

EAST PORTLEMOUTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Minutes of the meetings held in the Village Hall on
Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Nichola Craven (NC), Tim Fisher (TF), Judith Hilditch (JH), Ann Jones (AJ, Vice Chair), John Miller (JM, Chair), Robin Piggott (RP), John Taylor (JT), Julian Brazil (JB, DCC) and Lulu Stacey (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: One member of the public attended

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667. Open Forum – None.

668. District & County Councillor reports – DCC – council tax increased by 4.99%, less revenue received from central gov. generally however £190million of SEND deficit will be paid by central gov. £15million extra borrowing for roads – investment to improve drainage to prevent potholes rather than just patch them. Children’s revenue has increased. Consultation on Libraries Unlimited (now closed) looked at cutting librarians’ hours and increasing volunteers to save money and keep libraries open. SHDC – council tax increased by 2.99%. Currently no news on Slapton Line, awaiting decision from central gov. focussed on improving back roads. Culvert works in Kingsbridge are progressing. Remedial works at Fisherman’s landslip still waiting on legal.

669. Apologies – None.

670. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd February 2025 were approved.

671. Declarations of interest – JT – The Old Stable license application.

672. Planning & planning matters – **For consideration: 0294/26/CLP** Waterside – Object. Comments can be viewed at <https://southhams.planning-register.co.uk/Planning/Display/0294/26/CLP>

To Note: 3728/25/ARC Longshore – Approved; **3589/25/CLE** Gara Rock car park – Withdrawn.

673. Chair’s report – none.

674. Matters for Discussion

- a) Flooding and drainage clearance – Village Farm soakaway overwhelmed by heavy and extensive rain resulting in large volumes of water flowing through the church yard and village. Landowners in discussion re: redirecting water flow. Sandbags have been effective. Rickham cross flooding has been resolved by clearing the buddle there - gate required to obtain future access. Drain at Harbour Watch needs clearing to prevent potential landslip. The Cllrs thanked JM for his efforts managing the buddles and sandbags.
- b) The Old Stable alcohol license – JT left the room during discussion. Temporary license not possible. Cllrs supportive of ON sales of alcohol so long as consumption occurs on site, noise is kept to a minimum and rubbish is managed.
- c) Public Conveniences at Ferry steps - SHDC contacted re: keeping public conveniences open all year round.
- d) Beach Café at Mill Bay – discussion on planning conditions of container at Mill Bay. Cllrs supportive of café at Mill Bay under current conditions.

675. Councillors’ areas of special responsibility

- Foreshore owners’ liaison (NC) – Working group has met today to clear Pacific Oysters from estuary. Area from Port Waterhouse to Crossways effectively cleared. Area surrounding Mill Bay still to clear.
- Footpaths & hedgerows (JH) – rubbish collecting on Rickham sands below Gara Rock – LS to contact Till the Coast is Clear.
- Highways (JT) – Holset sign in need of repair.
- Dog matters (RP) – None
- Parking (JM) — None
- Trees (TF) – None.

676. Finance

- a) Payments of £90 to L Stacey; £400 Fred Ansell; £184 Gary Farleigh; £75 Des Bickle approved
- b) Cash at bank before payments above noted as £24,811.17

677. Date of next meeting – **Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7pm. Planning meeting 17th March at 6pm tbc**
Annual Parish Meeting – **Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7pm**

Signed:.....

Chairman