

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council Meeting 7 March 2023 Minutes

Public Time:

- a) A resident has reported to HCC ref. 24233347 a blocked drain outside 6 Priory Lane. They requested Priory Lane flooding gets added to the Watch Lane flooding issue. They commented that in Overton News&Views there was mention of a permissive path being taken back. Diccon responded that such paths are in the control of the landowner and often, they are the only means of providing walkers' access. We have agreed to follow this route for the Priory/Watch Lane link path along the railway.
- b) Another resident expressed that the PC and residents should reiterate their vigorous objection to the tennis lighting appeal. Other residents in the room supported this comment.

Borough Cllr Update – Colin Phillimore

Colin brought a development at Southview Cottages to the PC's attention. It is for a new dwelling North of the railway just outside of L&FPC boundary in the AONB.

At Borough there is not much to report given the current political situation. Steve Williams will not be standing for re-election in May as he is leaving the area. 23 March is last B&DBC meeting before 'purdah' period. The Borough Cllrs are opposed to the local plan of 18k new homes but are waiting for determination by Gov. As no 5-year land supply has been agreed, developers are taking advantage of the situation. Currently there are development concerns with Mill Springs and Genko in Whitchurch.

Portals update – a support group that had formed by interested local people has now been vested over to Overton PC. Colin has written to South Western Rail and HCC re. unadopted roads and is trying to get Portals to open the station back car park. The Environment Agency is concerned about the lagoons and the local community don't want them to be left to 'grow over'. There are 2 planning development sites that could reasonably be moved to the Portals site.

1. Apologies for Absence: Jayne Hudson

In attendance: David Ellis, Jo Probut, Andrew White, Diccon Harvey, Julia Chedghey

2. Declarations of interest - David: PCC, Millennium Green; Diccon: Archery; Jo: Planning appeal ref APP/H1705/W/22/3311213

3. Signature and approval of minutes of PC meeting of 7 Feb 2023

4. Planning

4.1. Planning Inspectorate Appeal Reference: APP/H1705/W/22/3311213 Tennis Lights plan (21/02621/RET) refusal appeal: The installation of 10 no. low level telescopic flood lights of a maximum height of 4.6m within the perimeter fence of two existing tennis courts, to replace the former floodlighting mast (Retrospective). PC discussed that nothing had changed wrt lights since the planning app was rejected. WTC had subsequently attended a PC meeting but did not make any reference to lights in their presentation. Amongst other concerns with the application, the glare and light impact is wider than WTC claim in their appeal representation, the timing of use is contested and the courts are set in a mixed use rather than purely sports area. The appeal is focussed on the planning app WTC made and cannot consider what it might have been. It was proposed by David, seconded by Andrew and agreed by all (Jo excluded) to go ahead with an appeal submission.

4.2. Ref: 23/00275/FUL Flint Cottage, 12 Freefolk Priors. Proposal: Replacement agricultural field shelter. PC discussed and made these comments: Whilst the replacement shelter is in keeping with the area it is felt that due to its size it may be preferable to locate it at the field edge parallel to Priory Lane rather than against the boundary of 7 Freefolk Priors.

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- 4.3. **Ref. T/00070/23/TCA** Canterbury Cottage, 17 Freefolk Priors. Proposal: remove silver birch c15m tall, within 10m of house & 1m of greenhouse, more than doubled in height since 2003. Remove extremely old, unproductive apple tree, diameter 4.8m & base within 5m of house. Replace with 1 smaller tree more in keeping with the location. PC discussed and made comments: We would prefer that the Silver Birch tree be retained and maintained rather than felled. It is a healthy tree and contributes very positively to the street scene. If the Borough Council should be mindful to allow its felling then there should be replacement of two trees rather than just one.
5. **Latest on licences** - Diccon proposed and David seconded moving the item on licences up the agenda. PC have written to WTC giving them a deadline to comply with its notice to leave the pavilion room which is being illegally occupied or accept the licence offered to them as a way out of their default. The WTC had responded with amendments to the offered licence to give themselves free, long-term use of the building. Given the potential costs of the building, safety and welfare obligations, and the possibility that building may need to be pulled down in the near future this is not in the interests of the parish. The PC were surprised WTC have suggested an alternative, long term licence bearing in mind the PC's previous comments on the state of the building. It included a slight concession on timing at weekends. WTC has suggested meeting but until they stop their illegal occupation the PC does not see these as being productive. It was felt that WTC don't understand that this is a building in the middle of a village and they need to get the residents on their side.
- Borough Councillor Colin made an observation that with all the development in the area there may be S106 funding that could benefit the pavilion and he would like to see the building retained. David replied that is why we are getting all our licences 'in shape' to give us a better chance to retain the community site.
- It was agreed by all to instruct our solicitors to take the required action. David proposed and Julia seconded this. It was then proposed by Diccon and seconded by Julia that David & Jo be given delegation authority to spend up to £5k before reverting to the Council. All agreed.
6. **Maintenance items incl. approval of Scofell contract renewal & village clear up dates**
- 6.1. **Scofell contract renewal** – Scofell quoted a 5% increase for the year but the PC have subsequently removed the kick-about-court bank. The cost is below budget at £1367 + vat. The Millennium Green team have approved continuing to use Scofell. Andrew proposed and Jo seconded continuation. **Action:** Clerk to sign contract.
- 6.2. **Clear up dates** – Millennium Green have proposed village clear up on Sat 13 May and there is a national Coronation Big Volunteer Day on Mon 8 May which the PCC are supporting. It has been discussed there are enough jobs to support both dates **Action:** Nicky to coordinate list of jobs throughout the parish
- 6.3. Colin mentioned that Basingstoke Voluntary Action have invited Greenham Common Trust along on 16 March as they have funding that might be useful for the local area.
- 6.4. Manor Cottages fence has thick ivy covering at the foot of watch lane. **Action:** Ask the householder to cut back. Ask HCC to check they are happy with Watch Lane vegetation
7. **Approve Speed Indicator Device use 2023/24** – Simone Surveys have come back with offer to manage SID within our budget, whilst they are serving neighbouring parishes. The cost is to be split with Bombay Sapphire. The S72 licence has been received from HCC. David proposed continuing use of SID, Jo seconded and all agreed. **Action:** Nicky to sign lease
8. **Climate Change** – no update
9. **Projects List**
- 9.1. **Beech hedge cutting** along rough car park, Laverstoke Lane. Great job in Feb by P&B Hedging organised by Jo.

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- 9.2. **Footpaths** – Diccon would like to add a bit of support to working group to e.g. help with finding contacts who can approach the landowners and meet with them and determine whether permissive vs definitive paths process is best and also to walk the various proposed routes. Julia agreed to join the group.
- 9.3. **Car Park, Freefolk** – Nicky spoke to the resident in Manor Cottages who has been engaged in the car park discussions. She explained that the project is over and management of the area will be discussed in April PC meeting **Action:** include in newsletter and do a note to residents
- 9.4. **Wall and steps repair beside Kingfisher** – PJB is quoting and decision needed on capping stone **Action:** confirm with Phil and get quote from him
- 9.5. **Removal of floodlighting** – **Action:** Jo to ring Bryan
10. **Annual Parish Assembly arrangements** – it was discussed that given we want to hold Annual Parish Meeting on same night as PC AGM, we need to consider date that meets various criteria around the election dates including giving 3 clear days of notification of agenda. It had been previously agreed (outcome of Communication improvements project) that the Assembly would involve more of a social gathering. Best date was decided as Friday 12 May. **Action:** Nicky to plan event with a working party
11. **Proposed Coronation celebration plans** – a volunteer committee had met and agreed an event on Sun 7 May on Millennium Green – BBQ and bar followed by games, tea and village photos to commemorate/replicate King George V's Laverstoke visit in 1923. A small budget for children's prizes and tea and coffee may be requested in April.
12. **Community Site updates**
- 12.1. Pavilion and latest on Licences – as per item 5 above
- 12.2. Lady Rose Hall – Rene came and swept roof and cleared down pipes. He confirmed roof looks ok since the patching work in the spring i.e. no bubbles. Noise in roof space was heard during PC meeting. **Action:** Call pest control to check LRH hall and lobby roof spaces.
- 12.3. Tennis and archery area incl. action on wild meadow area of archery field. A Black Arrows rep explained they had left the strip of land nearest Batts Meadow uncut, as requested by the PC last Spring. 4 species of orchid had flowered. However, wildflower meadows need cutting once p.a. and hay removed. They had tried strimming but it took too long and the area was too wet and long for the mower. The drains have collapsed with resulting rows of creeping thistle. As they don't have appropriate machinery the Black Arrows are asking for help - ideally a small tractor with mower and bailer. The PC discussed that it could all be cut and then a smaller wildflower area retained/copse created at the pond end **Action:** request Scofell to quote and then discuss further with the archers. Tap, leak and toilet being mended tomorrow

13. Finance

- 13.1. Feb 2023 finance summaries - see table at end of minutes
- 13.2. Items over £100:

Laverstoke & Freefolk Parish Council		Items over £100	
Reporting Year:	Year to 31 March 2023 (11 of 12)		
Month:	February 2023		
Sum of Net			
Supplier	Description	Months	Total
British Gas	Gas	Feb	£(793.62)
Clerk	Clerk salary	Feb	£(376.86)
Watership Down Nursery	Nursery rent	Feb	£ 758.63
Brandon Elliott	Hall hire	Feb	£ 112.50
Southern Fire Protection Ltd	Fire alarm service	Feb	£(110.00)
Silviu Tudorache	Deposit return	Feb	£(100.00)
XXX Window & Gutter Cleaning	Roof sweeping	Feb	£(234.00)
PJB Carpentry & Construction	Manhole repair	Feb	£(120.01)

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N.B. Clerk total pay also includes a CC element i.e. £376.86 + £41.87 = £418.73

13.3. Payments over £250 approved: P&B hedging £500

14. Correspondence

14.1. B&D confirmed Notice of PC Election will be made on 24 March – **Action:** include in newsletter as well as posting on web and noticeboards. Print Julia forms.

14.2. BVA holding Climate Change planning sessions & published new directory of voluntary services.

14.3. Confirmation of Bombay Sapphire email for residents to report feedback – following meeting with BS and included in last newsletter

14.4. HCC announce new Countryside Community Engagement Ranger for our area
Action: arrange a Friday coffee catch up for Diccon and Julia with ranger

Laverstoke & Freefolk Parish Council

Reporting Year: Year to 31 March 2023 (11 of 12)

Income and Expenditure Statement (Cash basis)

Month: February 2023

All £	Parish Council				Community Site				Total		
	Month	YTD	Full year Budget	Budget Remaining	Month	YTD	Full year Budget	Budget Remaining	Month	YTD	Full year Budget
Precept	-	9,945	9,945	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,945	9,945
Grants	-	2,390	337	(2,053)	-	-	-	-	-	2,390	337
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hall Hire - Nursery	-	-	-	-	759	8,112	8,500	388	759	8,112	8,500
Hall Hire - Other	-	-	-	-	205	1,655	1,200	(455)	205	1,655	1,200
Hall Hire deposit	-	-	-	-	-	1,100	-	(1,100)	-	1,100	-
Cost Recoveries	-	-	-	-	-	2,016	3,504	1,488	-	2,016	3,504
Site Rent	-	-	-	-	-	1,943	1,943	-	-	1,943	1,943
Other Income	4	19	1	(18)	-	67	-	(67)	4	86	1
Total Income	4	12,355	10,283	(2,072)	964	14,893	15,147	255	968	27,247	25,430
Contribution	-	-	1,750	1,750	-	-	(1,750)	(1,750)	-	-	-
PC/CC cost charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Transfers	-	-	1,750	1,750	-	-	(1,750)	(1,750)	-	-	-
Salary/Newsletter	(377)	(4,257)	(4,716)	(460)	(42)	(472)	(524)	(52)	(419)	(4,728)	(5,240)
Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	-	-	(557)	(557)	-	(2,833)	(1,924)	909	-	(2,833)	(2,481)
Professional fees	-	(662)	(689)	(27)	-	(763)	-	763	-	(1,425)	(689)
IT costs	(27)	(538)	(443)	96	-	(42)	(58)	(16)	(27)	(580)	(501)
Grounds Maint.	-	(1,623)	(1,277)	346	(120)	(163)	(560)	(397)	(120)	(1,786)	(1,837)
Street Lighting & Furniture	-	(473)	(544)	(71)	-	-	-	-	-	(473)	(544)
SID Management	-	(690)	(732)	(42)	-	-	-	-	-	(690)	(732)
Utilities	-	-	-	-	(794)	(2,718)	(3,761)	(1,043)	(794)	(2,718)	(3,761)
Bldgs Repair/Maint.	-	-	-	-	(234)	(2,468)	(3,000)	(532)	(234)	(2,468)	(3,000)
Bldgs Planned Maint.	-	-	-	-	(129)	(507)	(761)	(254)	(129)	(507)	(761)
Equipment	-	-	-	-	-	(407)	-	407	-	(407)	-
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	(41)	(104)	(63)	-	(41)	(104)
Other expenses	(8)	(2,380)	(296)	2,084	(105)	(855)	(60)	795	(113)	(3,235)	(356)
Total Expenses	(412)	(10,623)	(9,254)	1,368	(1,424)	(11,268)	(10,752)	517	(1,836)	(21,891)	(20,006)
Grants Made	-	(958)	(1,200)	(242)	-	-	-	-	-	(958)	(1,200)
Project costs	-	-	(1,500)	(1,500)	-	-	(1,500)	(1,500)	-	-	(3,000)
Net Vat	(5)	(819)	-	819	110	1,130	-	(1,130)	105	311	-
Net cash Movement	(413)	(45)	79	124	(350)	4,755	1,146	(3,609)	(763)	4,709	1,224
Cash b/f	4,896	5,172	5,247	75	66,504	60,755	5,247	(55,508)	71,400	65,927	10,494
Cash c/f	4,483	5,127	5,326	199	66,154	65,510	6,393	(59,117)	70,637	70,637	11,718

Next PC meeting: 4 April at 7.30pm in Lady Rose Hall.

Sign.....Date.....