

Minutes of the Meeting of Rooksdown Parish Council
Monday 22nd September 2025 at 7.30pm

RPC Councillors	Present	Apologies	Absent
Cllr Paul Mahoney - Chair	✓		
Cllr Scott Mason	✓		
Cllr Doug How	✓		
Cllr Abimbola Bisiriyu	✓		
Cllr Mike Anigbo		✓	

Also present

Cllr Arun Mummalaneni (HCC) and Cllr Jay Ganesh (BDBC). Two members of the public. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Mahoney and Tracy Hamer (Clerk) recorded the minutes.

34/25	Apologies for absence Cllr Mike Anigbo (RPC).
35/25	Declarations of Interest Nil.
36/25	Co-option of New Parish Councillor Deferred as applicants to confirm interest.
37/25	Approval of the Minutes The minutes of the following meeting were approved as an accurate record and signed by the presiding Chair. <i>Full Council Monday 23rd June 2025 – Items 21/25 to 33/25</i> <i>Proposed by Cllr How and seconded by Cllr Mason</i>
38/25	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Pumphouse Way Tree Survey</u> - A member of the public raised a concern about overgrown trees along Pumphouse Way (see item 211/25). A site meeting was subsequently held, where it was agreed that Taylor Wimpey would fund an independent tree survey, arranged by the Parish Council. The survey has now been completed, and its recommendations shared with all parties. Taylor Wimpey will organise any necessary works accordingly. - <u>Pedestrian crossing</u> – A resident raised a request for a pedestrian crossing at the junction of Elder Road and Park Prewett Road, opposite the children’s play area and near Castle Hill Primary School. The police subsequently monitored the location during peak times and recommended that a safe, designated crossing point be explored. The Parish Council agreed to progress the matter with further public consultation. Cllr Mummalaneni supported the proposal and advised that it be submitted to Hampshire County Council. TH to action. - <u>Vehicle access to Priestley Road</u> – Residents are accessing Woolhampton Drive via the green verge/public highway, creating a hazard. Cllr Arun Mummalaneni agreed to

	contact the management company to request that this access should be restricted as a matter of urgency.
39/25	Public Session – 15 minutes Nil.
40/25	<p>To receive reports from:</p> <p><u>Chairman Rooksdown Parish Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clerk Recruitment & Formalities Welcomed Tracy Hamer to her new role as permanent RPC Clerk. Recruitment process and contract finalised with HR Committee. - Tommy Statue Area Silhouette statues have now been installed at the Tommy Statue area, though quality issues noted. It had been suggested that the rusted railings there were to be painted (cost should be less than £50 for the paint). Wreaths planned for Remembrance Day. - Tree Survey & Resident Complaints Resident complaint at Pumphouse Way escalated to Taylor Wimpey and an independent tree survey commissioned, recommendations made; Taylor Wimpey to fund the survey and the works outlined. Survey covered wider area, report to be shared to councillors – Action TH - Community Engagement Attended RCA summer fair along with most of the councillors; engagement with police (PCSO Emma Page). Resident complaint re: school access for children, including disabled; speeding and unsafe crossing raised. SpeedWatch and police observations confirm issues. Exploring options for zebra or pelican crossing near Elder Road/park area. Evidence gathering ongoing; likely to present case to Hampshire County Council highways early next year. - Parish Councillor Recruitment Met with prospective young candidate; no further engagement as role expectations not aligned. - Allotments New picnic tables installed and well received. New signage ordered & funding secured. - Local Issues and complaints Ongoing parking complaints near allotments; noted but limited options. Missing trees outside the Park Prewett allotments (Graphite Close) – awaiting updates. The Avenue – no work or maintenance (roads, trees, bins) since adoption. Escalated to Borough and County Councillors Cars driving over pavements (Priestley Road/Woolhampton Drive) causing safety risks, especially for visually impaired – responsibility unclear (developer vs. management company vs. highways). Escalated to County Councillor. Pavilion damage reported (Norrie Court); Meeting held with Land Trust early Summer; awaiting further updates; Request made to Homes England for details of endowment obligations following the transfer of the Pavilions to The Land Trust at least 7 or 8 years ago. - Other Christmas decorations quotes received. Continued follow-up on Parklands Hospital footway issue. Authorisation for the Speed Indicator Device being progressed

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Councillor – Cllr Arun Mummalaneni provided an update to members; see Appendix 1. In addition to the report, after members raised the issue regarding Woolhampton Drive (item 38/25) Cllr Mummalaneni agreed to contact the management company to escalate the problem. Members also raised concerns about the lack of grounds maintenance at the Avenue, which has not received any attention since adoption. He agreed to look into this as a matter of urgency. Borough Councillors – Cllr Jay Ganesh updated members regarding LGR and that District Councils and HCC are submitting final proposals to government before the end of the month. Further public consultation will take place in January. It was noted that the updated Local Plan will be consulted on again soon, following the recent call for sites. Members were advised to signpost any residents concerned about the rise in energy bills to - Making the most of your money Police/PCSO/CSPO – Nil. Rooksdown Community Association – Nil. Allotments – Cllr Mason reported that the allotments working group conducted a site inspection on Saturday 20th September. The report, which highlights several areas requiring action, has been shared with members. Future inspections will be carried out monthly. TH to action. It was noted that correspondence had been received from a resident opposite the allotments requesting that tenants park within the site. Members agreed to cover the cost of the signage, which will be delivered shortly for installation. <i>Proposed by Cllr Mahoney and seconded by Cllr Mason.</i>
41/25	<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bank Reconciliation Reports for June, July and August 2025 were noted as satisfactory and signed by Cllrs How and Mason – see Appendix 2. To note any emergency spends authorised by the Clerk – Nil. The Council resolved to approve the schedule of payments for September 2025 and note payments made and authorised via email between meetings - see appendix 3. <i>Proposed by Cllr Mahoney and seconded by Cllr Bisiriyu.</i> Notice of Conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31st March 2025. The Council resolved to accept the External Auditors review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for Rooksdown Parish Council for the year ended 31st March 2025. All relevant items have been published as required and recommendations reviewed – see Appendix 4. Members discussed the grant application totalling £ £1,893 from Home-Start Basingstoke & Deane and resolved to support the application in full. TH to action. <i>Proposed by Cllr Mahoney and seconded by Cllr Bisiriyu. (3 in favour, 1 abstention)</i> Members reviewed and resolved to approve engagement of internal auditor for a 3-year term, ending March 2028. Members noted they are satisfied with the competence and independence of the auditor. <i>Proposed by Cllr Mahoney and seconded by Cllr How</i> Budget setting timeline – The Clerk circulated a breakdown of the budget process and will begin drafting the budget for the year ending March 2027 for circulation. Members were encouraged to note any future projects that may affect the budget. TH to action.
42/25	<p>Planning Nil.</p>

43/25	Rooksdown Reporter 2025 It was agreed to distribute the next newsletter In October 2025. PM and TH to action.
44/25	Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Lights 2025 – Two quotes were received (a third was not forthcoming) and discussed in detail. It was resolved to appoint a supplier for a three-year term to install and decorate a Christmas tree, icicles on the community centre, and decorative wreaths at the entrance to Rooksdown at the junction of Rooksdown Avenue and Gillies Road. The Clerk will explore further options regarding wrapped tree trunks. <i>Proposed by Cllr Mahoney and seconded by Cllr How</i> Remembrance Day 9th November 2025 – Cllr Anigbo has offered (by email) to organise this event, and Cllrs How and Mason have offered their assistance to organise. Cllr Jay Ganesh confirmed he will also attend. A wreath will be ordered. MA and TH to action.
45/25	Consultations Nil.
46/25	CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS Admission to meeting to pass a resolution in accordance with the public bodies (Admission to meetings) act 1960 to exclude the public and press from the remainder of this meeting as publicity will be prejudicial to the confidential nature of the business.
47/25	To discuss HR matters. The contract of employment for the Clerk was formally signed and remuneration confirmed, following recommendation from the HR Committee which were agreed by Full Council. <i>Proposed by Cllr Mahoney and seconded by Cllr How.</i>
48/25	Date of Next Meeting The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 24 th November.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed.....
(Chair)

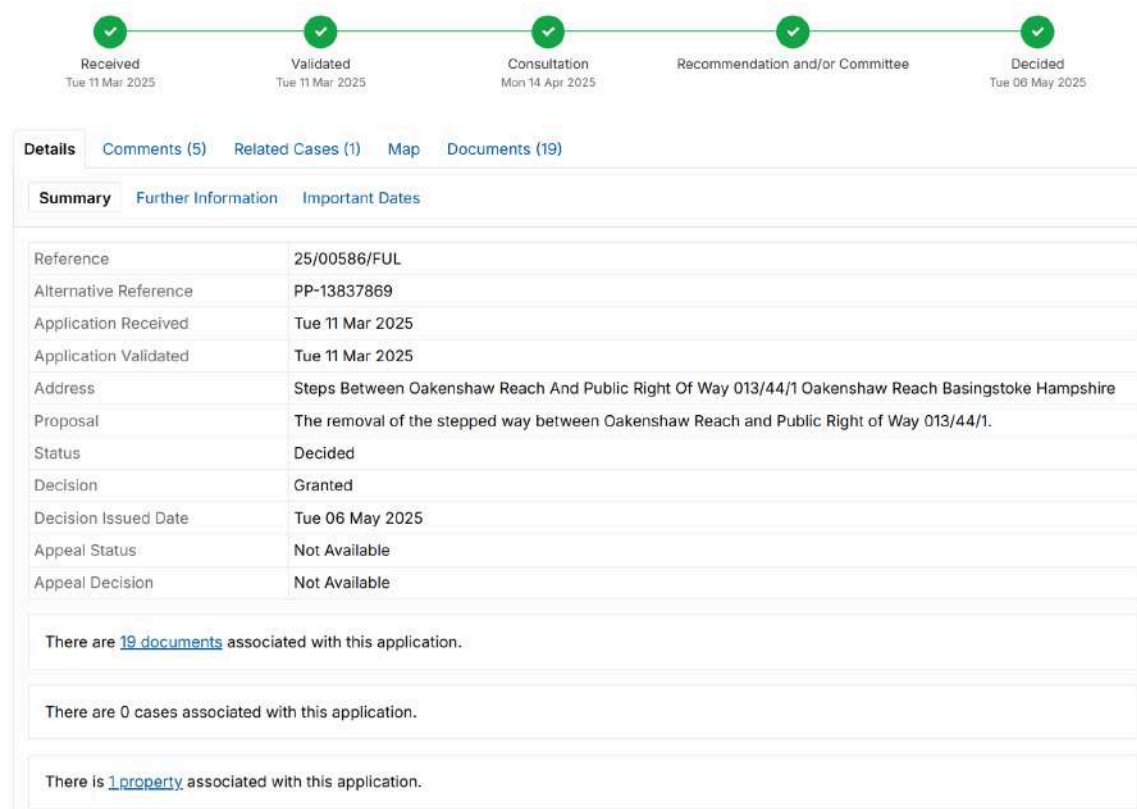
Date.....

Hampshire County Councillor Update – Sep 2025

Cllr Arun Mummalaneni

Squirrel Wood - Runoff into the Footpath/tunnel under Ringway North

The planning application decision was given in favour of the developer and the developer yet to start his work. Meanwhile the raised platform is in place in case that underpass floods again.



David Wilson road adoption

The residents' meeting planned for 9th September was cancelled as the developer yet to finish some works. I understand they would like to organise a meeting after finishing all the work. DWH is planning to organise a meeting in mid oct.

In the meantime, residents are encouraged to continue using their established communication channels to raise any concerns. Should residents experience delays or inadequate responses, I am happy to assist by escalating matters as needed.

Whilst we were keen to keep the original meeting booked for the 9th September, the main intention of this meeting was to discuss the works that have been carried out with the idea that all homes would have been attended to, and all works were to be completed. However, we are still currently working through the last remaining properties as further residents contacted us outside of the original schedule asking for works to be completed and there were also some minor unforeseen delays.

We of course, will be rescheduling the meeting and I am hoping this will likely be mid-October, however I will be liaising with our contractors next week to get a full update on the progress on the programme and to finalise the completion date for the works. I will then write to all residents and yourselves to confirm the new date this will be held.

To ensure the next meeting is convenient for you all as the local ward councillors, are there any dates in October which are not convenient so I can ensure to avoid these dates?

Kind regards

Stephanie Turton
Head of Customer Care
David Wilson Homes Southern

Devolution and Local Government Reform:

Hampshire County Council's position

The County Council broadly supports devolution and reorganisation, seeing it as a way to secure greater powers and long-term financial sustainability. It wants large, financially resilient unitary councils and a structure that simplifies decision-making while maintaining service quality. HCC extraordinary council meeting is scheduled this Wednesday.

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (BDBC) stance

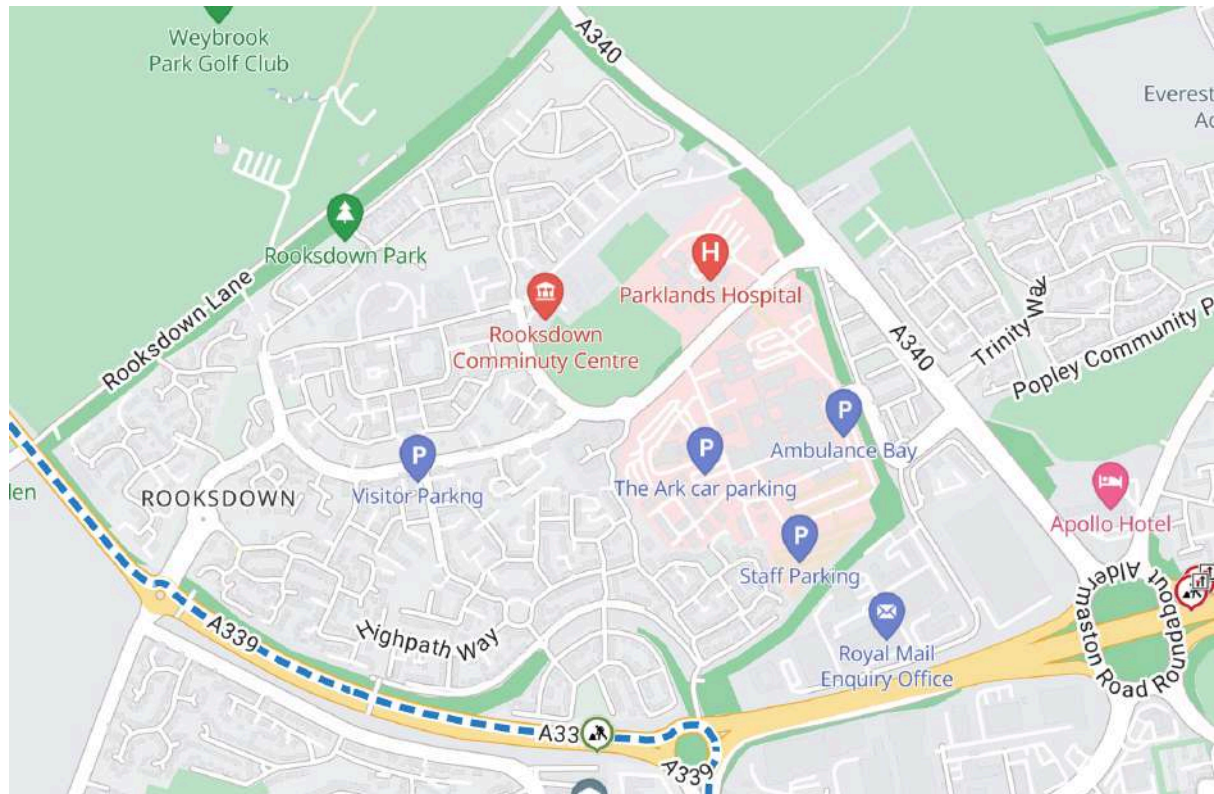
BDBC is working with other districts and Hampshire County Council on joint proposals but favours a model of **four new unitary authorities** for mainland Hampshire. Their preferred option is a **Northern Hampshire Unitary Council**, grouping **Basingstoke & Deane, Hart and Rushmoor**. This is intended to meet government population guidelines and protect local identity and resident influence. BDBC extraordinary council meeting scheduled this Thursday.

Key Issues and Next Steps

Councils must balance the Government's indicative 50,000 population threshold for each unitary against the need to preserve local identity. There are concerns over inheriting financial liabilities and ensuring democratic accountability. Interim proposals are due in 2025 with any new structures expected to be implemented around 2027-8.

Highways update:

Local Road works:



Though there are no significant road works planned in the parish area there are some significant works outside the parish area which may impact parish residents.

Links to report road issues are here:

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/flooding>

Pavement problems:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/paving>

Broken or missing signs:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/brokensigns>

Faulty street lights:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/streetlight>

Faded or missing road markings:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/road-markings>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>


When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.

Hampshire Faces Major Funding Cuts Under Government's 'Fair' Funding Review

I mentioned last previously the risk to Hampshire from the Government's review of local government funding. Essentially this takes money from rural areas in the South and passes it to urban councils, particularly those in the North and Midlands.

So, despite the really great work we are doing to improve our finances the Government's transfer of funding to the cities and the north will just undo all the good we are doing.

Hampshire County Council has now responded to the Government's Fair Funding Review 20—and we're sounding the alarm. The proposed changes to how councils are funded could leave Hampshire significantly worse off, with many councils across the county facing real-terms cuts.

 What's happening? The new formula underestimates Hampshire's needs and overestimates how much we can raise through council tax. It risks deepening our financial deficit and reducing vital services.



The numbers speak for themselves:

Hampshire County Council: funding drops from £389m in 2026 to £291m in 2029—a loss of £47.8m.

East Hampshire: down £13m


Eastleigh: down £16m

Hart: down £14m

Test Valley: down £44m

Winchester: down £21m


Even councils seeing small increases—like Fareham (+£21m) or Havant (+£1.3m)—won't escape the pressure, as overall resources shrink and demand grows.

 We're calling for:

Fairer service formulas that reflect real demand, especially in rural areas.
Use of actual council tax levels—not national averages—when calculating funding.

Reform of the New Homes Bonus to support infrastructure for growing communities.

A funding floor that protects councils from falling below sustainable levels, indexed to inflation and population.

 Why it matters: Without urgent changes, Hampshire's councils could struggle to deliver essential services—especially for vulnerable residents. We're urging the Government to rethink and deliver a formula that's truly fair for all.

Council	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Gain / (Loss) 25/26 to 28/29
HCC	338.9	323.0	307.0	291.1	(47.8)
Basingstoke	8.2	8.6	9.1	9.5	1.3
East Hampshire	7.1	6.6	6.2	5.8	(1.3)
Eastleigh	8.7	8.2	7.6	7.1	(1.6)
Fareham	3.9	4.6	5.3	6.0	2.1
Gosport	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.0	0.4
Hart	4.6	4.2	3.7	3.2	(1.4)
Havant	7.9	8.3	8.8	9.2	1.3
New Forest	10.3	10.3	10.2	10.2	(0.1)
Rushmoor	6.7	7.0	7.3	7.5	0.8
Test Valley	12.3	10.8	9.3	7.9	(4.4)
Winchester	10.1	9.4	8.7	8.0	(2.1)
HCC + Districts Total	424.3	406.7	389.0	371.5	(52.8)
Portsmouth	129.1	133.1	137.0	140.9	11.8
Southampton	149.9	153.9	157.9	161.9	12.0
HCC + Districts + Cities Total	703.3	693.7	683.9	674.3	(29.0)
Isle of Wight	89.8	87.0	84.3	81.5	(8.3)
Hampshire & Solent Total	793.1	780.7	768.2	755.8	(37.3)

Winter Fuel Payments – No Need to Apply!

🔒 #NoNeedToApply

I've seen reports from Hampshire Police about scammers posing as officials trying to "help" people access their Winter Fuel Payment. Let's set the record straight:

✅ If you're eligible, the payment is AUTOMATIC

🚫 No one needs to contact you, and you don't need to give out any info

👉 Check the official details here: gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

Be scam-savvy: 🔍 Learn about current scams: BBC Article | Watch the video 📺

If you've shared financial info, call your bank on 19 62 726 and emails to report@phishing.gov.uk 📧 Forward suspicious texts

Need support? 🗣️ Victim Care Hub – free, confidential help:
hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk / 📞 0800 178 1641

📞 Report anonymously: crimestoppers-uk.org / 📞 0800 555 111

🚒 In emergency: call 999

Even if this doesn't affect you — please share to protect someone who might be vulnerable.



Appendix 2

Date: 10/07/2025
Time: 13:47

Rooksdown Parish Council

Page 1

Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 30/06/2025
for Cashbook 1 - Treasurers Account 02896349

User: TRACY

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page	Balances
Treasurers Account 02896349	30/06/2025		3,342.83
			3,342.83
Unpresented Payments (Minus)		Amount	
		0.00	0.00
			3,342.83
Unpresented Receipts (Plus)			
		0.00	0.00
			3,342.83
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	3,342.83
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

NameSignedDate

Signatory 2:

NameSignedDate

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Business Account 06020499	30/06/2025		160,813.35
			<u>160,813.35</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			160,813.35
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			160,813.35
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	160,813.35
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

NameSignedDate

Signatory 2:

NameSignedDate

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page	Balances
Treasurers Account 02896349	31/07/2025		3,755.47
			3,755.47
Unpresented Payments (Minus)		Amount	
		0.00	0.00
			3,755.47
Unpresented Receipts (Plus)			
		0.00	0.00
			3,755.47
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	3,755.47
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

NameSignedDate

Signatory 2:

NameSignedDate

<u>Bank Statement Account Name (s)</u>	<u>Statement Date</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Balances</u>
Business Account 06020499	31/07/2025		158,919.97
			<u>158,919.97</u>
<u>Unpresented Payments (Minus)</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			158,919.97
<u>Unpresented Receipts (Plus)</u>			
		0.00	
			<u>0.00</u>
			158,919.97
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	158,919.97
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

NameSignedDate

Signatory 2:

NameSignedDate

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page	Balances
Treasurers Account 02896349	31/08/2025		161,084.21
			161,084.21
Unpresented Payments (Minus)		Amount	
		0.00	0.00
			161,084.21
Unpresented Receipts (Plus)			
		0.00	0.00
			161,084.21
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	161,084.21
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

NameSignedDate

Signatory 2:

NameSignedDate

Bank Statement Account Name (s)	Statement Date	Page	Balances
Business Account 06020499	31/08/2025		0.00
			0.00
Unpresented Payments (Minus)		Amount	
		0.00	0.00
			0.00
Unpresented Receipts (Plus)			
		0.00	0.00
			0.00
		Balance per Cash Book is :-	0.00
		Difference is :-	0.00

Signatory 1:

NameSignedDate

Signatory 2:

NameSignedDate

Appendix 3

Rooksdown Parish Council

Payments/receipts

Sep-25

Voucher	Date	Reference	Description	Pay/Rcpt	Supplier ref.	Supplier / customer	Account	Amount	Payment
	09/09/2025		Interest	RCPT		Lloyds	Interest Income	52.29	
								0.00	
								52.29	
161	23/09/2025	2049	Hall Hire	PAY		RCA	Hall Hire	33.00	33.00
162	23/09/2025	2061	Desk space	PAY		RCA	Hall Hire	16.50	16.50
163	23/09/2025	2062	Handyman	PAY		RCA	Handyman	880.00	880.00
164	23/09/2025	2046	Audit Fee	PAY		BDO	Audit	378.00	378.00
165	26/09/2025		Salaries & PAYE	PAY		Clerk	Salaries	1,365.00	1,365.00
166	23/09/2025		Expenses	PAY		Clerk	Clerks expenses	26.19	26.19
167	24/09/2025		Grant	PAY		Home Start	Grants	1,893.00	1,893.00
								0.00	0.00
								0.00	0.00
								0.00	0.00
								0.00	0.00
								0.00	0.00
								4591.69	4591.69

Please check payments, delete any not approved, initial each invoice and sign below when complete:

Signed

Name

Signed

Name

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	'Yes' means that this authority:
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
		✗	✓

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

(17) 13/05/2025

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE 10/25

Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chair

Paul Mackay

Clerk

[Signature]

www.rooksdow.n.uk PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE/WEBPAGE ADDRESS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	
1. Balances brought forward	143,030	141,226	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	39,630	38,008	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	11,899	21,100	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	9,000	10,383	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	44,333	38,583	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	141,226	151,368	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	141,226	151,368	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	30,434	30,434	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓	The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

 **SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

Date

23/04/2025

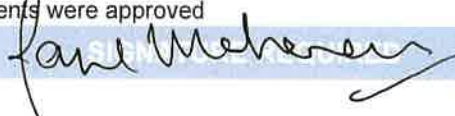
I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

13/05/2025

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE 10/25 REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved



Section 3 – External Auditor’s Report and Certificate 2024/25

In respect of

Rooksdown Parish Council

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02 as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/> .

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2025; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor’s limited assurance opinion 2024/25

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

- The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review:
- The date the Annual Governance Statement was approved was incorrect.
- The AGAR was returned for amendment and corrected.
- Assertion 9 was answered No in the Annual Governance Statement.
- The AGAR was returned for amendment and has been corrected to N/a.

The smaller authority’s reserves appear excessive as, after accounting for the earmarked reserves, general reserves are greater than annual expenditure. A smaller authority has no specific right to accumulate funds via the precept. The smaller authority should ensure that it has regard to the level of reserves held when considering future precept requests and as part of their annual budgeting process. Any earmarked reserves should also be considered and formally approved by the smaller authority.

(continue on a separate sheet if required)

3 External auditor certificate 2024/25

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

External Auditor Name

ENTER NAME OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR
BDO LLP - Southampton

External Auditor Signature

DocuSigned by:

BDO LLP

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SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

28 August 2025/YYYY