
Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council

Chairperson – Bob Hough, Longhouse, Freefolk, Whitchurch, RG28 7NW 07990 570035
Clerk - Nicky Nicklin, Parish Office, Lady Rose Hall, Laverstoke Lane, Whitchurch, RG28 7NY
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Annual Parish Assembly Tuesday 10th May 2016 at Lady Rose Hall at 7.30pm

Present

Parish Councillors: Bob Hough, Clare Albert, David Ellis, Charlie Seligman, Jim Marsh,
Jo Probut, James Morrison,
Borough Councillors: Cllr Ian Tilbury, Cllr Colin Phillimore
Police: Piers Ambler
Bombay Sapphire Will Brix
Parish Clerk: Nicky Nicklin
Members of the Public

1. Apologies for absence - None
2. Minutes of the last meeting – Approved & signed

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed Jo & James our new Parish Councillors and thanked all the other Parish Councillors and Nicky for attending meetings and the work they do between the meetings.

The Community site: LRH is still taking regular bookings and we're in discussion with a local couple that are interested in running a nursery from the hall. The Millennium Green started planning new playground equipment and is looking at fund raising. The tennis club and archers have both had very successful years. The grant application for the third tennis court was successful and has since been completed.

Thanks were given to the award winning (!) Bombay Sapphire for their regular updates and their support on the issue of B3400 speeding.

The Parish Council made grants over the past year to: L&F Senior Citizens, Millennium Green for playground/Insurance and for churchyard maintenance of St Mary's.

The problems with BT still persist. We look forward to drier weather and a resumption of works to complete the Freefolk cabinet.

The Men's Shed project had enough interest to get started and is in the process of fund raising.

4. **Police Report** – Piers is moving on to Whitchurch and Emma Page is now our designated Overton/L&F contact. Currently the B&D 3 main priorities are non-dwelling burglaries, dwelling burglaries and traffic offences. These are voted on by the public every 3 months. Over the year in the area there have been 199 "crimes" (includes coursing & poaching), only

1 was in Laverstoke (dwelling burglary where culprit was arrested.) Outside of this 4 vehicles were seized locally including a poacher in Laverstoke, there was 1 report of dangerous driving, 3 road collisions, 1 vehicle theft in Laverstoke & 1 anti-social behavior issue in Freefolk. Crime has been up generally but in L&F it has remained low.

5. **Borough Councillor's Report**

Ian Tilbury – The Local Plan up to 2029 (15 year plan) was finally agreed by Planning inspectors with Manydown included. L&F is less sustainable than Overton and therefore not included in the plan directly. 5 yr land supply is now agreed which means that developers can't "whack in" speculative plans. Manydown is potentially 3,400 houses so it has taken a lot of pressure off other local areas. The Overton North Field application is now submitted (but omitted from Local plan so it can be potentially defended against) with numbers reduced from 200 to 165 houses.

Colin Phillimore – Devolution. B&D were sold devolution as a bottom up reorganisation of local gov. However it appears to add another layer to the current Parish, Borough & County structure with an elected Mayor. The unitary councils of Portsmouth & Southampton have already been created and split from HCC. B&D hasn't done anything publicly but it has been meeting recently with other councils. The plan is that it will be included in a Heart of Hants Council along with New Forest DC, Test Valley BC, Winchester City, Hart DC, Rushmore BC and the M3 LEP. The B&D Borough cllrs have not been consulted and it appears the idea is unpopular. The Labour party in B&D have proposed our Borough becomes a unitary BC in its own right, bringing the benefit of retention of funds in this asset rich area. In reality the Secretary of State will be the "go to" for approvals i.e. it's a top down Govt. structure. There's lots of opposition to this devolution with no benefits for B&D residents. Govt insists in the need for directly elected mayors and the power they will wield should not be underestimated. What happens to HCC is unclear. The move is all about cost cutting. This is being voted on at B&D Cabinet on Thursday 12th May.

6. **Bombay Sapphire's Report**

The past year has been good with 68.5k guests at the mill. There are 850 reviews on Trip Advisor and BS are pleased to have maintained 4.5/5 rating. 12 awards have been won topped by a Gold Award from VisitEngland for the Small Visitor Attraction of the Year In England. It was particularly pleasing as the competition was tough with 35 entries. From a production perspective they have produced the equivalent of 40 mill bottles gin. There have been no significant reportable accidents and no significant complaints. BS thanked the village again for their patience during their build.

Master Distiller, Nik Fordham, has had to step down for purely personal reasons with immediate effect. Phil Skip was introduced and he will be taking over Nik's responsibilities. BS is looking forward to the next year. The restaurant application has still not been submitted; it is hoped that it will go in in the next months. Will will now be managing this. 100k people p.a. remains the goal on visitor numbers long term and it is expected that dwell time will increase with the addition of the restaurant.

7. **Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016** were circulated

Open Forum

A resident commented on new chalk markings on drains in Priory Lane. The clerk confirmed that HCC are due to clear the drains before end of May. There was a discussion on usage of road signage given a flooding sign that was outside 9 Freefolk Priors . It was suggested by a parishioner that such signs could be put out permanently but most felt that temp flood signs left out get quickly ignored. It was commented that there had recently been some dangerous Skateboarding on Priory Lane. Hardy's have received a write up in the Telegraph in the run up to Chelsea Flower Show and it was commented that they have recently posted a sign to the nursery on the Priory Lane brown heritage sign.

The Meeting finished at 8.30pm and was followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.