Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Exbury and Lepe Parish Council held on Monday 19th October 2026 at 6.30pm at Exbury Club, Summer Lane, Exbury, Southampton SO45 1AH

Present: Councillors Page, Johnson, Tilbury and Anders
Apologies: Councillor Neve
Also present: HCC Cllr Dan Poole, Clerk Stephanie Bennett and 5 members of the public

027/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
No declarations were made

028/26 PUBLIC SESSION
A member of the public raised three questions regarding what the road closure is for on 22 October, whether the high voltage cable recently installed will connect to local properties, and where the foul drainage field/sewage treatment plant is for dwellings on the south of the highway through Exbury. The member of the community was advised to seek information directly from SSE regarding the power cable and the landowner/specialist surveyor for the drainage question. Cllr Poole will seek information regarding what the road closure is for.

029/26 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Chair reported on the progress of the Council; particularly website compliance (thanks to Cllr Johnson), the operation of a new bank account with zero charges, and the engagement with community events. There was a discussion regarding the parish council's funding model, current reliance on grants and voluntary contributions, and the possibility of introducing a precept in future.

A discussion was also focused on a potential community resilience model and the Clerk was requested to develop a funding proposal for council to consider

It was suggested to develop a community priority list at the May 2027 Annual Parish Meeting and to base the funding model on those items.

030/26 MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2026 be agreed

031/26 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

Cllr Poole supported an approach to develop a community resilience plan for parish residents and reminded people of the grant pots available at HCC and NFDC cllr level. He provided an update on county and district council budget constraints and encouraged people to complete the NFDC public consultation, particularly regarding community grants.

032/26 FINANCE

The Clerk reported on the income and expenditure since the last meeting and confirmed a bank balance of £7318.58 on 30th September 2026. Gaining access to the VAT account is the next priority

033/26 CLERK

RESOLVED that

Stephanie Bennett be appointed Clerk to the Council

034/26 SUMMER SEASON 2026

Considerable discussion took place regarding the status of the coastal path route discussions and ongoing negotiations regarding access and a potential ferry provision.

A member of the public will send the Chair a map of the coastal margin to share with councillors and place on the website.

035/26 TELEPHONE BOX

Councillors felt it regrettable that they were not consulted before removal of the provision was agreed. However, telephony provision can be included in a community resilience plan.

036/26 EXBURY GARDENS AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Cllr Neve's written update covered this. Closer working was welcomed.

037/26 SOUTH EAST QUADRANT MEETING

Cllr Tilbury reported that she had not been able to attend the meeting as the date had changed and she hadn't received the notification. Cllr Tilbury had attended the NFALC meeting where updates were provided on A326 improvements, local government reorganisation, and planning process changes.

038/26 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

A written update was provided. The machine has been delivered and work is ongoing with HCC to agree the positions and pole arrangements.

039/26 TREE PLANTING

Cllr Neve's written report provided details on the work being undertaken.

040/26 MINSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL REQUEST

Councillors expressed concern on the current use of Exbury and Lepe lanes by increasing traffic and cycling so understood how disruptive it would have been for Minstead residents

RESOLVED that

The letter be supported

041/26 ELECTIONS

The Clerk reminded councillors that 2027 is the next election for parish councillors and that it is worth engaging with those who might be interested in standing for council. Councillors were reminded that if there is an election it would be paid for by the parish council

042/26 DATE OF MEETINGS

Future dates were discussed.

RESOLVED that

The following dates be agreed:

18th January 2027
17th May 2027 at 1800 Annual Parish Meeting
17th May 2027 at 1830 (election year) Annual Parish Council Meeting
19th July 2027
18th October 2027
17th January 2028
8th May 2028 at 1800 Annual Parish Meeting
8th May 2028 at 1830 Annual Parish Council Meeting

043/26 COUNCILLOR NEWS RELATED TO THE COUNCIL

Councillors asked if the Woodland for Sale sign could be moved back into the wood that is for sale. The Clerk clarified the extensive water main work being undertaken in Fawley that will continue into the New Year.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm

..... Chair

DATE OF NEXT MEETING 18th January 2027