



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Milford, Bishopdown Farm, Old Sarum & Longhedge

Virtual Parish Council Meeting held at 6.00pm on Monday 21st September 2020

MINUTES

Councillors present: Baker (Chair), Barker (from 6.25pm), Bussereau, Dean, Lovibond, Lynn, Maskell, Waller.

Wiltshire Councillor present: McLennan.

In attendance: Prince (Clerk), Deane (Assistant).

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.07pm. He welcomed one member of the public.

20.078 APOLOGIES. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Birkett, Hayes, Hilliard and Tucker.

20.079 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. The Chairman said that he has a non-pecuniary interest in the Grant Application by St Andrew's Church, being a member of the Salisbury Diocesan synod, and will abstain from voting on this item.

20.080 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR. The Chairman welcomed Lainey Barker and explained the process of co-option. Lainey Barker addressed the Council and answered questions from Councillors. The Chairman then moved her and another member of the public into the virtual waiting room while her co-option was discussed. The Chairman proposed the co-option of Lainey Barker.

Resolved: To co-opt Lainey Barker to the Ford, Old Sarum and Longhedge ward of the Council.

Cllr Barker and all members of the public were returned to the meeting. Cllr Barker read out and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Councillor, witnessed by the Clerk and joined the meeting

20.081 GRANT APPLICATION. St Andrew's Church, Laverstock. Report 20.081 had previously been circulated and was available online. The application for £600 is to assist with the cost of maintaining the churchyard, specifically the cost of removing and making safe a dead tree. Cllr Waller said that the Grant Policy stated that we do not make grants to religious organisations. The Chairman said that the Policy stated that 'Grants will not be awarded for political or religious campaigns or activities'. He did not believe that maintenance of the churchyard counted as a religious activity. Cllr Maskell said that the Church was a wealthy organisation and it seemed wrong that a grant should be made to that organisation. The Chairman said that each Parochial Church Council must finance itself and does not receive support from the Church. Cllr Lovibond, Barker and Lynn spoke in support of the application. Cllr Waller said that she would prefer to give only half of the amount applied for and that the applicant should have attended to support the application.

Resolved: To grant £600 to St Andrew's Laverstock Parochial Church Council for maintenance of the churchyard, under the powers granted by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Record of Votes: FOR - 5 votes, AGAINST - 2 votes, ABSTENTION - 1.

20.082 APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th August 2020.

20.083 MATTERS ARISING. Report 20.083, which contains a list of 'open' actions on Councillors and Officers, had been circulated and published. The Chairman reported on Action PC343, to invite a Police representative to attend a Council meeting. So far he has been unsuccessful.

Action PC307. Investigate possibility of purchasing a Speed Indicator Device (SID) jointly with Alderbury. Cllr Bussereau reported on a visit to Landford with the Assistant to view their system. It is likely that the Council will proceed without Alderbury and receive half of the grant, being £400. There were several problems yet to be solved and further work is required. The Assistant will research the cost of various options including the cost of providing dedicated posts for mounting the SIDs. **Action Assistant.**

Action PC324. Filling vacant posts within the Council Subgroups and Individual Responsibilities. Cllr Bussereau pointed out that the list on the Council website was out-of-date. He would get this amended but there are still some vacancies to be filled. OPEN

Action PC341. Contact Community Area Manager to bring Church Road Traffic Issue to attention of Area Board. This has been done and a meeting of all interested parties has been scheduled. CLOSED.

Community Area Transport Group (CATG). Cllr Bussereau reported that CATG had agreed to provide new road signs at the Green Lane crossing in Ford. The cost would be about £1000, which includes a £250 contribution from the Council. The Clerk reported that the funds are available and had been previously agreed in principle. No further action was required.

Street Name Signs. Cllr Waller raised this issue following a survey that she had completed of street name signs in Bishopdown. The Chairman requested that more information should be obtained on the cost of replacing broken and damaged street name signs. This includes the replacement of signs at Old Sarum. **Action Assistant.**

20.084 PLANNING

20/07215/VAR. Variation of Condition 1 of 15/07523/REM for the erection of 673 residential units on land to the East of A345 and West of Old Sarum at Longhedge. Cllr Bussereau briefly explained the application. It affected only parcel D at Longhedge. The developer, due to market demand, wished to reduce the number of 5-bedroom properties and increase the number of 3 and 4-bedroom properties. The total number of dwellings would remain the same.

Resolved: To respond with NO OBJECTION to Planning Application 20/07215/VAR.

Planning Application Log – Approval of Responses. A redacted version of the Log is available online as Report 20.084(2). The following responses have been made since the last Council meeting.

20/05393/FUL. Replacement rear boundary fence. 16 The Steadings, Ford. NO OBJECTION.

20/06299/FUL. Proposed front porch. 33 Elm Close, Laverstock. NO COMMENT.

20/06577/FUL. Re-submission of proposed development of café/kitchen as original location on site unsuitable. Old Sarum Development Centre, The Portway, Old Sarum. NO COMMENT.

20/06713/LBC. Listed building Consent. Replacement of two doors on rear elevation with new type Stable Doors. Replacement of non-matching windows on front elevation with four new casement windows. The Thatch, The Green, Laverstock. SUPPORT.

20/06848/TPO. Work to TPO Trees. T1 - Mature sycamore-crown thin by 20%. T2 – Semi-mature Sycamore – Fell to ground level. 12 Green Lane, Ford. NO COMMENT.

20/06931/FUL. Proposed 2-storey side/front extension and new dormer to the front elevation above the existing garage. Oak Lodge, Laverstock Park. NO COMMENT.

20/07359/TPO. Work to TPO tree. Ash tree – fell. 14 Norton Drive, Ford. NO COMMENT.

Resolved: To approve the above responses.

Neighbourhood Planning Update. Cllr Bussereau reported that the Landscape Sensitivity Statement had now been published in full. The Steering Group had at last also been able to meet with officers from Wiltshire Council Spatial Planning, and received an update on progress with the Local Plan. The first draft of the Local Plan should be out for consultation in November and final implementation is planned for 2023.

20.085 GREENTREES SCHOOL ACCESS PATH. The Clerk gave a brief resume of Report 20.085, which had been circulated and published just before this meeting. Cllr Waller requested that the issue be deferred until after a site visit and a meeting with the Land Trust.

20.086 CONSULTATION ON GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS ON CHANGES TO THE PLANNING SYSTEM. Cllr Bussereau gave a brief summary of the major proposals and said that he thought it was too complex a subject for the Council to digest and respond. The Chairman said that it would be better to respond through the National Association of Local Councils. Their deadline for a response was 15th October. If any Councillor wished to respond they should circulate their views by email.

20.087 AREA BOARD BOUNDARY REVIEW CONSULTATION. The Chairman described the new Area Board boundary that placed the new Wiltshire Council wards of Laverstock and Old Sarum & Lower Bourne Valley in the new South East Wiltshire Area Board.

Resolved: That the Council supports the draft proposals for an Area Board Boundary Review by Wiltshire Council in Briefing Note 20-30 dated 10th September 2020.

20.088 COUNCIL STAFFING AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW. The Chairman briefly reported on various meetings including that of an extended HR group held on 19th September. He had produced and circulated some consolidated notes on this meeting. The recommendations from these meetings were aimed at providing guidance for a forthcoming workshop meeting with a director of LGRC Associates Ltd. (Local Government Resource Centre).

There were three recommendations.

- That the Parish Council accept the LGRC report as a basis for moving forward and use the workshop on Saturday 26th September to fine tune the recommendations and create an implementation plan.

- That an additional Community and Communications Committee should be added to proposed committee structure.
- That the staffing structure should be built around a 4-person model of Clerk and Deputy Clerk (30 hours per week) an Operations Officer and a Community/Communications Role (both part time).

The Chairman asked for an indicative vote the Council's agreement with these recommendations. Five Councillors were in agreement, one was in agreement with reservations and two abstained.

20.089 NJC NATIONAL PAY AWARD FOR 2020-2021. The Chairman explained the background to the Pay Award. The Clerk reported that the National Agreement on Pay and Conditions of Service of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services applied to both members of staff.

Resolved: To implement the NJC National Pay Award for 2020-2021.

20.090 INTERNAL AUDIT OBSERVATIONS. This item was deferred to a later meeting.

20.091 GRANT FUNDING TO THE RIVER BOURNE COMMUNITY FARM. A Report 20.091 on this item had been circulated and is available online. The Clerk gave a summary of the report, which recommended that the Council exceptionally grant £5,000 to the Community Farm without meeting the conditions of draft Agreement between the Council and the Farm.

Resolved: To grant £5,000 to the River Bourne Community Farm CIC under the powers given by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and without meeting the conditions included in the draft Agreement between the Council and the Farm.

20.092 FINANCE.

Adoption of Monthly Accounts. Cllr Tucker had checked Financial Statements and the Bank Reconciliation prior to the meeting. They had been circulated by email and were available online as a combined Report 20.092. A statement of Financial Reserves was also included. The total funds held at the end of August 2020 were £2,025,123.78 of which £1,932,263.82 were earmarked or restricted reserves.

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

Cheque, Debit Card & Direct Debit Payments. The list of payments had been circulated by email and was included in Report 20.092. The Clerk reported on a payment to Conservation Contractors Ltd for conducting a tree survey to the Country Park. Total cheque payments in September 2020 amount to £25,898.05. Debit card & direct debit payments in August 2020 amounted to £176.18.

Resolved: To approve the cheque, debit card and direct debit payments

Treasury Deposit Report. The Clerk had circulated a Treasury Deposit Report as part of Report 20.092. This listed one Fixed Term Deposit of £508,112.00 that matures in March 2021 and a 32-day Fixed Term Deposit of £713,929.47 that matures on 7 September 2020. The balance on the 32-day Notice Account at the end of August 2020 was £716,904.83, which includes interest of £5,021.42. There was a total of £1,938,946.30 on deposit at the end of August 2020.

Resolved: That the Council has received the reports of Financial Reserves and Treasury Deposits.

Approval of Purchase of new gates for Pheasant Drive Play Park. The Clerk described the various quotes that he had received for replacement gates. Newer versions of the spring-assisted gates were available and had recently been installed in a Salisbury City play area, but they still suffered from bounce-back when thrown open by children. Hydraulic self-closing gates avoided this problem. The cheapest quotation for two hydraulic gates was for IAE Prosafe Hydraulic gates by Wessex Fencing for £2,150. This was outside his spending powers.

Resolved: To approve the purchase of new gates for Pheasant Drive Play Park at a cost of £2,150 plus vat.

20.093 REPORT BY CLLR LOVIBOND. Cllr Lovibond had previously circulated by email the results of a leaflet on traffic calming prepared by the Milford Preservation Group. 485 leaflets had been distributed and there had been 49 responses. Either a Traffic Regulation Order or some form of Traffic Calming measure were most favoured.

He recorded that there would be an onsite meeting with John Glen MP, the Wiltshire Council Director of Highways, the Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Highways and the Wiltshire Council Portfolio Holder for Highways on 16th October to discuss the issue.

Cllr Bussereau reminded the Council that any traffic calming measures would need the support of the full Council. He also recommended that the Milford Preservation Group request a formal Traffic Survey, which would have to be approved by the Council before being forwarded to Wiltshire Council.

The Chairman said that he would attend the onsite meeting but emphasised that any opinions expressed at that meeting would be those of individuals and the Milford Preservation Group and not those of the Council.

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

The meeting closed at 8pm.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday 19th October 2020. This will be a virtual meeting and will start at 6pm.