



Laxfield Parish Council Grounds Committee



12 May 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Guildhall Parish Room

MINUTES (Draft)

Attendees: O. Hackett (Chair), S. Chesworth, M. Payne, L. Sharman, A Fairbrother, P Lowe (clerk)

1. Apologies and approval of absences

S Ellis, Z Rushmore.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of the December meeting

Approved. *Proposed O. Hackett, Seconded L. Sharman*

4. Consultation and engagement with young people

The committee considered various consultation approaches, including setting up focus groups. However, to ensure more representative coverage, it was agreed that a questionnaire would be used, targeted at young people who live in the parish, which can be completed and returned via post or by e-mail. Further communication work with local schools also needs to be examined. Key criteria for the consultation include:

Questionnaire and audience

- The form must be digital and in pdf form, so it can be printed. Need to also consider using 'Buss and Connect' as a media for this consultation.
- Clerk to check available budget to send the questionnaire to all family households, using census data where possible.
- Laxfield Primary School to be approached first, but need to consider whether we also engage via local secondary schools.

Line of enquiry for consultation

- Agree to focus the questionnaire around infrastructure activities associated with the playing fields and pavilion, rather than expand the consultation to activities infrastructure across the wider village. Important to ensure the focus is on infrastructure improvements local people want, not what we think they need.
- Ensure the questions are focused around affordable infrastructure development components we can include in the CIL project application we are sending to MSDC – including:
 - Multi-use hard surface area, that might also be used as a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)
 - Skate park
 - Additional pitch utilisation
 - Cricket and practice nets
 - Running
 - Additional Pavilion functionality

- There should be a part of the questionnaire for parents, especially:
 - Residents taking their children to the playground and playing field (i.e. to allow feedback on areas like ease of access, dogs, litter bins, etc).
 - How we would tackle possible noise issues on any new activities, such as a skate park.

5. Project scoping and next steps

Two project scopes have been completed and approved by Laxfield Parish Council.

- a) Pavilion renewal or repurpose
- b) Playing fields access road and car park resurfacing

These will need to be widened to develop an application that covers a wider activities space/offer. A collective CIL infrastructure project plan needs to be developed that has clear and separate modules, which can be scaled up or down, depending on what level of District CIL and external grants funding is available.

6. Playground annual inspection

MSDC identified the need to repair 2 playground apparatus, as part of this year's annual inspection report (*red risk on the large net swing and amber risk on the rocking horse*). The company who installed the playground in 2025 has closed down and the clerk is getting repair quotes from an alternative contractor.

7. EV Charging Bays update

The new MSDC contractor for the EV charging points is now 'Plug-in Suffolk'. They are currently recruiting a new project manager and we will be notified of the named contact in the next few weeks.

8. Stradbroke U15 Football team

Agreed that Ellie Wigby (team coach), can use Laxfield's football pitch as the home ground for Stradbroke's U15s football team, starting next season. They play in a Sunday League (Suffolk and Ipswich Youth League), with kick-off starting at 10.30am. There will be a small charge of £10 per game to cover water and electricity.

Meeting closed at 7:25 pm.

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