



Laverstock & Ford Parish Council

Incorporating Milford, Bishopdown Farm, Old Sarum & Longhedge

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held at the Boscombe Down Aviation Collection on Tuesday 4 March 2025 MINUTES

Chair of the Annual Parish Meeting: Cllr Nick Baker, Chair of Laverstock and Ford Parish Council (L&FPC)

The following Parish Councillors were also present: Cllr Laura Jones, Cllr Kevin Lynn, Cllr Ian McDonald, Cllr Lesley Waller, Cllr Estelle Williams, Cllr Lainey Barker, Cllr Eric Taylor, Cllr Cindy Vanstone.

The following Wiltshire Councillors were present: WCllr Ian McLennan, WCllr Andrew Oliver

52 members of the public were present, including representatives from the Neighbourhood Watch, Boscombe Down Aviation Collection and the Parish Council C&CE Officer and Operations Officers.

Minutes taken by the Parish Clerk, Gail Pettifer

1. There was an opportunity for all to view equipment from the Community Emergency Volunteers and talk to representatives ahead of the meeting.

The meeting commenced at 6.10pm.

2. **Election of Chair and welcome**

Cllr Baker offered to chair the meeting, which was agreed by all present. The Chair welcomed all present and explained the format of the meeting.

3. **Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2024**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May, 2024.

4. **Boscombe Down Aviation Collection**

BDAC gave a presentation on their recent upgrades to the Collection and offered a tour after the meeting, to showcase the new display installed as a result of a grant from the Parish Council.

5. **Community Emergency Volunteers**

John Gunns, Co-ordinator of the CEV gave a presentation regarding Laverstock & Ford's approach to this national initiative. Their work includes a range of activities, from searching for vulnerable missing persons to large-scale power outages. They are a volunteer groups of ten members but are looking to recruit more support.

6. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Ross Walker, Membership Support Administrator, gave a presentation about this national initiative but explained that local contact details are to be found in the parish magazine. He is working in partnership with the CEVs, and also asked for a parish councillor to champion the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Cllr Vanstone volunteered to represent L&FPC. The scheme cost nothing to join but requires a small commitment of time. Ross asked that more residents join the scheme.

7. **Chairs Report**

The Chair of the Parish Council acknowledged those who have served the Council since its inception in 1894. The Chair reflected on some of the achievements over the last four years.

- Castle Hill Country Park: The Chair highlighted the foundations that had been laid previously but over the last four years has thrived.

- Old Sarum Community Centre & Hampton Park Pavilion are both owned by the Parish Council and have been supported by various grants this past year. The community pantry based at old Sarum Community Centre has also been generously supported by the Parish Council. The Parish Council has also supported Laverstock Village Hall with funding to deal with emergency drainage issues
- Whitebridge Spinney has been enhanced, with work done to preserve the Ephemeral Pond and a new Play Park installed.

Sound financial planning has been carefully stewarded and enabled the Parish Council, who now serve upwards of 10,300 residents to respond to growth over the past fifteen years. As Wiltshire Council has withdrawn support, to concentrate on their core services, the Parish Council has had to expand its own services. The staff team has grown from a single clerk and assistant to a professional team consisting of Finance, Operations, Communications and Community Engagement, a Clerk and Deputy Clerk. As a Parish Council L&FPC works in the following areas following its strategic plan : -

- Community Resilience
CEV a generous grant from SSEN has seen emergency equipment purchased
Police & Crime Commissioners Office representation AT IAG & Scrutiny Panel level, good communication and partnership working with our local neighbourhood police team.
Speed Watch volunteers are now in operation, volunteers always welcome
Youth & Community – providing Youth Groups at Hampton Park Pavilion in association with Salisbury City Council; Old Sarum and officers are currently in dialogue with neighbouring parishes to provide a shared youth worker to work with young people in partnership with the Southern Area Board.
- Planning and Development
Discussing with developers facilities for local people and providing insights into desired amenities.
Representing residents views to planners – for example Church Road in Laverstock.
Representing L&FPC at planning enquiries – i.e. Old Sarum Airfield.
- Sustainable Transport
Representing residents view regarding traffic and transport such as Church Road, Laverstock
Providing grants to local bike schemes to encourage green travel at St. Joseph's School.
Working with Wiltshire Council to introduce 20 miles-per-hour schemes in the parish including parts of Milford.
- Climate Change & Environment
Castle Hill Country Park being supported by carbon offsetting from Asda development
Parish Environmental Group – volunteers who raise awareness of invasive Asian Hornets.
Rare striped Lychnis moth species found on Longhedge open space
- Public Amenity
Places - Outdoor: play and recreation – 34 play areas in the parish; and professional management of trees and verges. Indoor community buildings – Old Sarum & Longhedge Community Centre; Hampton Park Pavilion; and Laverstock Village Hall.
- Accountability
To carry out all of our work in a professional way which provides residents with value for money and opportunities to be heard and participate in decision making.

8. Presentation of the Freedom of the Parish

WCllr Ian McLennan was awarded the freedom of the parish by Cllr Nick Baker after a Scottish piper played on the bagpipes. Cllr Baker gave a brief but grateful overview of WCllr Ian McLennan's achievements before handing over the scroll.

WCllr Ian McLennan gave thanks to the parish and residents for his award. He was particularly grateful to those who had put their faith in him over the past 30 years. He read out the details on the scroll and then recounted his experiences about working in the community for three decades and of the people he had helped and worked with. He said that when he started L&FPC were a small local authority serving a village but now was bigger than Marlborough Town Council. His anecdotes were entertaining and his reminiscences illuminating and those assembled were both entertained and informed.

There were no further questions from residents and the meeting closed at 7.32pm.

SIGNED:

DATE: