



LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Autumn 2018

From our new Chair...

September feels like the start of a new school year when the headmaster welcomes everybody back. It would be wrong to say, “hope everyone is refreshed after the break” because some councillors have been working very hard on events like Velo South. I find it incomprehensible in this age of multimedia communications that information from Velo South relating to this event has been so mismanaged. Parishes are normally given 12 months’ notice of events requiring road closures which gives time to think through the problems. This time we were bounced into a difficult position. Lavant has never been confronted with a 9-hour incarceration dividing us from Chichester. It creates a whole new meaning to the phrase North/South divide! I supported the decision to provide our Lavant community with a ‘Make the best of it’ event, but once Velo South had hijacked our idea to justify their commercial activities public perception of our intentions became soured. This was followed by notification of a legal challenge, which was based on 4 recognisable points we could associate with. Therefore, we decided to cancel our event. Lavant’s community spirit is demonstrated through the Fete and it is a shame that in the same week as Lavant withdrew the activities the council was asked to approve the distribution of £4,000 raised from the Fete for Parish causes.

New Housing Developments - the three significant building projects identified in our Neighbourhood Plan are on the boil. Thankfully our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has been approved so we have guiding principles to evaluate the applications. We have established some local groups to aid our deliberations. Keep your eyes open for details of any public events for viewing key documents about these applications.

Councillor roles - The NP is at the heart of our thinking and I have created a Heritage brief lead by Cllr Reynolds and an Environmental brief lead by Cllr Tucker. This is designed to address two areas of the plan, which have no identifiable resources. Every Cllr has a brief and I drew the short straw for the Traffic brief. I admit it is going to be difficult to tackle this problem against a

background of apparently negative support from WSCC, CDC and the Police but I will start with two recognisable problems Yarbook and rat-running. I have recently met with the Police to share our problems with them. WSCC 's Transport Plan 2011-26 shows no sign of significant implementation, which compounds Lavant's problem. Behind the scenes, we continue to point out the conflicts in policy created by WSCC preference for an A27 Mitigated Northern Route but also look at the on-line solution as well. In response to direct questions neither WSCC nor CDC can justify the extra cost required for their preferred option nor can they demonstrate it solves the local transport problem.

James Pickford

Playground Party and New Equipment

This year's Party was held on Saturday 19th May from 2-4pm and a good number of families and children attended to enjoy the bouncy castle and refreshments.

Now. The toddler area fence and gate has been replaced, as has the zip-slide seat and wire in the main play area. A new swing with 2 seats, will be installed before the spring, subject to funding applications.

The Future. The original equipment installed in the late 90's has another 2-4 years' life left in it, so before too long the village will have to begin to consider how to go about doing a complete refit.

How do we keep the Playground? A refit will be a large financial undertaking, very careful thought and lots of help will be required.

Please help us keep this facility and offer your help. Contact Elaine Mallett on 776997.

Lavant Village Fete and Fun Dog Show



This year's event took place on Saturday 16th June, at 2pm on the village green, with a number of new attractions to entice villagers and visitors alike. An excellent sum of money was raised, thanks to the sterling efforts of many people, so thank you to everyone who was involved in helping this great event such a success. The Parish Council has approved a total of £4060 to be distributed to local groups and organisations. A fabulous result.

Cobnor Activity Day

Sunday 8th July was one of the hottest of the summer and was attended by 14 children (7 girls and 7 boys) aged between 8 and 14. We arrived in good time to

start at 9.30 and were required to split the group into two parts - this the children did quite democratically - girls in one group and boys in the other. Each group carried out the same range of activities but at different times. This year the activities included canoeing, archery and team building. Other options including sailing, trampolining and climbing were available for us to choose in advance and our choices were based on what the children had previously preferred and this generally involved maximum freedom in a safe context. This year the scorching weather played a significant role.

Without a shadow of doubt the day was an outstanding success for the children, in particular the canoeing where they disappeared into the distance in their individual craft. This was after mere minutes of safety instructions and advice on how to move and steer their canoes. Each group returned, after well over an hour, still excited and substantially wetter and getting them out of the water was as difficult as usual. We eventually returned to the Memorial Hall just before six o'clock all present and correct and undamaged. The Cobnor leader took the trouble to tell me at the end of the afternoon that, compared with other groups, Lavant children were the most cooperative and well behaved that they had accommodated, and that I was lucky to live in a village with such amenable children. I passed this message on to parents later by email.

The successful day was not without its organisational stresses both before and afterwards, but ultimately a good time was had by all. This event, subsidised by the Parish Council, serves several useful purposes, especially bridging the gap between primary and secondary schools. A provisional booking Cobnor for next year has been made for **14th July 2019**.

Ian Hutton

The Council is indebted to Ian Hutton who has masterminded these Cobnor events for many years and provided this report. Your dedication is very much appreciated, Ian, thank you.

Future Events

This year your Parish Council is bringing you two new seasonal community events, which we hope you will enjoy. The first is a **Sparkling Guy Fawkes Night** on **Saturday 3rd November from 4-7pm on the village green**. Bring all the family for a gentle alternative to fireworks, featuring traditional games and activities, hot food and drinks on sale, all in aid of Children in Need. Suitable for all the family! Bring some sparklers (and some gloves) for all those who enjoy a bit of sparkle and glitter.





Then, to get everyone in the festive mood, as it starts to get dark on **Friday 21st December** we'll be entertaining the whole village with a **Santa Sleigh Ride** as Santa 'flies' around Lavant prior to setting off on his present delivering duties. Keep your eyes and ears open for him and his merry band of elves as they tour the village!

Dates for your Diary

- Sat 3rd Nov** Sparkling Guy Fawkes Night, the Village Green, from 7-9pm
- Sun 11th Nov** Torch-lit Procession to the Trundle and a beacon lighting at 7pm, to commemorate the centenary of the armistice. Call Tim on 01243 811992 for more information or go to www.chichesterbeacon.co.uk
- Sat 24th Nov** Lavant Christmas Fayre, LMH from 2-4pm
- Wed 19th Dec** Schools close
- Fri 21st Dec** Santa Sleigh Ride round Lavant, about 4pm
- Thurs 3rd Jan** Schools open
- Sat 5th Jan** Jumble Sale, LMH

How to contact us

You can reach any of your Councillors through the Parish Clerk as follows:

Imogen Whitaker

Post: 2 McAdam Close, Hambrook, PO18 8FG

Tel: LPC Office on **01243 784142**

E-mail: lavantparishcouncil@gmail.com

Web: www.lavantparishcouncil.co.uk

OR, visit the Clerk in her new office, at St Nic's church, on Monday and Wednesday mornings – except not on the second Wednesday of the month (which is Lunch House) when the Clerk will be at St Nic's on the Tuesday afternoon instead (ahead of the Parish Council meeting that evening at St Mary's).