



# **Laverstock & Ford Parish Council**

**Incorporating Milford, Bishopdown Farm, Old Sarum & Longhedge**

## **Finance and General Purposes Committee**

**Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at 7pm  
at River Bourne Community Farm.**

### **MINUTES**

**Councillors present:** Baker (Chair), Maskell, Schneider

**In attendance:** Deane (Clerk), Prince (Responsible Financial Officer RFO)

The meeting commenced at 7pm.

#### **FGP.23.047 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Waller.

#### **FGP.23.048 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **FGP.23.049 Approval of Minutes**

**Resolved:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

#### **FGP.23.050 Conclusion of External Audit 2022/23**

The Chair expressed thanks to the RFO for his work on the audit and the results were noted.

#### **FGP.23.051 Review of Year to Date 2023/24 Expenditure**

The RFO circulated figures and discussed performance against budget for the first six months of the year. The RFO highlighted the significant spend on tree maintenance and his intention for all tree work to be funded from the revenue budget in future, rather than depleting 20 year maintenance sums for individual sites.

#### **FGP.23.052 Budget 2024/2025**

The RFO reported that no decision had yet been published on whether parish councils would be subject to referendum principles limiting precept increases in 2024/25. It was agreed that draft figures would be presented in December with final approval to be sought in January.

The Clerk asked councillors to consider what level of support should be allocated in the budget for community buildings going forward. Councillors also discussed a topic point from the recent Operations Committee regarding the spending of Community Infrastructure Levy CIL funds, and whether this should continue to be 'ring-fenced' to the ward in which it originated.

#### **FGP.23.053 Wiltshire Draft Local Plan**

At the September meeting of the Parish Council, councillors resolved to instruct Landmark Chambers for advice regarding the Wiltshire Draft Local Plan in relation to Policy 25 and 30.

Information had subsequently come to light, and been circulated to councillors, regarding Policy 23 and 25.

**Resolved:** In accordance with Standing Order 7 (Previous resolutions), the committee recommends the amendment of the previous resolution, passed in September 2023 regarding instructions to Landmark Chambers, to:

that the Parish Council instructs Landmark Chambers to provide written advice on the Wiltshire Draft Local Plan to a cost of no more than £4000 + VAT, based on instruction from the Parish Clerk in consultation with the Chair.

**FGP.23.054 Officers Report and Correspondence**

The Clerk reported on comments criticising the Parish Council circulating on social media regarding a recent planning application. The committee agreed no formal response was required.

The Clerk also reported on discussions at the recent staff meeting regarding the benefits of committees vs working groups. The Clerk will discuss further with committee chairs.

**FGP.23.055 Draft Agenda Full Council Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The Clerk circulated a proposed agenda to include planning matters, grant applications and a consultation on a Public Space Protection Order for Salisbury. It was agreed that CIL spending should be discussed at a future meeting.

**FGP.23.056 Exempt Business –Matters in Confidence**

There was no exempt business.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the River Bourne Community Farm.

SIGNED:

DATE: