



**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF ODIHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD
IN THE LIBRARY ROOM, THE BRIDEWELL, THE BURY, ODIHAM, RG29 1NB
ON TUESDAY 18th MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 7.40pm**

Present: Cllrs P Verdon (Vice Chair and meeting chair), L Cornall, C Greensides,
D Sanger, C Seabrook and H Woods.

In attendance: A Mann (Parish Clerk), B Tate (Deputy Clerk) and
Hampshire County Council (HCC) Cllr Glen.

287/24 Apologies for absence

Received and accepted from Cllrs Bell, McFarlane, Tate and Tyler.
Apologies were also noted from Hart District Council (HDC) DC Cllrs Dorn, Hale and
Highley.

**288/24 Declarations of interests and requests for dispensation relating to any item on the
agenda**

None.

289/24 Approval of minutes

RESOLVED

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26st February 2025 (261-288/24) were agreed
as true records of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Greensides, all in favour).

290/24 Chair's announcements

Cllr Verdon reminded everyone present that the Odiham & North Warnborough
Neighbourhood Plan Referendum would be held on Tuesday 25th March and urged
members to remind friends and neighbours to vote.

291/24 Public session

None.

Councillor Reports

292/24 Meeting reports from councillors

None.

293/24 Reports from other councils

HCC Cllr Glen had provided a written report prior to the meeting (Appendix 1) and further
reported:

- i) Cllr Glen was aware of the date of the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.
- ii) Cllr Glen had dealt with two matters relating to Palace Gate; a report of rats was in
the process of being actioned and HCC Highways had confirmed they had no plans
to extend double yellow lines towards the Cross Barn.
- iii) Cllr Glen had attended a members' briefing which included an update on the future
management of The Basingstoke Canal when Odiham had been mentioned. Cllr
Glen praised OPC for committing to continue contributing towards the management
of the canal.
- iv) Cllr Glen reported there was a series of HCC members' meetings planned to discuss
HCC's response to Devolution in Hampshire and Local Government re-organisation
in order to meet the Government's deadline of 21st March.



HDC Cllr Highley had provided a written report prior to the meeting:

It was agreed to consider items 296-97/24 as the next items of business.

General

294/24 Meeting action points

Progress on the meeting action points was noted, as reported with the agenda.

295/24 Policies

- i) The schedule of policies and recommendations was reviewed, as presented with the agenda. It was noted that the review of the Memorial Bench Policy was due.
- ii) **RESOLVED**
To accept a new Complaints Policy drafted using the HALC model template, as presented with the agenda.
(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Woods, all in favour).

296/24 Open Consultation – Hampshire and the Solent devolution consultation

[Hampshire and the Solent devolution consultation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hampshire-and-the-solent-devolution-consultation)

RESOLVED

To respond to the consultation as follows:

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority over the proposed geography will deliver benefits to the area?

Neither agree nor disagree

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed governance arrangements for the Mayoral Combined County Authority?

Strongly disagree

The proposed membership of the Combined County Authority with one representative from each constituent council does not accurately reflect the population of the Authority area. The population of the current Hampshire County Council is much larger than the individual constituent councils. The membership of the Authority should not be weighted to the cities.

Also there are risks of vesting so much power in one person for 4 years. There would be one Directly Elected Mayor (DEM) for 4 years. There needs to be a recall or expulsion procedure to balance poor performance.

3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will support the economy of the area?

Don't know

There is too little information about how the CCA and devolution of local government county and district councils will operate.



4. To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve social outcomes in the area?

Don't know

Comment as above

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve local government services in the area?

Don't know

Comment as above

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through a Mayoral Combined County Authority will improve the local natural environment and overall national environment?

Don't know

Comment as above

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through the Mayoral Combined County Authority will support the interests and needs of local communities and reflect local identities?

Strongly disagree

There is not proportionate representation of the spread of population within the controlling members of the CCA to accurately reflect the needs of all the rural communities.

8. Please tell us how you found out about this consultation?

Email.

297/24 Parking in Odiham centre

- i) A proposed parking bay layout for The Bury, as provided by Hampshire County Council was reviewed plus an accompanying plan showing the extent of the highway.

RESOLVED

The plan to re-instate existing line marking and mark 7 new parking bays was agreed (Appendix 2).

(Proposed by Cllr Seabrook, seconded by Cllr Woods, all in favour).

- ii) Members further reviewed email correspondence from a resident proposing a reduction in disabled parking bays on the High Street, adjacent to the former Post Office and

RESOLVED

- a) To support the request and ask HCC whether it would be possible to re-instate the disabled parking bays next to the former Post Office as regular parking bays.



- b) To make enquiries to HCC about the bus stop bay outside of Fountains Mall to find a solution to stop parallel parking.
(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Cornall, all in favour).

298/24 Annual Action Plan

- i) Progress on the 2024-25 Annual Action Plan

RESOLVED

The Clerks comments were reviewed and accepted. Following revision to show the decision to award the Freedom of the Parish to RAF Odiham was complete, the updated Plan was approved.

- ii) Draft 2025-26 Annual Action Plan

The Clerks draft Plan was reviewed, as presented with the agenda and it was

RESOLVED

To add a project to consider further tree planting, taking advantage of free saplings offered by HCC projects, then the draft Plan was approved.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Cornall, all in favour).

The Chair thanked the Clerk for the work involved in producing and updating the Action Plans which are a useful measure of what has been achieved.

299/24 Flagpole at the War Memorial

Members were asked to consider the appropriateness for a new flagpole at the war memorial and quote received. Further to debate, it was

RESOLVED

A new flagpole was agreed in principle but the presented quote was considered to be too expensive. The office was asked to carry out further research. It was noted that listed building consent was required due the location being in the Conservation Area.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Cornall, all in favour)

300/24 Civic chain

A proposal to purchase a new civic chain and badge was presented to the meeting for consideration, as set out in the Deputy Clerks agenda report. The intention of the recommendation from the Clerk was to respect local council tradition and customs and provide the Council chair a chain to wear when representing the area at civic events.

RESOLVED

- i) That the cost of a civic chain was too expensive.
ii) To purchase a new civic badge with a green collarette and clips which are engraved with the name of the chair.
iii) To purchase new civic pin badges showing the updated OPC badge.
(Proposed by Cllr Cornall, seconded by Cllr Greensides, all in favour).

301/24 New door entry system for The Bridewell

Two options for a new automated door entry system were considered to support staff in managing the building for community and business use.

Two options were considered; the ILOQ S50 and Paxton system. The Clerk confirmed that both options were affordable from The Bridewell budgets but the former was more affordable.



In consideration of feedback from Cllr Tate, the ILOQ S50 system was preferred and it

RESOLVED

- i) To check that the ILOQ system enabled more than 10 phonekey users.
- ii) Subject to i), to award contract to Croma Security Solutions in the value of £790 plus the cost for additional phonekey users.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Woods, all in favour).

302/24 Project proposal for spending the remaining S106 parish leisure contributions

RESOLVED

To support the project proposal from the Countryside Conservation working group to improve pathways through Bartley Heath and submit an application to HDC for the release of remaining S106 contributions in the value of £697.97. It was further agreed that the remaining budget requirement of approximately £800 should be funded from the Rights of Way earmarked reserve.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Greensides, all in favour).

Financial Matters

303/24 Annual review of OPC's contracts and subscriptions

RESOLVED

An annual review of OPC's contract and subscriptions commitments was carried out and agreed.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Cornall, all in favour).

The Clerk was asked to circulate the brochure of available online training courses to all members.

304/24 Payments Listing

RESOLVED

The payments listing for the period 27th February-18th March 2025 (Appendix 2) was agreed and Cllrs Greensides and Verdon were appointed to complete the payment approval process for outstanding payments.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Cornall, all in favour).

Planning Matters

305/24 Ratification of Planning & Development Committee decisions

RESOLVED

The decisions of the recent Planning & Development Committee 11.03.25 and submitted to Hart under delegated authority were ratified.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Cornall, all in favour).

306/24 Planning applications

Application 24/02238/FUL for development at Albion Garden Centre, Dunleys Hill, which was due for determination before the next Planning & Development Committee

RESOLVED

No objection.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Cornall, all in favour).



307/24 **Date of next meeting - Tuesday 15th April 2025**

308/24 **To pass a resolution in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press to consider confidential contractual and staffing matters which meet the criteria of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Part 1**

RESOLVED

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Sanger, all in favour).

309/24 **Review of OPC's Asset Portfolio**

A fee proposal for legal services was considered and it was

RESOLVED

To approve the fee proposal from Surrey Hills Solicitors up to the value of £2,435 to be funded from the Professional Costs budget.

(Proposed by Cllr Cornall, seconded by Cllr Greensides, all in favour).

310/24 **Odiham Consolidated Charities trustee appointments**

RESOLVED

To support a proposal from the Odiham Consolidated Charities to appoint a trustee to fill one of the OPC nominated positions.

It was further agreed to send a letter of support to HDC to support the charity's interest in taking on the 9 social housing properties to be delivered in the Hook Road Neighbourhood Plan sites.

(Proposed by Cllr Verdon, seconded by Cllr Greensides, all in favour).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Signed..... **Date**.....

COUNTY MATTERS – April 2025

Councillor Jonathan Glen

Hampshire County Council Member for
Hook, Odiham & The Western Parishes

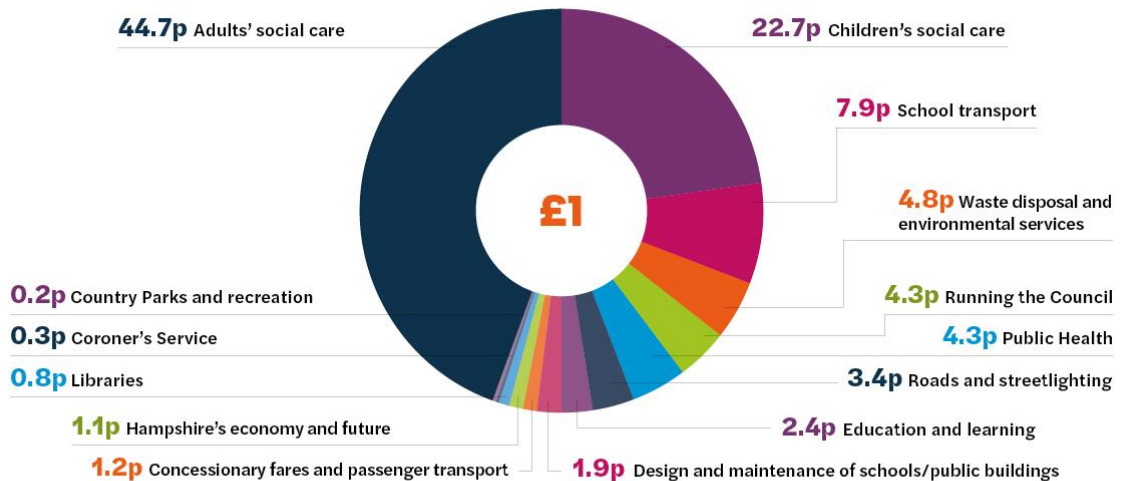
Email: jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk

Isn't it great to see the sun again!

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation have been all-consuming topics of late, but the day-to-day work has been continuing as well. Foremost in everyone's mind is the big council tax question--where is our money going?

Hampshire County Council's Budget

This graphic below shows you how each £1 of our Council Tax will be spent next financial year in Hampshire. This includes schools spending, social care, school transport and education, which make up almost 87% of our budget.



We also provide schools and early years at a cost of £1.3bn, fully funded by a grant from central Government.

COUNTY MATTERS – April 2025

Councillor Jonathan Glen

Hampshire County Council Member for
Hook, Odiham & The Western Parishes

Email: jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk

At our full council meeting last month, we agreed our budget for the year ahead. After a long debate we voted for an increase of 4.99% in Council Tax, the maximum percentage under current fiscal guidelines. We had asked the Government for permission to increase it by a larger amount but the request was refused.

Why did we ask for a larger rise?

None of us want to increase Council Tax. However, the County Council's services are underfunded because for years we have maintained a low Council Tax rate. This is why we needed to request an increase of above 5% from the Government.

Hampshire's Council Tax this financial year is £1533.24 for a Band D property - the second lowest in the country. In Surrey the equivalent rate is £1,758.60, West Sussex £1,714.95, and Oxfordshire £1,820.56 for example.

Each 1% of Council Tax increase in Hampshire nets an additional £8million in revenue for the Council. So, a 5% increase results in £40 million in additional revenue this year. This may sound like a lot of money but it is nowhere near enough to meet the ever-rising cost of social care. Every month in Hampshire we see a net increase of 30 people living in care who rely on the County Council to pay their costs. Even at the minimum level of support, these 360 vulnerable adults cost the Council a further £18.7 million annually.

COUNTY MATTERS – April 2025

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Every month we are also seeing an additional 200 applications for Education Health and Care Plans - the first step for children to register for Special Educational Needs (SEN) support. That exponential rise is the reason our budget for Home to School transport has increased from £24 million per year at the end of the pandemic to £105 million next year.

Add to this the recent Government increase to employers National Insurance, costs us a further £10.5 million from this year. We also have to include the cost of pay rises caused by inflation.

Although we already have cut over £700 million from our budgets in the last 10 years, we must continue to look for further savings. However, there is little room for manoeuvre and our reserves will be exhausted by 2026/27.

Our past repeated requests for core funding from successive Governments have fallen on stony ground.

Hampshire County Council is well run. It has the second lowest council tax in the country. We have used our reserves to balance the budget so far but this is not sustainable.

COUNTY MATTERS – April 2025

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Hook, Odiham & The Western Parishes

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Taking all these issues into consideration Hampshire County Council has now approved budget plans for 2025/26, prioritising the delivery of vital public services to residents who are most in need, while ensuring budget pressures can be managed for the coming financial year.

[Hampshire County Council approves Council Tax increase to sustain essential services | Hampshire County Council](#)

Keep the Home Fires Burning...struggling to keep your home warm in Hampshire? 🌡️

The 'Hitting the Cold Spots' service is here to help! 🏠🌟

Get FREE support from experienced advisers at the Environment Centre (tEC), an independent charity. They can assist with:

Resolving energy billing issues
Saving money & energy at home

🕒 Advice line open Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm 📞 Call: 0800 804 8601 @
Email: staywarm@environmentcentre.com

Find more info & advice at Hitting the Cold Spots – the Environment Centre (tEC) and the council's website, including energy efficiency tips and grant details:

<https://hantscoldspots.environmentcentre.com>

COUNTY MATTERS – April 2025

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Devolution in Hampshire – have your say in the Government’s consultation

Hampshire residents are invited to have their say on the once-in-a-generation devolution proposals for Hampshire and the Solent region in the eight-week public consultation launched by central government.

[Devolution for Hampshire – have your say in the Government’s consultation | Hampshire County Council](#)

Highways Information

Reporting Highway Problems

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>

COUNTY MATTERS – April 2025

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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.

COUNTY MATTERS – April 2025

Councillor Jonathan Glen

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And now for something completely different...

I'd like to pay tribute to one of Hook's own local heroes who has just received the High Sheriff of Hampshire Community Award! Martin Rudd is the lead Hampshire Scouts Volunteer for Community Development and Relations for the whole of Hampshire. For many years, Martin has led and represented Hampshire Scouts in all civic organisations and is recognised as the 'go to' person for major civic and ceremonial events, including the Winchester Cathedral Youth Service. Martin also leads the Hampshire Youth Emergency Service Response Group, supporting the emergency services when a civil crisis occurs, such as flooding. On top of this, he organises the Hampshire Youth Leaders Network, bringing together all uniformed organisations including the Fire Service, Police and St John's Ambulance cadets. These forums enable youth leaders across the county to share good practice and skills that benefit the young people in their care.

Martin received his award at an impressive ceremony last month from the High Sheriff of Hampshire himself, Jon Whitaker JP DL.

Many congratulations!

Councillor Jonathan K. Glen
jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
569	Play Areas	03/03/2025		Unity Trust	569	VAT payment for Playscene	Playscene Ltd	S		222.80	222.80
570	The Bridewell - general lettings	11/03/2025		Unity Trust	570	Stripe Transaction Fee	Stripe	X	0.59		0.59
571	Bank Charges	28/02/2025		Unity Trust	571	Bank charges	Unity Trust	Z	12.15		12.15
572	Tree works	27/02/2025		Unity Trust	572	Tree removal	NP Tree Management	S	65.00	13.00	78.00
575	Cemetery electricity	28/02/2025		Unity Trust	575	Double payment voucher 575	SSE	L	185.12	9.25	194.37
577	Postage and consumables	28/02/2025		Unity Trust	577	Cancel voucher 454	Co-op	Z	-9.45		-9.45
578	Caretaking Equipment	28/02/2025		Unity Trust	578	Cancel voucher 455	Amazon	S	-35.38	-7.08	-42.46
579	Civic Hospitality	28/02/2025		Unity Trust	579	Cancel voucher 456	Amazon	S	-15.81	-3.16	-18.97
580	Postage and consumables	28/02/2025		Unity Trust	580	Cancel voucher 457	Co-op	Z	-12.20		-12.20
581	Civic Hospitality	28/02/2025		Unity Trust	581	Cancel voucher 458	Amazon	S	-8.88	-1.78	-10.66
582	Civic Hospitality	28/02/2025		Unity Trust	582	Cancel voucher 459	Sainsburys	Z	-68.30		-68.30
583	Bank Charges	28/02/2025		Unity Trust	583	Cancel voucher 460	Lloyds Bank	Z	-3.00		-3.00
584	Toilets - cleaning	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	584	King St Toilets cleaning	CJH Cleaning Services Ltd	S	491.37	98.27	589.64
585	Allotments - maintenance	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	585	Grounds maintenance - Feb '25	Larkstel Ltd	S	60.00	12.00	72.00
585	Play Areas	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	585	Grounds maintenance - Feb '25	Larkstel Ltd	S	479.16	95.83	574.99
585	Bin emptying	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	585	Grounds maintenance - Feb '25	Larkstel Ltd	S	392.90	78.58	471.48
585	Cemetery Maintenance	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	585	Grounds maintenance - Feb '25	Larkstel Ltd	S	1,193.58	238.72	1,432.30
585	Chamberlain Gardens (SC Trus	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	585	Grounds maintenance - Feb '25	Larkstel Ltd	S	199.16	39.83	238.99
585	Other amenity areas maintenar	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	585	Grounds maintenance - Feb '25	Larkstel Ltd	S	254.24	50.85	305.09
585	Speed Indicator Devices	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	585	Grounds maintenance - Feb '25	Larkstel Ltd	S	79.16	15.83	94.99
586	The Bridewell - waste disposal	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	586	Bridewell waste collection	Suez	S	82.45	16.49	98.94
587	Cemetery rates and water	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	587	Cemetery water	Castle water	S	23.72	4.74	28.46
588	Subscriptions	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	588	CPRE Membership	CPRE	Z	60.00		60.00
589	IT Support and Back up	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	589	IT Backup	Safe Data Storage	S	475.20	95.04	570.24
590	Toilets - Power and rates	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	590	King St Toilets - water	Castle water	Z	85.28		85.28
591	Telephone and internet	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	591	Phones & broadband	BT	S	221.76	44.35	266.11
592	Room hire	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	592	Room hire 27.06.25	The Cross Barn	Z	80.00		80.00
593	Travel	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	593	Mileage to RoSPA course	S Hobbs	Z	63.00		63.00
594	Travel	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	594	Mileage to HALC event	A Mann Expenses	Z	19.80		19.80
595	Office Equipment	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	595	2 x USB station hubs	Amazon	S	58.32	11.66	69.98
596	Postage and consumables	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	596	Tea bags and milk	Sainsburys	Z	5.70		5.70
597	Postage and consumables	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	597	Milk	Sainsburys	Z	2.40		2.40
598	The Bridewell - maintenance	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	598	Shelf for 1st floor meeting room	Amazon	Z	25.99		25.99
599	Annual Parish Assembly	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	599	Refreshments for APA	Majestic Wine	Z	55.89		55.89

PAYMENTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
600	Civic Hospitality	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	600	Thank you card	Sainsburys	Z	2.75		2.75
601	Bank Charges	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	601	Fee for Multipay card	Lloyds Bank	Z	3.00		3.00
602	Staff Salaries	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	602	Staff salaries - March 2025	Staff salaries - March 2025	Z	5,077.40		5,077.40
603	Staff Salaries	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	603	Staff PAYE & NI - March 2025	HMRC	Z	1,077.29		1,077.29
604	Staff Salaries	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	604	Staff Pensions - March 2025	Hampshire Pension Fund	Z	420.88		420.88
605	Employers' NI	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	605	Employer NI - March 2025	HMRC	Z	611.50		611.50
606	Pension Contribution	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	606	Employer Pension - March 2025	Hampshire Pension Fund	Z	1,407.17		1,407.17
607	Remembrance	03/03/2025		Unity Trust	607	Grant to InStitches (Remembrance)	J Roberts	Z	250.00		250.00
608	Chapel Cottage Maintenance	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	608	Damp survey Chapel Cottage	Advanced Preservations	S	275.00	55.00	330.00
609	Broad Oak Maintenance	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	609	Commons Ranger contribution	Hart DC	Z	500.00		500.00
609	Commons Ranger	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	609	Commons Ranger contribution	Hart DC	Z	1,000.00		1,000.00
610	The Bridewell - electricity	18/03/2025		Unity Trust	610	Bridewell electricity (Feb)	nPower	S	319.47	63.89	383.36
Total									15,463.38	1,154.11	16,617.49