

1. REPORT SUMMARY

A report to councillors regarding funds for salaries at Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

The current OSLCC Centre Manager gave notice at the end of November 2024. The Centre Managers salary had been entirely funded from grants from the Parish Council. After discussion with the trustees, it was agreed that a new Venues Officer would be recruited as a direct employee of the Parish Council, and the new officer started at the end of March.

3. SUMMARY

The existing OSLCC Centre Manager had been employed on a 15 hour per week contract, although frequently found themselves working many more. The new Venues Officer contract is 15 hours per week focusing on bookings and promotion, but whilst the OSLCC lease remains in place, the responsibilities of the Venues Officer as a Parish Council employee will be less. Health and Safety, for example, will remain the responsibility of the trustees. The trustees had understood the Venues Officer would be taking on all of the Centre Manager role, and were not expecting, to take on these responsibilities.

Circumstances have also changed since November. A key trustee has resigned at Laverstock Village Hall, meaning one trustee is left shouldering all the work. Trustees at Hampton Park Pavilion have stated they all intend to step down at the end of summer 2025.

The Venues Officer and Interim Clerk will be meeting with both Laverstock Village Hall and Pavilion trustees to attempt to offer assistance and negotiate a way forward. In the meantime, investigations continue into a permanent solution, either by recruiting new trustees for the existing charities, the Parish Council becoming sole trustee of charities, or establishing a new charity to manage all 3 centres. A report will come to a future meeting with recommendations. In the meantime, the existing OSLCC Centre Manager has offered to stay on for a 6 month period on a 10 hour per week basis, to fulfil the rest of the duties at OSLCC not covered by the Venues Officer role.

Depending on the outcome of investigations and the final decision of the council, it may be that further hours would be required if the council end up running all 3 centres, but that is yet to be determined.

OSLCC have applied for a grant to fund 10 hours per week for 6 months, to retain the existing Centre Manager, attached Annex One.

4. RECOMMENDATION

That the council resolves to grant £4,750 to Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre towards the Centre Managers salary, under **Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976, s.19**. *[Power to provide buildings for use of clubs having athletic, social or educational objectives – inc. staff.]*

Application for Grant for Voluntary Organisations

Local Government Act 1972, Section 137

Please be advised that all applicants are invited to attend and address the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council Meeting deciding your application. Although this is not compulsory it is seen to be beneficial especially for grant applications over £500.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Council if you need help completing this application
communications@laverstock-ford.co.uk

1 Name of Organisation and date

(the name of your club, charity etc. plus date of application)

Old Sarum Community Centre

12.04.25

2 Amount of Grant aid being requested (how much money are you asking for?) £4,750

3 Tell us about the project or activity you are applying for financial support for (this space is for a summary, you can also include further detail and supporting documents with this application).

We are asking for £4,750 towards the salary for the Centre Manager.

This is for a 6 month transitional period. We have recently split the job of managing the centre between a venues officer who is largely responsible for all matters relating to bookings and a centre manager who is responsible for the safe upkeep of the building.

4 Please explain how your project or activity supports the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's Parish Plan

We feel that we support the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's Parish plan by providing a useful, vibrant facility at the heart of Old Sarum & Longhedge.

The centre is used by a wide range of people both for private parties and for social activities eg classes and the community pantry.

Over the coming 6 months we will continue to investigate an alternative constitution for the Centre.

5 Please tell us how your project or activity meets the criteria set out in the Laverstock and Ford Parish Council's grant policy

We feel that we meet the criteria by providing a venue for many from an older couple who use the hall to practice dancing, to Neurokind a play therapist who specialises in children with autism, to the Old Sarum Scouts, Nursery and Youth Club. The Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Pantry, Warm Space and Chatty Cafe, New Sarum Women's Institute, Hope Church,

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Author: Trudi Deane, Parish Clerk

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Exodus Church and Salisbury RC Drift Car Club. Plus the businesses that use the centre that are going from strength to strength and all the numerous birthday parties. We are there at the centre of all of these wonderful groups who would cease to exist without the Community Centre.

6 Approximately how many people who will benefit from your project or activity are residents of Laverstock and Ford Parish?

300 per week

7 What will be the TOTAL cost of your project/activity (not just the money you are applying for in this application but the overall cost of the project)

£4,750

8 Have you applied for grant/s for this project or activity from any other source? (Please give details and tell us the dates of when these monies will be awarded)

No

9 If the TOTAL cost of your project/activity is more than the grant being applied for how will you fund the remaining costs? N/a

Old Sarum Community Centre, Pheasant Drive, Old Sarum Salisbury Wiltshire SP4 6GH 1161414