



Landford Parish Council – what we do and how we do it

Parishes are the lowest level of civil administration in England and their Parish Councils provide the statutory tier of local government closest to the people. So, Landford Parish Council (which serves the communities of Landford, Hamptworth and Nomansland) is an essential part of the structure of local democracy and it has a vital role in acting on your behalf by:

1. Giving views, based on local knowledge, on planning applications and other proposals that impact the Parish
2. Undertaking projects and schemes that benefit local residents
3. Working in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the Parish
4. Alerting relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken
5. Deciding on the Precept (i.e. the local part of the Council Tax which is dedicated to the support of the Parish)
6. Helping other tiers of local government keep in touch with local communities
7. Maintaining Parish assets such as community buildings, land and much more

The Council meets monthly at 7.15pm on the second Wednesday of every month; the venue alternates between Landford Village Hall and Nomansland Reading Room. Members of the public are very welcome to attend the meetings and may, at the invitation of the Chair, give input on any of the topics on the agenda. The agendas are always posted on the Parish Council noticeboards, the Parish Council website and the Parish Council and Villages Facebook page on the Friday preceding the meeting.

Let's look at how your Parish Council has acted on your behalf in the last year.

1. **Giving views**, based on local knowledge, on planning applications and other proposals that impact the Parish

The Parish Council carefully reviewed and made *recommendations* (it is not empowered to make planning decisions) on approximately 50 planning applications made to Wiltshire Council and the New Forest National Park Authority. In addition, the Council has given input on the division boundaries in Wiltshire, Unauthorised Encampments and on the National Parks review.



2. **Undertaking projects** and schemes that benefit local residents

Councillors are always looking for cost-effective ways to further your enjoyment of our picturesque Parish. Some of our initiatives have included planting wild flowers, erecting and decorating donated Christmas trees and making sure the bus shelters are clean and well maintained. In addition, we have tried to enhance our engagement with the Parish by running a competition to create a logo for the Council and by making ourselves accessible at local events.



3. **Working in partnership** with other bodies to achieve benefits for the Parish

Although the Council is a largely autonomous body it has benefitted greatly in the last year from some valuable collaborations. In the last few weeks we have successfully secured 2 grants, totaling £6,500 from the Southern Wiltshire Area Board for safety fencing for the play areas in our two recreation grounds. We have worked closely with the Landford Community Partnership to i) procure a Speed Indicating Device which we will share with Whiteparish, ii) situate a defibrillator in Landford and iii) replace the village signs in Landford with those bearing the New Forest National Park logo. There were two neglected ponds located adjacent to the layby on the A36 and Councillors have liaised with Natural England and Wiltshire Highways to obtain advice on restoring them and on having litter removed. Finally, the Council is supporting Nomansland Community Events by taking responsibility for the children's play area and by paying for bin emptying, grass cutting and mole removal.



4. Alerting relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken

Throughout the year your Council is constantly on the lookout for situations that may negatively impact the Parish so that remedial action may be taken. A couple of recent examples include i) the litter bins on Nomansland Green, which are the responsibility of Bramshaw Parish Council, were in a poor state of repair and were a hazard to the local wildlife. Your Council raised the matter with Bramshaw Parish Council and the bins were quickly replaced, ii) Councillors were concerned that there would be traffic issues following the closure of Moor Lane so we liaised with the Highways Authority to ensure that signs were appropriately placed to divert rerouted traffic away from narrow lanes and to alert drivers to the presence of the school in Landford. Your Council, in response to the recent increase in thefts in the Parish, is liaising with the neighbouring Parish Councils, Wiltshire Police and local Neighborhood Watch Groups to share information and to act as a catalyst for action. Last but not least your Council is also working with Wiltshire Council to develop a Parish Emergency Plan to deal with incidents such as local flooding.

5. Deciding on the Precept (i.e. the local part of the Council Tax which is dedicated to the support of the Parish)

The Precept for 2019/2020 has been set at £50,000 (an increase of 2% over last year); this includes a ring-fenced contribution to the Parish Development Fund. Your Council has determined that it's in the interests of the Parish to plan for the longer term by building a "Development Fund" which will be used to purchase new items for the Parish e.g. children's play equipment and to maintain and develop our existing assets. Without a Development Fund we may be forced to take out a loan which would be a much more expensive option and one which we want to avoid.

6. Helping other tiers of local government keep in touch with local communities

One of your Council's closest collaborations is with Councillor Leo Randall who represents Redlynch and Landford on Wiltshire Council and on the New Forest National Park Authority. Councillor Randall is a very regular attendee at our monthly Council meetings and we greatly value the opportunity to keep him apprised of the Parish Council's agenda as well as being able to solicit his valuable input in many areas. In addition, the Parish Council is represented on Wiltshire Council's Community Area Transport Group and Southern Wiltshire's Area Board as well as at the New Forest Consultative Panel and North East Quadrant meeting.



7. Maintaining Parish assets such as community buildings, land and much more

Our Parish is fortunate to have a number of valuable assets within its boundaries the most significant of which are: the Well Of Remembrance, Nomansland Reading Room, Maybush Copse, Landford Recreation Ground and Pavilion, the land and children’s play equipment at Nomansland Recreation Ground and 6 bus shelters. Your Council is acutely aware of the need to maintain and develop these assets and has invested heavily in all but the Well of Remembrance which, because it is a listed monument, needs extra special attention. With that in mind, we have just formed a War Memorial Working Group comprising Councillors and volunteers who will oversee the careful restoration of this unique and precious asset over the coming years.



Landford Parish Council comprises 9 Councillors and a Clerk & RFO who are all highly motivated to make Hamptworth, Landford and Nomansland great places to work, play and live. Now that you know how more about us – please let us know if there is anything more we can do for you.....

