

REPORT FGP 25.017 PARISH OFFICE BROADBAND

LAVERSTOCK AND FORD PARISH COUNCIL

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1. BACKGROUND

The Parish Council Office has recently relocated to Hampton Park Pavilion.

Previously at River Bourne Community Farm, the costs of crossing the farmyard to provide broadband to the portacabin had been prohibitive, and the portacabin was served by a mobile Vodafone hub.

2. SUMMARY

With up to 6 members of staff plus visitors using the Vodafone connection, is is proving unreliable and unable to cope with some of the large file transfers.

From investigations online, it is indicated that Fibre Broadband is available to the Pavilion, with quoted speeds of:

	Download	Upload	Monthly Charge	Connection Charge	Contract length
Virgin Business Gig 1 Bundle	1GBS	100Mbps	£63	£0	24mths
Vodafone Business Full Fibre 900	Est 910Mbs	105Mbs	£46	£0	24mths
BT Essential 900	910Mbs	104Mbs	£49.95	£0	24mths

Whilst it is noted that Vodafone is slightly cheaper per month, we have previously been unsuccessful in setting up a Parish Council business account with them. Customer Services have been difficult to get hold of and seem unable to help accommodate local government accounts.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the council resolves to approve a 24 month contract for BT Essential 900 at a charge of £49.95pm (annual price increases will be applied).

That the council resolves to approve the Direct Debit for the contract in line with Financial Regulations section 7.9

7.9 With the approval of the council in each case, regular payments (such as utilities, broadband, IT support, payroll services, National Non-Domestic Rates, refuse collection, pension contributions and HMRC payments) may be made by variable direct debit, provided that the instructions are signed or approved online by three authorised members. The approval of the use of each variable direct debit shall be reviewed by the council at least every two years.