

**The Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of Lavant Parish Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>  
January 2026 at 7:00pm in the Green Room, Lavant Memorial Hall.**

**In attendance:** Cllrs. Aldridge, Turner, Tucker, Quest, Goldsmith, Finley and Whincop.

**Also present:** Clerk, Cllr Hunt

**Public present:** 6

- 1. Apologies for absence.**  
Cllr Mayhead, Cllr Brookes-Harmer.
- 2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests.**
  - a) None
  - b) None
  - c) None
- 3. Public Session.**

Planning application –

A member of the public raised a concern about the possibility of a planning application on the daffodil field; he requested an update on this. The Council explained this was a preliminary indication that an application is to be made, but that we are having to wait for a formal application to be received, before the council can respond.

Traffic Management-

Following a recap of his involvement with CHIL (Community Highways in Lavant) scheme and the huge amounts of work put into putting the proposal together, by various parties, Nick Reynolds expressed concern that the Council's lack of transparency regarding what is actively being done to improve the situation in the village, is causing despondency.

Mr Reynolds questioned the decision to purchase 4 SIDs (Speed Indication Devices) stating that SIDs in East Lavant are not included in the evidence-based Phase 1 Lavant Highways Improvement Plan proposals put to the Council. He commented on whether the device at Yarbrook (which is still awaiting repair) is the best location for it. He cited that although SIDs have been shown to be effective, they are not as effective on their own and their location is paramount.

Nick expressed the need for more regular updates on what the Parish Council has done and how applications for the various proposed works are progressing.

Alan Taylor also spoke, showing his support for what Nick had said. He proposed that the public are frequently updated on each item with regards to what the council are doing and that the Council documents the decision-making process and which jobs are still outstanding.

The Council provided the following responses:

- Although possibly not communicated clearly, the Council has spent a great deal of time over the last couple of months around this issue. There have been various meetings between different parties and external bodies, emails composed and hours spent analysing the research (specifically the document put together by CHIL) and making the formal application, which was submitted in July.
- Following a meeting with WSCC Highways, it became apparent that the 20mph speed limit will almost-certainly be granted; likely not until 2027. It was also suggested that the outcome for white lines on the Pook Lane bridge (to give the appearance of it being

narrowing) was likely to be positive. Further updates have been requested and are being awaited. The once promised 'cushioned crossing' plan for outside the Lavant Memorial Hall was also raised at this meeting.

- The possibility of funding village gateways brought divided opinions from within the Council about their positive impact on villages.
- Research shows Speed Indication Devices are useful at slowing average speeds and the Council has proposed to purchase a number of these devices, as detailed in the Chairman's Report.
- Cllr Aldridge stressed that the Council *are* in support of implementing more traffic calming measures and that moving forward he would like to invite Nick Reynolds and Alan Taylor to meet (alongside himself; Cllr Turner and Cllr Tucker) to discuss their views in more detail.
- The Council highlighted the need for input from Alan and Nick on average project costs, particularly around the proposed £50,000 for Traffic Management, so it could better understand how the funding might be distributed across the suggested projects.

**4. To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 were unanimously APPROVED.

**5. Update on outstanding actions brought forward from previous meeting.**

- a) Covered in Chairman's Report.

**6. Brief Q&A from County Councillor on his report affecting this Parish.**

Chilgrove Road TRO- It was discussed that CLLR Aldridge is making the application, due to prior experience, with West Dean Parish Council submitting it in their name. CLLR Hunt reported that the Chair at West Dean will be confirming with their full council that they are in support of it, and CLLR Hunt will have more information on this following his attendance at their meeting on Wednesday.

Operation watershed- CLLR Hunt requested that once the application is submitted, he be informed, so he can send an email of support. The Council are waiting to have confirmation of the chosen contractor from WSCC.

Drainage by pedestrian crossing – CLLR Hunt mentioned that there are currently a number of issues with drains across the county, due to the way the rain is falling (large amounts in short periods of time- challenging the capabilities of the drains); because of this, WSCC are prioritising serious issues where water is still sitting on the surface 5-6 hours after the rain has stopped. CLLR Hunt requested that photographs are taken and shared with him on occasions when this is happening.

Red lines entering Lavant- CLLR Hunt advised that replacement of red lines after resurfacing is always reviewed and on the advice of the road safety group, taking into account the new 50mph speed limit of the road, the lines have been intentionally not replaced and there is no plan to do so.

Replacement St Nicholas bus stop- CLLR Hunt recommended that there is funding available for bus shelters. Although they are focusing their efforts on specific bus routes- he has recommended LPC still pursue this route, in case any funding may be available to help. He

suggested the Council send a request to the BSIP funding department at: [transporthub@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:transporthub@westsussex.gov.uk) – copying CLLR Hunt into the email- to see if there may be any funding available to Lavant.

*A member of the public questioned the situation with the road outside the hall – CLLR Hunt recalled that highways deemed the cushioned crossing didn't meet the road safety criteria for the road it was on. However, this may be reconsidered if the road changes to 20mph.*

Local Government Reform- please see CLLR Hunt's report on the Local Government Reform attached at Appendix C.

Elections- West and East Sussex applied for a deferral of the elections scheduled for May, as the minister at the time realised the huge workload of getting the new Unitaries in place. Holding elections in May would halt progress on Local Government Reform, as resources would be diverted to the election process and newly elected councillors would require time to settle in. Given the tight timescales for delivering Local Government Reform ahead of the planned 2027 new unitary authorities introduction, deferring the May elections was considered the most realistic option.

**7. Brief Q&A from District Councillor on his report affecting this Parish.**

Cllr Brookes-Harmer was not in attendance but his report, as previously circulated, is attached at Appendix A.

CLLR Hunt left the meeting at 19:40pm

**8. Chairman's Report.**

Bridge project- Archibald Shaw (structural engineers) have now been supplied with the information necessary to provide a quote to sign off on the structural integrity/adequacy of the bridge. Security fencing with a gate was proposed.

*However, CLLR Quest reminded the Council that it is still awaiting the Environment Agency's response. CLLR Aldridge deemed that as the area is already being used, that the area is made suitable for use, even if in the short-term. It was concluded that in the meantime, the area is signed off by the structural engineer.*

Village Green User Agreement – This has now been finalised, subject to approval (see agenda item 14).

School Car Park- No further progress.

TRO B2141- The application has yet to be put together- as discussed previously.

Operation Watershed applications – West Sussex County Council are still reviewing the quotes. The Clerk has a meeting with WSCC on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January to support with the submission of the application.

Consent has now been sought from the landowners for access, but any discussions about ongoing maintenance have been postponed, until after the work is complete.

Traffic Management – An email has been sent to WSCC Highways reporting the outcome of an internal LPC meeting, requesting an update on the progress of the Community Highways application.

The council APPROVED the purchase of 2 SIDs (speed indication devices) – specifically the units that demonstrate the speed of the vehicles passing, with solar panels. The Council needs to agree on the locations of the devices and be prepared to move them regularly- as research shows this is how they are most effective. It was mentioned that the SID at Yarbrook is inadequate. Pook Lane was suggested as one possible location.

St Nicholas Road bus shelter - Drew Millar (ASM Carpentry) has provided a quote for complete restoration of the shelter which comes to £13,800 excluding VAT. To replace the existing shelter with a similar structure from Littlethorpe of Leicester would cost around £13,500 for the building alone (plus delivery and installation, plus the cost of removal of the old shelter); therefore, this quote is very competitive.

The replacement of the St Nicholas' bus shelter was APPROVED in principle- subject to decisions on the material used for the roof of the shelter, as opinions were divided on the use of slate.

Football Pitch - Lavant FC would like to put a container on the site, to provide storage and potentially some matchday catering facilities. This would require planning consent and would also need to be discussed with the immediate neighbours on Pook Lane and Raughmere.

*A member of the public raised concern that users of the pitch are not currently abiding by the rules of the grounds, for example by allowing dogs on the area.*

Raughmere development- Barrett have submitted preliminary advice to CDC, proposing to build 99 houses on the Raughmere site.

Reserves allocation – The Clerk, Chairman and Vice Chair will be meeting to identify the exact amount held in reserves and the amount allocated to each project.

Trees - Chichester Tree Services have removed the dead Elms from the Allotment site. The next phase of the works, around the Village Green in particular, may require local authority planning consent.

**9. Traffic management**

Previously covered.

**10. Trees**

The 'urgent' safety works needed on the dead trees at the allotment site and removal of deadwood at Sheepwash Lane (at an approx. cost of £1,150) by Chichester Tree Services were unanimously APPROVED.

**11. Finance.**

**a)** Cllr Aldridge signed the previous month's bank reconciliation.

**b)** The listed payments (as attached at Appendix B) were unanimously APPROVED. An invoice received from Roger Gunn for repairs to 2 strimmers used by the Lavant Volunteers, received today, was added to the list and approved (£399.48 inc. VAT).

## 12. Planning

### a) Planning Authority decisions received

LV/25/02720/TPA

Mrs Linda Smith

19 Roman Fields Chichester West Sussex PO19 5AB

Reduce height by 3m, reduce widths by 2m and remove epicormic growth on 1 no. Beech tree (T160, tag 160) within Area, A1 subject to LV/08/00140/TPO.

PERMIT

LV/25/02652/TPA

Mrs Linda Smith

Land West Of 18 To 20 Roman Fields Roman Fields Chichester West Sussex

Crown lift by up to 5m (above ground level) on 1 no. Beech tree (T47, tag 150). Reduce height by 3m and widths by 2m and remove epicormic growth on 1 no. Beech tree (T50, tag 3651) Both within Area, A1 subject to LV/08/00140/TPO.

PERMIT

LV/25/02656/TPA

Chichester D. Williams

Land North Of Marchwood Gate Marchwood Chichester West Sussex

Fell 1 no. Red Oak tree (T2) and 1 no. Purple Plum (Prunus) tree (T3) both within Area, A1 subject to CC/93/00640/TPO. Fell 1 no. Oak tree (T1) and 1 no. Laburnum tree (T5). Both trees are within Woodland, W2 subject to CC/68/00163/TPO.

PERMIT

SDNP/25/03718/HOUS

The Great Barn , Pook Lane, Lavant, West Sussex, PO

Alterations to fenestration including relocation of the front door to existing window opening on south elevation and replacement of existing windows and doors. Replacement of modern brickwork to flintwork. Addition of 2 no. porches and 3 no. rooflights. Re-thatching of existing roof ridge. Formation of new opening in existing front garden wall. Construction of 1 no. garden building and 1 no. garden shed.

Application Withdrawn

SDNP/25/04296/FUL

Yarbrook Farm , A286 Chilgrove Road To Binderton Lane, Lavant, West Sussex, PO18 0JR

Extension to existing agricultural barn.

Approved

SDNP/24/02618/LDP

Applicant: Lavant House Academy

Proposal: 4m rear extension to the original dwellinghouse. External alterations. Lawful Development Cert (Proposed)

Location: Parkins , West Lavant Road, Lavant, West Sussex, PO18 9AH

Decision: Appeal Lodged for Non-Determination

SDNP/25/01621/HOUS and SDNP/25/01622/LIS

Proposal: Proposed single storey rear/side extension

Location: 56 A286 Sheepwash Lane To West Stoke Road, Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0BL

Decision: APPROVED

SDNP/25/04105/PA16

Applicant: Cornerstone, Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited

Proposal: Removal and replacement of existing 20.75m monopole supporting 3no. antennas, 1no 0.3m dish with 22.90m monopole supporting 3no. antennas, 1no. 0.6m dish, and 1no. relocated 0.3m dish, and ancillary development thereto within existing fenced compound.

Location: Telecommunications Mast, Lavant Pumping Station, Lavant Down Road, Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0DD

Decision: APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

(No explanation given)

*The following are all concerning Regulation 77: Bat roosts:*

SDNP/25/01810/HRA

4 Northside, Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0BX

Raise No Objection

SDNP/25/01822/HRA

4 Northside, Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0BX

Raise No Objection

SDNP/25/01834/HRA

25 St Nicholas Road, Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0BU

Raise No Objection

SDNP/25/02233/HRA

7 St Nicholas Road, Mid Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0BU

Raise No Objection

**b. Planning Applications for confirmation or consideration**

Application: LV/25/02948/FUL - Minor Dev - All Others

Proposal: Siting of an InPost parcel locker

Address: Unit 2, Summersdale Retail Park, Lavant Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 5RD

*After consideration, the Council SUPPORTED this application.*

SDNP/25/04466/FUL

Parkers Barn, Pook Lane, Lavant, West Sussex, PO18 0AR

Redevelopment of site with 2 no. dwellings and associated works.

*After consideration, the Council SUPPORTED this application.*

25/02795/REM

Land Adjacent To A27 Copse Farm Tangmere Road Tangmere West Sussex

Application for Reserved Matters (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) of TG/20/02893/OUT (1,300 dwelling Strategic Tangmere Development) with regard to the infrastructure and landscaping works for the northern element of the main spine road and strategic surface water drainage (includes details pursuant to conditions 3 and 9 of 20/02893/OUT).

*After consideration, the Council submitted comments regarding the lack of infrastructure associated with this application: inadequate road networks, lack of public services and lack of provision for additional drinking water storage.*

**13. Clerk's Correspondence**

- a) The request from Allstars Cricket Club to use the Village Green on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August for a 'cricket day' was APPROVED.

**14. User Agreement form**

The final Village Green User Agreement form was APPROVED, following minor adjustments.

**15. Lavant Memorial Hall correspondence**

CLLR Tucker reported that there are two new shared Chairs of the Lavant Memorial Hall – Ali Fordham and Rupert Burton.

**16. Items for inclusion on next agenda**

- Heritage issues: the future of the listed phone box on A286 opposite Earl of March.
- The Milestone outside the Earl of March which has fallen (it was suggested that the Lavant Volunteers may be able to assist with this).

**17. Date of next Lavant Parish Council meeting – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at: 20:28pm

## **Appendix A**

Lavant Parish council ward report  
January 2026

Report author: Joseph Brookes-Harmer

Member for Lavant covering:  
Lavant, Funtington, West Stoke, East & West Ashling and Asdean parishes

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Welcome to the January edition of my ward report. Firstly, Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a well-deserved break.

### Local Government reorganisation:

As a reminder, the Government's formal consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in Sussex can be accessed through the links below. The first link will take you directly to the survey.

Direct link straight into the survey:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/east-sussex-brighton-and-hove-west-sussex/consultation>

Link to overview:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/east-sussex-brighton-and-hove-west-sussex>

Link with summary and documents:

[www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-east-sussex-and-brighton-and-hove-and-west-sussex](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-east-sussex-and-brighton-and-hove-and-west-sussex)

Letter from government to West Sussex council leaders:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-reorganisation-letter-to-west-sussex-council-leaders>

The consultation is open until Sunday, 11 January 2026, and invites feedback from residents, businesses, and stakeholders on the proposals put forward by councils across the region. Please take the time to respond and encourage others to share their views. Your input will help shape the Government's final decision on the best way forward for Sussex.

### Food waste:

Preparations for our new food waste collection service are well underway. Five new vehicles have already arrived, and we've been busy keeping residents informed through regular communications. In February, we will be placing information directly on people's bin handles – explaining what residents can expect when the service launches in spring 2026. We will also be encouraging them to download

our Chichester District Council app, which will provide live updates during the service roll out, including container delivery and collection start dates.

I will keep you fully informed as this important project progresses. In the meantime, I would greatly appreciate your support in spreading the word.

Currently, about a third of the waste in the average household bin in the district is food. By collecting food waste separately, it can be recycled through Anaerobic Digestion – a process where food waste is broken down to produce biogas and bio-fertiliser and is a much more efficient and environmentally friendly way of processing. The new service is also expected to encourage residents to reduce their food waste, potentially saving around £20 per person per month. For tips on how to reduce your food waste please visit [www.westsussex.gov.uk/fightagainstfoodwaste](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fightagainstfoodwaste).

To help residents to prepare, we are encouraging everyone to download our free Chichester District App from either the Apple or Google Play store and turn on their notifications. This is the best way to receive regular, tailored updates about your bin collections. By turning on notifications, you can get reminders and updates specific to your collection schedule and stay up to date with information on the new service rollout. People can find out more about the app at: [www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp) This is a significant change that promises to bring substantial benefits to our district. We will keep you well-informed of our progress and provide more details as we approach the launch of the new service. You can also find out more at:

[www.chichester.gov.uk/food-waste](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/food-waste)

#### Energy-saving for homes:

Residents in the district who want to make their homes more energy efficient can now access a new website that allows them to develop a free personalised home improvement plan. Our free 'Energy Saving Plan Builder' website - <https://energysaving.planbuilder.co.uk> - enables residents to explore and customise the energy efficiency improvements that could be most appropriate for their home and budget. Please do encourage residents to take a look at this new tool.

The online tool is designed to support residents in taking the first step towards healthier, more comfortable homes that are cheaper to run and have a reduced carbon footprint. The personalised plan provides estimated costs and savings for each measure, which residents can use as a starting point before seeking professional advice. On the website, householders can type in their postcode and select their property. Once they've confirmed that their property information is correct, the Plan Builder tool will create a summary of energy improvement ideas for their home.

#### Citizen's advice bureau:

Please do not forget about the drop-in service that is available to anyone who may need help and advice, this is available from East Pallant House that operates Monday-Friday 10.00-4.30 (available for drop-ins 10am-1pm)

#### Reporting incidents:

#### **Reporting Incidents**

Reporting a crime to the Police

*Is it an emergency?*

Call 999 in emergency situations like these:

- there is an immediate danger to life.
- someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent.
- a crime is happening right now, like a house burglary or a theft.
  - the suspect is still at the scene.

*If it's not an emergency*

Complete the online form. The report will be sent direct to the control room. [Report a crime | Sussex Police](#). Alternatively, you can call the non-emergency number: 101.

Noise, nuisance, and pollution incidents can be reported to Chichester District Council online at: [Noise, nuisance and pollution - Chichester District Council](#). This includes:

- air quality
- contaminated land
- pollution control
- bonfire problem,
- noise, nuisance and antisocial behaviour
- water quality

Environment Agency – Environment incident hotline (24-hour service). Tel: 0800 80 70 60. Website: Environment Agency - GOV.UK

**To note:** It is important to always report incidents to the appropriate organisation. Not every incident will be actioned at the time of reporting, but it will always be recorded. In some instances, there may be a need for numerous reports to be received to establish a better understanding of the situation and the impact on the individual/community. But without the reports it will not be possible to establish this.

Events this month:

Vegan market:

The hugely popular Vegan Market is returning to the city centre to promote all things vegan on Sunday 25 January between 10am and 4pm. Building on the success of previous markets visiting the city, the organisers are confident that this will be an even bigger city centre offering. The market will bring together a huge variety of vegan street food vendors — some local — artisan bakers, craft brewers, ethical jewellers, sustainable chandlers, local artists, zero-waste champions, environmental charities and more.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Best wishes,  
Joseph



## Appendix C

### Local Government Reform report CLLR Jeremy Hunt

*Firstly, this is about elections that are meaningful, understood by voters, and capable of producing stable government. That is why it is important to be absolutely clear about what is happening in West Sussex.*

*First of all, West Sussex County Council has not cancelled or deferred elections. Only Government has the legal power to make that decision. What we have done, responsibly and transparently, is advise Ministers that, in the context of major Government-led local government reorganisation and devolution, we do not have the capacity to run a full county council election at the same time without undermining delivery, value for money and democratic clarity. That distinction matters.*

*West Sussex is undergoing the most significant period of structural change in local government for a generation. Government is reshaping councils through local government reorganisation, creating new unitary authorities, while at the same time placing Sussex into a devolution priority programme that will establish a new strategic authority working alongside East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. These reforms are not cosmetic. They involve redesigning governance, reallocating responsibilities, transferring staff and assets, setting new budgets, and establishing entirely new democratic institutions. Done well, they have the potential to improve accountability and bring decisions closer to local communities. Done badly — or rushed alongside competing demands — they risk confusion, delay and poor outcomes.*

*In our submission to Government on local government reorganisation in September 2025, West Sussex was clear: attempting to deliver this scale of reform while simultaneously running a county-wide election would stretch capacity beyond safe limits. That position remains unchanged.*

*Elections are not simply about polling day. They require months of preparation, significant officer time, senior leadership focus and financial resource. They also have unavoidable consequences for decision-making, both before and after the vote. In normal circumstances, that is a price worth paying for democracy. In the middle of wholesale structural reform, it becomes a genuine risk.*

*West Sussex County Council continues to deliver vital services every day — adult social care, children’s services, highways, public health and support for vulnerable residents. These services do not pause for elections or reorganisation. At the same time, officers and elected members are working intensively to design the future shape of local government and establish new strategic arrangements across Sussex. To pretend that all of this can be done simultaneously, without consequence, would be dishonest.*

*Also, councillors elected during this period would be elected to an authority that effectively only has a year to run in its present guise. Their mandate would be very short and immediately overshadowed by the elections for a shadow unitary, or unitaries, in May 2027, which no doubt many of them will be standing for. That will be followed by mayoral elections in May 2028. Voters deserve clarity about what they are voting for. Asking residents to vote for councils that will shortly be replaced, while new institutions are being created in parallel, risks confusion and disengagement at a time when public trust in politics is already fragile.*

*Then there is the question of cost. County council elections cost millions of pounds. That is taxpayers’ money. At a time when councils face intense financial pressure, rising demand and difficult budget decisions, it is right to ask whether running elections under these circumstances represents responsible stewardship — particularly when elections to the successor authorities will follow.*

*Some critics argue that raising these concerns amounts to “cancelling democracy”. That is a serious charge — and a mistaken one. Defending democracy is not about rigidly clinging to process regardless of context. It is about ensuring elections are credible, consequential and properly supported.*

*Our responsibility, as local leaders, is to tell the truth about capacity, risk and consequence. Doing so is not anti-democratic. On the contrary, it is how we protect the long-term health and credibility of local democracy in West Sussex. West Sussex has been open with Government about the practical realities of delivering major reform. Ministers will decide shortly whether elections can realistically be run alongside reorganisation without damaging outcomes for residents.*