



DRAFT MINUTES

Hambledon Parish Council
07 Sept 2026; 7.30pm; Hambledon Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Encke (Chair); Cllr Clarke; Cllr Hand (arrived 7.48pm); Cllr Wale & Cllr Piper

In Attendance:

Mrs Joanna Tester (Clerk); Cllr Small (HCC; left 7.50pm); Cllr Lee (WCC; left 8.15pm); and four members of the public.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

Item No.	Item	Discussion & Decision	Action
3085	Acknowledgements	Councillors paused and remembered in silence the contributions of all villagers who have passed away since the last meeting.	
3086	Apologies	Apologies received from PCSO Wheeler-Osman, Cllr Wallace (WCC) & Cllr White (WCC).	
3087	Disclosable pecuniary interests	None.	
3088	Requests for dispensations	None received.	
3089	Co-option of parish councillors	Resolved: that the PC has agreed on the following co-options: • Michael Farrell (Majority vote of 5) • Jo Walker (Majority vote of 4) Jo Walker signed her Acceptance of Office form; and councillors approved Michael Farrell, who was unable to attend, signing his Acceptance of Office form before the next meeting. The PC thanked the unsuccessful applicants for their interest.	
3090	Resignation of councillor	Resolved: that councillors have acknowledged the resignation of Mark Mills-Goodlet (received 02/07/2026) and formally expressed thanks for his contribution to the work of the PC.	
3091	General Power of Competence	Resolved: that; in accordance with The Parish Council (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012; the PC has confirmed that it meets the criteria necessary for it to adopt, and has agreed to adopt, the General Power of Competence.	

3092	Public questions & comments	Standing orders suspended for maximum 10 mins. There were no comments from members of the public.	
3093	Resume standing orders	Agreed.	
3094	District councillor's report & questions arising	Report received (see Appendix A). Additional points discussed as follows: • The Government has withdrawn its previous decision on local government reorganisation and will now review the plans for Hampshire and the wider Solent area. Re-wiring government, and making sure LGR fits with new PM remit. • District elections in May 2027 will go ahead under existing WCC boundaries. 17 Sept 2026 WCC Health & Environment Policy Committee meeting - Southern Water attending. PC members may attend (register latest 5 days before) or send specific questions to Cllr Lee to raise.	
3095	County councillor's report & questions arising	No report received. Points discussed as follows: • Mayoral plans will go ahead as scheduled.	
3096	Mins of previous meeting (06/07/26)	Agreed as a true record.	
3097	Clerk's progress report	Parish Lengthsman Agreement - schedule for 2026/27 as follows: 13/10/26; & 01/02/27. 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. [In the latest flooding, this area was not bad, so perhaps there is not a serious issue here?] Useful/Emergency Info Leaflets - WCC Small Grant fund awarded £150. On-going. Clerk & Cllr Encke to consider whether this could accommodate an emergency plan for the village. Drain clearance - E-mail sent 05/02/25 to Gina Chandler (HH) re blocked drains throughout Village. 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.' No update. BASS Projects SIDs - to be covered in SS report. Remove from Clerk's report. CMV Parish shared P/T Ecologist/Nature Recovery Officer - e-mail re queries identified at 05/01/26 meeting sent to Cllr Lee 20/01/26. Response received & forwarded to cllrs. No progress at present time. Issues with Footpath 30a - Cllr Piper met on-site with landowner in July. Issue reported to HH online. Response received that not their responsibility & case referred to Countryside Services.	

3097 cont.	Clerk's progress report cont.	Data audit - underway. Guidance to be sent to councillors. Litter picking equipment - all equipment has been delivered. Sept/Oct village litter pick to be organised? On agenda. Remove from report. VH play area basketball post/net - it has been challenging finding three comparable quotes from companies that can both supply and install. Ava Recreation has quoted. Awaiting quote from Infinity Playgrounds.	
3098	Conclusion of audit	Resolved: that the PC has approved the annual return, including the external auditor certificate for y/e 31/03/26, and agreed upon 30 working days as the appropriate length of time for publication of the notice of conclusion of audit.	
3099	Staffing committee	Resolved: that the PC has approved the creation of a new staffing committee, approved the terms of reference, and agreed upon the following appointment of members: • Cllrs Encke, Wale, Piper, & Clarke. • First meeting tbc, and will focus on simplifying PAYE etc.	
3100	Clerk's salary	Resolved: that the PC has approved the increase (including back-pay from April to Sept 2026) in the Clerk's salary for 2026/27 as per the Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2026/27; taking into account the rise from SCP level 15 to 16 following attainment of the CiLCA qualification in August 2026.	
3101	Scheme of delegation	Resolved: that the PC has approved the new Scheme of Delegation.	
3102	Bank account	Bank balance - £77,665.59 @ 31 Aug 2026; bank statements 200 (01 Jul to 31 Jul 2026) and 201 (01 Aug to 31 Aug 2026) have been forwarded to cllrs.	
3103	Payment of accounts	Mrs J C Tester Clerk salary Jul 2026 £1,070.38 Mrs J C Tester Clerk salary Aug 2026 £1,070.38 Mrs J C Tester Clerk o/t Jul 2026 (20 hrs @ £15.56/hr) £311.20 NEST Clerk pension Jul 2026 £106.63 NEST Clerk pension Aug 2026 £106.63 Hambleton V/H Hall hire Jul 2026 £32.50 Biffa Recycling bin collection Jul 2026 £101.95 Biffa Recycling bin collection Aug 2026 £101.95 JH Tree Services Ltd Village maintenance Jul 2026 £375.00 JH Tree Services Ltd Village maintenance Aug 2026 £375.00 JH Tree Services Ltd Temporary repair of playground fence £72.00 JH Tree Services Ltd Good Companions' bench repair £216.00 WCC Annual play area inspections £140.40 ICO ICO Annual Renewal £47.00 BDO External audit 2025/26 £378.00 HMRC Clerk's NI/tax Q1 2026/27 £759.43 The Safety Supply Co Ltd Litter-picking equipment £859.19 Visual Graphix Ltd Litter picking signs £119.82 Defib Store Replacement defib battery £264.00	

3103 cont.	Payment of accounts cont.	HCC S115 licence (entrance gates) £1,020.00 Dr J Walker Green Man beds watering costs £90.00 Roger Davidson Green Man beds watering costs £90.00 Moritz Flohr Tennis coaching Jul 2026 £120.00 Moritz Flohr Tennis coaching Aug 2026 £40.00 Alice Goodwin-Hudson Tennis shed padlock (noted July 2026 PC minutes but amount tbc) £4.99	Clerk
3104	Planning applications	• SDNP/26/02921/HOUS - Fieldfare, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RX Single storey rear extension to replace existing upvc conservatory, new front porch, revised rear dormer window, replacement windows and doors alterations to existing garage including forming a studio and potting shed, constructing a new pitched roof with solar panels and associated works. [NO OBJECTION] • SDNP/26/02644/APNB - Headstone Farm, Cams Hill Lane, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RQ. An agricultural barn to be used as a Hay Store, Machinery Store and Cattle Handling Facilities. [Already approved by Planning Authority] • SDNP/26/02976/FUL & SDNP/26/03073/LIS - Bat And Ball, Hyden Farm Lane, Clanfield, Hampshire, PO8 0UB. Installation of ANPR car parking management system (and associated signage). [OBJECTION - there is little to no information within the application regarding lighting, and how compliance with SDNPA SD8 Dark Night Skies Policy would be achieved. In addition, there is insufficient information on the data collection radius of the ANPR cameras to reassure councillors that there would not be data protection beaches e.g. collection of data on license plates of vehicles using the public highway in the background.] • SDNP/26/02977/ADV - Bat And Ball, Hyden Farm Lane, Clanfield, Hampshire, PO8 0UB. 1 x Sign type 1 600x800mm pole mounted, 1 x Sign Type 1a 450x450mm pole mounted, 6 x Sign Type 2 600x800mm pole mounted, 1 x Sign Type 3 600x600mm wall mounted. [OBJECTION - there is little to no information within the application regarding lighting, and how compliance with SDNPA SD8 Dark Night Skies Policy would be achieved.] • SDNP/26/03060/TCA T1 - Cams, Cams Hill Lane, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4SP. Leyland Cypress - remove to ground level due to decay present at base/union. T2 - Dead standing Prunus - remove to ground level due to being dead standing. [NO COMMENTS]	Clerk
3105	Planning apps received after 01/09/26	None received.	
3106	Planning decisions	Noted, with the addition of the following: • SDNP/26/01408/LIS(AMENDED PROPOSAL 06.08.2026) - Hilltop, High Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO74RS. Replacement windows, with heritage timber casement and sash double glazed windows to the rear of property only. [APPROVED]	

3107	Safer Streets WG	Report received (see Appendix B). Points discussed as follows: Public meeting re. Safer Streets projects to be organised for Tuesday 20th Oct; 7.30pm, Main Hall, VH. To be advertised in Chair's Hambledonian article and via village e-mail etc.. Clerk to book Hall.	Clerk
3108	Speed indicator devices	Resolved: that the PC has considered the three options provided by the HCC Safer Roads & Parking Team for location of SIDs in the village (detailed below) and agreed to NOT accept all three. (Voted unanimously for.) Councillors believe that placing a SID in these locations will have no effect on traffic speed, driver behaviour, or education of the speed limits to be adhered to. Consequently, the costs involved would not be good use of public money. It was noted that the PC still considers the four locations in its original application to be most appropriate, and will continue to push for these to be approved by HCC. <u>Locations Offered by HCC</u> - West Street (lower) - behind the Royal Mail box and green electrical cabinet; opposite Beech Cottage (W3W /// important.burglars.causes); - Green Lane - adjacent to Rushmere Gate; on existing 30mph repeater (extension pole required) (W3W /// captures.eyeliner.udder); and - East Street; verge on entrance to 'Donkey Field' (W3W /// comedians.calendars.logbook).	Clerk
3109	Recreation & Sport WG	Report received (Appendix C). No further points discussed.	
3110	Annual playground inspections	Resolved: that councillors have reviewed the annual playground inspection reports and the summary report provided by the Clerk (Appendix D) and agree on the actions detailed in the report (some of which have already been completed).	Clerk
3111	Tennis coaching, court booking system, & subs	Resolved: that the PC has considered the report provided by the Clerk (Appendix E), and agrees to the following actions: - PC will not be funding children's coaching going forward (voted unanimously for). - If teaching by LTA-qualified coach is deemed viable following taster session 12/09/26— nominal court rent will be charged by the PC (likely in the region of £2.50/hr). - Subs to be discussed at Oct 2026 PC meeting when coaching has been decided and bookings system sorted etc. - LTA membership to be retained for now as it is not due for renewal until Jan 2027, and no reimbursement will be given if it is cancelled mid-term. Clerk hoping to sort the Clubspark booking system as this is the cheapest/easiest option.	Clerk/Cllr Encke/ Cllr Piper
3112	Dog fouling solutions	Resolved: that the PC has considered the report provided by the Clerk (Appendix F) and, due to time constraints, agrees to defer to the Oct PC meeting.	Clerk
3113	Hambledon Greening	Report received (see Appendix G). No further points were discussed.	

3114	Village litter pick	Resolved: that the PC has agreed to delegate organisation of an autumn village litter pick to the Clerk and Cllr Piper. Areas to be included will depend on IDVerde truck availability.	Clerk/Cllr Piper
3115	Reports & Issues	• ‘Good Companions’ bench (West St) has been renovated by JH Tree Services; paid for via donation from family of a previous Hambledon resident. Memorial plaque will be added. • Application by MoP to create footpath in Headstone Copse - MoP has confirmed that the Planning Inspectorate has granted HCC a further 12 months in which to make a decision (dated 21/08/26). • Villager has kindly offered to donate a marquee for the use of the village (similar size to the current ‘Bonfire’ one). Clerk investigating possible storage options. • Cllr Encke has provided a brief update from the Parish Resilience WG (see Appendix H).	
3116	Date/time of next meeting	Monday 5th Oct 2026 at Hambledon VH; 7.30pm.	
3117	Confidential matters	No confidential matters were discussed.	

The meeting closed at 9.29pm

Signed:

Cllr Encke (Chair)

Dated:

Signed:

Joanna Tester (Clerk)

Dated:

APPENDIX A - Winchester City Councillor Report Sept 2026 - given the length of this report, it will be made available separately on the PC’s website - https://www.hambledon-pc.gov.uk/Parish_Council/Parish_Council_Meetings.aspx

APPENDIX B

Safer Streets WG Report Sept 2026 Cllr Clarke (Chair) & Clerk

Village Entrance Gates

Draft S115 licence has been received from HCC Legal Services. This will be reviewed by the Clerk and Cllr Clarke asap and, once comments are received, the licence will be progressed whilst the notice period (see below) is running.

Legal Services will begin issuing notices for the scheme under s115F of the Highways Act. These will be placed on site at each of the locations and sent to land owners of the properties immediately next to the proposed locations. The noticing period should be just over a month in total. They will also need to consult with the Local Planning Authority. The period for this is also circa one month. It is anticipated that it will be complete end of October/early November, but this is subject to any ongoing changes with the draft licence or objections raised based on the notices.

Speed Indicator Devices

Response received to PC’s e-mail (dated 29/06/26) from HH 10/08/26. Feedback given on the five local SID locations where stringent rules appear not to have been applied - two deemed acceptable; one is a permanent SLR not managed by the local PC; and two are not acceptable (and will be dealt with accordingly).

Following HH’s negative response to the PC’s original application, numerous requests for a site meeting to look at suitable alternatives have been refused:

‘Due to the high level of demand for highway-related services and the need to manage limited resources effectively, opportunities to attend site meetings to discuss individual issues are now significantly constrained. Accordingly, in order to enable officers to respond efficiently to the large volume of enquiries received, it is not possible on this occasion to accommodate a site meeting.’

Instead, HH have offered three alternative locations within the village (presumably chosen based on Google Earth images?):

- location 1 - West Street; on opposite verge behind Mail box and green electrical cabinet (facing south);
- location 2 - Green Lane; on existing 30mph repeater (extension post required); next to Rushmere Gate (facing north); and
- location 3 - East Street; on edge of verge by Donkey Field entrance gate (facing north east).

These are to be reviewed by councillors at the Sept PC meeting. However, initial observations are that none of the locations target prime speeding areas in the village. The first two in particular are unlikely to have any level of impact since vehicles are usually parked alongside the road in these locations, which naturally slows traffic. In addition, these parked vehicles would impede clear line of sight, which apparently is a key requisite for HH approval.

The Clerk attended MP Dr Danny Chambers' surgery last month to follow-up on previous e-mail correspondence. Opportunity to discuss the issue at any length was limited, and the impression given that there was likely to be little more influence that he could exert over HH.

Dr Chambers MP has previously approached the Police and Crime Commissioner on behalf of the PC. A response was received 07/07/26, with the key points as follows:

'To support the Parish council and residents, I have requested the Roads Policing Team to consider a combination of enforcement, education, and partnership activity to address speeding. I would recommend where you can, to encourage residents reporting of speeding and anti- social driving. This allows intelligence led enforcement and understanding of the hotspots to be targeted with patrol activities.

'Alongside police enforcement, community-led initiatives can play a very effective role in influencing driver behaviour. If the Parish Council or residents would like further information or to expand their involvement in your local community Speedwatch group, they can contact: speedwatch@hampshire.police.uk.'

The PC needs to consider whether further correspondence with the PCC on this issue at the current time will be productive.

All previous correspondence and key information has been sent to Cllr Small (HCC) for input.

SDNPA CiL Funding Application (2025/26)

Yet again, HPC's application for CiL funding (£30k; Safer Streets projects) has been unsuccessful. It is likely that the remit of the current Safer Streets scheme does not align strongly enough with SDNPA's corporate plan priorities of 'Nature Recovery', 'Climate Action' and 'A National Park for All'. The PC may wish to reconsider the focus for this year's application (opening Nov 2026).

Communication with Villagers

It has come to light that some villagers are under the incorrect impression that the PC does not support SID schemes. This brings into question the efficacy of past communication streams, since all minutes and reports are published in hard-copy and on the PC's website. There was also a lot of focus on Safer Streets at the Annual Meeting of the Parish, with copies of correspondence and display material subsequently published online. The Clerk, and Cllrs Encke and Clarke are to meet 02/09/26 to discuss content for an extended Chair of the PC article in the next edition of The Hambledonian, in the hope that this will reach a larger audience.

APPENDIX C

Sport & Recreation WG Report Sept 2026 Clerk

Glebe Field

The damage to the field above the tennis court caused by rabbits digging both warrens and shallow scrapes is worsening on a weekly basis. They also appear to be chewing the football nets, hence the decision has been made to not replace them until the rabbit situation is resolved. An application for a County Councillor grant to pay for new nets (and towards a new basketball goalpost) has been submitted, awaiting approval.

Next steps as follows:

- Make a decision regarding continued access for the public to the damaged grass area. Would signage be sufficient, or should the area be temporarily closed?
- Chase tenant of Upper Glebe Field for consent.
- If no response, revert to Portsmouth Diocese as land owner.
- Consider whether there are any additional methods that can be used to deter rabbits from being on the Lower Glebe Field.
- Repair of the surface only once rabbit numbers are under control.

Basketball Post - Village Hall

At the July PC meeting, Councillors delegated authority to the Clerk and Cllrs Encke and Piper to organise the purchase and installation of a replacement basketball post (item 3079). It was anticipated that this would

be completed over the summer break. However, it has proved difficult to make contact with suppliers, and not all suppliers are able to install.

- Ava Recreation has quoted for supply & installation of a post that is screwed to the installation plate which is embedded in concrete. Quote is within budget and the company is well known to the PC.
- Red Lynch Leisure - no response.
- Vita Play - e-mail address no longer valid; appears the business may no longer be operating.
- Continental Sports - can only supply.
- Infinity Playgrounds - awaiting response.

APPENDIX D

Playground Inspections 2026 - Summary Report Clerk

Location	Equipment	Finding No	Risk Rating	Issue/Recommendation	Action Required	Completed
VILLAGE HALL	Site general	1	Very low	Provide signage (general)	None? (recommendation only)	N/a
		2	Mod.	Repair/replace fence	Fence would appear to be owned by Millers. Contact has been made but no decision communicated to date. As a short-term measure, maintenance contractor has erected safety fencing around the damaged section.	On-going
	Gate combination	1	Low	Provide padlock for maintenance gate	None?	N/a
		2	Low	Provide drop bolt sleeves/drop-bolts	Chase Eddie V. for drop-bolt & research solution	On-going
		3	Low	Provide 12mm gaps throughout full range of motion both sides of gate	None	N/a
	Fence - bow top	1	Low	Monitor damage to fence sections	Monitor regularly	On-going
	Cradle swings	1	Low	Chain openings wider than recommended - no action	None	N/a
		2	Low	Fence closer to swing seat than recommended - no action	None	N/a
		3	Low	Monitor chain wear	Monitor regularly	On-going
		4	Low	Monitor wear to shackles	Monitor regularly	On-going
	Multi play	1	Low	Hedge too close to fire pole	Maintenance contractor advised that shrub not suitable to cut back to min 1.7m from pole - would leave large cut edges with no re-growth - more risk of injury. NFA.	N/a
		2	Low	Tighten loose fixings	Tighten	Comp. w/c 17/08/26

		3	Low	Falls between components greater than recommended - no action	None (consulted supplier last year & advised NFA)	N/a
	Swings - flat seat	1	Low	Car barrier from car park to tarmac area has been removed	Maintenance contractor to replace with logs. Add to risk assessment	On-going
STEWARTS GREEN	Site general	1	Low	Provide signage (general)	None (recommendation only)	N/a
		2	Low	Distance of pull-up bars from children's equipment	Add to risk assessment	
		3	Low	Signage (pull-up bars)	None?	
	Pull-up station	1	Low	Secure pull-up bar (middle-height)	Tighten	Comp. w/c 03/08/26
	Basket swing	1	Low	Adjust seat to make level	None (has always been like this & doesn't cause any issues)	N/a
		2	Low	Replace bolt cap	Replace (Ava Recreation contacted 12/08/26)	
	Climbing frame	1	Low	Monitor slightly loose foundations (slide)	Ava Recreation advised that extreme heat likely to be the cause but not a high risk & monitoring only required	On-going
		2	Low	Tighten loose fixings	Tighten	Comp. w/c 17/08/26
		3	Low	Replace bolt cap	Replace (Ava Recreation contacted 12/08/26)	
		4	Low	Loose fixings	Tighten	Comp. w/c 17/08/26
		5	Low	Splits in timber - monitor & sand down any rough edges	Add to risk assessment	

APPENDIX E

Tennis Report Sept 2026

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide councillors with the detailed information required to make an informed decision on the following:

1. Whether to continue organising coaching on the tennis court and, if so:
 - i. if the PC can continue to use the current instructors, or it needs to use the services of LTA-qualified coaches;
 - ii. whether or not it can/should continue to provide free (or subsidised) weekly children's coaching; and
 - iii. if subscription charges need to be increased from April 2027 to allow PC support (full or subsidised) of continued children's coaching.
2. Whether to continue to offer a booking system for general use of the tennis court by subscribers and, if so, which system to use.
3. Whether annual subscription charges need to be increased from April 2027 to accommodate higher booking system fees, and to cover annual and longer-term court maintenance (e.g. re-surfacing) costs.

Background

The Court

The tennis court build was completed in 2013, on land rented by the PC from the Portsmouth Diocese. Free weekly tennis lessons have been offered to children since then. It is my understanding that, at the time, the PC made a commitment to continuing this for at least the first two years of running the court. In addition,

since I have been working for the PC (2018), the remit has been for the court to be 'self-funding' i.e. subs, donations, sponsorship, and fundraising events cover the full cost of children's coaching, the booking system, and all equipment and maintenance. Only in 2025/26 did the PC's budget include funds (£5555) for tennis, and this was a decision based on concerns at the time surrounding large up-coming maintenance costs and problems recruiting a volunteer to take on a fundraising role.

Coaching

Historically, coaching has been provided by LTA-qualified coaches. Over the last couple of years this has become more difficult, due to sourcing and affording the higher fees, and the PC has used the services of two teenage residents, who have provided two hours of instruction (split into two age/ability groups) on a Saturday morning. They undertook LTA safeguarding training and were DBS checked on turning 18 (both paid for by tennis funds), but neither held any coaching qualifications. Parents/carers were required to complete a declaration that they retained all responsibility for their children and were required to remain on site at all times. Since July 2026, both of the current coaches have stepped down due to other commitments. There is the potential to replace them with two 16-year-old residents, but recent investigations into LTA-membership and insurance etc has highlighted issues surrounding public liability insurance (see below).

Via the LTA website, I have made contact with a local level 2/3 coach who has all the necessary, DBS checks, public liability insurance, and first aid and safe-guarding training etc. Cllr Piper and I have met him on site and discussed a possible way forward, as follows:

- Taster session (foc) to be offered 12/09/26 to all existing children and any other resident children or those with a link to the village (e.g. through the Primary School).
- Once this session has been run, level of interest can be gauged and fees discussed fully.
- If enough interest can be raised, Saturday morning coaching sessions will resume (likely to be 9 to 10am for 4-7-year-olds, and 10 to 11am for 8 years and above).
- There is also the possibility of adult coaching following the junior sessions.
- Fees for the children's sessions are likely to be in the region of £38/hr for a group of four or less; and £10/hr per child for more than four.
- If families paid the coach directly, there would need to be an arrangement whereby the PC charges the coach a fee for using the court (the coach has indicated that he is charged £2.50/hr by another local court). The coach would be responsible for correspondence with the families; booking; collecting fees etc.

Insurance

As recently confirmed with the PC's insurance broker, the current public liability cover under the existing policy automatically extends to the ownership and maintenance of the court. Provided the Council is carrying out appropriate inspections and risk assessments, the policy would respond to claims made against the Council for injury arising from defects in the court itself. However, regarding coaching activities, as the coaches are not employees of the PC and invoice independently for their services, they would be responsible for arranging their own public liability insurance (to cover negligence or actions whilst coaching). On researching this online (via Google AI), it appears that individuals under 18 and with no recognised coaching qualification would not be able to apply for their own public liability cover due to the following:

- **The "Qualified Coach" Rule:** Sports insurance providers (like [Insure4Sport](#)) explicitly state that their policies are only valid if the coach holds a recognised qualification from a national governing body. Without one, any policy bought is legally void.
- **The Age Limit for Independence:** Under [UK Coaching standards](#), a person must be at least **18 years old** to coach sport independently without supervision. At 16, a person is legally classed as a "Coaching Assistant" and must be supervised.
- **The Legality of Child Safety:** Teaching children independently without an Enhanced DBS check, a safeguarding certificate, and a qualification violates [LTA safety standards](#) and creates severe legal liability risks for the teenager and their parents.

Administration

Currently, the PC pays to be a member of the LTA (£72 + VAT per annum; membership paid up to Jan 2027), which includes the use of the ClubSpark booking system. The latter has proved to be very unreliable, with quite a few members not being able to access it and work-arounds having to be introduced. I have been in contact with ClubSpark directly but need input from Alice Goodwin-Hudson in order to raise the issue (I am currently chasing). A new system needs to be considered (with particular emphasis on security, GDPR, and ease of use). The following options have been researched:

1. Google Workspace

This works well for the Church but, as a registered charity, they do not have to pay for its use. Initially, it was thought that this would be the best solution, but on attempting to set it up online it was discovered that the only process available to create a direct debit for monthly payment would not be in line with the PC's

banking mandate of approval requiring the signatures of two authorised councillors. Cost is £11.80/user/month (£141.60/annum).

2. MyCourts

Designed for purpose but expensive at £35 + VAT per month (£420 + VAT per annum).

3. Hallmaster

Currently used by the Village Hall. You can use it as a fully automated book and pay option, or so that customers can request a booking which is managed by a venue administrator. Cost £232.50/£162.50 + VAT per annum.

It may be possible to run the court without a booking system ie turn up and play if it is free. This could prove problematic, but it is an option.

With regards to the day-to-day running of the court, it is the Clerk's responsibility to administer the finances (which run through the PC books), manage the maintenance of the court, and support the volunteer who oversees court booking and children's coaching (currently Alice Goodwin-Hudson). Alice also acts as the chief safeguarding officer, and has undertaken the relevant training (paid for by the PC) and been DBS-checked (free of charge as a volunteer). Currently, there is no individual (PC or non-PC) responsible for fundraising.

Expenditure 2025/26

Coaching: £1,550
Maintenance: £2,975
Equipment: £164
Admin: £282 (safeguarding training; DBS; LTA registration etc.)
TOTAL: £4,971

Income 2025/26

From PC budget: £5,555
Subscriptions: £1,415 (subs currently £60/£75 per annum per village/non-village family)
Grants: £0
Sponsorship: £0
Fundraising: £0
TOTAL: £6,970

Funds available at 01/04/26: £2,176

Expected Future Costs

Coaching: this will depend on what decisions are made going forward.

Court cleaning/de-mossing: annually; cost £230.00 (last carried out Nov 2025)

Painting: every 5 years; cost £2,420 (including repairs; last carried out Apr 2025; due 2030, but this may coincide with a full re-surface).

Resurface: probably due in the next year or two (LTA recommends every 8-10 years; court is now 13 years old); cost upwards of £15k.

Equipment/admin: depends on coaching/booking system decision. New net cost circa £110 in Apr 2025.

Probably required every 5 years or so? New balls required every year, plus inexpensive sundries such as padlocks. Equipment costs tend to be minimal, and will be even lower if the PC stops providing for children's coaching.

Summary

The above information will hopefully assist councillors in making an informed decision about how best to run the tennis court going forward. The current situation is not financially viable in the medium to long term, and it is the PC's responsibility to spend parish funds where they are of the benefit to the majority. In addition, the PC must ensure that all services it provides to residents (and those non-residents who utilise the court/coaching) either directly or indirectly, give due care and attention to relevant legislation, health and safety, and insurance requirements.

Dated: 03/09/26 (Joanna Tester, Clerk & RFO to Hambledon PC)

APPENDIX F

Dog Fouling Solutions Report Sept 2026

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide councillors with the detailed information required to make an informed decision on potential schemes/purchases to reduce the incidence of dog fouling in the village.

Background

Owners not clearing up after their dogs has long been an issue on the footpaths, pavements, and recreational areas around the village. It is something that is raised frequently by residents on village social media, and is a very emotive topic.

In the UK, dog owners are legally required to clean up after their pets on designated public land. Under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, local authorities use Public Spaces Protection Orders

PSPOs to make it an offence to leave dog waste on open-air public land (such as parks, pavements, and footpaths).

I believe that, in years gone by, the PC has tried targeted signage at 'hot-spot' locations, with signs being moved on a regular basis. It is likely that efficacy was limited, particularly long-term, but I do not have any concrete data to support this.

There are a number of public bins around the village where dog waste can be disposed (e.g. Stewarts Green; Glebe Field; two in the Churchyard; Speltham Hill access to the Down; West St access to the Down; and the Village Hall) and a further bin with bags provided by a resident on the West St access to the Down.

The organisation, Keep Britain Tidy, claims to ... 'offer a suite of highly effective, evidence-based intervention campaigns designed to directly tackle the most common forms of dog fouling and drive lasting behaviour change.' These are considered, amongst others, below.

Potential Solutions

- Shaming offenders - e.g. spray painting uncollected dog waste. This is a cheap option but would require a volunteer to carry it out on a regular basis. Costs likely to be in the region of £9-15 per spray can (needs to be eco-friendly; non-marking; chalk-based).
- More bins - placed in high footfall areas with no bin currently in close proximity; perhaps with bag dispensers. WCC approval would need to be sought, and this would rely on the bin being added to an existing waste-emptying route (or a private contractor being paid).
- Signage:
 - *We're Watching You* - glow-in-the-dark signage to increase the perceived risk of being caught, achieving up to a 46% reduction in dog fouling in trial areas. Two different messages available; each A3 sign is £32 + VAT (minimum order 5). Non-glow bin stickers are also available at £8 + VAT each. (Full details Appendix A.)
 - *There's No Such Thing as a Dog Poo Fairy* - tackles bagged but discarded dog mess, reminding owners that "any rubbish bin will do". Cost is £150 + VAT for 10 A3 signs and 5 bin stickers. (Full details Appendix B.)
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) - anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a FPN of up to £100. However, only the primary authority (WCC) has the statutory power to create the necessary PSPO. A PC can request that the District Council formally **delegate enforcement powers** down to parish employees or specific parish wardens. The FPNs are then issued under the overarching District Council's PSPO. In most parishes, the standard procedure is to report dog fouling directly to the District Council's dog warden or environmental health team, who carry the direct authority to penalise offenders.
- Dog DNA database - collection and testing of waste to identify the dog; FPN issued to the owner. However, there is very little data regarding efficacy; it is expensive, logistically difficult, and relies on owner compliance; and only targets resident dogs, not those from outside the village.

Summary

The above information will hopefully assist councillors, should they consider that the size of the issue warrants the spending of public funds, on deciding which potential solutions are practical, affordable, and may offer best value for money.

Dated: 03/09/26 (Joanna Tester, Clerk & RFO to Hambledon PC)

APPENDIX G

Hambledon Greening WG Report Sept 2026

Repair Café:

- The next Repair Café will be in Denmead on Sept 19th from 1.30-4pm at Denmead Community Centre. They will have an apple press there that day courtesy of Greening Denmead so people can bring along their apples to make juice!

Greening Campaign Adaptation Resource:

- We conducted the first event linked to this project at the Summer Show on Aug 22 when seven volunteers talked to a wide range of Hambledonians about their memories of key weather events in the past. This data will be entered into a spreadsheet and shared with the Met Office. It will be used to provide adaptation strategies for extreme weather in years to come.
- The next online training day for the project is September 23rd.

Biodiversity:

- Local NT volunteer Barry Proctor and NT Ranger Sophie Bradfield led two butterfly surveys on July 27th and August 26th. In total, 17 Hambledonians and 5 NT rangers and volunteers attended, along with Oli Tonks from the SDNPA. They were both very happy occasions with lots of enthusiasm and

many sightings of around 12 different butterfly species along with moths and other interesting insects.

- These surveys are now a regular feature of the Hambledon Greening calendar and the relationship we have built with the NT rangers is a strong one.
- We hope to arrange more maintenance events with the NT and SDNPA to keep invasive species at bay such as sycamore, as we did last winter.
- We also held an impromptu glow worm hunt in the churchyard on July 23rd led by committee member Alasdair McKenzie. A group of c 30 villagers and guests turned up at 10pm, and Alasdair gave a short introduction to this small beetle: it's the female which glows with bioluminescence and the male flies to find her. We found about 30 in the churchyard that evening and Sara Osman, Climate Officer for the SDNPA, joined us since sightings of these beetles are rare in the South Downs and she was thrilled to add the site to the national database.

Film Screening:

- We are working with Wilder Bishops Waltham to arrange a screening of the film 'Derek v Derek' about land use and farming, focusing on two farmers with deeply contrasting approaches to their land in Devon. It should provoke some interesting discussion and we hope to invite a panel of experts to attend a Q and A afterwards.

Greening Festival 2028:

- A recent meeting of Hambledon Greening and Hambledon Eco-Church decided that May 2028 was the best date for our next Greening festival since there were too many key people away in September 2027 and we felt it was too soon to have another in May 2027.

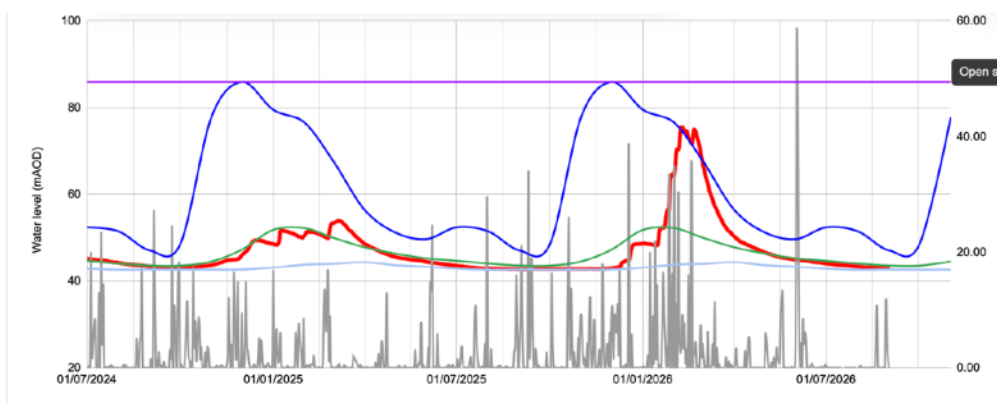
We are grateful as always for your support, both financially and at our events.

Dr Penny Mahon (secretary of Hambledon Greening Campaign)

APPENDIX H

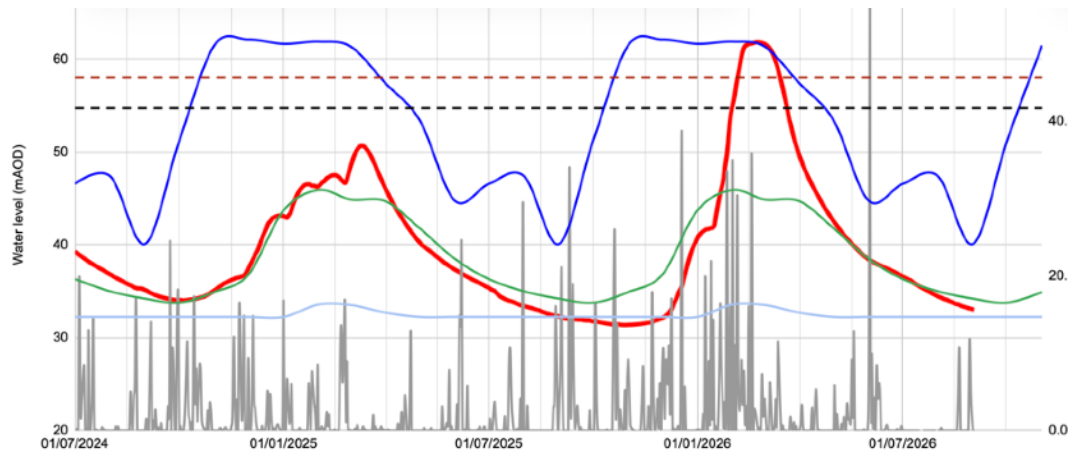
Parish Resilience WG Update Sept 2026 Cllr Encke (Chair)

Just had a quick look at the groundwater graphs and so far so good - as entirely expected. However, this is as likely to change as not so I'll keep my eye them from now on. Note Broadhalfpenny Down on the rise!!



Borehole	Latest level	Date
Broadhalfpenny Down	42.964	Sep 2, 2026

Date ▲		Rise (or fall) in the last 24 hours (m)
Aug 29, 2026, 12:00 AM	⬆	-0.011
Aug 30, 2026, 12:00 AM	⬆	-0.012
Aug 31, 2026, 12:00 AM	⬆	-0.003
Sep 1, 2026, 12:00 AM	⬆	-0.011
Sep 2, 2026, 12:00 AM	⬆	0.008



Borehole	Latest level	Date
Whitedale Farm	32.973	Sep 2, 2026

Date ▲		Rise (or fall) in the last 24 hours (m)
Aug 29, 2026, 12:00 AM	↓	-0.035
Aug 30, 2026, 12:00 AM	↓	-0.033
Aug 31, 2026, 12:00 AM	↓	-0.032
Sep 1, 2026, 12:00 AM	↓	-0.056
Sep 2, 2026, 12:00 AM	↓	-0.033