

East Lavington Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting Of THE PARISH OF EAST LAVINGTON held on Monday, 20th May 2019 at 6.15pm in NB2, Seaford College, Lavington Park

Present: Cllr Charles Britton (Chairman), Cllr Barry Gosden and Cllr Will Yates
In Attendance: Amy Harte (Locum Clerk), Cllr Alan Sutton (District Councillor), Mr Simon Longman and Mr Patrick Limpus

Apologies: Cllr David Bradford (County Councillor) Jane Veal (Lavington Park Residents Association)

1. Opening

Cllr Charles Britton opened the meeting at 6.17pm.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 11th May 2018 were approved. They were duly signed as a correct record by Cllr C. Britton.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2018

No matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

A copy of Chairman, Cllr C. Britton's report is attached as Annex A

5. Parish Council Finance Report

A copy of the finance report is attached as Annex B

6. District Councillor's Report:

I am delighted to be elected as your District Councillor. After a long and varied business career this is my first political appointment. I hope you find me friendly, approachable and I am committed to be accessible and pro-active in my approach.

There has been a reduction to 36 councillors in the council, which means that each ward is now considerably bigger – Fittleworth Ward has approximately 2800 electors and about 1400 households. The District Council now consists of 18 Conservatives, 11 Liberal democrats, 2 Labour, 2 greens, 2 Selsey Alliance independents and one further independent. Tony Dignum the leader has stood down and a new leader and team will be confirmed at the full council meeting on Tuesday 21st May – I will give details next time.

As the major party it is our commitment to work collaboratively with all members to the benefit of the whole district and I am fully committed to that myself as I believe that is the best way to achieve most for our beautiful area. I am determined to provide improved communications between all levels of government in support of our ward. In my role as one of the Elected Governors for Chichester at the Western Sussex NHS foundation trust I am also a trained "knowing me Dementia Volunteer and Research Ambassador". I also have responsibility for improving communication between the hospital and the local Primary Care providers (Doctors surgeries) in this area. The trust covers Southlands, Worthing and St Richards Hospital and I have set up "drop in" centres at locations close to East Lavington including Teds @ Heath End, Graffham Village Stores and the Forrester's to name but three. I am happy to meet any resident to discuss any issues when available, even if they are not my direct responsibility I will signpost and advise when I am able.

East Lavington Annual Parish Meeting

7. County Councilor's Report

Cllr.D Bradford sent a report to be presented in his absence:

The Council continues to 'balance its books and is financially sound. In particular, if anyone will benefit from the WSCC Pension Fund, it stands at 105% so well covers its liabilities. One unsatisfactory note is that its Childrens Care section has been judged Inadequate, so urgent remedial action is being taken.

8. Question Time

A question was asked about the regeneration of the Heath End Sand Pit. Cllr B. Gosden informed the meeting that there was a redevelopment plan approved in 2016, which includes a large lake. Dudmans now have to implement this within 18 months of 31/12/21. Leaconfield's intention for the lake is unclear as they will remain owners.

9. Conclusion of the Meeting

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

These minutes are an accurate record of the meeting.

Signed
Chairman, East Lavington Parish Council

East Lavington Annual Parish Meeting

Date 20th May 2019

Annex A. Chairman's Report – Cllr Charles Britton

I am afraid that I have to start on an unhappy note. Just before Christmas we lost our previous Chairman Vivien Gosden who very sadly died following a long illness. Vivien was for many years a dedicated Councillor and for the last four years an excellent Chairman. We shall miss her greatly. Moving on, I am pleased to report that East Lavington Parish Council had five nominations at the recent elections for the five vacancies on the Council. All candidates were therefore elected or re-elected unopposed.

However, we had two changes. Councillors Nicky West and Michael Harting did not stand this time, and we are sorry to lose them after several years of great service from them on the Council. Fortunately, we now have two new Councillors joining us: Patrick Limpus and Simon Longman. We welcome them to the Council.

John Elliott our District Councillor also decided not to stand again. He provided great support to our Council over many years, and attended our meetings whenever he could.

However we are very pleased to welcome our new District Councillor Alan Sutton and congratulate him on his election for the Fittleworth Ward

As in most years, planning has taken up a lot of the Council's time. As a statutory consultee we were invited to comment on a large number of applications.

These have included applications for extensions, and refurbishment of several existing properties, all of which were subsequently approved, and also one appeal against refusal for a replacement dwelling which was dismissed.

Several of the applications have related to the keeping and exercising of horses...stables, sand schools and horse walkers.

For the first time we also were invited to respond directly to South Downs National Park as they wanted to determine an application for a new campsite in the Parish. That has also now been approved....but with many conditions.

We are still waiting for the adoption of the South Downs Local Plan. It is now at 'submission stage' and is therefore now given 'significant weight' in the determination of planning applications. Hopefully the plan will be adopted later this year.

We have a lot of public rights of way in our parish and the usual inspections were carried out last year, following which a number of the finger posts were replaced. This year's inspections will start in November.

A significant achievement was an extension to FP724...the footpath that runs east to west across the parish to Duncton, and used to finish at the main gate of Seaford College. Through the combined efforts of Duncton and East Lavington Parish Council it now extends through Ridlington Farm and ends at the main road opposite The Cricketers....thus avoiding walking along that dangerous stretch along the A285.

Now quarries....you may not be aware that Duncton Quarry on Duncton hill is in our parish...all quiet there this year. Heath End sandpit...which is a quarry...is in Duncton parish, but there is a liaison committee in which East Lavington and Graffham are also represented. The pit is due to close at the end of 2021, and the committee is pressing SDNP to ensure that the approved and agreed restoration plan is completed on time.

The Parish Council's finance report is the next item on the agenda, but I would just like to say that our finances have remained stable, and therefore we agreed to hold the precept for this year at £3370, the same level as last year.

I have no doubt that Parish Councillors will be just as busy this year as last doing their best for the community. Thank you.

East Lavington Annual Parish Meeting

Annex B

East Lavington Parish Council Finance Report 20th May 2019

The 2018/19 financial year ended on 31st March 2019 and the final accounts have been prepared.

East Lavington Parish Council

Financial Report 2018-2019 East Lavington Parish Council

Balance b/fwd at 1/4/18	£3,417.97
Receipts	£3,721.22
Expenditure	-£3,319.44
Balance c/fwd	£3,819.75
Income - Precept	£3,370.00
Battle's Over Grant	£250.00
VAT recovered	£101.22
Expenditure	
Clerk Salary and expenses	£2,497.98
Battle's Over Celebrations	£250.00
Insurance	£322.51
Laptop not yet ordered	£396.89

The internal audit has been completed with and following a meeting to review the internal auditor's comments and complete the audit form the Annual Return will be published on the website.

Amy Harte, Locum Clerk & RFO to East Lavington Parish Council
20th May 2019