**Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of Laverstock and Ford Parish Council held on September 8, 2026 in the Parish Office at River Bourne Community Farm, SP1 2SR**

## MINUTES

**Councillors Present:** Jones (Chair), McDonald, Waller
**In attendance:** Sloan (Clerk), Prince (Responsible Financial Officer). One member of the public was present and none online. The meeting commenced at 7:03pm.

**FGP26.016 Apologies for absence**
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Holland and Cllr Williams.

**FGP26.017 Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest.

**FGP26.018 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting held on June 2, 2026**
**Resolved:** to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on June 2, 2026 as a true record.

**FGP26.019 Review of Tree Strategy Report and budget implications**
**Resolved**: to accept the recommendations of Report FGP26.019. Namely:

- To receive and note the contents of the Tree Management plan 2026-2031_AW, the Councillor Summary and the Q&A with the consultant.
- To acknowledge the Tree Management Plan as a comprehensive strategic framework for the future management of the Parish Council's tree stock and associated green spaces.
- To support, in principle, for the overall management approach and recommendations contained within the Tree Management Plan, subject to consideration and determination by Full Council.
- To recommend that the financial implications identified within the report be taken into account during preparation of the Council's 2027/28 budget and medium-term Financial Planning process, subject to future decisions of Full Council.
- To recommend that Full Council adopts the Tree Management Plan as the Council's strategic framework for tree management for the period 2026-2031

**FGP26.020 Adoption of Strategic Plan 2026-2030 and Action Planning Framework**
**Resolved:** to accept Report FGP26.020. Namely:

- To recommend that Full Council adopts the Laverstock & Ford Parish Council Strategic Plan 2026-2030.
- That Full Council approves the proposed framework for review and development of the Action Plan.
- That responsibility for action planning and review is allocated in accordance with Section 6 of that report.
- That Council establishes a Play Area Strategy Working Group reporting to the Operations Working Group.
- That FGP requests that all relevant committees, working groups and officers submit proposed actions, resource requirements and budget recommendations in time to inform the Council's 2027/28 budget-setting process

**FGP26.021 Alteration to the CCLA-PSDF signatory**
**Resolved:** That Finance and General Purposes Committee of Laverstock and Ford Parish Council resolves to approve Mr Jonathan Sloan, Parish Clerk, to be a signatory on the Council's CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund account number PS3078893, and authorises Councillor Laura Jones and Councillor Ian McDonald, being elected members of the Council, to authorise the Change of Signatory Form.

**FGP26.022 Amendment to Financial Regulations for critical safety works**
**Resolved:** To recommend to Full Council that current Financial Regulation 5.18 be altered to read…

5.18 In cases of:

(a) serious risk to the delivery of council services;
(b) serious risk to public safety;
(c) serious risk to council assets; or
(d) where a qualified professional has identified a defect, hazard or risk and the Clerk reasonably considers that delaying remedial works until the next available meeting of the Council would expose the Council, members of the public or third-party property to an unacceptable level of risk, the Clerk may authorise expenditure of up to £10,000 excluding VAT on repair, replacement or other works considered reasonably necessary.

Before exercising this authority, the Clerk shall, wherever practicable:

*(i)* obtain and retain relevant professional advice and supporting evidence;
*(ii)* comply with the Council's procurement requirements and obtain quotations where practicable;
*(iii)* ensure sufficient budget provision exists unless the circumstances otherwise justify emergency expenditure;
*(iv)* consult the Chair of the Council and the Chair of the relevant Committee where expenditure exceeds £5,000 excluding VAT;
*(v)* maintain a written record of the reasons for the decision and the basis upon which the expenditure was authorised.

All expenditure authorised under this regulation shall be reported to the next available meeting of the Council.

This authority shall not be used to avoid procurement requirements or circumvent the Council's contract or tendering procedures.

**FGP26.023 RFO report and correspondence**
The RFO delivered a verbal report in which he reminded members that we are at the start of the budget setting period. A robust discussion was held on council tax ceilings; precept increases and potential areas of savings to be made. The RFO informed FGP that he had moved £35,000 in August from CCLA to the Trustee Account and that shortly he will be moving £110,000 from CCLA to the Trustee Account. That second sum is needed partly to pay for the construction of a new MUGA at Old Sarum.

**FGP26.024 Clerk's report**
The Clerk delivered a verbal report. The following matters were discussed: Councillor recruitment; the works to the MUGA at Old Sarum which will be complete shortly, the

proposed meeting dates for 2027 and the commencement of the works at Hampton Park Pavilion.

**Date of next meeting:**
The date of the next meeting, which is scheduled for November 3, 2026, at 7.00pm, and which will be held at Parish Office, River Bourne Community Farm, Laverstock, SP1 2SR was noted.

The meeting closed at 8.28pm.

SIGNED: DATE: