

**The Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of Lavant Parish Council held on
Tuesday 9th January 2024 commencing 7:00pm
held at the Lavant Memorial Hall, Pook Lane, Lavant.**

In attendance: Cllrs. Aldridge, Goldsmith, Mayhead, Kuchanny, Quest, Tucker, Turner and Whincop.

Also Present: WSCC Cllr Hunt, CDC Cllr Brookes-Harmer and the locum Clerk.

Public present: 2.

1. Apologies for absence – none.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensation Requests.

- i) None
- ii) None
- iii) None

3. Public Session.

A resident presented details of his planning applications SDNP/23/5182/LIS and SDNP/23/05137/HOUS. The Chairman suggested that, as this matter was on the agenda for comment, these items be reviewed. This was **AGREED**. The public session was suspended and item 14 (Planning) was brought forward.

- **SDNP/23/05182/LIS – Lavant House, West Lavant Road, Lavant.**

Removal of existing 1 no. window and replacement with 1 no. door, new ramp and stairs and replacement of all existing single glazing windows with slim profile insulated glazed units window.

After review and consideration, Members voted to **SUPPORT** the application.

- **SDNP/23/05137/HOUS - Parkins, West Lavant Road.**

Internal and external remodelling, 2.5-storey side extension and roof conversion to existing 1980s detached dwelling. Replacement garden annexe. Associated landscaping.

After review and consideration, Members voted to **SUPPORT** the application.

Referring to agenda item 9, Cllr Kuchanny provided an update on the school car park project. New drawings were now ready for submission to WSCC Highways and ecologists. He will circulate the new drawings.

The public session then resumed. David Youngs alerted the council to the plans to extend the Lavant House Nursery. He advised that he would submit a formal planning application in due course. He also mentioned the poor condition of the verges in the parish roads and advised that he might be able to repair some of them. WSCC Cllr Hunt advised that private individuals cannot work on the highways unless approved by WSCC and have in place the necessary £10m public liability insurance. Cllr Hunt did agree to look at the flooding and run-off issues the resident had described. The Chairman added that landowners have riparian ownership responsibilities to clear ditches and culverts on their land that abuts the highway. David Youngs agreed to provide details of the locations in question.

4. Minutes of the meeting of 12th December 2023.

An updated copy of the draft minutes was circulated by Cllr Tucker. Cllr Mayhead proposed and Cllr. Quest seconded the amendments, and it was unanimously **AGREED** that the minutes of the previous meeting be signed as a true record.

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

- a) **Land Acquisition** – the Chairman provided an update and advised that a revised boundary map would be issued as the current plans were inaccurate. Once received, a meeting will be called to review.
- b) **Electric Vehicle** – no update.
- c) **River Bridge project** – no update.

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

WSCC Cllr. Hunt's report had been circulated and is attached at Appendix A.

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

CDC Cllr. Brookes-Harmer's report had been circulated to all Cllrs and is attached at Appendix B.

- Councillors Quest and Aldridge attended a meeting on the site of the new development at Eastmead with representatives of the developer, Oakford Homes and SDNPA planning. The developers have applied to move the boundary fence about 800mm to the north in order to avoid felling several trees and to allow slightly easier installation of a parking bay. LPC's request to close the proposed pedestrian access at the bottom of Gaston Way was discussed but SDNP are not enthusiastic about that suggestion but local residents are concerned that it will encourage yet more car parking outside the Eastmead boundary. District Councillor to make further enquiries and representations;
- The two new bus stops are due to be delivered on 18th January 2024. The old ones have now been removed; and
- ~~James Pickford met with the Southern Water Stakeholder group.~~ The Southern Water Stakeholder group comprises several local authorities that all have issues and concerns with Southern Water. CDC are members and will meet the group on 19th January 2024. Cllr Brookes-Harmer will update LPC with any progress.

8. Chairman's Report.

- **Bus shelters** – as reported, the new bus shelters will be installed. The existing bus shelter Plexi glass panes will be re-purposed to replace the missing panes in the shelter opposite St. Nicholas Church. A resident offered to help laser-cut the Plexi glass if required. The Chairman will check the budget to replace the shelter but, in the meantime, the replacement panes will be an adequate short-term fix;
- **Budget** – the Chairman updated the meeting on the resignation of the Clerk and that the budget and finances now needed to be reviewed. Cllr Tucker, the Clerk and the Chairman will apply to the Bank to obtain access to the accounts and become signatories to them. This was **AGREED**. The Chairman suggested moving banks in the future as access to NatWest had proved problematic. He also advised that a 2024/25 budget review is underway with the new locum Clerk but cautioned that the precept

had remained the same for several years. An extraordinary meeting would be required in January 2024 to agree the budget and precept.

9. **School car park** – dealt with at item 3.
10. **Great Elms Open Space** – as discussed at item 5.
11. **Eastmead development** – as discussed.
12. **Village maintenance.**
 - The Chairman advised that some of the bus shelters were still in need of repair; and
 - Cllr Goldsmith referred to the vandalism of the phone box. CDC Cllr Brookes-Harmer agreed to help contact BT to chase-up the repair. The phone box is still working but, despite calls to BT, does need repair.
13. **Finance** – The Chairman hoped that access to the bank accounts would be granted in the next few days.
14. **To comment on and review planning applications and decisions.**
 - Cllr Tucker referred to the tree removal works application for the Church. She had asked for an extension of time to comment but had yet to receive a reply. Cllr Whincop was concerned that the removal of the trees would have a negative impact upon the wildlife corridor in that area. He advised that this application would conflict with LPC’s habitat policy and that residents share these concerns. Cllr Tucker agreed to seek comments once the extension of time request had been approved; and
 - Cllr Tucker suggested a review of the trees in the parish. Some trees were known to have TPOs in place but recognised that to map of all the trees in parish was unrealistic. It was **AGREED** to review potential TPO candidates with the tree wardens and report back. Cllr Whincop suggested that he could include these identified TPO trees to the Tree Trail map he had produced.
15. **Item for inclusion on the next agenda** – none.
16. **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 13th February 2024.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.46pm

APPENDIX A – WSCC REPORT

First of all - may I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Unfortunately I haven't received a set of minutes for your December meeting which I was unable to attend, so I am not aware if there were any issues raised relating to WS. If I could be sent a copy that would be helpful and I can pick up anything I missed next month.

Apologies that I only have a verbal report tonight, but I have been flat out finalising our budget for 2024/25 - which as I am sure you can imagine is quite challenging. Anyway, we are just about there and we will be publishing the proposed budget next Wednesday ready for it to go to our P&F scrutiny committee on 24th. It then goes for signing off at Public Cabinet on 30th January, before going to full council for final approval on Friday February 16th. All these meetings are webcast live as well as being recorded so that they can be accessed whenever you want. As I said, the papers will be published for the first time on the P&F Scrutiny website.

I will give you a fuller update next month.

Here to help - cost of living

I know I mentioned this in November, but just as a reminder - especially with this very cold weather - WSCC has dedicated web pages to provide people with the latest help, advice and practical support if they are facing cost of living pressures. Please go to [Advice and information pages](#) for more info - and please spread the word. Often those in need are too proud to ask for help, so if you know or even suspect anyone who might be struggling perhaps you could point them in our direction. Our Community Hub is still running - there to help and support people.

Local Issues:

Trees - Lavant Down Roads - I have asked the two questions - dead trees and planting a new one - but do date I am still awaiting an answer. I have chased it again.

Summersdale garage - Community TRO

The public consultation closed before Christmas, with 20 in support and 5 against, so it was approved. I chased it up last week and then design phase is now with our contractor and the work is scheduled for mid to late February - subject to other highways pressures and of course, weather.

School Car Park - awaiting decision as to whether or not you are planning to go direct to Highways planners for an informal consultation, as recommended by your consultant/designer

Finally, please don't forget to keep an eye on our website, especially our news and campaigns page where you can keep up to date with all our latest news. <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/news-and-campaigns/>

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APPENDIX B – CDC REPORT

Parish council ward report

Report author: Joseph Brookes-Harmer

District Councillor for Lavant, Funtington, West Stoke, East & West Ashling and Asdean

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Telephone: 07368 410696

January 2024

Welcome to the January report.

Firstly, I would like to wish you a Happy New Year! I hope you managed to have a restful Christmas break.

Ward matters:

Upcoming surgeries to be held next in March. More details to follow in February's report.

District council matters:

I'm pleased to say the range of events and activities arranged over the past couple of months have been a huge success. As you know, the council supported the City Sounds event in November for the second time – and it has continued to go from strength to strength. It featured more than 50 acts, playing across eight city centre venues and gave a welcome boost to our night-time economy. The Christmas market and Culture Spark events were also well received and helped attract people into the district over the Christmas period. We're already planning to further build on all of this great work in 2024.

In December, the council led another successful multi-agency operation to tackle anti-social behaviour problems along the rail network through the district. Operation Petra brought together the British Transport Police, Sussex Police, Network Rail and Southern Railway, West Sussex Fire and Rescue and Stagecoach, along with our officers to carry out these joint action days. You can find out more about this here:

www.chichester.gov.uk/article/38258/Operation-planned-to-tackle-antisocial-behaviour-along-Chichester-rail-network

The council are continuing to move forward with our work to help tackle climate change. Having completed the first stage of our comprehensive climate education programme, giving officers and councillors the tools to further address climate change in their policies and projects. This has led to staff pledging changes to their everyday activities, which could amount to a reduction of around 12 tonnes of carbon — the equivalent of two return flights to Australia! We know that education is a crucial tool in our fight against climate change. The more conversations we have that help us understand the causes and impacts of this issue, the more empowered and motivated we feel to make the changes necessary to reduce its

impacts. So, our progress with this new carbon literacy training project is a positive milestone that will enable our staff and councillors to further integrate climate considerations into the council's day-to-day work. It is just one of over 60 actions outlined in the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan: www.chichester.gov.uk/climatechange.

The 'Tree Chichester District' scheme has also continued to go from strength to strength. Since the initiative was launched, it has seen nearly 25,000 trees planted across the district through 175 individual projects. This has benefited our district in so many ways, including improving biodiversity and enhancing the local landscape for community enjoyment. This year, the scheme was extended thanks to a £120,000 funding boost from the Government's Shared Outcomes Fund. This funding means that we can continue to research ways to increase tree cover, outside of woodlands, in rural and urban areas over the next two years. As part of this work, we have launched a new grant scheme to help people plant trees and hedgerows in priority areas across the Chichester District with the aim of better connecting woodland habitats, which you can find more about at: www.chichester.gov.uk/treescheme As part of the scheme, we have created an interactive map which outlines the areas of the district that have been marked as 'priority areas.' These are spaces within which we have identified that new trees and hedgerows will make a real difference in terms of connecting woodland habitats, providing wildlife corridors for a number of different species. The map is a quick and easy way for people to check whether their land falls within one of these priority areas and, if so, we'd encourage them to apply for a grant by 8 January by emailing our Tree Project Officer at: treescheme@chichester.gov.uk. Our officer will then be able to discuss ideas and options and offer advice on tree planting and protection.

I look forward to working with you throughout the year- as always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way.

Best wishes
Joseph