

LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

12th December, 2023

Lavant Memorial Hall, Pook Lane, Lavant, PO18 0AH

In attendance:

Cllrs. Aldridge, Goldsmith, Mayhead, Quest, Tucker, Turner, Whincop. Chichester District
Cllr. Brookes-Harmer.

Public present – 3

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from WSCC Cllr. Hunt and Clerk Louisa Hill.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

- i) None
- ii) None
- iii) None

3. Public Session

The Council and Volunteers were thanked for the work that they carried out on behalf of the parish.

It was reported that since 2018 the Speed Watch volunteer team had recorded 2000 offenders speeding on roads in the village. A 30mph sign on the West Stoke Road was missing, the matter had been reported to the relevant department.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 14th November, 2023

It was noted that the following amendments be made to the agenda: a) opening paragraph should read “you **are** summoned to attend...”

b) Delete word “Annual” from both Item 4 of the Agenda and Minutes and ensure future agenda items and minutes refer only to Parish Council meetings, unless the meeting was actually the Annual Parish Meeting.

c) Agenda Item 14 Finance a) be amended to read “...approval of November and December payments” not “July and August” as shown.

Clerk to carry out changes.

These changes to the agenda having being recorded Cllr Mayhead proposed, Cllr. Tucker seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting be signed as a true record.

5. Update on outstanding actions brought forward from previous meeting:

a) Update on Land Acquisition

Cllr. Aldridge reported that a meeting had been held to consider works not yet completed by Elivia and as a result a carefully worded email had been sent to Kevin Wawman MD asking for assurance that work would be completed and suggesting that an independent review take place before the handover was formalized. As yet no reply had been received.

b) Football Club usage of CCTV – no developments to report

- c) Memorial Hall Car Park – no developments to report
- d) Electric Vehicle Update – Cllrs. had conducted a survey around part of the village and identified at least 6-8 possible places for charging points. Observations showed that there was more interest in electric vehicles than previously thought and the matter would be followed up with WSCC and Connected Kerb.
- e) River Bridge project update – it was noted that the river was too high for any work at present. Cllr. Aldridge stated that a new quote for an 8 metre purpose built bridge had been obtained, cost £9,000 or £11,000 depending on choice of materials, the matter would be discussed with Nick Reynolds and Drew Miller. Changing the bridge design would mean revising the existing planning application.
- f) Post Office – no developments to report

6. Brief Q&A from County Councillor on his report affecting this WSCC Cllr. Hunt's report had been circulated but in his absence there were no questions arising.

7. Brief Q&A from District Councillor on his report affecting this Parish CDC Cllr. Brooke-Harmer's report had been circulated to all Cllrs. He added that the most important matter for the District Council was the late submission of the Local Plan and reported that submission by mid-February was now the aim.

8. Chairman's Report

Eastmead – a meeting had been held with Ian Ralston, Director of Oakford Homes and SDNP Planning Dept to discuss the fence line. Oakford Homes and SDNP wished to retain the existing pedestrian access on the north side of the development, whereas Cllrs and CDC Cllr. Brooks-Harmer expressed the view that leaving this access open could lead to residents using the surrounding roads as additional parking areas. It was felt the matter merited further discussion. It was agreed that, in the event of parking problems, photographs be taken and submitted to SDNP.

Discussions had been held with Ian Ralston and Brian Bermingham of Oakford regarding concerns with the eastern and northern boundaries. Notably the line of Leyandii on the northern boundary were intruding into the adjacent gardens and should really be removed. The eastern boundary was a concern because the fence is poorly maintained and there was a considerable elevation change between the site and the houses on the boundary.

Oakford Homes had agreed to replace the two bus shelters at Yarbrook, work to take place from 11th January.

The site show home was due to open in March.

9. Environmental Policy

A draft Environmental Policy had been circulated to Cllrs. Cllr. Whincop explained that, in order to achieve a consistent approach, a template developed by Cornwall District Council had been used as a guide.

In response to a question from Cllr. Turner, Cllr Whincop said that the policy was, at this stage a statement of intent, a review period of one year had been included during which time more specific areas of local impact would emerge.

It was proposed by Cllr. Whincop, seconded Cllr. Turner and agreed that the Policy be adopted and reviewed after one year. Cllr. Aldridge abstained as he had not had an opportunity to fully study the policy.

10. Winterbourne Diaries Project Report

Cllr. Goldsmith reported that throughout 2023 she and Cllr. Quest had contributed monthly reports on the River Lavant to a research project being carried out by the Biological Sciences Dept of the University of Southampton. These reports form part of research into winterbournes in Sussex and Hampshire. Their part in the project was now coming to an end and they were actively seeking other research projects, particularly those monitoring water quality. Cllr. Quest stated that the discipline of monthly reporting had encouraged them to study the river more carefully and increased their understanding of how it behaved throughout the year.

Cllr. Turner referred to work that had been carried out by the Sussex Wildlife Trust which included a study of the River Lavant and agreed to provide further information.

Cllr. Goldsmith stated that participants in the Southampton University project received £10 vouchers for each monthly report submitted but, as she and Cllr. Quest were both uncomfortable with receiving financial reward for their participation, the then Clerk (Hannah-Louise) had consulted WSALC about the suitability of receiving such payments. Although advised that payment was acceptable they had decided to donate all vouchers to Lavant CE Primary School, to be used to help supply items needed by pupils.

It was noted that the sewer in Sheepwash Lane was once again overflowing, Southern Water had been contacted. District Cllr. Brookes-Harmer agreed to follow up on the matter.

Cllr. Aldridge raised the need for sand bags for the properties bordering on the Green. District Cllr. Brookes-Harmer to look into availability via the District Council.

11. School Car Park

In the absence of Cllr. Kuchanny this item was deferred.

12. Great Elms Open Space

As this matter had been discussed under 5a above no further points were raised.

13. Village Maintenance

Cllr. Aldridge had discussed maintenance of bus shelters with Adrian Blades and work would be undertaken by the Lavant Volunteers.

14. Finance

The sum of £300 had been received from the Luttmann family for maintenance of a memorial bench.

Cllr. Aldridge expressed concern that, as yet, no budget had been drawn up and it was possible that the Council was in deficit. The Clerk had been asked to collate all invoices for the year and draw up a draft budget. This work to be carried out as a matter of urgency.

Cllr. Aldridge to contact Andy Beams (a consultant previously used by the Council) for advice on budget and precept.

In the absence of the Clerk it was agreed that all other financial matters be carried over to the next meeting.

15. To comment on and review planning applications and decisions

SDNP/23/04575/HOUSE

Location: 5 East View Close, Lavant, PO18 0DN

Application: Garage conversion to habitable room

Cllr. Tucker proposed this application be approved, seconded Cllr. Aldridge and unanimously accepted.

SDNP/23/04787/HOUSE

Location: New Barn [Manor Farm estate] Pook Lane, East Lavant, West Sussex PO18

0AH

Application: Extension and alterations to existing dwelling, including two storey side extension, alterations to dormer windows on front elevation and repositioning of an existing window to the front elevation.

Cllr. Tucker proposed this application be approved, seconded Cllr. Whincop and unanimously accepted.

16. Items for inclusion on the next agenda

Clerk to include Eastmead Development on next and future agendas until further notice.

17. Date of next meeting – 9th January, 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.50 pm