

# LAVENHAM PARISH NOTICE OF MEETING

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting  
will be held in the Guildhall, Market Place on  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

**The meeting will commence at 8 pm and will be chaired by  
the Chairman of Lavenham Parish Council.**

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Introduction.**
- 2. Approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018**
- 3. Police Report**
- 4. Reports by County Councillor and District Councillor**
- 5. Annual Report of the Parish Council by the Chairman, and a Statement on the Parish Council accounts for Year ending 31 March 2019**
- 6. Reports by Parish Council Working Groups**
- 7. Reports by local organisations and clubs**
- 8. Invitation to the public to raise any matters of interest**

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for parishioners on the Electoral Roll for Lavenham to raise any matters of concern to them that relate to their local community. It would be helpful to have written notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential. Matters can be raised at the meeting without prior notice. For any queries, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council (Jane Bellward - Tel. 01787 247041).

**Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting can be viewed on the Parish Council website ([lavenham.onesuffolk.net](http://lavenham.onesuffolk.net)) during the week prior to the meeting and will also be available at the meeting.**

**Mr Carroll Reeve  
Chairman, Lavenham Parish Council  
29<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Financial update – to year end 31/03/2019 & reviewed budget 2018/19

	Budget 2018/19	To 31/03/2019	
<b>Income</b>			
Precept	70,000	70,000	
Burial Fees	2,500	7,820	Incl gates insurance claim
Car Park donations	18,000	21,052	
Babergh street cleaning	8,000	12,858	Incl £4,286 from 2017/18
<b>Total Income excluding grants</b>	<b>98,500</b>	<b>111,730</b>	
Hub donations (incl locality)		2,575	
VAT refund		24,660	Incl £6,663 from 2017/18
Chapel refurb donation		5,000	
Misc incl interest		7,183	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>98,500</b>	<b>151,148</b>	
<b>Housekeeping expenses</b>			
Grass and Hedge cutting	14,000	16,463	Incl 4 months street sweeping
Tree works **	4,500	6,476	Incl new plantings (£3k)
Bins, rates etc	1,200	1,164	
Street Lighting	8,000	5,724	
PWLB repayment	8,500	-	
Play equipment insp & repairs	4,000	3,193	
Public Toilets/car parks	26,000	19,887	Budget includes fund for new
Misc (repairs)	1,000	2,035	
Sudbury Community Wardens	3,000	4,983	£2,390 reimbursed in misc income
SID	100		
<b>Sub total Housekeeping exp</b>	<b>70,300</b>	<b>59,925</b>	
<b>Admin</b>			
Payroll	15,000	13,860	
Telephone & broadband	800	545	
Copying, printing etc	600	995	
Quarterly newsletter	1,000	277	
Audit, payroll services etc	1,000	700	
Subscriptions	750	667	
Insurance	1,500	1,297	
Training/Councillor expenses	2,000	250	
Data Protection	2,200		
Misc (room hire etc)	1,000	414	
<b>Sub total Admin</b>	<b>25,850</b>	<b>19,005</b>	
<b>Projects</b>			
Christmas trees/lighting	2,500	2,065	
Pre school subsidy	4,000	4,000	
Woodland Project Grant	2,500	300	
Lav Forum/Wool Towns Grant	-		
Grants (combined)	2,500	1,720	Ch bk fest/after school club
First Meadow toilet	500	220	
Lavenham Exhib Endowment	350	350	£350 pa x 3 yrs

Library support	500	100	£500 pa x 3 yrs
Dementia support	3,000		pa x 3 yrs
<b>Sub total Projects</b>	<b>15,850</b>	<b>8,755</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>87,685</b>	
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>13,500</b>		
		63,463 +	
<b>Earmarked Expenditure</b>			
Street Lighting capital payment	38,500		Inc PWLB 17/18
Forest School grant	5,000		
Contribute to SCC traffic schemes	20,000		
Additional bins/seats	2,500	491	
Churchyard tomb repairs	5,000		
Lavenham funds in trust	1,500		village sign fund
Replacement notice boards	2,000		
Chapel refurbishment	15,000	24,996	
Cemetery clean up	5,000		ongoing
LCLT capital grant	10,000	4,320	
2 Lady Street – purchase etc refurbishment	1,000	6,311 2,500	
Loan to CBS		10,000	
Gas works site	5,000		investigations
Lavenham app	1,500		
Bus shelter repairs	3,000	2,651	
Remembrance incl Beacon 'Tommy' (reimbursed)	1,500	1,862 625	
<b>Total Earmarked Expenditure</b>	<b>116,500</b>	<b>53,756</b>	

### Bank reconciliation at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Business Premium a/c 95,853

Community a/c 43,474  
Petty Cash held 7  
Less unrepresented cheques 4,629

Balance at Bank 01/04/2019 £134,705

Balance b/fwd 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 143,298

Precept 70,000  
Receipts 81,148  
Payments (cheque) 159,501  
Payments (cash) 240

Balance c/fwd 31/03/2019 £134,705

## **Clarification of items:**

### **Income**

1. Hub donation of £2,570 = £2,500 from locality budget, £75 donation from community group
2. Miscellaneous income total £7,183= £300 reimbursement for Yew tree works; £171 Christmas lights collections; £25 Bates Wells Braithwaite refund of legal fees for car parks/toilets; £25 UKPN wayleave; £1,000 & £1,500, returned cheques from Dementia Alliance (out of date, replacement cheque provided) and Primary School because they did not pursue after school club extended hours); £625 Tommy reimbursement from community; £785 Youth Club funds; £2,390 reimbursement for Christmas traffic management work by Sudbury Wardens; £366 annual interest earned on bank account.

### **Expenditure**

3. Quarterly newsletter not pursued but budget amount allocated subsidised the printing of extra Lavenham Life copies for free delivery to all households



## **County Councillor's Report for Lavenham Annual Parish Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

### **School bus cuts**

I and my group did all we could to oppose this, including referring it twice to scrutiny committee. I fully expect it will lead to more cars on the road, confusion for parents and little savings. I am glad though, that, through our consistent opposition to the policy, we were able to reduce the severity of the final policy change. In particular, we were able to ensure that children who are currently attending a school will continue to receive free school transport until the end of their time at that school – thus reducing the upheaval and ensuring no child is forced to move schools in the middle of their education.

### **Highways**

I said last year that much of my time has been spent urging highways to do jobs that appear to have slipped for whatever reason. This is still the case. However a new, more pro-active cabinet member for highways does seem to have helped speed up response times and has implemented a new pothole policy – filling in all holes in an area rather than just the largest – which the administration tells me is working to save money, though I have noticed a few failures lately which I have reported. A new head of highways, Mark Ash, who does not have a highways background, has just taken over and it is hoped he will further shake things up.

### **Pension fund risk**

I sit on the pension committee and have been steadily pushing for the committee to reduce the risk of “stranded assets” from holding a high proportion of fossil fuel shares. At the last meeting, the committee agreed to look at transferring some of its assets to a low carbon fund.

### **Leadership change**

In the past year, the leader of the Conservative administration was voted out by his fellow Conservatives and a new leader, Matthew Hicks, voted in. He has been less confrontational than his predecessor and has set up a series of ad hoc, cross party “policy development panels” which so far seem to be working well to bring in new ideas. After pressure from me, the “Suffolk Public Sector Leaders” group is now meeting in public with agendas and minutes published.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The best example of this is the recent panel on SEN which recommended cabinet invest up to £45m over the next five years in creating new places within the county. This has been approved by cabinet and now signed off by the finance officer and should be implemented in the new year. It was cross party input and support that helped the Conservatives agree to invest. However on the downside, the county has just failed its SEND inspection, two years after failing its first one. The inspectors said leadership and governance changes had been made but it had not fed through into better outcomes for parents and children, as health care professionals and educationalists appeared not to be coordinating together.

### **2019-20 Budget and Cuts, Citizens Advice, staff**

Suffolk County Council's 2019-20 budget was agreed on Thursday 14 February. This will see an increase in council tax of 3.99%, and savings across the council's directorates totalling £10.1m.

One of the most concerning decisions by the Suffolk administration is to cut the entire grant for this service. I and my group have spoken out against this at every opportunity because I believe it is a false economy. The grant is being withdrawn over two years in two halves and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups have agreed to fund the other half alongside the county for the 2019/20 year only.

The budget also proposes staffing reductions across all directorates, totalling almost £3m. We do not currently have details of how these cuts will be distributed and which staff will be affected, but I am very concerned that this will result in less efficient services and an increase in stress amongst the remaining staff.

### **Children's centres**

My group (made up of Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Councillors) made the decision to withdraw our representative from a Policy Development Panel that was looking into the future of family services in Suffolk. This is because it became clear to us that the sole focus of the panel was on reducing the number of children's centres in the county rather than a genuine attempt to find solutions. As a group, we value the work of children's centres and will not be complicit in any attempts to reduce their numbers.

### **Chapel refurb and new tourism hub**

I was pleased to have played my part in both these important projects for Lavenham community by providing a contribution to both from my locality budget.

### **Water Street weight restriction**

As you know this project had its inception several years before I was elected two years ago but I have always believed it was right that I push Highways to get on with it for the benefit of both residents and visitors to this unique village. I believe this trial has so far been a success in reducing the volume of traffic and particularly HGVs on a narrow medieval street. There have been a few issues with aesthetics, and to me the yellow plastic signs would benefit from being replaced by black metal. These will need to be sorted as and when money is available.

### **Successful motions**

I'm pleased to say that three motions that I either proposed or seconded were passed.

They are

- Developing a strategic, costed five-year cycling plan to improve investment in cycling infrastructure in the county.
- Committing to reducing single-use plastic waste in Suffolk;
- Declaring a climate emergency and pledging to make Suffolk carbon neutral by 2030.

**R LINDSAY**  
**MAY 2019**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, LAVENHAM  
8th May 2019

Lavenham Ward Elections

I was delighted with the result and the opportunity to work with you for the next four years. My work with Cockfield Parish Council has proved that much can be achieved with a Parish Council who are forward thinking and willing to explore and pursue opportunities to protect and improve their communities.

Local Plan

As you probably know the new Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk is well behind schedule. The second round of consultation has still not happened with the 'revision to the timetable' anticipating presentation to Council in June, followed by public consultation. There are then periods for preparation of the 'submission version' and a 'technical consultation' before the Examination in Public. Adoption of the new plan will now not take place until next year. I want to ensure we have no further delays and deliver an up to date Local Plan as soon as possible.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The first bid round for CIL funding was May 2018. Cockfield, Lindsey and Monks Eleigh were all able to benefit with funds for their Village Halls and Cockfield Parish Council completed the successful bids in bid round 1 with the purchase of two land parcels for allotments and recreation. Bid round 2 applications approved include electric vehicle charging points in Lavenham's car park, funding for the Lavenham 'Community Hub' in the TIC building, and Preston St Mary Village Hall extension. Unspent bid round 2 funds will be carried forward to the next bid round this month.

BDC 2019-20 Budget

Included in the budget for 2019-20 is another £25 million of borrowing to fund commercial property through CIFCO Capital Ltd. This will bring the total investment in CIFCO to £100 million split equally between Babergh and Mid Suffolk DCs.

Babergh Governance

Two years ago the Conservative administration with a large majority changed our arrangements to a Leader and Cabinet Model. This cannot be changed for at least three years, so we now have a situation where there is no overall control, but we must still choose a Council Leader who will appoint a Cabinet. I will keep you informed regarding these arrangements and appointments which should be confirmed at the full Council meeting on the 22nd May.

Clive Arthey