



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Milford, Bishopdown Farm, Old Sarum & Longhedge

Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th April 2023 at River Bourne Community Farm.

MINUTES

Councillors present: Baker (Chair), Barker, Hayes, Jones, Lynn, McDonald, Rigiani, Schneider, Smith, Vanstone, Waller.

In attendance: Brain (Communications and Community Engagement Officer CCEO), Prince (Responsible Financial Officer RFO and Clerk for this meeting)

Also in attendance at the meeting were Wiltshire Cllrs McLennan and Oliver, and 5 members of the public.

Attending online were Deane (Clerk) and two members of the public.

The public session opened at 7.06pm.

Members of the public in attendance included directors of River Bourne Community Farm, including two new directors who were introduced to councillors. Councillors were reassured that the new directors would continue to focus on the education and community focus aspects of the farm. The directors explained that the café and Live at the Farm would be run by River Bourne Services Ltd in future, to minimise risk to the Farm. Profits will be donated to the Farm.

Another member of the public spoke about the traffic survey results from Church Road, which had not shown an issue with speeding. Cllr Jones reported that as Team Leader for the new Community Speed Watch CSW team, she would be investigating alternative locations for a traffic survey as she agreed there was a speeding problem in this location. This may provide evidence for either a new Speed Indicator Device location or CSW site.

WCllr Oliver reported on an additional consultation event planned for Friday 21st April at Skies Café, by those proposing development at Old Sarum Airfield. A member of the public asked about the Parish Council approach to meetings regarding the proposals. The Chair confirmed that no decision would be made on the proposals until a formal application was received. In the meantime the Parish Council had to ensure any council actions or comments made could not prejudice the councils response to the application when received.

The council meeting commenced at 7.57pm.

23.041 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors Maskell and Tucker.

Resolved: to accept the apologies received.

23.042 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Lynn and Vanstone declared interests in item 23.053 as a trustees of Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre.

23.043 Approval of Minutes

The RFO reported on 3 errors in the minutes circulated: - 23.030 McLennan added after WCllr, 23.038 Cllr Jones changed to Cllr Smith, 23.038 £50,00.00 amended to £50,000.00.

Resolved: to approve the minutes, as amended, of the meeting held on 20th March 2023

23.044 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

23.045 Planning

PL/2022/02490 River Bourne Community Farm

Cllr Hayes reported that he had discussed this appeal against the previous refusal with the Farm directors. The RFO advised that two responses were available – ‘we are against the appeal’ or ‘we support the appeal’. Additional submissions could be made but the inspectorate may or may not consider them.

Resolved: To approve the response that the council supports the appeal.

PL/2022/09262 Land adjacent to High Post Business Park, Salisbury, SP4 6AT

The Clerk had circulated details of an application outside of the Parish, which included a possible site for a Salisbury Police station. The Chair reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable would be attending the May meeting of the Parish Council. Councillors agreed that any opinions on the location of a police station were outside of the planning issues regarding this application and would not wish to submit a comment.

Planning Log

Resolved: to approve the following response

PL/2023/02079 Loft conversion with dormer at 26 Roger Way, Old Sarum SP4 6GS NO COMMENT

23.046 Grant Applications

This item was deferred to the next meeting as the application from River Bourne Community Farm had not yet been received.

23.047 Highways

Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group update

The Clerk reported that as well as the recent speed survey in Church Road, already discussed in the public session, a further survey in Sherbourne Drive, Old Sarum had not recorded any speeding issues. Councillors expressed concern at the results and whether a further survey in another location could be conducted. The Clerk will discuss with Highways Officers. ACTION CLERK

23.048 Wiltshire Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy

The Clerk had circulated Report 23.048 in advance of the meeting, giving details of the options available to the council regarding the discretions within the scheme. Following advice from officers at LGPS, the recommended statement for all discretions was agreed.

Resolved: For all optional discretions within the scheme, Laverstock and Ford Parish Council will only exercise this discretion in exceptional circumstances and with the express permission of the Full Council after consideration of the financial implications of that decision

23.049 Staff Appraisal Policy

The Clerk had circulated Report 23.049 in advance of the meeting, setting out a proposed Staff Appraisal Policy based on SLCC guidance.

Resolved: to adopt the Staff Appraisal Policy as circulated

23.050 Emergency Planning Update

The Clerk reported on the briefing regarding the National Emergency Test planned for the following Sunday, where all mobile phones would be activated with a siren. All councillors and officers were asked to assist spreading information, especially to vulnerable residents.

23.051 Website update and handover

The CCEO reported that some outstanding issues were with the web developer. Councillors were asked to update email signatures and remember to direct queries to the new website. A ‘mask’ was due to be placed on the old website, directing visitors to the new website. A transition to .gov.uk email addresses is planned for later in the year. The CCEO was asked to investigate automatic signatures on emails through HIVE. ACTION CCEO

23.052 Committee Membership for 2023/24

In advance of the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, councillors were urged to consider their committee roles and whether they wished to continue.

23.053 Community Centres update

The Clerk reported that Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre have appointed their own Centre Manager. There was therefore no need to amend the lease as had been planned, but the centre would need to apply to the council for a grant from some of the Community Centre Funds that the council had allocated in this years budget.

23.054 Finance

The Chair confirmed that he had checked the monthly accounts in detail and was satisfied all was correct.

Adoption of Monthly Accounts for March 2023

The Financial Statements had previously been circulated in Report 23.054. The total funds held at the end of March 2023 were £1,446,573.36 of which £1,346,921.49 were earmarked or restricted reserves.

Resolved: To adopt the monthly accounts as a true record of the Council's finances.

Authorisation of Payments

The lists of payments had been circulated in Report 23.054. Total cheque and BACS payments in April 2023 amounted to £47,757.72. Debit card and direct debit payments in March 2023 amounted to £2,890.91.

Resolved: To approve the cheque, BACS, direct debit and debit card payments.

Review of Reserves and Treasury Deposit Report

Reserves and Treasury Deposit Reports Summaries of Financial Reserves and Deposits had been presented in Report 23.054. Earmarked and Restricted Reserves at the end of March 2023 were £1,346,921.49. The balance on the 32 Day Notice Account at the end of March 2023 was £440,458.18 including interest of £7,978.76. The balance on the CCLAPSDF was £946,788.94 including dividends awarded of £15,844.94. The 32 Day Term Account matured on 20th March with £76.85 interest. There was a total of £1,387,247.12 on deposit at the end of March 2023.

Resolved: To note the reserve and treasury deposit reports.

23.055 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Chair and CCEO reported on plans for the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Councillors were asked to provide feedback on the draft Parish Strategic Plan and to consider what subjects they may wish to address with the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable who would be attending.

23.056 Exempt Business – Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt business.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

NEXT MEETING. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 15th May 2023 at River Bourne Community Farm. This will commence at 6.00pm and be followed at 7.45pm by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

SIGNED:

DATE: