

# LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## St Nicholas Church, Lavant

Tel: 07547107124

E-mail: [clerk@lavantparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@lavantparishcouncil.co.uk)

### In attendance:

Councillors Aldridge, Goldsmith, Kuchanny, Quest, Pickford, Tucker, Reynolds  
Clerk Hannah-Louise O'Callaghan, County Cllr Hunt, District Cllr Palmer

Representatives from Southern Water: Beth Hughes, County Customer Manager Hampshire, Floyd Cooper, Waste Operations Manager, Glen Ford, Groundwater Contractor for Southern Water

Public Present – 18

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Newman

### 2. Public Session

All questions related to Southern Water

### 3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests

- i. To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda  
None
- ii. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest  
None
- iii. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate  
None

### 4. To receive and approve the minutes of the Council meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

On a **proposal** by Councillor Reynolds and **seconded** by Councillor Tucker, it was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be ratified and be accepted as a true record of proceedings. The minutes were signed accordingly.

### 5. Update from Southern Water

After a brief introduction by Southern water the following questions were put to Southern Water by the audience and the responses received were as follows:

- 1) It is well documented that the storm overflows are overused. Knowing this why do Southern water continue to say, at the planning stage that they can cope with the additional demand on the system that, for example, the 56 houses on the Eastmead Estate, will bring to the usage and discharge? In addition, with relation to Eastmead, what measures have been

taken to ensure that surface water is not going into the combined system? Has compliance been checked?

Floyd Cooper from Southern Water responded that he was unable to answer questions relating to the Eastmead Estate as this was not his area however he would take this away and relay to the appropriate person. It was asked that the technical person contact the Parish Council to discuss further the capacity for the sewers in Lavant in particular.

It was noted by Cllr Hunt that Southern Water have a duty to provide sewerage and that although they are consulted at the planning stage, they are unable to admit to not having the capacity to cope with additional demand.

Following much discussion, it was clarified that by Cllr Pickford that technical questions surrounding the capacity of the sewers had already been addressed to Toby Willison (Environmental Director, Southern Water) and an answer had been promised within 7 days.

Floyd Cooper reiterated that this was not his area of expertise.

- 2) It was reported by a resident that she had a Southern Water asset on her driveway which Southern Water have accepted responsibility for. The drain cover is broken, there is a smell of sewage, and the driveway is not accessible. It was reported that this has been ongoing for 7 years and although at least 2 people have attended and agreed that it needs fixing nothing has been done.

Floyd Cooper from Southern Water responded that he would follow this up immediately and look to get someone out to fix this as a priority. Floyd asked to take the residents address at the end of the meeting.

- 3) It was asked why the Memorial Hall flooded 4 years ago from sewerage problems and what has been done to stop this happening again?

Floyd Cooper from Southern Water responded that he understood the frustration and apologised for the impact on the birthday party in question and explained that if lots of water comes into the system it surcharges and blocks and this is what caused the problem at the Memorial Hall. It was noted that Glen is here every couple of days looking at the levels and carrying out jetting work. In future problems like this will be seen and dealt with remotely before they occur.

Cllr Pickford asked whether the 19 houses feeding into the system from the Sports field will have a detrimental effect? It was clarified by Floyd Cooper that these houses may take up 10% of the pipe capacity and would not have a big impact. Sewer monitors will be put into the sewers in Lavant, some are already in place and will be active by the Spring but there is no timeframe on the others. It was noted by Cllr Pickford that this is not in Appendix B.

Much discussion took place about pipe capacity and the need to increase this capacity by the introduction of bigger pipes. The Parish Council and Cllr Hunt reiterated to Southern Water that the problems in Lavant and locally have been going on for many years and instead of remedial works, new and bigger pipes are needed. Floyd Cooper maintained that tankers are still the best way to deal with the problems, however Southern Water are looking at lots of options to manage groundwater as the pipes cannot cope with the additional flow. In many areas the groundwater table is higher than the pipes, monitoring will show where the hotspots are and where the water is coming in. It was asked why Southern Water did not plan for new pipes and it Floyd Cooper responded that cost is a limiting factor and Southern Water are finding and fixing more problems.

- 4) Cllr Quest asked what could be done about the Restrictive Toilet Use (RTU) that some residents are facing. This causes a smell in residents houses and gardens, in particular in Down Road, the Potfield Estate and Springfield Close. It was asked how residents can let Southern Water know about these problems?

Beth Hughes responded that the best way is to go through the Customer Contact Centre by either email or phone. It was noted by some residents that it can take up to 45 minutes for a call to be answered. Beth Hughes responded that if an email is sent this is logged and forwarded to the correct department and sometimes Southern Water can send someone to look at the problem. It was reported that if a customer is unable to use their facilities then Southern Water will act to ensure that they can.

Cllr Reynolds highlighted that it is key that all residents report these problems when they occur so that a clear picture can be formed of the extent of the issues.

Floyd Cooper said that he would send over full contact details to the Clerk.

- 5) Infiltration Remedial Plan – Cllr Pickford noted that there was nothing planned for Lavant. Floyd Cooper gave out an overview document pertaining to Lavant Valley Infiltration. The information headlined the work done and what is coming. It was noted that there is nothing specific for Lavant. Much discussion took place around the capacity of the pipes and the options to manage groundwater, with Floyd Cooper noting that the pipes could not cope with the additional flow. It was highlighted that the tankers were in Lavant early this year in comparison to previous years.
- 6) Infiltration Plan makes reference to a general plan – where can this be found?  
Floyd Cooper responded that this was available on the same webpage at the very top of the page
- 7) Infiltration Plan has no technical detail so how do we know the impact of the 56 houses on the Eastmead Estate?  
Floyd Cooper responded that this is not his area of expertise and he would forward the questions to the appropriate department.

- 8) There is a hunched pipe at the Pook Lane Bridge – it is surrounded in concrete and reduces the flow under the first bridge so that the flow of the river is disturbed and water backs up resulting in water flooding the road. Groundwater comes up through the Village Green and into the Memorial Hall.

Floyd Cooper said that he would look into this.

- 9) A question was raised by a local farmer regarding drainage ditches being full of vegetation along the Chilgrove Rd and requested that it should be cleared out. Jeremy Hunt replied that it was landowners responsibility if their land came down on one side of the ditch and not highways responsibility to clear out.

- 10) Following extensive and lengthy discussions with many questions that Southern Water were not able to answer, in particular around the issues with the Eastmead Estate, Cllr Pickford requested a meeting with the technical team at Southern Water where they could look at drawings and get answers to the many unresolved issues around capacity and plans for the infrastructure. Floyd Cooper said that he would speak to the Developer Services team as this is their area.

Cllr Hunt asked for Southern Water to supply regular reading to the Parish Council on discharge and river monitoring locally. It was agreed that this would be supplied.

On a final note Floyd Cooper mentioned that it would be effective if the local parishes join up to work as a group with Southern Water. Cllr Hunt agreed that as many face the same issues this would be useful, and he would co-ordinate.

Cllr Pickford thanked Southern Water for attending the meeting. Southern Water and many of the residents left the meeting at 8.36pm.

Following the lengthy discussions, and making note of the time Cllr Pickford proposed to cut items 6, 11, 12 & 13 from the agenda and to put them onto the February agenda for discussion. This was agreed **UNANIMOUSLY** by the Parish Council

#### **6. Update on outstanding actions brought forward from previous meeting: -**

To be covered in February

#### **7. Brief Q & A from County Councillor on his report affecting this Parish**

The following report was received in advance by Cllr Hunt:

First of all, I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Following an extensive report for your last meeting, I have just a couple of updates for you tonight.

#### **County Council Update**

Our draft budget for 2023/24 and our draft Medium Term Financial Strategy through to 2026/27 are now ready. These proposals will be reviewed at our Performance and Finance Scrutiny Committee meeting on 25th January. The papers for that meeting, including our draft budget, will be published on our website on 17th January, so you can view the full budget there. Following scrutiny, the draft budget will then go forward for approval by Cabinet on 31st January (again, a public meeting) before going to full council for approval on 17th February. Of course, following any suggestions from scrutiny and cabinet, there might be some minor changes before the final draft goes to full council.

For your interest, our proposed total spend across all our services in 2023/24 will be just under £1.9bn. However, after grants (including the Dedicated Schools Grant of around £780m which we passport straight through to schools), fees and charges and other income, our proposed net revenue budget is £708m. That is an increase of approx 9.25%, or £60m in real money, over the current year. Again, the largest part of our budget - just over 55% - is spent on social care (34% on Adults and 21% on Children and Young People). When the Government calculate the level of core funding for local authorities, they make an assumption that we will raise council tax by the maximum permitted amount and they deduct that amount (whether you increase CT or not) from the final amount they award us. For 2023/24 the government have raised the referendum limit for core council tax from 2% to 3%, and from 1% to 2% for the Adult Social Care precept. Therefore, in our draft budget we are proposing to increase the WS core council tax by 2.99% and the ASC precept by 2%, giving a total increase of 4.99%. For an average Band D taxpayer this equates to £77.76 per year, or £1.49 per week.

#### **Local Issues:**

- Replacement Trees following construction of a new ramp to Centurion Way from Meadow Close - I see that Tim is on the case with our officer, Gary Rustell
- Southern Water - I'm pleased that after nearly a year of asking, Southern water are attending this meeting.

Finally, please don't forget to keep an eye on our website, especially our news and campaigns page where you can keep up to date with all our latest news.

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/news-and-campaigns/>

Also, a reminder that all our public meetings are webcast live and are also archived, so you can always view them later. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/watch-county-council-and-committee-meetings-online/>

#### **8. Brief Q & A from District Councillor on his report affecting this Parish**

None

#### **9. Chairman's Report**

- Eastmead Update – Cllr Pickford noted that he has sent out minutes to his meeting on Thursday as well as details of an email to Vanessa Rowlands. Richard Ferguson has also been in touch to acknowledge previous communications.

Cllr Pickford reported that he had visited the Eastmead Estate and looked at the rubble – it is now being taken off site and this should be completed by the end of the week. It was noted that no further response has come from the building inspector regarding the conditions. Cllr Quest raised concerns that in years to come people may suffer from respiratory problems due to the asbestos and yet we are powerless to do anything. A resident highlighted that he was still in touch with Gillian Keegan and intends to pursue this avenue to try and get answers regarding the asbestos. It was agreed that the Parish Council are unable to do anything further although it was noted that they are not in agreement with what has transpired. Cllr Pickford reported that he had raised several questions with Toby Willison of Southern Water regarding capacity and flow and had been assured of an answer within 7 days.

Cllr Palmer noted that he felt that tonight’s attendance by Southern Water was a PR exercise in which no real answers were given to the questions raised. It was clear to him that Lavant does not have the capacity and requires significant investment. It was noted that Toby Willison led the Southern Water discussions at the recent Scrutiny Committee meeting and hopefully would be able to provide answers.

Cllr Pickford noted that the HSE had responded that there was no requirement to consult with people living adjacent to a demolition site, however the SDNPA has agreed that there should be more consultation in the future.

- It was noted that the document pertaining to the Sports Field needs to go to David Kent for comment
- The recent flooding in the village was noted and it was agreed that the previous Operation Watershed works associated with Chalkpit Lane and Shop Lane were working well but as a result the water comes up in the catchment area and out of the manhole.
- Cllr Hunt noted that further to the discussions earlier, Southern Water have a legal responsibility to provide adequate facilities to cope with sewerage. Cllr Pickford asked whether Cllr Hunt would chair and put together a meeting with Southern Water and the other local parishes as he has the credibility and integrity to do so. The Parish Council thanked Cllr Hunt for his continued assistance.

Cllr Palmer excused himself from the meeting at 8.45pm followed by Cllr Hunt at 8.48pm

## **10. Street Naming Suggestions – Eastmead**

The following names were put forward for consideration:

- Triang Way

- Bentwood Way
- Eastmead Way

After discussion the Parish Council agreed that the above 3 names should be submitted.

#### **11. School Carpark**

Discussion postponed until February meeting

#### **12. Local Transport Improvements**

Discussion postponed until February meeting

#### **13. Village maintenance and other concerns**

Discussion postponed until February meeting

#### **14. Clerks Summary of Correspondence Received**

- Website Update – the Clerk reported that she now has access to update the website and has changed Cllr Reynolds access so that she should be able to upload documents that are compliant. Clerk to send contact details for Mark Houlton to Cllr Reynolds
- Email – SDNPA call for projects 2022/23  
The Council acknowledged receipt of this
- WSALC Chairs Forum – change of date  
Cllr Aldridge asked for details to be resent to him
- Dates published for future Police Zoom meetings  
Cllr Goldsmith asked for details to be resent

#### **15. Finance**

- To note receipts and recommend approval of December payments (Appendix A)  
Council reviewed the payments. **Cllr Pickford** proposed to accept the payments, this was seconded by **Cllr Aldridge**
- To approve the Bank reconciliation for December (attachment)  
Council reviewed the bank reconciliation. **Cllr Tucker** proposed to accept the bank reconciliation, this was seconded by **Cllr Pickford**
- To review the accounts to date  
The Council reviewed and accepted the accounts to date. It was suggested that Cllr Pickford meet with the Clerk and Andy (Mulberry & Co) to go through the allocation of invoices against budget codes on 8<sup>th</sup> February
- To confirm the Budget for 2023-34 and set the Precept for 2023-24  
After discussion the Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** to request a 3% increase on the Precept for 2023-24. Clerk to request to CDC

#### **16. To comment on and review planning applications and delegated decisions**

Council noted the following decisions:

**LV/22/02913/TPA**

**Address:** Land West Of 18 To 20 Roman Fields Roman Fields Chichester West Sussex

**Proposal:** Reduce 1 no. branch on east sector by 4m on 1 no. Beech tree (T136). Reduce height by 4m on 1 no. Sycamore tree (T152). Reduce 1 no. lower branch on north sector by 2m on 1 no. Birch tree (T161). All 3 no. trees within Area, A1 subject to LV/08/00140/TPO.

**Decision:** PERMIT

**LV/22/02925/TPA**

**Address:** Land North-West Of 18 To 20 Roman Fields Roman Fields Chichester West Sussex

**Proposal:** Fell 1 no. Sycamore tree (T159) within Area, A1 subject to LV/08/00140/TPO.

**Decision:** PERMIT

New Applications for Comment:

**Case Number: SDNP/22/05619/FUL**

**Location:** The Cottage West Lavant Road Lavant

**Proposal:** Conversion and extensions (2.5 storey to north and 2 no. single storey north) to provide 6 no. dwellings with associated amenity space, landscaping and parking. Associated bin and cycle stores

**Action:** An extension until 10<sup>th</sup> February has been granted to allow for discussion of this application to take place at the next meeting

**17. Items for inclusion on next agenda**

- Sports Field
- Items 6, 11, 12 & 13 from this agenda

**18. Date of next Lavant Parish Council meeting 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**The meeting closed at 9.17pm**



**Appendix A**

LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT PREPARED 10/01/23						
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>						
DATE	REF	PAYER	DESCRIPTION	COST CENTRE	AMOUNT	VAT
CREDIT					£	-
<b>PAYMENTS:</b>						
DATE OF DD/PAYMENT	INVOICE NUMBER	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	COST CENTRE	AMOUNT	VAT
03/01/23		Scanstation	Microsoft License (Dec)	IT	£ 43.68	7.28
05/01/23		ICO	Data Protection Renewal	IT	£ 40.00	
05/01/23		MH Kennedy & Son	Supply and apply fertilizer	Football pitch	£ 564.00	94.00
09/01/23		Novuna	Tractor Loan		£ 229.00	
		Barclaycard	Various		£ 34.99	CREDIT
09/01/23		Allstar	Fuel		£ 27.42	4.57
09/01/23		NEST	Clerk Pension		100.11	
<b>APPROVAL DATE</b>						
17/01/23		Rialtus Business Solutions	System Setup	IT	£ 770.60	128.43
		Mulberry & Co	RFO support		£ 252.00	42.00
		WSCC	Clerk Salary	Salary	£ 1,256.78	
		HL O'Callaghan	Clerk Expenses	WFH/Travel	£ 52.00	
		Viking	Stationery	Stationery	£ 30.73	5.12
		Clr Aldridge	Reimbursement of Expenses - Boots	Lav Vols	£ 19.95	
<b>TOTAL</b>					£ 3,421.26	£ 281.40