



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Milford, Bishopdown Farm, Old Sarum & Longhedge

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023
at River Bourne Community Farm.

MINUTES

Councillors present: Baker (Chair), Maskell, Schneider

In attendance: Brain (Communications and Community Engagement Officer CCEO) until 7.20pm, Deane (Clerk),

The meeting commenced at 7pm

FGP.23.009 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Waller and the Responsible Financial Officer RFO Prince.

FGP.23.010 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

FGP 23.011 Approval of Minutes

Resolved: to approve the minutes of meeting held on 6th February 2023

The Chair brought forward item FGP.23.016 for the benefit of the CCEO in attendance.

FGP 23.016 Annual Parish Meeting Plans

The CCEO reported on groups around the Parish who had been invited to attend and talk about their activities in the Parish, and plans to encourage more attendance and engage with residents. The provision of refreshments was agreed. Groups may be invited to present or host a 'stall' at the event. The possible length of the Annual Parish Meeting may impact on the time available for the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The CCEO left the meeting after this item.

FGP 23.012 Community Buildings update

The Clerk reported that Heads of Terms for Hampton Park Pavilion were still under discussion between solicitors and the dilapidations were still under discussion between the owners solicitors and Wiltshire Council.

The Clerk reported that the trustees of Old Sarum and Longhedge Community Centre were considering appointing their own Centre Manager who would take responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance, which would mean the lease could continue unaltered. Subject to their decision, they may apply to the Parish Council for funds from the Community Buildings budget to help fund the role.

FGP 23.013 Review of Action List and Parish Strategic Plan

The Clerk distributed draft copies of the Parish Strategic Plan, which will be updated and reviewed at Full Council in April, for presentation at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May. Some items from the Action List will be moved to the Strategic Plan.

The Clerk will contact the Clerk for Salisbury City Council regarding the allotments in Cow Lane.

FGP.23.014 Reserves Policy

As the RFO was absent, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

FGP.23.015 Grant Reserve

As the RFO was absent, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

FGP.23.017 Officers Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported that new directors of River Bourne Community Farm were planning to attend the next council meeting to introduce themselves, and that a grant application was also expected from the Farm.

The RFO had emailed a query over the contribution requested by Salisbury City Council towards cemetery provision. The Parish council had included a 5% inflation increase in their budget for the coming year; however the requested contribution reflects a 10.4% increase. Councillors queried how the base figure of the contribution was calculated, before the application of inflation. Councillors were content that as long as the calculation was correctly apportioned according to tax base, and the increase could be justified, that the contribution could be paid.

The Clerk presented a proposed rota of finance checks for the coming year and some amendments were made according to availability. This will be updated and circulated.

The Clerk circulated a list of discretions that would need to be agreed in advance of joining LGPS, and a report will be presented to Full Council. It was felt that by joining a more generous scheme, additional payments would not normally be recommended. The Chair asked the Clerk to investigate how easily future changes to a Discretions Policy could be made.

ACTION CLERK

The Clerk reported that the future rent for Community First to operate the Youth Club at Old Sarum Centre would be billed to the Parish Council using the Youth Provision budget. The Clerk also reported that a meeting was planned with the Communities Manager from Salisbury City Council to discuss expanding youth provision and community pantry provision in the parish.

FGP.23.018 Draft Agenda Full Council Meeting 17th April 2023

Items to be covered will include Planning, River Bourne Community Farm, Committee Membership and Community Centres. No additions were suggested.

Currently there is no Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting planned for May, although a date of 9th May was agreed if a meeting should need to be called.

FGP.23.019 Exempt Business

There being no exempt business, the meeting closed at 8.22pm

Signed:

Date:

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee will be held on Monday 5th June 2023 at the River Bourne Community Farm.