

Laverstoke and Freefolk Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council

Annual Meeting 19th May 2026 Minutes

Annual Parish Meeting

1. **Minutes of the last meeting 6th May 2025** – Signed and accepted
2. **Community Safety Patrol Report** – No report received
3. **Police Report** - Andrew Jones Report

Tadley police station continues to cover the Basingstoke rural area with a team of 5 PCs, 3 PCSOs and 1SGT. Covering an area of 250sq miles approximately, putting this into perspective the IOW is 148sq miles with more neighborhood officers looking after it. PCSO Jones, PC Holdsworth and PC Lecuyer are the dedicated points of contact for the Basingstoke Rural South. This is the largest area within Basingstoke Rural at approximately 118sq miles.

Assault and Injury

On 14th October 2025 police attended an area near Marsden Court in relation to a person claiming they had been assaulted by another they were with while on a walk. A disagreement ensued which resulted in both persons getting involved in a dispute. No formal action was required.

Criminal Damage x 1

On 1st November 2025 around 16.30hrs £400 worth of damage caused to crops by a vehicle being driven over them. Believed to be hare coursing related. No suspect.

Dangerous Driving x 2

Domestic Incidents x 2

Hare Coursing x 1

A Nissan Navarro was identified as being driven in a field suspected to have been hare coursing. No confirmed offences.

SUS Incidents x 3

Theft x 2

13th April 2026. A parcel worth £25 ordered by a local resident and couriered by Evri has not been received. He was sent delivery notification but has since found via social media that the photo was also sent multiple times to other people. He is assuming that the delivery driver has stolen the parcel.

Theft from vehicle between 4th and 5th August 2025, a van parked outside of the address overnight has been broken into and tools stolen from within.

Both Whitchurch and Kingsclere Fire Stations have recently been broken into with heavy cutting apparatus being stolen from both. Fly Tipping continues to be an ongoing increasing issue.

4. **Borough Councillor's Report** Cllr Colin Phillimore.

New council, new mayor, meeting next Tuesday of independent coalition. Next Thursday there will be a meeting covering commitment, audit, and development control, the formed committee will decide on strategy for the next year. Regarding Whitchurch and Overton planning – officers will be given more powers resulting in less control for the councillors. An appeal for a large housing development in Overton has recently been lost by the council. A local plan is to be published later in the year; there is currently no formal neighbourhood plan. An application has been submitted for the Portals brown field site although the suggested transport access plan is not the preferred option. There are also applications for large housing developments in Cliddesden and Popham. Local Government reorganisation ongoing with no change in ward boundaries but possibly fewer councillors. It is hoped that a strategic plan will be approved by the end of the year.

Laverstoke and Freefolk Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council

Annual Meeting 19th May 2026 Minutes

5. Chairman's Report David Ellis

Welcome everybody. I am delighted you all could come along to our Annual Parish Assembly.

Our thanks to Colin Phillimore, Andy Jones and Lucia Vilajoana Ricon for their attendance and reports.

We live in very special and beautiful villages and a fantastic community. We appreciate the many facilities and organisations that are part of them. I think this is a year in which we have been reminded of their worth and the need to keep them for the community.

The announcement in July last year that De la Rue was going to sell the freehold of our community site to a third party despite having previously offered it to the Parish was a bitter disappointment. With the fantastic effort and support of the community, we have had the site designated as an Asset for Community Value and raised the funds to bid for the freehold. A substantive bid was made in February with the support of the parish Community. The bid was supported by our neighbouring Whitchurch Town Council and Overton Parish Council, and our borough councillor Colin Phillimore, and Juliet Hendeson our County Council. Kit Malthouse has helped tremendously in getting the attention of De La Rue and has also supported our bid. It continues to be disappointing and frustrating that De la Rue have not responded to the bid. However, it is our understanding that they have not yet sold the site so we remain hopeful that they will engage with the community.

I would again like to welcome Jane who started this year as our new Clerk and extend our very grateful thanks for the many years of dedicated and committed service to the village from Nicky. Nicky spent many more hours on the job than paid for! We sadly stopped the village newsletter but hope to continue it in a simpler form and we are interested in hearing from any parishioners who would like to be involved with the new letter or in the village hall. I would like to thank Bombay Sapphire in spirit team for the fantastic help during the year – and yesterday! And all the Parishioner who get involved in the village and Millennium Green tidy up day. I know we very much value the beautiful place that we live in. Although this seems a long time ago now. The village organised a successful Jane Austen celebration last June. Thank you to Emily and all the organisers for a fun day.

The community Site continues to run successfully. It has continued to take up a considerable amount of effort from the Council. LRH has been redecorated and there have been number of repairs of lights and electrics. Last April the lease on the Pavilion was completed with the Men's Shed and we have now agreed a Heads of Terms with the WTC.

Looking to the future:

The uncertainty as to the future of the community site makes it difficult to plan. However, there are 9 years left on the lease, and we will continue to make this an important part of life of the community. To simply the running of the Hall we are looking to set up a separate village hall group to help run it and ensure we make the best use of the facilities.

6. Millennium Green Update Report

Purpose and Activities

The Laverstoke and Freefolk Millennium Green Trust is constituted by Deed of Trust and is a registered charity; no. 1077392. Its address is Batts Row Cottage, Laverstoke Lane, Laverstoke, Nr. Whitchurch, Hampshire, RG28 7PA. The object of the Trust is to provide and maintain the Laverstoke and Freefolk Millennium Green (the 'Millennium Green') for the benefit of the community as an area which can be used for informal recreation and as place for community events. The Millennium Green is open and available to local inhabitants, the general community, and visitors to the area. The Trust was formed by deed in April 1999 (amended 2011) to set up the Millennium Green as part of the nation-wide initiative by the Countryside Commission to form green open spaces within the community. The Trust has received grant

Laverstoke and Freefolk Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council

Annual Meeting 19th May 2026 Minutes

backing from the Countryside Commission, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, and Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT), and donations from members of the community. In shaping the objectives and in planning how to change colour background of header activities, the trustee has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'. The Millennium Green provides a recreation area that is open to both the local community and visitors to the area.

Trustee, management and related parties

The sole charity trustee during the year was Laverstoke and Freefolk Millennium Green Limited. Laverstoke and Freefolk Parish Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are each entitled to appoint a director of the charity trustee.

The Directors of the Trustee form the management of Trust and during the period were:

Phillip Nicklin (Chair)

David Ellis (Treasurer)

Clare Albert (Secretary)

Craig Beckingham

Mike Jordan

Colin Phillimore – appointed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Activities

The Trust has continued to successfully maintain and develop the Millennium Green as an attractive recreation area for the local community with periodic maintenance days.

We have, with permission from Gary Boom extended the access along the stream with the provision of a Permissive Path.

The Circular Bench has been repaired and a new Oak Tree installed.

An additional bench has been installed on the bank above the quiet garden.

Wetland trees have been planted at the end of the archery field next to the pond.

The Trust has continued to maintain the playground equipment and the general area with safety works being carried to the lime trees removing dead and dangerous limbs.

Additional hedging has been planted along the layby parking fence organised by Gill Baker.

Repairs were carried out to the playground slide (replacement) and the basket swing support.

A nature trail with QR code information boards was installed in conjunction with The Watercress and Winterbournes Scheme.

The approach to the permissive path was reinforced with stones by volunteers from Berry Bros. A wooden platform was installed to the flooded path area adjacent to the football pitch.

Repairs have been carried out to the Quiet Garden Gazebo. Fortnightly Playground Equipment

Site Safety Inspections are being carried out by the Trustees. Fund raising is an important issue with a small number of families donating regularly. We urge people to donate using this method and details can be found on the web site. Main fundraising event is the Annual Quiz night which has been rescheduled to be held on Saturday 14th November.

Ongoing Works

Pond and Stream

Maintenance works are being scheduled to clear fallen trees, improve water flow and remove invasive plant species with a dedicated group of volunteers as part of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

Proposed Dates

Tuesday 14th April 09.30-12.00

Thursday 28th May 2026 09:30 – 12:00

Thursday 9th July 2026 09.30-12.00

Thursday 27th August 09.30 – 12.00

Additional works to reduce the height and spread of the playground lime trees.

Laverstoke and Freefolk Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council

Annual Meeting 19th May 2026 Minutes

Planning Permission and grant have been obtained for the works to be carried out.

Permissive path to be maintained by the MG Committee.

Quiet Garden flower bed to have weed suppressing cover installed.

Ongoing works to be carried out following the tree survey. Millennium green awareness BBQ to be held on Saturday 11th July, additional trees to be planted in the MG open field area in conjunction with Gill Baker.

7. Open Forum – No comments

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

1. **Apologies for absence** – Jayne Hudson, Alice Macginnis, Andrew White
2. **Appointment of Chairman.** Jo proposed David as Chair, seconded by Simon. David proposed Simon as Vice Chair, Jo seconded, all agreed.
3. **Declarations of interest** – David Ellis: PCC, Millennium Green, Jo Probert BDBC employee
4. **Signature and approval of minutes from meeting of 21st April 2026** Signed
5. **Planning**
Ref:T/00189/26/TCA Location: 4 Mount Pleasant Watch Lane Freefolk Whitchurch
Hampshire Proposal: T1 Elm - fell T2 Sycamore - remove branches overhanging adjacent paddock T3 Ash - Remove branches overhanging paddock T4 T5 Sycamores. No comment, David proposed, seconded by Simon
6. **Update**
 - 6.a LRH procedures and review scribe booking system. Alice, Nicky, Jo and David have met and discussed procedures.
Approval in principle for formation subcommittee for the running of LRH. Terms of reference to be drafted and approved by Council. – David Proposed, Simon seconded. Scribe systems proposed to run booking systems Proposed David, seconded by Jo
 - 6.b ACV – De la Rue have only given a holding reply, and the matter is still ongoing
 - 6.c Hots with Whitchurch Tennis Club – correspondence noted.
 - 6.d Bombay Sapphire - Inspirit Day Report as above. Grateful thanks for the work carried out
7. **Annual review and approval of:**
 - 7.1 Standing Orders and updated financial regulations. Agreed, Proposed Simon, seconded by Jo
 - 7.2 Updated Policies. Health and Safety policies updated. Agreed, Proposed Simon, seconded by Jo
 - 7.3 Legal arrangements with other parties reviewed. Review noted, Proposed Simon, seconded by Jo
 - 7.4 Representation on other bodies. Millennium Green and tree warden. Agreed, Proposed Simon, seconded by Jo
 - 7.5 Insurance arrangements Agreed, Proposed Simon, seconded by Jo
 - 7.6 Delegated powers Agreed, Proposed Simon, seconded by Jo
8. **Review of Internal Audit Report.** Dates to be listed on the website – it was agreed there would be an internal review and tidy up of data held during the year.
9. **Year End and approvals of:**
 - 9.1 Inventory of assets was reviewed and noted, Proposed David, seconded by Simon
 - 9.2 Reserves were reviewed. The transfer from the specific reserves to the general reserves in accordance with the community site model and creation of reserve for outstanding legal bill was agreed. Proposed David, seconded by Simon

Laverstoke and Freefolk Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council

Annual Meeting 19th May 2026 Minutes

- 9.3 Subscriptions Noted and reviewed, Proposed David, seconded by Simon
- 9.4 Expenditure under LA1972 s137 reviewed and noted. Proposed David, seconded by Simon
- 9.5 Annual Governance Statement/AGAR Agreed and signed. Proposed David, seconded by Simon

10. Finance

- 10.1 Approval of authority for regular payments Proposed David, seconded by Simon
- 10.2 Approval of Direct Debit and Standing Order Arrangements Proposed David, seconded by Simon
- 10.3 Budget with powers Proposed David, seconded by Simon
- 10.4 Approval of commitment -£500 outside budget – Scribe booking system (outside budget) Proposed David, seconded by Simon
- 10.5 Payment £2,000 None

11. Meetings approval of scheduled ordinary meetings for next year

Proposed David, seconded by Simon

12. Correspondence

- 12.1 Cllr. Karen Watts – LGR Update March 2026
- 12.2 Chief executive's bulletin – 23rd and 30th April and 7th May 2026
- 12.3 Cllr. Juliet Henderson – Condover's, Oakley and Overton Division May 2026
- 12.4 Annual Review and Approvals checklist -

[LRH management process and Scribe book system.docx](#)

[6 b Scribe Bookings Business Case for Laverstoke & Freefolk Parish Council.pdf](#)

[Annual Reviews and Approvals.docx](#)

[Laverstoke and Freefolk Standing Orders 2026.docx](#)

[Laverstoke & Freefolk Financial Regulations 2026.docx](#)

[Laverstoke and Freefolk Policies 2026.docx](#)

[Laverstoke Freefolk PC 2025-26 Final Internal Audit Report.pdf](#)

[Asset Register May 2026.xlsx](#)

[10.3 2026 27 Budget with Powers.pdf](#)

[9.2 Reserves.pdf](#)

[Chief executive's bulletin - 23 April 2026.html](#)

[Chief executive's bulletin - 30 April 2026.html](#)

[Chief executive's bulletin - 7 May 2026.html](#)

[HCC Report Candovers Oakley and Overton Division May 2026_.docx](#)



LGR Update March
2026.pptx

Next PC meeting: 16th June 2026 at 19.30 in Lady Rose Hall.

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