



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Milford, Bishopdown Farm, Old Sarum & Longhedge

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at the Old Sarum Community Centre
at 7.00pm on Monday 18th March 2019

Draft MINUTES

Chairman of the Annual Parish Meeting: Cllr Andy Birkett, Chairman of Laverstock & Ford Parish Council.

The following Parish Councillors were present: Cllr Karen Beard, Cllr Andy Birkett, Cllr David Burton, Cllr Vic Bussereau, Cllr James Dean, Cllr Derek Hayes, Cllr Marti Hilliard, Cllr Lesley Waller.

The following Wiltshire Councillors were present: WCllr McLennan.

Thirteen members of the public were present.

- 1. Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed members of the public and explained the format of the meeting.
- 2. Apologies.** An apology had been received from Cllr David Watson.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 19th March 2018.**
Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th March 2018.
- 4. Chairman's Report.** The Chairman gave his report on the activities in the Parish over the previous year. His report was divided into two parts. First development and second governance.

There are three current major developments within the Parish. First Riverdown Park at Bishopdown, which is coming to the end of its construction phase. Second Old Sarum where construction is complete but other work is progressing, and third Longhedge. At Riverdown the Council is about to take ownership of Castle Hill Country Park. The Chairman commended the enormous contribution made to this project by Cllr David Burton and thanked the other Bishopdown Councillors and volunteers who had worked so hard since its inception.

At Old Sarum the Council has just taken ownership of the final large area of public open space by the infiltration basins. A new play area is planned for this open space and will join the two other very successful play areas at Norman Drive and alongside the Community Centre. There are plans for a new Nursery and more

dwellings to be constructed on land previously earmarked for employment at the south-western end of Old Sarum.

The Longhedge development is progressing with more play areas being handed over to the Council and the prospect of the 33 acre Community Open Space being transferred to the Council during the forthcoming year. The future of the western boundary and the football pitch have yet to be determined but plans for the Local Centre and Care Home are progressing well. There is also a plan to build 65 extra homes on the employment land at the west side of the development.

The Chairman then reported on the governance of the Council. There have been increasing pressures on the Council caused by the expansion of the Parish and the devolution of services and responsibilities from Wiltshire Council. It had therefore been decided to carry out a review into staffing and governance. This review would be executed by an outside consultant.

Finally the Chairman briefly described the Local Government Boundary Review that is currently in progress.

- 5. Financial Report.** The Clerk had provided a Financial Statement for the previous year, an Interim Statement for the current Financial Year and a forecast Budget for next year. He drew attention to the increase in the precept, which was largely due to the planned devolution of six play areas from Wiltshire Council. Provision had been made to increase the reserve that supports the expanding assets of the Council. The external review into governance also required significant funding.
- 6. Neighbourhood Plan Progress Report.** Cllr Vic Bussereau gave a brief review of progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. There have been nine meetings of the Steering Group since the last Annual Parish Meeting. The designated Laverstock and Ford Neighbourhood Area is the whole of the Parish. The Steering Group has concentrated on communicating with residents by means of three dedicated road shows and attending many other community meetings and events. A survey of all residents is due to be carried out in the near future. This will be by paper and online. The Steering Group continues to seek volunteers.

7. Questions from Residents.

There were no questions from residents.

The meeting ended at 7.31pm.

These Minutes will be confirmed at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2020.