, providers should liaise with alarm/device manufacturers to arrange upgrades or replacements.
 - For vulnerable users, providers must ensure robust battery backup options beyond the minimum 1-hour standard.

Superfast broadband

Councillors Lee and Wallace investigated the Government's BDUK programme for superfast broadband with CityFibre – Project Gigabit in the Central Meon Valley. The aim was to identify if emergency power back-up would be provided during outages via the new service. Such a measure could have eased concerns about prolonged loss of the new digital phone service, especially in areas with poor mobile coverage. Unfortunately, no emergency power back-up will be available when the service is rolled out. Residents who are interested in this service can check availability for their area and if available register on CityFibre's website.

District Small Grant Scheme- still on-going

Grants of up to £3000 are available for not-for-profit organisations. This year's funding priorities are 'Healthy Communities' and 'Greener FASTER'.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/grants-for-not-for-profit-organisations/small-grant-scheme>

Support for sustainable travel

Winchester City Council's Sustainable Travel Officer Anna Heron is offering support to help promote sustainable travel. This includes advice on community travel planning and collecting data to show what travel initiatives might be needed as well as help with travel events or funding for travel initiatives. Please contact aherron@winchester.gov.uk for more information.

Winchester City Council Community Hubs

Join us for a FREE cuppa and a bite to eat at one of our Community Hub at Wickham or Winchester. Have a friendly chat with our officers about any issues relating to benefits, housing, and wellbeing. For informal guidance, information and sign-posting for anyone looking for support around the cost of living.

Where and when:

Alresford: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month 10:00 – 12.00pm at St Gregory's Church, Grange Rd, Alresford SO24 9HB.

Wickham: Every 1st Monday of the month | 2.30pm - 4.30 pm. Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Fareham PO17 5AL.

Winchester: Every 3rd Thursday of the month | 10.30am - 12.30pm. Unit 12 Community Food Pantry, Winnall Valley Rd, Winchester SO23 0LD.

Winchester: Every 3rd Monday of the month | 10.00am - 12pm. The Carroll Centre, Somers Close, Stanmore, Winchester SO22 4EJ.

My Home Made Better

A new initiative has now been launched by the Hampshire Environment Centre. The aim is to inspire residents with one-to-one advice, case studies, videos, online resources, open homes, events and webinars, all designed to help individuals make more informed decisions about their properties. There is free training available for people who would like to become local 'energy champions', who will then be able to provide energy efficiency information to help residents improve their homes. Contact Stuart Mills at WinACC for more information stuart.mills@winacc.org.uk Local sustainability groups will be sharing this information with residents at some of the local summer fetes. More information can be found here - <https://myhomemadebetter.org/>

Other Home Energy Efficiency opportunities

The following offers advice and support. But please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances.

- [The Energy Saving Trust](#) . Guidance for the type of insulation for properties..
- [GB Insulation Scheme](#) – eligible if the property has an [energy performance certificate \(EPC\)](#) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D in England.
- [Energy Company Obligation \(ECO4\) scheme](#) - supports energy efficiency measures for homes in fuel poverty.

APPENDIX B

Hampshire County Councillor Report Aug 2025
Cllr Malcolm Wallace (mwallace@winchester.gov.uk)

Devolution

Elections for the new Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) for Hampshire and the Solent have been confirmed for May 2026. As well as promoting the interests of the wider region to central Government, the Mayor will work with local council leaders to make strategic decisions for our region in areas such as transport, skills and employment support, housing and planning, and tackling climate change.

More information can be found at: [Devolution | About the Council | Hampshire County Council](#)

Local Government Reorganisation

Under national plans for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), central Government intends to replace Hampshire County Council, 11 district and borough councils across the county, plus the unitary councils of Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight, with a number of unitary local authorities, all delivering the same public services as they do now to help make councils more efficient and effective. All 15 local authorities in the region have been tasked to come up with proposals for how councils should be reorganised, which will be submitted to central Government by 26 September. Hampshire County Council has developed a model that would see the current 15 councils in the area replaced by four new unitary councils – three on the mainland and one for the Isle of Wight. The HCC proposal for four unitary authorities has been estimated to save around £50 million a year. Separately to this, a group of district councils (including Winchester) are reviewing alternative options, all based around five unitary authorities. Estimated schedule for Local Government Reorganisation:

- 26 September 2025 – Local Authorities submit proposals to the Government
- November 2025 – Government-led public consultation on the options
- March 2026 – Government announcement of new Local Authority structure in Hampshire
- May 2026 – Mayoral election, plus elections to existing County & District Councils
- May 2027 – Elections for new Unitary Councils (shadow elections)
- April 2028 – Anticipated go live for new Unitary Authorities

Support for Ukraine – Homes for Ukraine

Homeowners with spare rooms are still needed to host Ukrainians on the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Homeowners can earn up to £6000 tax-free. Hosts are needed both for new Ukrainian guests and for Ukrainian guests who have already settled in Hampshire but are seeking new accommodation because their initial six-month hosting arrangement has come to an end. Many Ukrainians have found work locally and may have children at school, so need less support than someone just arriving in the country. Guests will be re-matched to suit your circumstances, usually with the opportunity to meet the previous hosts before the arrangement is finalised. For more information, or if you think you can help, see: [Homes for Ukraine | Community and living | Hampshire County Council Support for Ukraine - Winchester City Council](#)

More HCC ‘Savings’ Announced

Following a public consultation, Hampshire County Council’s Cabinet has agreed further changes to the way some local services are delivered. These include alterations to the way school and post-16 transport operates, changes to the management and charging arrangements for two older adults’ day services, as well as reductions to highway maintenance, although the latter will, for the most part, be offset by increases in Government grant funding. Together these service changes will generate savings of £9.86 million, year on year. The County Council’s Cabinet has agreed savings in the following areas:

- £4.32 million in Highway Maintenance - reducing Local Authority core funding for annual highway maintenance, while maximising the use of increased Government grant funding. Reductions in this area will not impact other highway maintenance activities such as pothole and road defect repairs, the renewal of road markings, sign and drainage cleaning.
- £210,000 in Older Adults’ Day Services - seeking an alternative provider to deliver and develop day services at Chesil Lodge in Winchester and Newman Court in Basingstoke
- £2.55 million in Post-16 Transport Only - amending the eligibility criteria. The changes will apply for students starting new courses from September 2026. Transport arrangements approved for students in previous years will remain in place if the student’s circumstances remain the same.

- £2.77 million in both School Transport and Post-16 Transport – modifying use criteria.
- More information about the savings and public consultation are available in the [Cabinet Report](#).

Update on Botley Bypass – Pinkmead Junction

From Monday 8 September to Friday 12 September, a new temporary mini roundabout will be installed at the Junction of the A334/A3051. The work will take place over five nights requiring 3-way temporary traffic lights which will operate from 2000 to 0600. The change is designed to improve traffic flow in all directions and is in advance of the construction of a permanent roundabout as part of the Botley Bypass scheme. The temporary mini roundabout will be needed until late summer 2027. Over this period, the layout may be adjusted to support different phases of the bypass works. For more information and updates visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/transportchemes/botleybypass>

Highways Winter Service – Update from Cllr Bowerman, Executive Member for Highways & Passenger Transport

A review of the Hampshire County Council highways winter service has now been completed. The Priority One salting network, which receives the most frequent winter treatments, has been comprehensively reviewed to ensure it fully aligns with national guidance. The review that has been undertaken by officers has adopted a robust, evidence-based, approach that fully meets national guidelines and best practice. As a result, the Priority One network will be reduced in length with some roads moved to the new Priority Two Community Route network. These changes will help the County Council make savings on vehicles, salt, and operational resources. Improved weather forecasting tools are also being introduced that will allow the Highways Team to more effectively and efficiently target those areas that are expected to freeze. This will reduce the number of unnecessary treatments (where roads remain above freezing), and free up staff resources to focus on other essential frontline tasks such as pothole repairs. A new combined Priority Two and Community Route network will be introduced at a later date that will include roads removed from the Priority One network as well as routes serving more schools, additional bus routes, and access roads to more residential areas. This change also follows national guidance, which recommends maintaining either a secondary or community network, but not both. There will continue to be a large stock of community grit bins across the network for roads that are not routinely gritted. However, the way salt bins are managed will also be changing. Of the 4000 bins currently in place, around 500 have not been used since 2017. These will no longer be maintained going forward and will eventually be removed. Currently, all the bins are inspected and refilled annually by an external contractor but from now on, the inspections will be carried out by our own Highways Team, and bins will only be refilled when they are less than half full. Requests from the public and parish/town councils to refill bins will still be fulfilled. Ahead of the coming winter season, the County Council's website will be updated with new maps and travel advice, and information will also be shared via social media. Details of the new Priority One salting network can be found on the following link: [Road salt \(grit\) bins | Hantsweb](#)

Flags on Property Owned or Maintained by the County Council – Update from Gary Westbrook, Chief Executive

We have received a number of queries about the painting of roundabouts and placing of flags on property owned or maintained by the Local Authority, with some of you commenting on how frequently these are appearing locally. With that in mind, I wanted to clarify the approach we are taking. We would encourage members of the public to consider the safety of themselves and other highways users when placing unauthorised items on property owned or maintained by the County Council, particularly in the case of streetlights or roundabouts. Items already placed will be considered for removal as part of our routine highway maintenance activity - however anything that is placed that poses a risk to the safe operation of the public highway will be prioritised for immediate removal.

Free Advice to Reduce Your Home Energy Bills

The Environment Centre has launched a ground-breaking service to make our homes warmer, greener and cheaper to run. It's called ***My Home Made Better***, and it offers free and impartial advice on everything from insulation and heating upgrades, to switching to new energy-efficient technologies. Experienced energy advisers will simplify complex information and dispel myths to guide you through your options and help you find the best ways to keep the heat in, lower your energy bills, and make your home more comfortable. This is how it works:

1. You call 0800 804 8601 (or email) to chat with one of the friendly advisers. Lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.
2. You'll be asked about your property and circumstances, following which you will receive tailor-made recommendations and your own personalised plan. This will comprise a summary of everything discussed, including recommendations and things to consider before taking your next step.
3. When you're ready, search the independent directory to find local suppliers and installers.

This should be a fantastic new service, and I encourage everyone to make use of it! For more information go to myhomemadebetter.org

Energy Efficiency Grants

The following offer advice and support. But please carefully check eligibility for grants as they will depend on the type of home and your circumstances.

- [Energy Saving Trust](#) – Guidance for the type of insulation for properties
- [Great British Insulation Scheme](#) – Eligible if the property has an energy performance certificate (EPC) of D to G and is in Council Tax bands A-D
- [Warmer Homes](#) – Warmer Homes provides fully funded insulation, solar panels and other energy efficiency measures for owner-occupiers and private renters living in low-income households in properties that have EPC energy efficiency ratings from D to G. The previous iteration of this program has now closed, but the Government has just announced a further £26 million of funding has been awarded to our local consortium. Whilst the previous iteration of this scheme only funded measures in off-gas households, the new scheme will be open to all fuel types, including on gas households and off gas households.

APPENDIX C

Hambleton Greening Report Sept 2025

Repair Café and Recycling:

- The next Repair Café and Recycling will be in Hambleton on Oct 18th from 10-12pm.
- The weekly red bin collection seems to be working well. There has been one dumping of a large number of bottles in August but we hope that is a one-off. The village hall committee have been informed.

Biodiversity:

- Our second butterfly survey was conducted on Aug 26th with 10 villagers and 6 rangers and volunteers. We had identified 16 species at the first event and 7 on the second where the weather was less sunny and rather windy. Much enthusiasm for these events from all 22 villagers involved. Thanks go to the National Trust and the SDNPA for their support.
- The National Trust has agreed to arrange two scrub-bashing events in December and January to clear encroaching vegetation on Speltham Down. Dates to be confirmed but hopefully will include at least one weekend.

Community Energy and a Future Energy Landscapes workshop:

- Oct 23rd at 6.30pm has been confirmed for this event. In the Village Hall.

Summer Show:

- HGC had a stand at this event, focussing on biodiversity and using material borrowed from HCC Parish Pollinators. A good level of interest in a children's pollinator trail and new supporters for HGC.
- We printed new leaflets for HGC for this event.

We are grateful as always for your support.

Dr Penny Mahon

(secretary of Hambleton Greening Campaign)