



# Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Hampton Park & Old Sarum

**Meeting held at the River Bourne Community Farm  
at 7.00pm on Monday 21 August 2017**

## MINUTES

**Councillors present:** Beard, Birkett, Burton (Chairman), Bussereau, Champion, Davidson, Davis, Dean, Hayes, Waller.

**Wiltshire Councillors present:** Brown.

**In attendance:** Prince (Clerk). Stay (Assistant).

There were 8 members of the public present. The Chairman reported that WCllr McLennan had given his apologies.

WCllr Derek Brown, the new unitary member for Salisbury St Marks and Bishopdown, introduced himself to the Council. A large part of his unitary ward includes the Parish ward of Bishopdown Farm. He explained his background as a lifelong resident of Salisbury, a city Councillor and former mayor.

Two residents of Old Sarum spoke about the new recreation facilities on The Green and made some suggestions for changes and improvements.

The meeting started at 7.10pm.

**17.110 APOLOGIES.** Apologies had been received from Cllr Buttigieg.

**17.111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were no Declarations of Interest.

**17.112 COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT.** A monthly report had been received and provided with supporting papers for the meeting. Cllr Bussereau drew attention to the loss of one of the PCSOs. He also raised the issue of the Community Surgeries and the lack of information on when they were held. The times and venues should be given to the Council for inclusion in the newsletter or on the website.

**Action Cllr Bussereau**

Councillors were reminded that to receive a comprehensive report of all crime activity they should register with the Wiltshire and Swindon Community Messaging service.

**17.113 APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** The Clerk reported on two minor amendments to Action points in the draft Minutes.

**Resolved:** To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2017 as amended.

**17.114 MATTERS ARISING.**

**Action PC227. Task Jason Turner to assess trees behind 43 and 45 Silverwood Drive.** A quotation has been received for the recommended work and a 50% contribution has been received from the owner at 43 Silverwood Drive. The owner had then sent a further request to the Council asking for more work to be carried out to reduce the height

of elder, blackthorn and field maples on Council land. The Clerk said that he believed that this request should be declined and that the response should be that the Council would continue to manage the buffer planting but only carry out work for the following reasons.

- a. If required for Health and Safety reasons.
- b. If required for the health of the trees and shrubs.
- c. If required to prevent overcrowding or habitat improvement.

The Council agreed to this response.

**Action PC237. Safety barriers for tarmac path across the Old Sarum Country Park.**

The Clerk said that he had enough information to proceed. Closed.

**Action PC241 and PC242.** Closed.

## 17.115 PLANNING

**Planning Application 17/03015/FUL – Revised plans for construction of two dwellings on Burroughs Hill, Laverstock.**

Mr Tony Allen of Allen Planning Ltd addressed the Council and reported on the efforts that had been made to counter the objections of the Council to the application. The application has been amended to move the houses in from the boundaries of the site and to restrict the gardens of the new dwellings to the same footprint as the original dwellings. He added that having consulted with Wiltshire Council there was no evidence that the original Burroughs Hill house had any heritage value.

Cllr Hayes said that he approved the altered location of the new dwellings and asked if any of the trees that had been removed would be replaced. Mr Allen said that trees would be planted outside of the formal garden space and that they would work with Wiltshire Council on this issue. Cllr Birkett asked if any other work would be carried out on land outside of the gardens. Mr Allen replied that the application was only for work inside the redline boundary, which coincided with the original planning permission. There were other questions and comments from Councillors.

**Resolved:** To amend the response of the Council to NO COMMENT.

**Planning Application 17/06578/ADV.** It was agreed to refer this application back to the Ford, Old Sarum and Longhedge subgroup.

**Old Sarum update.** The Chairman reported on the opening of the new play park and thanked Councillors who had worked hard on bringing it to fruition. The Clerk reported on outstanding issues with the play park gates and the surrounding grass, which requires significant site restoration. The imminent pre-transfer inspection of the Swale land and the 9A/9B public open space was discussed. If satisfactory, transfer might be completed by the end of October.

**Old Sarum Airfield.** Cllr Bussereau gave a brief report.

**Longhedge update.** The Clerk reported that occupations at Longhedge were now well in excess of 100. The Linden Homes Technical Manager had confirmed this and said that they were in the process of getting the Community Open Space Works Scheme approved by Wiltshire Council. 150 occupations might be reached by the end of the year, which would be the trigger for the transfer of the Community Open Space to the Council.

**HP2 Country Park update.** The Chairman reported that the Deed of Variation is close to an agreement but the holiday season has slowed down the process and it has still not been completed.

**Planning Application Log.** The following response to a Planning Application has been made since the last Council meeting. **17/06590/FUL.** Proposed rear extension to bungalow. 18 Green Lane, Ford. NO COMMENT.

**Resolved:** To approve the above response.

#### **17.116 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT WILTSHIRE HOUSING SITE ALLOCATIONS**

**PLAN.** Cllrs Bussereau and Champion had attended the exhibition and drafted a response from the Council. This had been submitted to Councillors and copies were provided. Cllr Bussereau gave a brief summary.

**Resolved:** To approve the draft response to the Consultation.

**17.117 FACILITY MANAGEMENT SUBGROUP.** The Chairman asked that all Subgroup meetings should be advertised to the whole Council including officers, and that anyone can attend if they wish. A large part of the subgroup meeting had centred on the poor state and closure of Wiltshire Council owned play areas in Bishopdown. A long discussion followed on this subject. The Clerk said that he had started the process of taking a lease and had a quick response from Wiltshire Council. Cllr Waller said that it was more important to campaign for a reversal of the Wiltshire Council policy than to continue with the lease process.

**17.118 DRAFT INVESTMENT POLICY.** The Clerk had previously circulated a draft Treasury and Investment Policy and copies were provided. It was required in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 for any Local Authority, which has more than £500,000 of cash holdings. The policy also stated that the full Council must approve any deposit of funds with a single organisation, which exceeds 60% of the total held.

**Resolved:** To approve the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council Treasury and Investment Policy, and to approve that all of the Council's Treasury cash deposits are held by Lloyds Bank.

#### **17.119 GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

**Laverstock Gardening Club.** An application for £100 to assist with the replanting of the bed next to the bus shelter by The Green in Laverstock that is currently maintained by the Gardening Club. Cllr Waller said that she was uncomfortable giving a grant for the maintenance of a bed that already appeared satisfactory when there were other beds and roundabouts in the Parish that were very untidy. A discussion followed on the role of Idverde Ltd as the prime Streetscene contractor to Wiltshire Council. Cllr Hayes and Cllr Birkett said that this was no reason not to support volunteers who did an excellent job in this one part of the Parish.

**Resolved:** To grant £100 to the Laverstock Gardening Club.

**Old Sarum Community Centre.** An application for £200 to assist with the expenses of the Community Fun Day and Summer Fete held on 19<sup>th</sup> August. The Clerk said that he had asked for more information on how the money was spent but had no reply. The Council requested that the applicant provides more information on the nature of the expenditure.

**Action Clerk**

#### **17.120 FINANCE**

**Adoption of Monthly Accounts.** The Financial Statement had previously been circulated by email and copies were provided. A statement of Financial Reserves was also included. The total funds held at the end of July 2017 were £454,003.20 of which £431,328.24 were earmarked or restricted reserves. Cllr Birkett questioned the practice of writing down  $\frac{1}{20}$ <sup>th</sup> of maintenance funds from restricted reserves each year. A lengthy discussion followed.

**Resolved:** To adopt the monthly accounts as a true record of the Council's finances.

**Cheque & Debit Card Payments.** The list of payments had been circulated by email and copies were provided. Total cheque payments in August 2017 amounted to £80,874.40. Debit card payments in July 2017 amounted to £130.89.

**Resolved:** To approve the cheque and debit card payments.

The Clerk reported to the Council that he had added an extra item to the Financial Risk Assessment to highlight the risk if HMRC should decline a recovery of VAT. This is in view of the large and expensive construction projects facing the Council in the years ahead.

#### **17.121 CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Use of 'laverstock-ford' email addresses.** The Clerk raised the issue of some Councillors not completing the login process and therefore missing emails.

**Weed growth on footpaths, gutters and highway.** Wiltshire Council have ceased all treatment and removal of weeds from the Highway except where it done by the Parish Steward at the request of the Parish Council. The Parish Steward is an employee of Ringway, who hold the Wiltshire Council Highways contract, and is loaned to the Parish Council for one day a month. There have been several complaints from residents about weed growth. One complaint to Wiltshire Council resulted in the response that weeds are now the responsibility of the Parish Council.

#### **17.122 LATE NOTICE ITEM**

The Chairman reported that the Parish Planning Team, which includes 14 residents who have volunteered to assist, would meet with the subgroup of Councillors on 7 September to discuss the options of either a Neighbourhood Plan or a revised Parish Plan. The subgroup would then make a recommendation to Council on the preferred option. Cllr Champion said that he would prefer another informal meeting of all Councillors before a decision is taken.

**17.123 EXEMPT BUSINESS.** There being no exempt business this item was cancelled.

The meeting concluded at 9.22pm.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at Greentrees Junior School at 7pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**