

LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

10th October, 2023

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

In attendance:

Cllrs. Aldridge, Goldsmith, Mayhead, Kulchanny, Quest, Tucker, Turner, Whincop, WSCC Cllr. Hunt

Public present – 2

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Cllr. Brookes-Harmer & Clerk Louisa Hill

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

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

3. Public Session

In response to a question from a member of the public concerning defibrillator training it was agreed that this matter be referred to the Memorial Hall Committee. Cllr. Tucker to raise the matter.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 10th October, 2023

Cllr. Turner proposed, Cllr. Quest 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 – transfer of land from Sunley/Crayfern/Eliva
Cllr. Aldridge reported that information from the Council's solicitors was still awaited.
It was agreed that a definitive map showing boundaries, including the highway boundary be obtained as soon as possible.
- b) Football Club usage of CCTV – no developments to report
- c) Memorial Hall Car Park – it was agreed that the Memorial Hall Committee be asked to look into car park markings.
WSCC Cllr. Hunt reported that, following the recent flooding the large drains adjacent to the car park had been cleared. He would obtain an update on jobs outstanding and report back.
- d) Electric Vehicle update – Cllr. Aldridge reported Ubitricity, an organization who work with local authorities to turn lamp posts and bollards into charging points had been contacted. This was being looked into as a possible option but care must be taken to ensure it did not overlap with, or compromise, the Connected Kerb initiative.
- e) River Bridge project update – the final design had been completed but, with the season for the winter rising of the Lavant was approaching, it was unlikely that work would commence in 2023.
- f) Post Office – Cllr. Quest to pursue this matter again with the Post Office. The Earl of March car park was suggested as an alternative location for a mobile post office.

6. Brief Q & A from County Councillor on his report affecting this Parish
WSCC Cllr. Hunt's report had been circulated to all Parish Councillors. The following addition matters relating to the parish were raised:-
Repairs to Fordwater/Lower Road had been carried out in September, Operation Watershed funding for a gully at the end of Lower Road was being investigated.
The cast iron finger post on the West Stoke Road had been knocked over and broken and was unlikely to be replaced by Highways Dept. Cllr. Aldridge to speak to David Mortimer about moving it to a safe place pending a decision on possible repair, and speak to Funtington Parish Council to find what action was taken when a similar incident occurred in their parish.
In answer to a question from Cllr. Quest concerning the collapsed barrier fence where the footpath leading from the school meets the A286 crossing point, Cllr. Hunt agreed to report this to the appropriate department. Cllr. Aldridge to investigate whether it could be repaired by the Volunteers.
Cllr. Quest reported that the pavement alongside the A286 leading to West Dean was overgrown. It was noted that this was within West Dean parish.
7. Brief Q & A from District Council on his report affecting this parish
CDC Cllr. Brookes-Harmer's report had been circulated to all Parish Councillors but in his absence there were no questions arising.
8. Chairman's Report
Eastmead – A productive meeting had been held with Oakford Homes. It had been agreed that, in order to discourage overspill car parking, it was necessary to maintain a fence between Gaston Way and the new development. It was also agreed that the mature trees should remain on the boundary.
Oakford Homes had been asked to consider providing new bus shelters for the A286 adjacent to the site.
The bus shelter by the allotments had been vandalised and there was only one pane of glass remaining. There were funds in the budget to replace a shelter, using these to replace this shelter should be considered.
Local concerns about the lack of maintenance on the River Lavant on Sheepwash Lane were being addressed by the Environment Agency. Further work to who would clear the bed downstream of Marsh Lane was planned.
A big thank you to Lavant FC who had funded the purchase of a new sprayer that could be towed behind the tractor. It had already been used for an initial application of seaweed-based fertiliser. The hope is that this will reduce our maintenance costs by some margin.
Concern was expressed that the LPC website was hopelessly out of date. It was agreed that Cllrs. Mayhead and Whincop update it, particular attention being paid to including regular news and local items of interest, it was also important that the Clerk's new telephone number be included.
9. Neighbourhood Planning Policy
Cllr. Turner reported work to update the Neighbourhood Plan was underway, no significant changes were expected to be necessary although the relevant legislation

should be updated. One person had responded to the Lavant News article asking for volunteers to become involved in the updating process.

WSCC Cllr. Hunt commented that a more distinct and robust designation on the daffodil field would be desirable.

Cllr. Whincop suggested that the Lavant Environment Team become involved with information on green spaces, links to wildlife corridors and updating of heritage assets.

10. School Car Park

Cllr. Kulchanny reported a meeting had been held with Governors and Highways Consultants with a view to settling boundaries and making minor changes to plans. An approach was to be made to WSCC Highways Dept and information sought to ensure that any land transfer issues relating to the school becoming an Academy combined with Bishop Luffa be addressed. Clerk to provide Cllr. Kulchanny with contact details for solicitors Urwin Mitchell.

11. Great Elms Open Space

Cllr. Goldsmith reported that a sub-group consisting of 4 councillors and Caroline Reynolds, Chair of the Lavant History Project, had been formed to oversee the transfer of the POS to the Council. Arrangements were being made for 'public footpath' signs to be erected and events were planned to increase awareness of the site's historic importance. The first event, a talk by District Archaeologist James Kenny on pre-historic Lavant, was to be held on 30th October..

12. Village Maintenance and other concerns

It was agreed that Cllrs. Goldsmith, Quest, Tucker and Whincop prepare an Environmental Policy for inclusion on the website.

WSCC Cllr. Hunt made his apologies and left the meeting.

13. Finance

A Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation had been submitted by the Clerk. It was agreed that further clarification was needed on both the Barclay Card payment and Bank Reconciliation, Clerk to deal with the matter on her return.

14. To comment on and review planning applications and decisions

Case No. SDNP/23/03740/LIS

Proposal: Ground floor rear extension

Location: Rooks Hill, A286 Oldwick Meadows to Sheepwash Lane, Lavant, PO18 0BQY

APPROVED

Case No. SDNP/23/03623/LDP

Proposal: Conversion of existing garage to games room

Location: Down Haven, A286 Oldwick Meadows to Sheepwash Lane, Lavant, PO18

OBO

APPROVED

15. Items for inclusion on next agenda

Eastmead development

Environment Policy

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.22 pm