MINUTES OF **FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF EVERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL** HELD AT CHARLES KINGSLEY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 7.30pm ON **TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2026**

PRESENT:	Cllr S Stephens	(SS)	(Chairman)
	Cllr S Kendrick	(SK)	
	Cllr S Dickens	(SD)	
	Cllr S Miller	(SM)	
	Cllr E Batup	(EB)	
	Cllr P Todd	(PT)	

ALSO PRESENT: Six Members of the Public, Cllr Dr A Crampton (HDCllr), and J. Street (Clerk)

Abbreviations:
HDC – Hart District Council
HCC – Hampshire County Council
EPC – Eversley Parish Council

ACTIONS

98 Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Cllr E Dixon.

99 Declarations of Interest
Cllr S Miller and Cllr E Batup declared non-pecuniary interests in item 109.

100 Approval of the Minutes of the last meeting
The minutes of the meeting of Eversley Parish Council held on **Tuesday 6th October 2026** had been previously circulated to all Councillors.
RESOLVED
That the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman. **SS**

101 Public Questions and Comments
Up Green – Is there an update on the enforcement taking place on the caravan sited at Up Green? EPC has had no updates from HDC on the matter and will chase.
A327 – The culverts under the A327 / Warbrook Lane are blocked and require clearing. They have been reported previously with no actions taken yet. The Clerk will chase.
HDC's Local Plan – A large proportion of sites are in conservation areas, doesn't that mean they won't be allocated? This would be considered when HDC move forward with their allocations.
Allocations – Some land has been put forward for allocation without landowners' permission. EPC recommends that landowners check on HDC's website and contact them to rectify any errors.

102 Hart District Council / Hampshire County Council
HDC – The consultation period for the Local Plan: Consultation on Proposed Content and Evidence is open until the 7th December.
HDC are considering whether to set the plan for a period of 10 years or 15 years. The housing figure will be impacted dependant upon which timeframe is chosen. However, if a period of 15 years is chosen then it is considered more likely that the infrastructure improvements needed would be delivered. Few additional sites have come forward since July.
Elections are still going ahead in 2027. It is unclear whether the Unitary elections, scheduled for 2028, are proceeding currently. Due to the uncertainty on LGR, HDC won't commit to spending any further funds until surety is provided by Central Government.
HCC- I assisted in drafting a motion to that meeting to reinstate the telephone booking process for Household Waste and Recycling Centres which was stopped last October. The Liberal Democrat

group feels that it is an important principle that services should not exclude those without access to digital technology, but the motion was defeated by the combined vote of the Tory and Reform Councillors, on the grounds that this would increase costs.

The Council also considered a response to the motion proposed at the July meeting that Cabinet report back on how to improve highway maintenance across the County. The report stated that the current backlog of highway maintenance is currently costed at between £550 and £600 million, and that the Council receives between £55 to 80 million in funding from the Department for Transport. The Cabinet report acknowledges that the backlog cannot realistically be cleared, but it is suggesting that by increasing funding by £20 to £30 million, it could deliver "*a genuine step change in condition to a point where the road network is stable, sustainable and serviceable, and the steadily declining trend arrested.*"

On the 7th September, the Secretary of State Angela Rayner announced a review of the Local Government Reorganisation, and that elections to existing Councils would proceed in May 2027. This was when we expected elections to shadow Unitary Councils, so effectively the project has been put on hold for at least one year. There have been no further announcements to date, so it remains unclear whether LGR in Hampshire will proceed or not. However, all the committees that had been set up to oversee the change process have been cancelled. Personally, I am very disappointed by this situation, as I find HCC bureaucratic and slow to respond, and was looking forward to a reset of culture and working practices under the proposed Unitary Authorities.

Under the Councillors Grants scheme, I have a budget of £5000 which can be used to support local projects. So far, I have approved 4 grants totalling £2,500 and am aware of a further grant to come for £1000. That means I still have £1,500 left, so if you have any suitable schemes that might benefit from this funding, please let me know.

In my last report, I mentioned the ongoing issue regarding the routing of the historic Welsh Drive Public Right of Way over the common land sites currently occupied by British Car Auctions and Blackbushe Airport on Yateley Common. We had an update from the HCC officer dealing with this at the end of September, reporting that further discussions had taken place between Forestry England and BCA, and pressure is being applied to force a decision. However, I have not yet heard any detail of a decision, so I continue to chase it up.

103 Finchampstead Parish Council

Cllr Graham Jukes OBE from Finchampstead Parish Council (FPC) gave a presentation on their vision for Fleet Hill Farm and Manor Farm.

Both these properties are currently owned by Cemex. FPC intends to explore whether they can purchase them from Cemex with a view to turning them, alongside Moor Green Lakes, into a nature reserve. The vision being to create a peaceful, sustainable green and recreational space where people across Wokingham and neighbouring Council areas can connect with nature, supporting their health and well-being as urbanisation and the local population increase.

EPC voted unanimously to support FPC's vision for this area.

104 Burial Grounds Extension

a) The reports for the planning application are now complete. We are waiting on the land transfer to complete so we can submit the planning application. Hopefully this won't take too long.
b) The planning documents were reviewing and approved, with an alteration required on the site location plan as the boundary currently outlines land owned by both EPC and HDC rather than that only owned by EPC.

105 Neighbourhood Plan

Budget and Deliverables

Total budget agreed for year £36,487, with seven months in the spend so far £11,769.

We are currently operating within our planned budget. We reduced the cost of the Housing Needs Survey due to Hart Housing contributing 50% of the cost (saving £3,370). This year's budget

has delivered the Eversley Design Guidance and Code Document, now with Hart Planning for acceptance as a formal guide to planning for Eversley. The Housing Needs Survey, which provides evidence of the housing type and affordable housing number required in Eversley. (60 affordable houses and a mix of two- and three-bedroom homes as a priority).
Of the 16 days of consultancy budgeted (£9,300), 7 days have been invoiced so far with 9 days left to bill. We are using this time to review and complete the NP policies and to understand the implications of the emerging LAA from Hart. There will be 4 days to bill to December leaving us time for support going into Regulation 14 which I will cover later.
We are awaiting discussions with Hart Planning regarding Call for Sites – if this is not necessary this will mean £14,000 allocated to this activity could be freed up for other activities and/or carry over for communication and publicity activities next year. Currently we anticipate that carrying out our own Call for Sites will only result in the same sites being put forward as in the Land Availability Assessment from Hart– a potential pressure on time for the Working Group and poor value for money for residents. However, we need to be clear on the indicative housing number for Eversley which I will cover later.

Progress and next steps

The Design Guidance and Code has been delivered for formal acceptance by HDC – we are awaiting confirmation that this is formally accepted.
Local Green Spaces and Key Views documents are complete as part of the NP evidence. We need the Clerk's help to contact the Landowners regarding our Green Space designation.
Draft NP policies are on track for review from w/c 9th November and Cllr P Todd and Cllr E Dixon have offered their help in the consultation process. The target is having a set of policies that EPC are confident to sign off at the December Meeting. We very much appreciate your support in getting to a strong set of policies. The aim is to influence the type of development we may face in the future and to minimise the impact on the rural nature of the Village.
We are very close to having a Draft NP that is ready to go to Regulation 14 consultation. This starts with a formal letter of intent to Hart Planning and is a 6-week consultation with the Community and several external bodies. We will be consulting on the Vision and Objectives set out in the Draft Plan and each of the 10 policies identified as supporting those objectives. Timescales for this 6-week consultation will be early next year (February /March). The preparation for this is important as we must have all documentation available and provide a means of collecting feedback. I have asked the Clerk to set up an area on Sharepoint to hold all final documents in preparation.
Responding to Hart Local Plan consultation - We will be attending the Hart drop-in sessions to gather more information before penning a response to the consultation. Key concerns are:
·The settlement hierarchy, landscape assessment and impact associated with health and wellbeing in Hart's supporting documents are not consistent with the level of growth that appears to be suggested for Eversley given the sites identified. The lack of infrastructure across the village, lack of school places, GPs surgery, public transport and shops indicate this is not a sustainable level of growth.
·What the employment site proposals will mean for the Village – there is almost 90,000 sq m of expansion in the proposals and we need to understand what class of uses are proposed and the impact on traffic (particularly heavy traffic) and noise etc. We would appreciate the opportunity to work with EPC on the response to this consultation.
We are also arranging a meeting with Hart Planning to clarify our indicative housing number (11 houses per year which equates to 260 houses over a 20-year period was provided in December 2025). We also need to understand whether the 190 houses approved for Hollybush Farm is counted in this number. This will determine how we take the Neighbourhood Plan forward in terms of housing numbers and sites.

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106 Financial Reports

The Responsible Financial Officer's reconciliation for October 2026, the schedule of payments for November 2026, and the supporting bank statements had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED

- The reconciliation for October 2026 was accepted.
- The schedule of payments for November 2026 was accepted.
- The supporting bank statements were accepted.

107 Local Plan Consultation

RESOLVED

It was decided that comments should include, but not be limited, the following points;

A longer-term plan is preferred, enabling better infrastructure improvements. The sustainability of sites, with those providing green travel options should be prioritised. Rural areas should take a proportionate number to sustain their rural feel. Green spaces should be maintained between settlements.

It was agreed that Cllr E Batup and Cllr P Todd would work together to produce the official response.

108 Road Safety Survey

RESOLVED

To respond to the survey advising of the main hotspots of The Street, Longwater Road, and the Reading Road.

109 Parish Office

RESOLVED

It was agreed to initiate investigations into whether a small office could be sited at the Village Hall for use by Members and Officers of the Council. It was also suggested that siting one at the Eversley Sports Association should be considered as a possible alternative site. The Clerk will investigate with the assistance of the Chairman. **Clerk/Chairman**

110 Storage

RESOLVED

The hire of a 10ft storage unit at Eversley Storage for six months at a total cost of £905.00 plus shelving at a cost of £316.84 was noted.

111 Planning applications

To decide a consultee written response on the Planning applications as follows:

1) REF: 26/01759/FUL Dorneys, Chequers Lane

Erection of a two-storey self-build detached dwelling and detached garage with parking, landscaping and associated works.

EPC Consultee Comment: EPC feels that the consultee comments raised on reference 23/02594/FUL are still valid as they haven't been fully addressed by this application.

EPC has also recently undertaken extensive surveys as part of our Neighbourhood Planning process and the requirement in Eversley is for smaller units, not one large home such as this. If the site is deemed suitable for housing, EPC feels that it's use would be better suited to a limited number of smaller dwellings rather that one large home.

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There being no further items for discussion the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:05pm.

Chairman……Date……

The next Full Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st December 2026.

Forward Plan

Date	Meeting
1st December 2026	Full Council Meeting
5th January 2027	Full Council Meeting
12th January 2027	Open Spaces Committee Meeting
2nd February 2027	Full Council Meeting

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