

# AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

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Meeting: **Extraordinary meeting of Council**  
Place: **Council Chamber - County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JN**  
Date: **Tuesday 24 November 2015**  
Time: **10.30 am**

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**The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 16 November 2015. Public questions received are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.**

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Yamina Rhouati, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718024 or email [Yamina.Rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Yamina.Rhouati@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

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## 4 **Public Participation** (*Pages 3 - 8*)

Questions received from :

- David Burton, Chairman – Laverstock and Ford Parish Council
- Lance Allen, Clerk – Trowbridge Town Council
- Teresa Strange, Clerk – Melksham Without Parish Council

Responses to the above questions will be provided as soon as possible.

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DATE OF PUBLICATION: 20 November 2015

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## Laverstock & Ford Parish Council Incorporating Hampton Park & Old Sarum

Wiltshire Council  
County Hall  
Trowbridge

17 November 2015

### **Extraordinary Meeting, Council, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Question** Re: Agenda item 7. Notice of Motion No.27 by Councillors Mary Douglas and Richard Clewer

I am pleased to see that Councillors Douglas and Clewer, in this Notice of Motion, have finally acknowledged that Laverstock and Ford Parish does indeed have a strong village spirit, worthy of protection.

Unfortunately SCC's proposed solution to retaining our community's integrity while merging us with the City, is very much too little too late.

Since 1894 the Parish Council of Laverstock and Ford has built a close-knit community spirit, which has enabled us to develop leading community services in the Parish. To name a few of these:

We have nurtured the River Bourne Community Farm on land previously abandoned by the City for over twenty years and helped it grow over five years into a self-funding facility which provides numerous social, educational and environmental services to the Parish residents AND thousands of residents from the neighbouring City.

We have developed a system of rural trails within the Parish, an approach that Wiltshire Council have run with in Southern Area and now plan to roll out across Wiltshire. Our new Old Sarum Youth Club has already won an award from Community First and is praised as an exemplar for youth services.

We have worked tirelessly with developers on a new Country Park within the Parish with hundreds of hours of voluntary input to bring it to Green Flag Standard - the first Green Flag Standard Country Park for Wiltshire.

We actively engage with the schools mentioned in the Motion to ensure cohesion between the school children and residents.

We also have an enviable track record of support for our work with residents who recently voted decisively to remain in the Parish of Laverstock and Ford.

My question to Wiltshire Councillors is therefore how can it be equitable, when we are providing

more than our fair share of services for both our own residents and many of those in the neighbouring City, that Salisbury City Council should be handed our Parish and the first rate services we have built to help pay for it's own inefficiencies?

I wish to make a 3-minute statement at the Council meeting on the 24th of November and would be grateful if this written question can be circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

David Burton  
Chair  
Laverstock and Ford Parish Council

**Questions to Wiltshire Council, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015.****Supporting statement.**

Whilst Trowbridge Town Council welcomes the recognition by the Working Group that; *'There had been some lack of clarity regarding the specific proposals which had been put out to public consultation'* and that; they have therefore recommended *'That decisions on the proposals numbered 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 26 for changes to the areas of Trowbridge and surrounding parishes be deferred for further consideration and consultation by the Working Group and that there also be consultation on proposal 27'*, they have failed to make a recommendation to Wiltshire Council with respect to a number of other proposals made by Trowbridge Town Council:

- 24. Lady Down Farm
- 25. Hilperton Gap South
- 28. Ashton Park Urban Extension
- 29. White Horse Business Park

And have therefore taken the decision themselves to reject these proposals without any justification.

**Question 1.**

How can the Working Party reconcile its failure to make a recommendation in support of scheme 24 Lady Down Farm, a proposal which moves the boundary from an undefined middle of field position to the Kennet and Avon Canal, with its recommendation in support of scheme 47 which moves the boundary to the Kennet and Avon Canal, giving as a reason for its support as; *'the proposal would provide a clearer boundary between the two parishes'*; and its failure to make a recommendation in support of scheme 25 Hilperton Gap South, a proposal which moves the boundary from the middle of a number of back gardens to a new road on the edge of a town, with its recommendation in support of scheme 42 which moves the boundary to a new road on the edge of a town, giving as a reason for its support as; *'The transfer of this area of land . . . would provide a logical definitive boundary between the two parishes'*; and its failure to make a recommendation in support of scheme 28 Ashton Park Urban Extension, a proposal which incorporates areas of new development to the south of the town which are remote from their villages, with its recommendation in support of scheme 42 which incorporates areas of new development to the south of a town which are remote from their village, giving as a reason for its support as; *'The majority of parish residents live in the residential estates to the south of Devizes and have a clear community link with the town'*; and with its recommendation in support of scheme 43 which incorporates areas of new development to the east of the town which are remote from their village, giving as a reason for its support as; *'The proposed new boundary lines provided a clear division between the two parishes and that the community in the area to be transferred would have clear affinity with Melksham'*?

**Question 2.**

When did Wiltshire Council agree to delegate decision making authority to the Community Governance Review Working Party, (with not a single councillor voting against that resolution, as the Working Party is not a politically balanced committee of the Council) and if Wiltshire Council did not make such a resolution, does Wiltshire Council accept that the decision of the Working Party not to make recommendations in respect of schemes 24, 25, 28 and 29 above, is Ultra Vires and will Wiltshire Council therefore now amend the recommendation to include schemes 24, 25, 28 and 29 in the '*further consideration and consultation*' so that all of the proposals made by Trowbridge Town Council can be consulted on and presented to Wiltshire Council for decision making?

Lance Allan  
Town Clerk

Questions to the Extraordinary meeting of Wiltshire Council – 24 November 2015

From Teresa Strange, Clerk to Melksham Without Parish Council.

Questions:

**Can the Council please confirm the date when any changes will take place with regard to Precepting and Tax Base calculations; is this 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 or another date?**

The “Guidance on community governance reviews” issued by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England of which “Principal Authorities are required, by section 100 (4) of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to have regard to”; states the following:

*30. Reorganisation of community governance orders creating new parishes, abolishing parishes or altering their area can be made at any time following a review. However for administrative and financial purposes (such as setting up the parish council and arranging its first precept), the order should take effect on the 1 April following the date on which it's made. Electoral arrangements for a new or existing parish council will come into force at the first elections to the parish council following the reorganization order.*

This is a different date than the date in your Community Governance Review Report published with the agenda papers which states:

*5.4.Precepts. Depending on how many changes are approved by Council, there will be considerable work involved in reconciling property records to their new parish, both in respect of council tax and in many other departments. Further, parish councils would need an indication of their tax base for precepting purposes, and an introduction date of 1 April 2017 would seem to offer the best compromise.*

**Could you please clarify the date the change comes into effect.**

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