

The Minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting of Lavant Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th October 2025 at 7:00pm in the Green Room, Memorial Hall, Pook Lane, Lavant.

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

Also present: Clerk, WSCC Cllr Hunt.

Public present: 1

158. Apologies for absence.

Cllr Mayhead, Cllr Whincop, Cllr Goldsmith, Cllr Brookes-Harmer.

159. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests.

a) None.

b) None.

c) None.

160. Public Session.

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

161. To receive and approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th September 2025.

Following a few slight amendments, the minutes were unanimously APPROVED by the Council. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

162. Update on outstanding actions brought forward from previous meeting.

a) River Bridge project update – to be covered in the Chairman’s Report.

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

Alongside his report, which is attached at Appendix A, Cllr Hunt also raised the following:

Local Government Reorganisation- Cllr Hunt highlighted that due to the huge pace of the process, and the timescale in which the public engagement process was completed, there were no figures provided in the feedback; however, had the large difference in savings between one and two unitaries been in the feedback survey, then that might have impacted on the results, which showed a 65% support for two unitaries.

Cllr Hunt explained the key differences in the payback periods and future savings of a single or two unitary outcome. With a single unitary, the payback period of the costs of setting up a single unitary is calculated to be 2.3 years, and the savings after 5 years are estimated to be c£49m per year. With two unitaries, the payback period of splitting the county into two unitaries is calculated to be 6.4 years and the savings, after that are expected to be c£19m per year. So going forward, the annual additional savings for a single unitary over two unitaries, will be in the region of an extra £30m per year. He also stated: as a single unitary starts making savings 4.1 years ahead of when two unitaries are expected to have paid back the costs of unitirisation , this could amount to around an additional £150m of savings over that period. Cllr Hunt expressed that these are serious figures, and with the costs of local government - especially social care - increasing dramatically, maximising the potential savings is essential. Note: All the figures are set out in the business case, which can be found here: [Read the joint West Sussex business case for local government reorganisation.](#)

Cllr Hunt also expressed concerns around the future of our key services – especially both adults and children’s services – if they were to be split into two. He expressed that over the last few years the county has invested heavily in improving these services. He expressed that our children’s services are now in a very good place, and our adult services have just been rated ‘good’ by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The concerns – and one shared by social care leaders across the country – is that the work and complications of trying to split these services into two will lead to an undoing of all the good work that has been done over these last few years, leading to people receiving poorer support than they currently do – and at a time when they are at their most vulnerable. Cllr Hunt summarised that this is why WSCC has submitted a strong business case for a single, county-wide, unitary authority.

Cllr Hunt stated that it was likely the full Government consultation would be released in November, with a final announcement made in February/March.

Operation Watershed- Cllr Hunt explained that the plan moving forward would be to combine Chilgrove with Fordwater Road, as this will make a more acceptable scheme. The Council should expect a quote from Landbuild, but is also obliged to obtain, or at least try to obtain, two additional quotes.

Community highways- Cllr Hunt has suggested the idea of including the other end of Sheepwash Lane in the application, proposing to square the junction off, to provide better access for pedestrians and curb the dangerous driving that occurs on that corner. Engineers will be looking at this to see if it can be included in the CHS.

First aid training- it was discussed that St John’s Ambulance possibly offers free first aid training and Cllr Hunt suggested the Council could hold a session, involving the public.

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

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

165. Chairman’s Report.

Bridge project-

The timber has been ordered and is expected to be delivered next week, after which A.S.M. will commence construction. The bridge will be assembled in the workshop, then dismantled and reassembled on site. It is anticipated that the project will still be completed by the end of October. Cllr Aldridge reported that there has been no response from SDNP regarding the acceptance of the most recent draft of the application; however, a six-month extension for the use of the allocated funds has been granted.

Football Pitch report-

The pitch has not yet been sprayed. Cllr Aldridge will inspect the area to determine whether spraying is still necessary, given the recent rainfall which has encouraged grass growth and may have slowed weed growth (although he mentioned that this is unlikely).

School Car Park-

A meeting has been scheduled for 4.30pm on 21st October.

Village Green user agreement-

To be discussed at Item 169.

TRO B2141-

An application has been submitted but no response has been received, as of yet.

Operation Watershed applications-
Previously discussed.

Finger Post-

Cllr Aldridge reported that the damaged fingerpost at the junction of Hunters Race has been repaired and reinstalled. The cost of the repair was recovered through an insurance claim against the individual responsible for the damage.

Future Energy Landscapes workshop-

The FEL report is now available for download on the FEL website and will also be shared on the LPC website (Cllr Turner to arrange its upload). Cllr Aldridge also mentioned that the report contains a survey link and encouraged the Council to promote participation in the survey.

CHIL-

The CHIL application has been accepted and is currently being prepared for submission to the moderation panel. Additional documentary evidence, particularly relating to speeding, has been requested. Cllr Aldridge has contacted the Speedwatch team to obtain any available data. A file is being compiled containing speed data and additional photographic evidence of traffic incidents, using any records recently collected by Cllr Finley.

It was reported that Nick Reynolds has written to Cllrs Aldridge, Turner, Finley, and Tucker outlining measures the CHIL group would like to see achieved. It was proposed that the named councillors meet to discuss how best to try and implement these measures.

Orange Barriers-

It was reported that Midhurst Town Council has a surplus of orange barriers and are offering them free upon collection. Cllr suggested that the Council try and obtain a dozen (or so) as they would be useful for events, parking, road closures etc. Cllr Aldridge to liaise with Midhurst Town Council and arrange the collection.

166. Finance.

- a) The Chairman confirmed that he had signed the previous month's bank reconciliation.
- b) The listed payments (Appendix C) were unanimously APPROVED.
Cllr Aldridge noted that we believed the Barclaycard account to have been closed, yet a payment has been processed. He will be contacting the relevant authorities to request the closure of the account and seek a refund.

167. Planning

a) To comment on and review planning applications and decisions

Decisions received:

No decisions received.

Decisions to consider:

SDNP/25/03441/TCA

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Pear Tree (T1) and 1 no. Silver Birch tree (T2)

Location: The Gate House , Lower Road, East Lavant, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0AG

The Council expressed concerns regarding the removal of a healthy tree based on a proposed house extension, which has not yet been received. The Clerk has submitted this feedback to CDC and is awaiting a response.

CDC TPA - 25/02299/TPA

Proposal: Coppice down to 500mm and remove Ivy from base area (all round) on 1 no. Common Hazel tree (T3). Fell to 3m high monolith on 1 no. Common Ash tree (T7). Fell 3 no. Sycamore trees (T11, T13 and T14) and 1 no. Common Ash tree (T15) within Area, A10 subject to 74/00636/TPO.

Location: Woodland At Rear And Adjacent To The Coach House The Drive Chichester West Sussex PO19 5QQ

The Council SUPPORTED this application.

SDNP/25/03569/HOUS

Proposal: Alterations to roof and construction of two-storey rear extension

Location: 2 West End Cottages Mid Lavant, Chichester PO18 0DA

The Council SUPPORTED this application.

SDNP/25/03718/HOUS

Proposal: 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. roof lights. 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. • Internal alterations including replacement staircase, and proposed underfloor heating.

Location: The Great Barn, Pook Lane, East Lavant, PO18 0AH

The council SUPPORTED this application.

SDNP/25/02140/DCOND

[SDNP/25/00635/FUL]

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 4 and 5 from planning permission SDNP/25/00635/FUL relating to: Condition 4: external lighting Condition 5: habitat enhancements

Address: Lavant House Stables West Lavant Road Lavant West Sussex PO18 9AH

The Council SUPPORTED this application.

168. Clerk's Correspondence

The council APPROVED use of a 3x3m gazebo on the Green for a wedding on October 11th. The Clerk will contact the couple with details of the deposit and suggested donation.

169. Village Green User Agreement

Cllr Turner confirmed that the final version of the User Agreement form is complete and the Clerk is currently investigating the necessary forms required as additional documentation. It was agreed that the deposit and payment for the Green should be paid via BACS, rather than cheque, with the £100 refunded upon satisfactory checks of the Green. Cllr Turner will circulate the final version of the form.

170. Meeting date – November

Several members of the Council have prior commitments on the scheduled November meeting date and requested that the meeting be rescheduled. It was proposed that the meeting be moved to Wednesday 12th November, subject to confirmation from Cllrs Goldsmith, Whincop, and Mayhead.

171. External Audit

The Council RECEIVED the signed external audit from Moore (as on the website: <https://www.lavantparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/lavant-parish-council-20640/finance/>)

172. Information via email

The Council AGREED to receive all documentation electronically.

173. Interim Internal Audit

The Council RECEIVED the interim internal audit from Mulberry and Co (as on the website: <https://www.lavantparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/lavant-parish-council-20640/finance/>)

174. Lavant Memorial Hall meeting

a) The Lavant Memorial Hall proposed to house a clothing/textiles bin in the car park – managed by AllRecycle Ltd- as an additional location for residents to recycle their unwanted clothes/textiles, allowing the hall to earn either 25p per kilo donated or a fixed monthly rent.

The council agreed to SUPPORT the proposal and Cllr Tucker will report back to the hall.

b) Cllr Tucker shared a list of items, which Council members assigned themselves, for a hamper for the Christmas Fayre.

175. Items for inclusion on next agenda

None.

176. Date of next Lavant Parish Council meeting – provisional date: Wednesday 12th November.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:06pm