



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Milford, Bishopdown Farm, Old Sarum & Longhedge

Meeting of the Operations Committee held on Thursday 30th September 2021 at the River Bourne Community Farm

MINUTES

Councillors present: Maskell (Chair), Barker, McDonald

In attendance: Prince (Clerk), Deane (Deputy Clerk)

In attendance remotely via Zoom link: Cavendish (Operations Officer)

The meeting commenced at 19.04pm.

O.21.011 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Rigiani and Cllr Lynn

O.21.012 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

O.21.013 Approval of Minutes Meeting held on 7th July 2021

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2021.

O.21.014 Matters arising

OPS 351 – Defibrillators/Community First Aid

The Operations Officer reported on quotes obtained for First Aid Courses. After discussion it was felt that the Parish Council could not provide large scale or sustainable training. The Operations Officer will keep the information on file and any groups interested will be encouraged to apply for a grant to provide the training.

ACTION CLOSED

OPS 353 – Biodiversity in the Parish

The Operations Officer reported on her investigations regarding an environmental policy. She had identified 9 areas that parish councils should consider:- use of water and energy, the councils use of natural resources, provision of recycling, sustainable procurement, use of environmentally friendly products, use of environmentally friendly suppliers, provision of training to staff and councillors, sustainable transport and biodiversity. Quotes for bio-diversity surveys typically were tens of thousands of pounds and would be conducted over many months. One company had offered a snapshot survey for £3768. Other parish councils had set up community groups and provided training, and asked them to conduct surveys. Councillors felt that, as a small parish council, we could have limited impact that would not justify significant costs. The Operations Officer commented that our policy should focus on guiding decisions made by staff and councillors, and how parish council owned land is managed.

Cllr Barker suggested that the newsletter, website and social media could be used to promote small actions that residents could take to help biodiversity. The cost of providing and emptying recycling bins was discussed, but it was felt that the cost would be prohibitive with no certainty the bins would be used properly.

The Clerk reported that there was previously a Parish Environmental Group (PEG) which met monthly but had lapsed. He will pass details to the Operations Officer. The Operations Officer will prepare a first draft of an Environmental Policy. **ACTION OPERATIONS OFFICER**

OPS 355 – Parish Steward

The Clerk reported that he had so far been unable to contact the highways officer regarding the local highways group but will continue to chase.

OPS 356 – Tree Management Policy – Operations Officer is still working on this.

O.21.015 Old Sarum Skatepark.

Cllr Maskell reported on complaints of ASB at the Skatepark. The Operations Officer reported that the banks were still slipping and the grass was not yet establishing. The Deputy Clerk reported that a quote had been requested for ground stabilisation mesh.

The Operations Officer has been investigating classes for street art and graffiti art to cover the rendered walls, in collaboration with Old Sarum Youth Club. An estimate of £2000 had been received. The Youth Club will be encouraged to lead the project and apply for parish council, Area Board and Abri grants to fund. The Operations Officer will attend their next meeting to discuss options. The Deputy Clerk offered to help with grant applications if required. The Deputy Clerk will contact the CEM regarding the work of outreach youth workers and events at the skatepark.

ACTION OPERATIONS OFFICER AND DEPUTY CLERK

O.21.016 Use of Old Sarum Youth & Adult Offsite Recreation Fund

Several uses for the fund were discussed, including funding of play areas or provision of a ball court. The Committee asked officers to investigate a possible location for a Multi Use Games Area and obtain a quote for ground stabilisation at the Skatepark.

ACTION DEPUTY CLERK AND OPERATIONS OFFICER

O.21.017 Use of Community Infrastructure Levy.

The Clerk explained that the majority of the current CIL fund comes from the Longhedge Development. Suggestions discussed included Dog Waste Bag Dispensers and Allotments. The Operations Officer and Deputy Clerk will continue to investigate options for allotments.

ACTION DEPUTY CLERK AND OPERATIONS OFFICER

O.21.018 Longhedge Football Pitch & Changing Rooms.

The Clerk explained that the proposal to transfer the Football Pitch would come with appropriate maintenance funds, but that there are no maintenance funds for the changing rooms. The maintenance and cleaning of the changing rooms would need to be covered from any rental, but any shortfall made up by the owner. The Clerk understood that if the Parish Council decide not to accept transfer of the football pitch and changing rooms, they would be transferred to the management company for Longhedge. The possibility of changing the building into a community space was also discussed.

The Clerk was asked to provide estimates of the running cost of the proposed changing rooms at the next meeting.

The Clerk is setting up a meeting to discuss the pitch with interested parties in October and the results will be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION CLERK

The meeting closed at 20.58pm.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 25th November 2021 at Greentrees School, Saunders Avenue, Bishopdown