



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Milford, Bishopdown Farm, Old Sarum & Longhedge

Virtual Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 6.00pm on Monday 11th January 2021

Draft MINUTES

Councillors present: Baker (Chair), Barker, Dean, Hayes, Maskell, Tucker, Waller, Warren.

In attendance: Prince (Clerk), Deane (Deputy Clerk), Whitfield (Communication & Community Engagement).

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.03pm. He welcomed one member of the public who said she was attending to hear the response to Planning Application 20/07918/FUL at Cobbins, Laverstock Park.

The Chairman announced the resignation of Cllr Hilliard from the Council.

21.001 APOLOGIES. Nil.

21.002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Nil.

21.003 APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020.

21.004 PLANNING.

20/07918/FUL. Further consultation on amended plans for a double storey side extension and double garage with storage area above. 'Cobbins', Laverstock Park.

Cllr Hayes spoke about the revised plans and said that the changes were minor and did not significantly affect the Council's original objection. He reminded the Council that many neighbouring residents had objected to the original application and few of their concerns had been met by the amended plans. The resident was invited to address the Council and spoke against the application.

Resolved: That the Council, having viewed the amended plans, repeats its objection to Planning Application 20/07918/FUL for the following reasons,

1. The effect of the proposed development on the appearance of the area.
2. The quality of the design.
3. The significant overbearing impact and loss of outlook.

21.005 APPROVAL OF BUDGET for 2021-2022.

The Clerk had previously circulated Report 21.005-21.006, which summarised the process and recommendations for the Budget and Precept for 2021-2022. This Report is available

online. He presented a brief summary of the increases in administration and environment expenditure. Administration had increased because of increased staffing costs and a proposed increase in the size of the Parish Newsletter. Environment expenditure has increased in line with the expanding portfolio of Council assets. This is not just the cost of maintaining and servicing the assets but also an increase in the long-term replacement or 'sinking' fund. Income has fallen drastically due to the loss of bank interest.

The Report concluded that the increased expenditure and reduced income would result in an increased budget of £287,143. The budget would require an increase of precept to £222,920, which is an increase of 19.09% on 2020-2021.

Cllr Hayes queried the increase in the size and cost of the Newsletter. Why and by whom was the request being made? The Clerk said that he receives requests from the editor when she runs out of space. The Newsletter had already increased from 40 pages to 44 pages, and now there was a request for 48 pages. The alternative to increasing the precept would be for the Council to register for, and charge vat on advertising, and increase the number of advertisements. Cllr Hayes said that he would not like to see an increase in advertising. Discussion followed on the relative importance of the Newsletter in relation to other means of communication including social media.

Cllr Barker proposed that the increase in the size of the Newsletter be deferred for one year. Cllr Dean seconded this proposal.

Resolved: To reduce the proposed budget by £1850 being the cost of increasing the size of the Newsletter by four pages.

Resolved: To approve a Budget of £285,293.

21.006 APPROVAL OF PRECEPT for 2021-2022.

Resolved: To approve a Precept Request of £221,070.

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

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday 18th January 2021. This will be a virtual meeting using Zoom software and will start at 6pm.