

**The Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of Lavant Parish Council held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 commencing 7:00pm held at the Lavant Memorial Hall, Pook Lane, Lavant.**

**In attendance:** Cllrs. Aldridge, Goldsmith, Quest, Turner, Mayhead, Whincop.

**Also Present:** WSCC Cllr. Hunt, CDC Cllr. Brookes-Harmer, Clerk.

**Public present:** 4

**142. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Tucker

**143. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests.**

- a) None
- b) None
- c) None

**144. Public Session.**

**Village fete report- (see Appendix A)**

Caroline from the Lavant Fete Committee explained that there were £1436 of funds in the account before the fete and the event raised a net contribution of £5411.45; therefore, creating a total of £6847.45 income. This year, there were concerns over the availability of upfront funds needed to pay for things in advance of the event, therefore it was suggested that £1800 of the money is saved as reserves for next year's event- leaving £5000 to be distributed.

Appendix A lists the clubs/organisations to whom the funds will be donated. There were 15 requests, which were accommodated as best as they could, depending on how well they met the criteria. The committee is looking at ways to increase income – they do not want to charge entry, as some other local villages do- but are keen to increase sponsorships.

Lavant Parish Council unanimously APPROVED the fete sub-committee's decision on how to spend the funds. CLLR Quest abstained from this decision, due to her involvement with the committee.

**145. To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**

Cllr Turner proposed, and Cllr Goldsmith seconded the approval of the draft minutes. It was unanimously AGREED that the minutes of the previous meeting be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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

- a) Electric Vehicle update – no update.
- b) River Bridge project update – an engineer has visited the bridge site and the report has been received. The next step is for CLLR Aldridge to investigate costings with Drew Miller and see how this works with the budget for the project. If the budget does not work with funds available, a pre-made bridge will be purchased. This will require amended planning permission.

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

*Budget* – CLLR Hunt expressed the uncertainties surrounding funding, as a result of the new Government. The Council Tax referendum limit sits at 5%, but he expressed the possibility for this to rise.

*Children's Services* – There has been a substantial improvement on the last assessment of children's services received by young people leaving care; these services have been praised by OFSTED.

*Community support fund* – the community support fund (in the form of vouchers) runs until the end of this month- there is a possibility of an extension, but this has not been confirmed. If support is needed, CLLR Hunt recommended Googling 'WSCC Community hub'.

*Operation Watershed*- CLLR Hunt suggested Operation Watershed to resolve drainage issues following repeated flooding in Fordwater Road. CLLR Hunt expressed he is happy to support this, but it must be initiated from LPC or another local organisation. CLLR Aldridge expressed he had reported it several times, however, CLLR Hunt stated an application must be made to Operation Watershed to claim the necessary funds to support works being done to improve drainage. CLLR Hunt offered to put it forward; Clerk to complete application.

CLLR Aldridge also questioned the drainage of Marsh Lane; he stated the ditches are overgrown and are no longer allowing a proper flow of water into the river. CLLR Hunt to arrange a meeting for LPC to be involved, moving forward. CLLR Whincop also highlighted issues with the A286 opposite the end of Sheepwash Lane.

*Community road safety*- a meeting is to be arranged.

*New crossing*- CLLR Hunt expressed his appreciation for the positive feedback on the impact of the new crossing, from CLLR Goldsmith.

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

CDC Cllr Brookes-Harmer shared his report, as attached at Appendix B.

Clerk to add information on drop-in service on LPC website.

**149. Chairman's Report.**

*Defibrillator*- CLLR Quest reported that the church would not be able to accommodate housing a defibrillator. CLLR Aldridge questioned the requirements of a defibrillator; he is to follow up with suppliers about the various offerings.

*Eastmead parking*- CLLR Aldridge to arrange a meeting with CLLR Turner and the developer about the appropriateness of parking spaces.

*Southern Water*- Jude Winstanley has left. A meeting has been offered with Hannah Morley and Mike Russell in October- the date is to be confirmed (proposed October 10<sup>th</sup> at 3pm).

*School car park* – Paul Basham and Associates (development consultants) have stated a traffic survey is needed (ATC survey £890 + VAT) over 7 days. CLLR Aldridge suggested using Lavant Speedwatch Team's data which has recorded number of vehicles + number of vehicles exceeding 30mph; it is unclear if this is sufficient. CLLR Aldridge to follow up with the Head at Lavant Primary School (Adrian King). A member of the public raised concern at the lack of 30MPH signage on either side of the road – at the gateway to the speed changing. CLLR Hunt to report this.

*Unity Bank*- We are now fully transitioned to Unity Bank.

*Lavant Academy Cottage Redevelopment* – A member of the public urged the Parish Council to reverse support for the plans, due to SDNPA interim planning officer's report recommending refusal of the application based on non-compliance of SDNPA/Lavant

Neighbourhood Development Plan policies. CLLR Aldridge responded that the LPC decision was based on their interpretation of the planning policies. The planning meeting is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

*Lavant Memorial Hall*- The hall has requested to use the football pitch as overspill parking for the Christmas Market on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Lavant Parish Council unanimously SUPPORT this request.

**150. School Car Park.**  
Already covered

**151. Great Elms Open Space.**

CLLR Goldsmith and CLLR Aldridge met with the contractors, who are going to leave the area in a reasonable condition, disposing of any rubbish and dead/dying trees.

CLLR Goldsmith met with the Tree Warden and the Trees Outside Woodland Officer for CDC to discuss grants for tree planting/community orchards.

A small area adjacent to the attenuation pond and footpath coming from Raughmere has been approved as a potential site for tree planting under the grant scheme.

CLLR Goldsmith explained that Lavant Parish Council would need to fund the costs upfront and then would receive 100% back, if the application is successful. CLLR Aldridge questioned the restrictions on what is allowed, as per the land transition documentation and CLLR Goldsmith confirmed that she has investigated this and does not believe it to be an issue. CLLR Aldridge confirmed his support of this project.

CLLR Turner met with the Strategic Wildlife Corridor Officer for Chichester District Council who explained grants could be available for wildlife corridors- a project volunteers would be needed for. He explained that anything adjoining pre-established wildlife corridors would be eligible for grants.

CLLR Quest met with the Sussex Wildlife Trust, who explained they had appointed Jack Thomson, to work in the Western part of West Sussex, to help with volunteers for projects around the village. CLLR Quest to set a date with Sussex Wildlife Trust to follow up with this.

CLLR Aldridge and CLLR Whincop to discuss wildlife corridors and their importance in defending local land from potential future development.

**152. Eastmead Development.**  
Already covered

**153. Village maintenance and other concerns.**

CLLR Quest is planning to meet with volunteers to work on the St Nicholas churchyard on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

CLLR Mayhead offered thanks to whoever cleared the path along the chalk stream; she commented that the path is now much better used. CLLR Hunt suggests it may have been WSCC.

**154. Memorial, trees/benches policies.**

CLLR Goldsmith had a request that the policy have a clause stating that people should not decorate their trees- this was declined. Cllr Goldsmith to email the final copy for approval from Lavant Parish Council. Following this, it will be published on the website.

Cllr Quest highlighted parts of the bridge that are severely damaged and shared concerns about what will happen when the water rises. CLLR Quest to follow this up with the contractor.

**155. Byelaws**

Cllr Goldsmith is still working on this- she will circulate to all groups in the village, once they are complete.

**156. Allotments**

CLLR Goldsmith explained that there is a long waiting list. 13 people have applied for plots; site visits will begin on Sunday, with new leases in place for the start of the financial year (1<sup>st</sup> October).

The allocation policy gives priority to residents of Lavant, and then to the adjacent villages. 7 requests have come from within Lavant, with the remainder from adjacent parishes. Not all the requests will be accommodated- they will be put on a waiting list in date order, as per when their application was received.

CLLR Goldsmith explained that the Community Allotments Garden Open Day was cancelled due to sickness and therefore lack of volunteers. There is no plan to reschedule it; there will be an open day next year.

**157. Village fete report**

Already covered

**158. Councillor vacancies**

CLLR Aldridge explained that the Parish Council are short by 2 councillors; he will write something to put in the Lavant News and on the website, to appeal to people to come forward. CLLR Aldridge stressed that the current workload outbalances the amount of councillors.

**159. Goodwood air traffic**

A member of the public has shared his concerns about Goodwood's Air Traffic and the routes being used. CLLR Aldridge to organise a meeting with Goodwood, to discuss the issue. However, he does believe the feedback may have already been taken on board, following a personal observation of air traffic taking alternate routes.

**160. Football pitch usage**

Lavant Football Club are taking a sabbatical, although the youth team are still playing. Bosham veterans continue to use the pitch. Hunston 3rds have requested to use the pitch for the coming season (around 16-20 games); CLLR Aldridge expressed it is an opportunity to create revenue from charges to the team for both Lavant Parish Council and Lavant Memorial Hall.

**161. Finance.**

**a) August/September payments**

Clerk to investigate payment amount from Fingerpost claim- seems insubstantial.

Councillors **APPROVED** the schedule of payments.

**162. To comment on and review planning applications and decisions**

- SDNP/24/03417/HOUS. New dormer window to rear elevation to replace existing dormer window and rooflight. New Barn, Pook Lane, Lavant, West Sussex, PO18 0AH

After review and consideration, Councillors voted to **SUPPORT** this application.

- SDNP/24/03526/LIS. Reconstruction of chimney stack. Raughmere, Lavant Road, Lavant, West Sussex, PO18 0BG

After review and consideration, Councillors voted to **SUPPORT** this application.

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

- Car parking for hall events

**164. Date of next Lavant Parish Council meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> October.**

Members of the public should be aware that being present at a meeting of the Council be deemed as the person having given consent to being recorded (photograph, filmed or audio recording) at the meeting or video conference, by any person present.

## APPENDIX A

**LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL – Sub Committee FETE COMMITTEE  
FINAL REPORT 2024****Finance**

The total net contribution from the 2024 Fete was £5411.45

The **Sub Committee FETE COMMITTEE** wish to carry forward £1,800 in the bank account ( from £1436 in 2024 ) to cover upfront costs for 2025 Fete, leaving £5,000 for distribution

**Consideration of Requests**

The document- **DISTRIBUTION of LAVANT FETE FUNDS - Factors for consideration** was used as a basis of the decision making

There were 15 requests from a good range of Lavant Groups.

The amounts and purposes of the distributed funds are detailed in the accompanying spreadsheet

**Basis of Decision**

1. **Lavant Valley Allotment Association** -. A new noticeboard and shelf to benefit the wider community. £200:00
2. **Football Club** – LFC Provision of a Youth team makes a valuable contribution to Lavant community. The youth side is very strong. Safeguarding & Welfare Training and Coaching Courses £200 – will enable sustainability
3. **Cricket Club** - Circumstances have changed regarding last year’s request for the mower, in particular outside funds are not now available. The Cricket Club are holding fundraising events and will match the Fete Donation. £250.00
4. **Lavant Primary School** –. Lavant Primary School work hard to fundraise themselves. They contribute significantly to the fete. Funds to be used to help ensure every child in the school has access to a laptop £500:00
5. **Friendly Club** - this group offers a valuable opportunity to participants: their fundraising opportunities are limited. £200.00
6. **Memorial Hall** –. The value of the Memorial Hall to the village is huge. It is important to support the maintenance and sustainability of this critical village asset. Contribution to LED lighting in Green Room. £550.00
7. **Horticultural Society** – This group, through its members, makes a significant contribution to the village through their events, and by helping others to raise funds, Communication to the wider public through replacement notices to achieve this is much needed. £500:00
8. **Lavant Players**- This group is expanding its youth outreach, so the use of the microphones would make a huge difference £300:00
9. **Lavant Environmental Team** – LET is working with the youth group. Support for a small grant application to SDNPA notice board will help communicate their work. Purchase of seeds offers sustainability. £200:00
10. **Lavant PCC** – a handrail along the pathway to St Mary's church will facilitate access to all age groups. The Pcc have raised the majority of the funding required. £500.00

Overall Lavant PCC s affiliated groups have been awarded £1200:00.

11. **Church Youth Group**- This group is the only one on the Village aimed at young teenagers it is growing in strength. A boys’ tent for the May Camp £250:00
12. **Toddlers** – this group offers a valuable opportunity to families in Lavant and is growing: their fundraising opportunities are limited. replacement toys enable sustainability £200:00 for the purchase of a wooden farmyard set and low tray with raised sides to contain it.

13. **Lunch Club** - fundraising opportunities are limited, the Christmas Lunch is a highlight of the year. £250:00
14. **Scouts** - their contribution to the Fete is invaluable. replacement tents enable sustainability. £200:00
15. **Lavant History Project**- The project to survey and investigate St Mary's Graveyard contributes to the community both within and beyond Lavant. Survey costs. £200:00
16. **Lavant Volunteer Group** - without the Lavant Volunteers the cost of maintenance to the Village would be unaffordable. They need a huge amount of support, and their work benefits the whole community and visitors. Equipment £500:00

#### **Feedback to community**

Each group will be emailed, by Lavant Sub Committee with the outcome after the Lavant Parish Council Meeting held on September 10th 2024. They will also be sent a copy of the Distribution of Lavant Fete Funds – Factors for consideration

Fete Committee Treasurer will take responsibility for the payment

The distribution of the funds will be published in the Lavant News.

#### **RESOLUTION**

**Lavant Parish Council accept the Sub Committee FETE COMMITTEE recommendations as detailed above.**

## APPENDIX B

Lavant Parish council ward report  
September 2024

Report author: Joseph Brookes-Harmer

District Councillor for Lavant, Funtington, West Stoke, East & West Ashling and Asdean

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I hope that you have managed to fit in a break over the summer and have been able to enjoy some of the nice weather we experienced. As always, lots of things have been happening across all our service areas.

### Ward matters:

#### The BIG River watch:

On 7<sup>th</sup> September, I will be taking part in The BIG River watch, to raise awareness of river health in our constituency. I would strongly encourage you to get as many people out as possible to raise awareness especially in the River Lavant, where Jess Brown-Fuller, our newly elected MP for Chichester recently paid a visit to talk about the challenges facing the River Lavant, as well as other rivers within the constituency.

You can find out more information about The BIG River watch here, which is taking place between 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> September.

<https://theriverstrust.org/take-action/the-big-river-watch>

#### The Local Plan Examination:

The hearings as part of the Local Plan Examination will begin on 1 October 2024. They will be held at the council offices at East Pallant House in Chichester but will also be broadcast online for those that wish to watch but not participate. By 13<sup>th</sup> September, all Hearing Statements must be completed and submitted to the Programme Officer by this date. The full programme is available on the CDC website at:

[www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanexamination](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanexamination)



### District council matters:

I'm also pleased to report that a project to install a further two fully accessible public toilets in Midhurst and Selsey has been completed. Known as Changing Places toilets, the facilities are specifically designed to meet the needs of disabled children and adults with complex care needs who need the support of a carer. The facilities have much more space than a conventional accessible toilet and also include specialist equipment. It now brings the total number of Changing Places toilets in the district to four, with one in Bracklesham Barn having opened in January. A facility is also located in Chichester's Northgate car park and opened in 2016. The facilities in Midhurst, Selsey and Bracklesham are the result of a funding bid submitted by the council to the Government's Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Following the bid, the council was awarded £210,000 to enable delivery of the projects.

We've also been running two consultations across the summer — both of which have had a good response rate. The first is the Climate Change consultation, which started on 1 July and is due to end on 30 September: <https://letstalk.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange>. The second is the Evening and Nighttime economy consultation, which ends 30 August and which will reopen again for the new university students. In addition, our parks team have also been asking the opinions of play park users on what improvements they would like to see. This feedback will lead to potential options that will be consulted on at the start of next year.

We have also opened the second round of the Tree Chichester District scheme's Community Orchard initiative. Community groups and parish councils are being encouraged to apply for a share of the £9,000 funding by 17 January 2025 to help pay for trees and items such as stakes, cages and tree ties. The funding will be issued on a first come, first served basis — and all planting must be completed by the end of March 2025. Those wishing to apply should request an application form by emailing: [treescheme@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:treescheme@chichester.gov.uk)

### 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)

### Household Support Fund:

The Household Support Fund (HSF) has been extended for 6 months from April 2024 to September 2024. Chichester District Council has received £100k from West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to continue to support residents.

The £100k will be used to support residents with essentials related to energy & water such as white goods, wider essentials such as furniture and carpets, and housing related costs related to moving residents on from temporary accommodation. The scheme will be administered by the Supporting You, Housing Solutions and Housing Accommodation teams. In addition to the funding above, WSCC have also made supermarket vouchers available to help support customers who are struggling with to feed themselves or family.

#### Events:

##### The Vegan Market returns to Chichester City Centre!

Sunday 22 September 2024, 10am to 4pm The hugely popular Vegan Market is returning to the city centre to promote all things vegan. Building on the success of the first Vegan Market in January this year, 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 loads more. Their ethos is that it doesn't matter if you're vegan or vegetarian, or just curious, they guarantee a delicious day out.

##### Cross Market & More, Chichester City Centre:

Sunday 29 September 2024, 10am to 4pm Our ever-popular artisan market will take place in the city centre — North and East Street — to showcase our local, talented creatives with entertainment and music. I do look forward to seeing you there!

#### Dinosaur evening talks:

We have two more dinosaur evening talks coming up, both led by expert palaeontologists and authors:

- **Reconstructing the Lives of Dinosaurs:** Thursday 19 September at 6.30pm How were dinosaurs brought back to life? What evidence was used when reconstructing the dinosaurs we recognise today? Darren Naish, British vertebrate palaeontologist, discusses the evidence, and also the speculations and extrapolations, used in bringing dinosaurs back to life. Learn about the importance of evidence from living animals, and how the world of dinosaurs was colourful and complex, as well as surprising and bizarre!
- **Were there dinosaurs before Jurassic Park?** Thursday 3 October at 6.30pm Geologist and palaeontologist Dougal Dixon first became interested in dinosaurs in the 1950s, before they were part of our culture. Now, in a 'different world', where the history of dinosaurs is entwined into modern day culture, Dougal will explore the growth of interest and appreciation of dinosaurs in the general media, and a history of discovery. Talks cost £8.50

per person, which includes exhibition entry to 'Dinosaurs: Hungry Hatchlings' from 5.30pm.

Book now at: [www.thenovium.org/dinosaurs](http://www.thenovium.org/dinosaurs)

UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund:

A map is being produced to show where the funding has been granted across the district for all the UKSPF and REPF projects from 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. The 65 projects going forward for 2024/2025 have now all been sent their Grant Agreements for signing using the new electronic DocuSign. One project has already been completed for the Rural England Prosperity Fund 2024/2025.

The Direct Delivery Projects continue for 2024/2025, these include:

- Culture Spark – Arts Project in conjunction with Festival of Flowers in June'24.
- There will be over 20 events across the district during 2024/25, these will assist with increasing footfall.
- The funding was used to support the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride in May in the city centre.
  - Graffiti Removal continues across the district.
- A Business Network Building project - working with Sussex Food Awards to produce a directory for local food and drinks companies in Chichester District.

I'm also pleased to let you know that the 'Chichester Antiques, Vintage & Decorative Art' street market, which returned to Chichester last month after a five-year break, was well received. It was so popular that plans are already underway for its return on Sunday 11 August.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way.

With my best wishes,  
Joseph