

LAVANT PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2014

During recent months, whilst Lavant was relieved to avoid the worst of the flooding and welcomed the rejection of the Daffodil Field appeal, the Parish Council was going through a difficult time. Amidst a spate of resignations in late 2013 and early this year, including the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk, we were left with two recently appointed councillors and three newly elected councillors.

We were fortunate to engage the services of a respected and experienced Locum Parish Clerk, David Siggs, and in the amount of cooperative effort that our new council were prepared to put in. We are also indebted to the support and constructive assistance provided by our WSCC Councillor Jeremy Hunt, our CDC Councillor Andrew Smith and the goodwill of villagers. We are not yet “out of the woods”, but our pragmatic approach is enabling us to make positive headway.

We have vacancies for four new councillors with the simple qualifications of a love for this village and the wish to influence its progress at monthly meetings. If you would like to get involved and want to know more – have an initial chat with any Parish Councillor and come along to our next meeting on Tuesday 13th May.

Ian Hutton

Chairman, Lavant Parish Council

Our Plans for 2014-15

There are some key priorities for the coming year: appointing a new Parish Clerk; putting robust plans in place to cope with emergencies (flooding, etc); maintaining essential equipment (lawnmowers, etc) and the playground (see later comments); looking after our green spaces and improving our communications with you.

Our Budget for 2014-15

At our February meeting the Council approved the new budget for 2014-15, of £21,500. This is the same as last year, so there will be no increase in the precept within your local CDC tax for this year. Our focus is to ensure as much of the budget as possible is spent on benefiting the parish, and not on unnecessary administration. We are also making applications for additional funds from a variety of sources, as they become available, which if successful will boost our ability to support the Parish.

Important Meeting Dates for your diary

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday 13 May at 6.30pm** in the Green Room of Lavant Memorial Hall. This is an informal opportunity to meet with the Chairman of the Council and discuss parish matters. This will be immediately followed, at the same venue, by the formal **Annual Meeting of the Council at 7pm** (in the event that the initial Parish Meeting overruns, the start of the Council meeting will be delayed as necessary).

Neighbourhood Plan

After a very successful public event in late February, the working groups are now getting into full swing. Over the next 2-3 months all the volunteers will be investigating, researching, photographing, mapping and recording a wide range of factors around the village (buildings, green spaces, etc). All of this will help determine the policies that will eventually influence the future development of Lavant over the next 15 years. These policies, as part of the final Neighbourhood Plan, will be subject to a public referendum. Your

views therefore, particularly at this early stage, are very important. If you would like to be involved and help shape the future of Lavant, please get in touch on tel: 07503 637472 or email: lavantneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com Also, check out the Neighbourhood Plan pages on the LPC website www.lavantpc.org.uk

Beating the Bounds...

An ancient custom, dating back originally it is believed to Roman times, *Beating the Bounds* was the annual surveying of a settlement's perimeters by its residents. Last thought to have been conducted in Lavant in 1942, plans are being made to undertake a detailed survey this year as part of the Neighbourhood Plan research. All residents will be invited to take part, walk Lavant's village boundaries (3 miles approx) and note differing built and environmental aspects at key waypoints along the route. Information gathered will help influence where possible future development(s) might take place. The date and time for *Beating the Bounds* is yet to be confirmed, but look out for further information at the **next Neighbourhood Plan Public Meeting on Saturday 7th June at St Nicholas' Church**, when you will be able to **drop in anytime between 10am and 3pm**, see the latest progress on the Neighbourhood Plan project and chat to the volunteers.

Playground

Following a number of concerns about the condition of the playground, we have recently carried out a number of essential repairs and improvements. Importantly, we will be ensuring that the necessary regular checks and maintenance are kept up to date. We do hope that your children will now use the playground in the knowledge that it offers a safe and fun environment. Funding has also been identified to give the playground a complete makeover in the near future; so to gather views on how the playground can be further improved we will be hosting an **Open Morning** for the villagers, parents and children **at the playground on Saturday 3rd May, at 10.30am**. Refreshments will be available.



Repair work underway recently at the children's playground

The Lavant Valley Allotment Association...

...runs and manages Mid Lavant allotments on behalf of the Parish Council, who have been the trustees of the site since it was transferred on conveyance deeds between Goodwood Estate and the parish in 1957. A Chichester Records Office map shows the site used as allotment gardens in **1897**. Since its inception in 2004, the association has added £30k of infrastructure value to the site. A resource for the community offering plots for the disabled and the primary school, as well as other variable sized plots to fit tenant's needs. Although all plots are currently taken, phone John Slipper on 01243 528990 if you are interested, as Lavant residents have priority on plot allocations.

Lavant Fete

Please come to the Village Green on **Saturday 21st June from 2-5pm** and enjoy an afternoon at Lavant Village Fete. As well as the usual stalls, games, entertainment, refreshments and raffle; George's Regis Jazz band will be playing. You will also have the opportunity to conduct a visiting Australian Band – 'The Band Down Under'. Come and support the event as, not only is it an enjoyable afternoon for the whole family at a traditional Fete, all funds raised will be distributed between local clubs, the Memorial Hall and Lavant Churches PCC. We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Lavant Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall is a community facility, held in trust for the village and run by nominated Trustees. The Hall is well equipped with facilities including a kitchen, a sound system with induction loop facilities for hearing aid users, a large fixed projection screen, sports changing rooms and showers. A system of solar panels has been installed to generate electricity, which is helping to keep costs and charges down. We have also installed flood barriers on all the doorways. We are currently looking at a project to modernise and upgrade the kitchen and improve the water supply arrangements to the Hall. The policy of the Trustees has always been to keep the charges at an affordable level for the benefit of the community and we are one of the cheapest halls in the district to hire, and preferential charge rates exist for bookings from within the parish. Unfortunately, as with all things, costs rise and we are increasing our charges for the first time in 2 years, with effect from 1st June. If you are interested in booking the Hall or finding out more about the available facilities and/or the costs, please contact the Booking Secretary, Tony Bleach on 01243 527439 or tonybleach@talktalk.net

How to keep up to date with what the Council is doing

Check out the Lavant Parish Council website at www.lavantpc.org.uk where we are constantly adding new information about the Council's activities.

How to contact us

You can contact any of your Councillors as follows:

Cllr Ian Hutton Chairman	33 Lavant Down Road Lavant, Chichester West Sussex PO18 0DJ Home tel: 01243 528897 E-mail: hutton.i@sky.com
Cllr. Adrian Blades Vice-Chairman	3 Eastview Close Lavant, Chichester West Sussex PO18 0DN Home tel: 01243 527705 E-mail: apblavant335@aol.com
Cllr. Roger Benson	Borrans 41 Pook Lane Lavant, Chichester West Sussex PO18 0AH Home tel: 01243 774956 E-mail: rogerbenson@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr. Elaine Mallett	Treetops 68 Midhurst Road Mid Lavant, Chichester West Sussex PO18 0DA Home tel: 01243 776997 E-mail: elaine-mallett@sky.com
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