



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Milford, Bishopdown Farm, Old Sarum & Longhedge

Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th October 2023 at Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre

MINUTES

Councillors present: Baker (Chair), Barker, Maskell, McDonald, Rigiani, Schneider (from 7.10pm)

In attendance: Brain (Communications and Community Engagement Officer CCEO), Deane (Clerk). Prince (Responsible Financial Officer RFO) joined the meeting online. Also in attendance were Wiltshire Councillors McLennan, Oliver and Rogers. There were 58 members of the public in attendance, with a further 6 joining the meeting online.

The public session commenced at 7.01pm.

Several members of the public spoke in opposition to a planning application recently submitted for 315 homes on Old Sarum Airfield. One referred to a previous application refused at appeal and a current enforcement case which Wiltshire Cllr Oliver offered to investigate. Concerns raised included the impact on the heritage site, traffic and road/pedestrian safety through Ford, the timeframe for submission of comments, a lack of significant change from previous applications and a lack of detail/viability of proposed improvements to the heritage assets.

Ward Cllr Barker and Wiltshire Councillor Oliver confirmed that any resident could contact them to discuss any issues they wished to raise. The Clerk reported that the Planning Case Officer had stated the statutory consultation deadline could not be extended, but any comments received before the application was determined would be considered, even if submitted after the deadline.

Wiltshire Councillor McLennan commented that Old Sarum Airfield was a conservation area granted by Historic England, as a First World Airfield, for three primary reasons, which made it unique:

1. One of the last remaining grass airstrips
2. Retaining an almost complete set of operational and technical buildings
3. The original perimeter of the airfield being almost intact.

Wiltshire Councillor McLennan also commented that the current status of Ford was a designated 'small village' in the Wiltshire Council planning framework, where development should be infill of 1 – 2 properties as appropriate. The new Draft Wiltshire Local Plan, currently under consultation, would allow for future development in 'small villages' of up to 20 homes, restricted to local people only. Core Policy 25 in the current local plan, which relates specifically to Old Sarum Airfield, had been removed from the draft plan under consultation. The Parish Council agreed to host a further meeting for any residents who wished to attend and discuss the application further with councillors, with details to be circulated. All present were informed that the formal response of the council had not yet been debated and would be agreed at the November Parish Council meeting.

The meeting commenced at 7.52pm.

23.123 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Jones, Lynn, Vanstone and Waller. Apologies had also been received from RFO Prince who joined the meeting online.

Resolved: to accept the apologies received

23.124 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Baker declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Grant Application from 1st Laverstock Scout Group, and confirmed he would abstain from voting on that item.

23.125 Planning

PL/2023/07368 Land at Old Sarum Airfield

Cllr Barker reported that Old Sarum Airfield was one of three First World War grass airstrips left in Britain, was of national heritage importance and was the most valuable heritage asset in the Parish. Cllr Barker referred to the appeal inspectors conclusion on the previous application, that the conservation and heritage aspects of the site, including proximity to Old Sarum Monument, could not be set aside and were sufficient to rule the previous application refused.

Cllr Barker raised concerns over the deterioration of the listed hangars on the site, concerns over future protection of other historic buildings on the site that are not listed, and lack of detail in the application on how and when any improvements would be delivered. Cllr Barker also highlighted the lack of local facilities in Old Sarum and Longhedge with one school (primary), no health care or medical provision, the recently reduced bus service and the need to take two buses to visit the hospital. Cllr Barker highlighted concerns over increased traffic and congestion from the proposed development into Salisbury.

Cllr Barker did not believe the inspectors concerns over development of areas of the airfield contributing to the erosion of the wider conservation area, diminishing the openness of the grassland and consequential harm to the appearance and character of the heritage asset had been addressed in the new application.

Cllr McDonald commented on his dismay that the proposals would double the size of Ford, destroying its character. Cllr McDonald also commented on the importance of the ancient Old Sarum Monument and it's views towards Figsbury Ring.

Cllr Schneider commented that having to accept development in order to provide funds to protect and maintain the heritage site was unacceptable and that central government should be held accountable for protection and maintenance of the airfield.

Cllr Baker commented that he did not feel the plans submitted demonstrated significant change from the previous refusal, and his frustration that legal obligations for maintaining the listed heritage assets were not already being enforced.

Cllr Barker confirmed that she would circulate a proposed draft response to councillors for consideration in advance of the November meeting.

Officers agreed to set up a further public engagement event to enable further discussions with residents in advance of the formal consultation deadline of 26th October.

PL/2023/07359 Milford Farm

Cllr Baker reported on concerns about buildings covered under this application on agricultural land.

Resolved: to approve the response 'Object with reasons' for reasons:-

Design, appearance and materials: The site is historically agricultural in use and purpose, the presence of windows are contra-indicative to claims of a building solely for agricultural use and needing to be secure for storage.

The scale of the building, a two-storey design, the installation of water and solar power together, indicate a building designed more as a dwelling than a storage or work shed.

23.126 Grant Applications

1st Laverstock Scout Group

A representative of the 1st Laverstock Scouts presented their application for a grant towards increased rental costs at the village hall. The Clerk had circulated the application in Report 23.126 in advance of the meeting.

Resolved: That the council resolves to grant £560.00 to 1st Laverstock Scout Group towards the hire charges at Laverstock Village Hall, under the powers granted by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972

23.127 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October had not yet been circulated.

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023

23.128 Matters Arising

Cllr Baker reported on the report from Landmark Chambers which had been received regarding the Wiltshire Draft Local Plan and circulated by the Clerk. Cllr Baker reported that advice received regarding the sites covered under Policies 23 and 30 gave several strong arguments to challenge the current draft. Councillors did not support further spend on either a landscape or transport assessment, or preparation of submissions. Cllr Baker agreed to draft and circulate a response regarding the Old Sarum sites (Policies 23 and 25) and Cllr McDonald agreed to do the same regarding the Laverstock site (Policy 30).

23.129 Highways

LHFIG Contributions

The Clerk had circulated Report 23.129 in advance of the meeting, detailing proposed schemes for crossing signs on the London Road, approaching St Thomas bridge, and proposed dropped kerbs outside the Alabare site on The Portway.

Resolved: to approve contributions to LHFIG Highways Schemes:-

Issue 13-22-33 St Thomas Bridge/London Road Pedestrian Crossing Warning Signs £319.50
Issue 13-23-05 The Portway/Alabare dropped kerbs (up to) £1340

23.130 Public Space Protection Order PSPO Consultation

The Clerk had circulated a proposed PSPO under Report 23.130 in advance of the meeting, which sought to address specific anti-social behaviour of catapult use and consumption of alcohol in public spaces. Councillors supported the proposals but felt item 3, para c and d (below) should be removed:

c) Possesses stones, ball bearings, pellets or similar item(s) capable of being launched as a projectile, by a catapult, slingshot or similar item or by manual force, that could cause harm or damage to a person, animal or property. d) Fails to surrender any stones, ball bearings, pellets or similar item(s) capable of being launched as a missile by a catapult, slingshot or similar item

Resolved: to approve the response of Laverstock and Ford Parish Council as support subject to the removal of Item 3 Para c and d. The Clerk will submit the response.

23.131 Conclusion of External Audit

The RFO had previously circulated the results of the external audit to all councillors. The RFO confirmed that he had answered supplementary questions asked by the auditor and it was noted that the external audit had been passed with no comments.

23.132 Budget

Cllr Baker reported that budget preparations had been discussed at Finance and General Purposes Committee and progress was continuing.

23.133 Finance

Cllr Baker confirmed he had checked monthly accounts and was satisfied all were correct.

Adoption of Monthly Accounts for September 2023

The Financial Statements had previously been circulated in Report 23.133. The total funds held at the end of September 2023 were £1,606,667.04 of which £1,337,804.87 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 23.133. Total cheque and BACS payments in October 2023 amounted to £152,897.83 including £111,846.91 to Wicksteed Leisure for Sycamore Drive Play Park and improvements to Longhedge Play Parks, £6,782.59 to eibe Play for St Luke's Play Park, £4,200 to Landmark Chambers for legal advice and £5,034.50 to Old Sarum Community Centre including a £5,000 grant. Debit card and direct debit payments in September 2023 amounted to £610.87.

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

Review of Reserves and Treasury Deposit Report

Reserves and Treasury Deposit Reports had been presented in Report 23.133. Earmarked and Restricted Reserves at the end of September 2023 were £1,337,804.87. The balance on the 32 Day Notice Account at the end of September 2023 was £324,654.49 including interest of £12,771.08. The balance on the CCLAPSDF was £1,019,681.71 including dividends awarded of £38,737.71. There was a total of £1,344,336.20 on deposit at the end of September 2023.

Resolved: To note the reserve and treasury deposit reports

23.134 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported thanks from Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre for the grant funding awarded.

The Clerk confirmed no proposals had been received to amend the previous response to PL/2022/04875 Land at Salisbury Retail Park (ASDA), which would therefore remain unaltered.

23.135 Exempt Business – Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt business.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

NEXT MEETING. The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 7pm on Monday 20th November 2023 at Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre.

SIGNED:

DATE: