

Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council Meeting 20 Jan 2026 Minutes

Public Time

David opened the meeting with a reflective appreciation of thanks to Stephanie Ogden who has passed away in December. Stephanie had been a major contributor at public time for very many years.

Bombay Sapphire (Kerry Quinn) updated that distillery production was steady and the visitor centre are back to pre-holiday Fri – Sun opening hours. They have been hosting weddings since obtaining their marriage licence last year, in addition to blessings. Maintenance of the clock in the entrance tower is underway.

Borough Councillor Update

Cllr Colin Phillimore updated that he is still supportive of a North Hampshire unitary that includes B&D, Hart and Rushmore. The County Council are divesting services in the borough with rationalisation of library and other buildings. Colin has c. £1000 discretionary councillor grant money that he could provide for L&F use. He also circulated noticeboard posters for the Mayors Rock concert on 7 March (Dec 25 Minute ref 12.5). A recent Borough Cllr walk around Sovereign housing highlighted grass and allotment area behind Manor Cottages that could be used to take pressure off car parking.

County Councillor Update – Apologies sent. [Written report](#) received and circulated.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Alice MacGinnis, Simon Albert
In attendance: David Ellis Chair, Jayne Hudson Jt. Deputy Chair, Jo Probut, Andrew White, Julia Chedghey
2. **Declarations of interest** – David Ellis: PCC, Millennium Green; Jo Probut: B&D BC employee
3. **Sign and approve minutes of PC meetings** of 9 Dec 2025. Approved & signed.
4. **Donations Policy Approval** (LGA 1972 s.151; Accounts & Audit Reg 2015)
ACV bid steering group have received positive indication of support from the local community. The PC needs to approve donations policy as per [Jan Meeting papers](#) before accepting donations. Jo proposed, Jayne seconded and all approved donations policy.
5. **ACV Bid update**
 - 5.1. **Approve formation of ACV purchase fund for donations** (LGA 1972 s.111)
To purchase freehold of community Site, formation of L&F ACV Purchase Fund is needed. Andrew proposed, David seconded and all approved formation of fund as per [Jan Meeting papers](#)
 - 5.2. **Approve appointment of solicitors** (LGA 1972 s.111)
In order to prepare for a bid and purchase solicitors need to be appointed. From a list of six firms Penningtons Manches Cooper provided best quote and advisory service combination. David proposed, Andrew seconded and all approved appointing firm.
 - 5.3. **Approve legal budget for bid preparation** (LGA 1972 s.151, s.111 & Accounts & Audit Regs 2015)
Andrew proposed, Jo seconded and all approved £1500 from professional services budget to be used towards bid pre-work
6. **Maintenance**
 - 6.1. LRH drains have been unblocked for second time within 2 months. Camera was inserted and quote subsequently provided for relining 12 m of pipe at £2795 + VAT. (LGA 1972 s.133)
 - 6.2. A Pavilion alarm (likely smoke alarm) sounded on Fri 16th. Residents texted Nicky and also posted on Facebook on 18th. TVMS were contacted a couple of times and attended on Tues 20th. **Action:** Jayne to request keyholding for emergencies.
 - 6.3. Watch Lane Road name sign damaged – **Action:** Andrew to report to B&D
7. Utility renewal delegation to clerk. LRH electricity contract due to roll to variable in March. For within budget renewal with approval from Chair, Jayne proposed and Julia seconded delegating to clerk *(Contract: LGA 1972 s.111; Delegation: LGA1972 s10)*

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8. Finance

- 8.1. Q3 FY25/26 finance report and review vs budget *(LGA 1972 s. 151; Accounts & Audit Regs 2015)*
Finance report to 31 Dec 25 included in [Jan Meeting papers](#). Review of current year budget discussed as current year forecast as per in Jan meeting papers & minute ref 8.3. **Action:** increase size of font in monthly report
- 8.2. Q3 Bank reconciliations & any approvals for payments over £300 *(Accounts & Audit Regs 2015)*
Mulberry LAS *interim* internal audit: £262.50. This amount was queried as last year's audit was £300 total for year. The PC notes that it is disappointing that regulations imposed are increasing costs on local PCs. David proposed, Jo seconded and all approved payment, taking £229.50 from reserves to cover the additional audit cost that had been pulled forward into the current year.
- 8.3. Approve budget for 26/27 *(LGA 1972 s.151; Accounts & Audit Reg 2015, LG Fin Act 1992)*
Circulated as per [Jan meeting papers](#). Approval of 26/27 budget and adjustment of 25/26 forecast for community site maintenance to include drain relining and repair of £2795 was proposed by David, seconded by Andrew and all agreed.
- 8.4. Approval of Precept for 26/27 *(LG Fin Act 1992; LGA 1972 s151; Accounts & Audit Regs 2015)*
Circulated as per [Jan meeting papers](#). A 5% increase on current precept of £10,600 takes precept to £11,130 and enables budget as above. This is slightly ahead of inflation. The % change on band D property is 5.1%. David proposed, Jayne seconded and all approved a 26/27 precept of £11,130.

9. Planning - No plans received

10. Correspondence

- 10.1. HCC new Community Engagement Ranger for the North West Area Access Team.
- 10.2. Keep B&D Clean - volunteer litter picks between 14 – 28 Feb. **Action:** Jo to organise a litter pick.
- 10.3. Main Modifications consultation Hants. Minerals & Waste Plan – representations by 12.2.26.
- 10.4. HALC's Position Paper on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
- 10.5. Cllr Minas Bound Govt Draft National Planning Policy Framework – Implications for B&D
- 10.6. HCC DfT Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) 2025/26 Bus Grant. **Action:** Andrew to investigate bus shelter repair/maintenance grants available up to £15k. David to send photos to Andrew. Remove old planning app notices beside BS bus stop.
11. Confidential HR session: Parish Clerk recruitment – approve appointment of clerk. *(LGA 1972 s.112)*
Jayne proposed, Andrew seconded and all approved appointment of a new clerk.

[January 26 Meeting papers](#)

Next PC meeting: 10 Feb 26 at 19.30 in Lady Rose Hall.

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