
Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council

Chairman – 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 1st May 2018 at Lady Rose Hall at 7.30pm

Present

Parish Councillors: Bob Hough, Jo Probut, James Bretel, Charlie Seligman, James Morrison
Borough Councillors: Cllr Ian Tilbury, Cllr Colin Phillimore
County Councillors: Cllr Anna McNair Scott
Police: A report were sent from PCSO Emma Page
Parish Clerk: Nicky Nicklin
Members of the Public

1. **Apologies for absence** - David Ellis
2. **Approval and signature of Minutes** of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 16th May 2017
3. **Chairman's Report for 2017/18**
 - Bob started by thanking the Parish Councillors for their work this past year and to Nicky, also with thanks for a great job on the audit.
 - He also thanked Clare Albert, who has now stepped down, for her work on the PC and acknowledged and welcomed James Bretel joining the PC earlier in the year.
 - Lady Rose Hall is doing well with the nursery established and a new clubbercize class that has started up. The archery side of the roof was damaged and replaced with GRP.
 - The Archery & tennis clubs are attracting new people and WTC are looking to refurbish the tarmac and practice wall beside the pavilion.
 - The Men's Shed have nearly completed the pavilion refurb and their member numbers are growing.
 - Bombay Sapphire are continuing to come to PC meetings but on a quarterly basis. They attended last month's meeting. The villages have access to their defibrillator and we'll have some training dates soon.
 - A breakthrough was made with BT today. Bob spoke to the Project Manager who has reached a glass ceiling on the last step of our superfast implementation. So he decided to pay a visit the Openreach HQ and outside chanced upon the MD of Infrastructure who has agreed to take on our case.
 - A LIF application had been put in for a car park beside Manor Cottages but has been refused. The PC is now re-thinking the plan.
 - The Hants & IOW Wildlife Trust Watercress and Winterbournes project that the PC had become involved in had won heritage lottery funding.
 - One outstanding planning application, Julian's Barn, has gone to appeal.
 - The PC has provided support grants to the L&F Pensioners, the Men's Shed and the Millennium Green for tree work.

4. County Councillor's report

- Cllr Anna McNair Scott started her report with the completion by HCC of the new push chair friendly footpath between Wells-in-the-Field and Bere Mill. She hoped everyone liked it.
- Pot holes in the lane have been addressed this month and we are now awaiting surface dressing of Laverstoke Lane.
- At the last full Council meeting it was decided to remove planned savings proposals of £5.3 million covering School Crossing Patrols, Community Transport Bus Subsidies and Household Waste Recycling Centres. There have been conversations with government about the possibility of some charges for eg bus services and visits to HRC's which would enable services to be maintained.
- The revenue budget for 2018/19 is £2.0 billion, of which £860m is for education, £628m for Social Care and other services for children and adults, £53 million for Public Health and £143m for Highways, Transport, Economic development and Waste disposal. In addition HCC has a capital programme of £540m over 3 years- 2018/19 - 2020/21) for Extra Care housing, additional school places and new schools.
- Financial Challenges:
Since 2010/11 we've lost £219m of central government grant funding and a further £140m will go by 2019/20. This, together with additional pressure for example for social care: - with an aging population that is set to result in a large increase in the 85+ population over the next 5 years, and an increase of 14% - or 4,100 people aged 85 – 89 with an even larger figure 26% or 4,600 people expected for over 90 yr olds. Not all of these will need care but a proportion of them will inevitably turn to the Council for help with their care needs - and there is the impact of the National Living Wage too. These pressures for 2018/19 add up to £23m and the 3% precept that has been added to this year's Council Tax will raise £17m
- This year's budget:
This was agreed at full council in February and you will probably know that the increase - including the 3% precept - is 5.99 % - far more than we would have liked but as a result of freezing the Council tax for 5 years from 2010, the burden for residents in Band D is actually £100 less than it would have been had it risen in line with inflation. We believe that, once all equivalent authorities have set their budgets, our council tax precept will still be the second lowest in the country. Our band D rate is £1,200 and that of our neighbours in West Sussex is £1317, and in Dorset and Surrey it is over £1400.
There are reasons why this increase is necessary: first and foremost it is because of demographic pressures - I have referred to the Adult Social Care situation but there are more young people with complex needs living into adulthood who will need expensive social but not necessarily medical care. And then there are the roads - over 5,300 miles of them are maintained by the County Council. HCC invests £10m annually on planned maintenance (Operation Resilience) as a long term strategy to improve the resilience of our roads to the effects of extreme weather. This is over and above the ongoing pothole repairs which have been exceptional this year as a result of the combination of extreme cold and rain.
- Financial management:
There have been press reports of the financial predicament that Northampton and Surrey find themselves in and I'm happy to say that I am confident that we will not find ourselves in a similar position. The Council has been implementing high-performing shared service arrangements over the past 5 years, and in January 3 London boroughs signed up

and this will contribute to our overheads and bring in income too. We have already combined our IT service with Oxfordshire's and various other councils and organisations within the County, and have been running children's services in the Isle of Wight for 5 years – this recently confirmed for an indefinite period - and have been asked to run Buckinghamshire Children's Services too. Scale helps with purchasing power and education.

- Devolution: HCC leaders went to Govt. about an agreed Greater Hants area. However, Govt. mandated a mayor which Cllrs see as an unnecessary layer. Solent & IOW then proposed a region without telling HCC but it left a big area in between. HCC understand the need for economies of scale (as there work with London borough's already proves.) They just don't want a mayor.

5. Borough Councillor's Report

- Borough Cllr Ian Tilbury
 - The current Basingstoke Ward boundary review plans to reduce Borough Cllrs from 60 to 54. This would impact the current Overton, L/stoke, Steventon ward e.g. by having Kingsclere added and Cllrs would be spread more stretched. If reduce Cllr numbers, the electors per Cllr would go to 2700 per member. 3 members wards would double in size. The change is being driven by anomalous wards e.g. Rookwood. We are currently, with 2 members, on low side of population/Cllr numbers but by 2023, when equal figures are required, they should be about right.
 - Cllr Ian Tilbury is up for re-election this week and if boundaries change then he'll be up again next year, as will all the Cllrs.
 - Manydown plan has been approved a year ago. Went to high court in 2012. (Basingstoke new town was announced in 1962 and within 2 years they were building!)
 - A new 8 year waste contract has gone to Serco from Veolia. Bin emptying times remain unchanged.
 - De La Rue mill in Overton has recently undergone ownership changes but we should carry on using Braden for property related issues e.g. the PC's lease.
- Borough Cllr Phillimore – Explained that the Borough Cllrs were in place to help the parish, without being political. L&F just need to ask for help. Bob Hough acknowledged that Colin had indeed saved the PC about £8k in Business Rates through setting up a meeting with the B&DBC rates officers. Colin was worried about the merger of the Overton/Oakley and Kingsclere Doctors' surgeries especially as there is a lack of public transport from Overton to Kingsclere.

6. Police Report

• Laverstoke Annual Crime Review 01/04/2017 – 31/03/2018

(Laverstoke/Freefolk is grouped with Overton and Steventon on police systems so Emma has done her best to separate it out.)

- Current Neighbourhood Priorities are: Burglary, Traffic related incidents, Theft, Criminal Damage and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Statistics: Burglary (0); Assault (4); Public Order (3) Criminal Damage (including in July, Aug, Oct 17 & Jan 18 vehicle driven over fields causing damage/hare coursing down Laverstoke Lane; Marsden Court car park car tyre slashed (Oct 17) Laverstoke Lane (Oct 17) field padlock damaged to gain entry to a field.

- **Self Evident** - A new way to report incidents via an App. The report is submitted to the Postmaster Mailbox which is monitored 24/7 in 'slow time'. TCall handlers are happy to accept this as a way of reporting incidents but it is not to be used in an emergency. There is a short video on You Tube promoting it - <https://youtu.be/vC5srDRqP6Q>
- **Immobilise** - Register your valuables to help reduce property crime and improve the chances of getting them back in the event of theft or loss. Further information can be found at: www.immobilise.com
- **Hampshire Alert** - If you live or work in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight, you are invited to register now to become a recipient of messages of information, crime alerts and witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work in a way that suits your needs and lifestyle by email, text or telephone. Further information can be found at: www.hampshirealert.co.uk
- **Current Financial Picture and Resources:** The force found £80m of savings from its budget before April 2015, by designing and implementing a new policing model. Hampshire Constabulary's policing model still remained based around neighbourhood policing. The rural team did not lose any establishment as we changed to this new model. The team based at Tadley still has 2 sergeants, six PCs and an establishment of 10 PCSOs. (However, we are currently 3 PCSOs short and there is no PCSO recruitment at this time.) Team is supported by 24 hours a day response teams, CID and custody based in Basingstoke; the Roads Policing Unit based in Whitchurch; and other specialist police teams that will assist with serious incidents or pre-planned operations. We also work very closely with the Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Team. There are also two Country Watch PCs and based at Tadley.

Further budget cuts are now required – overall, need to save £21m by 2021. We have already found 40 per cent of the savings we need to in 2018/19 from non-staff costs. The £12 increase in local council tax is so important because the force is underfunded massively compared with others. Without this increase in local funding, teams would have to be cut further. The headlines would not just be about cutting some of the specialist teams, they would be about reducing a range of other policing services as well. At present – Neighbourhood Teams have not been cut but we are waiting to see what further budget cuts are on the horizon in 2019/2020.

- **Communications and Intelligence**
Many of you will have already receive regular contact from your local officers. The team also use 'Hampshire Alerts' which is a very quick method of circulating messages relevant to local communities including NHW schemes. If you are not already registered on this system online I would encourage you to do so if possible - <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk/>
Please also make note of our team email address:
Basingstoke.Rural.Police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

One of the challenges of today remains the gathering of rural intelligence. The new free Self Evident app is really good and very easy to use The app report is submitted to the police's postmaster mailbox, which is monitored 24/7 in 'slow time'. Call handlers are happy to accept this as a way of reporting incidents, but not for emergencies. Please report any

suspicious activity to us – every report is read locally and if there are any potential links to crime or other intelligence then further enquiries do take place.

7. **Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018** as audited were circulated and discussed. See tables below.

8. **Open Forum** – nothing raised

LAVERSTOKE AND FREEFOLK PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

01.04.17- 31.03.18

Summary Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 31 March 2018

<u>Previous year</u> 2016/2017 £		<u>Current year</u> 2017/2018 £
	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
10,000.00	Precept	10,000.00
1,442.00	Grants	888.00
4.86	Interest Received	4.94
2,716.88	Vat recovered	2,083.31
1,129.72	Refunds*	0.00
8,491.40	Property Income	12,289.87
2,058.29	VAT received	2,203.29
3,260.00	Donation (& Misc)	10.00
	Insurance Receipt	7387.93
1,250.00	Deposit for hire	
30,353.15	<u>Total Receipts</u>	34,867.34
	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
4,494.00	Clerk's Salary/newsletter Productn.*	4,659.05
0.00	Bank charges	0.00
181.00	Subscriptions	0.00
3,150.00	Capital Expenditure	0.00
1,905.87	Insurance	2,450.05
0.00	Playground	0.00
1,516.33	Grants	5,920.00
708.53	Professional Fees	777.85
8,333.34	Parish Projects	0.00
2,578.58	PC Grounds Maintenance	2,950.20
1,969.22	Community Centre Site Maintenance	11,575.45
1,581.64	Rates	205.48
322.89	Streetlighting	314.65
0.00	ON&V newsletter printing	0.00
3,075.01	Vat Paid to suppliers	2,995.52
653.00	Vat paid to HMRC	1,351.05
154.48	Stationery & Postage	66.73
9.00	Expenses	29.72
1,071.60	Utilities	1,764.03
0.00	Training	40.00
31,704.49	<u>Total Payments</u>	35,099.78

Cashbook & Bank Reconciliation for the year ending 31 March 2018

<u>Previous year</u> 2016/2017		<u>Current year</u> 2017/2018
£		£
42,518.20	Balance b/f at 1 April 2017	41,166.86
30,353.15	Total Receipts	34,867.34
<u>72,871.35</u>		<u>76,034.20</u>
-31,704.49	Total Payments	-35,099.78
<u>£ 41,166.86</u>	Balance c/f at 31 March 2018	<u>£ 40,934.42</u>

Cumulative Funds Represented by:

1,698.56	Community Account balance at 31.03.18	2,223.87
8,711.32	Business Money Manager Account balance at 31.03.1	3,904.26
30,756.98	Community Centre Account balance at 31.03.18	34,806.29
<u>£ 41,166.86</u>	Total Bank Balances	<u>£ 40,934.42</u>

Less unrepresented cheques

0.00		0.00
<u>£ 41,166.86</u>		<u>£ 40,934.42</u>

Supporting Statement for the year ending 31 March 2018

DEBTS OUTSTANDING

Vat to be reclaimed	Vat paid on goods	26.9	£	-209.45
	VAT due on income	236.35		

ASSETS

Assets at 1 April 2017		28,811.93
Assets at 31 March 2018 (valued as per insurance policy)		
	Street furniture	25,822.00
	LRH Furniture contents	2,032.00
	LRH Kitchen equip	420.00
	Seat	1.00
	Land adjacent to Manor Cottages	1.00
	Laverstoke Lane Car Park & small layby	1.00
	HP Touchsmart 14inch laptop	412.44
	Office equipment	122.49
	<u>Total</u>	<u>28,811.93</u>

BORROWINGS

Not applicable

LEASES

Kingfisher Day Centre - half Community Centre build

TENANCIES

Portals Sports and Social Club - De la Rue

S137 PAYMENTS

Not applicable

AGENCY WORK

Not applicable

ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY

Not applicable

SUPERANNUATION

Not applicable