

Laverstoke and Freefolk Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting 16 July 2025 Minutes

Public Time

David Ellis opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to Lady Rose Hall for the meeting to discuss nominating the Laverstoke & Freefolk Community Site as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). He gave background to the situation. The PC has a lease on the site for another 10 years through to 2035. De La Rue had initially offered the site for sale to the PC a couple of years ago. There had been ongoing discussion with De La since then and then they announced out of the blue on 4 July that they had received an unsolicited offer which the board had accepted. The PC was extremely disappointed. Borough Cllr Colin Phillimore had followed up immediately but the Borough had been turned down. At the same time this was happening De La Rue were acquired by Atlas Holdings. The PC has subsequently written to De La Rue but not heard back. The PC are now listing the Community Site as an ACV. This hadn't been done previously as conversation with De La Rue had precluded the need.

The public discussion included what an ACV was and its effect, what actions the PC could take, who the buyer might be and whether this was a bundled sale. Cllr Colin Phillimore commented that this was the heart of the village, has been since the old paternalistic Portals days and we should work together as one community representing all users. There was universal support in the room for listing the site as an ACV.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** none

In attendance: David Ellis, Jo Probut, Andrew White, Julia Chedgey, Jayne Hudson, Alice MacGinnis, Simon Albert.

2. **Declarations of interest:** David Ellis: PCC, Millennium Green; Jo Probut: Contracting at B&D;

3. **Consideration of nomination to list the Laverstoke & Freefolk Community Site as an Asset of Community Value or to support such a listing.** Following the discussion during public time, and with the support of the large public gathering, as well as large numbers of local people who had signed up to support the listing, it was proposed by David Ellis and seconded by Jo Probut to nominate the Community Site as an Asset of Community Value. All approved.

4. **Planning:**

4.1. Ref: T/00341/25/TCA. Location: Drood Cottage, Freefolk Priors, Freefolk. Proposal: T1 Ash: reduce by 4m in height leaving a finished height of 10m with a crown spread of 6m. T2 Ash: reduce by 6m in height leaving a finished height of 10m with a crown spread of 6m. Discussed that the homeowner had taken guidance from the borough council. The trees with ash die back are being reduced in height rather than being felled. This is to ensure safe distance from properties in case of their falling but should also encourage growth for as long as possible. No comments to be made.

5. Any plans received after 11.7.25 – none.

Next PC meeting: 16 September 2025 at 19.30 in Lady Rose Hall.

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