

Minutes of Lower Slaughter Parish Meeting

Held on Tuesday 14th May at 6.30pm in St. Mary's Church

Councillors Present: Julie Roche (Residing Chairman), Stuart Thomas and Kevin Chapman
County Councillor Nigel Moor and District Councillor Richard Keeling

In attendance: Ruth Waller (Clerk) and 3 parishioners

180514_1 Welcome and Introductions – The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and made some brief introductions.

180514_2 Apologies – Received from Cllr Sinclair, Rvd Katrina Scott and Christine Edwin

180514_3 The following reports were then received:

a) County Councillor Dr Nigel Moor gave the following report:

"It is worth at the outset outlining what the County Council does do.

- Our statutory duties include child protection and the vulnerable elderly as well as working with the NHS on public health. Infrastructure includes roads, footpaths and cycle ways, liaison with the railway companies and subsidised public transport, flood relief, faster broadband, libraries, new schools and extensions to existing schools, on street car parking management. Licensing includes trading standards, registration of births, marriages and deaths. We are planning to roll out a number of electric vehicle charging points across Gloucestershire. On planning we are responsible for waste and minerals and our development management team advise local planning authorities on the highway implications of development proposals. GCC's budget for 2018/19 was agreed at Council on the 14th February and is a total of £412.9m based on a council tax increase of 4.49%, of which 2.0 % is ringfenced for adult care.
- In addition, our capital budget going forward to 2019 is almost £505 m and includes our £150 m investment to highways, and in addition to broadband, cycling and footways and other essential infrastructure including a roll out of electric vehicle charging points across the county.
- The Lengthsman`s scheme and Highways Local will continue as well as local community budgets for councillors.
- As part of our £150 m investment in the county`s roads over the next five years, Gloucestershire County Council has announced proposals to break down the county`s highways contract into three areas. These are highways maintenance contract, highways structural maintenance contract (resurfacing work) and the highways professional services contract (works design and consultancy support). Tarmac won the tender for the resurfacing contract and has just resurfaced Stow Square and the Evesham Road from Troopers Lodge to Stow later this month.
- The new highways term maintenance contract will deliver around £20 m of routine maintenance on our roads each year and covers works such as pothole repairs, patching, winter gritting, grass cutting and gulley emptying. Each prospective contractor will go through a rigorous tendering process over the coming months before an award of the contract in the Autumn 2018. The council`s current highways provider Amey will continue to deliver highway services in the county until their contract ends at the end of March 2019."

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Date _____

Cllr Moor then answered some questions from parishioners. Cllr Roche invited Cllr Moor to a future meeting of the Parish Council to consider various highways matters affecting this Parish.

b) District Councillor - Cllr Richard Keeling explained that his ward included part of Bourton village up to the Slaughters, Naunton and the Guitings. His report highlighted some recent Cotswold District Council decisions:

“Council Tax: CDC has agreed a freeze on the authority’s share of local residents’ council tax payments for 2018/19. This follows a freeze in 2017/18 and 2016/17, a 5% cut in 2015/16, a 3% cut in 2014/15 and a 5% reduction in 2013/14. This means that the average band D charge for District services will remain at £126.40. This is the 21st lowest District Council charge in the country.

Car Parking: A continuation of the freeze on parking charges at all CDC-owned car parks for 2018/19. A continuation of the ‘free after 3 pm’ parking scheme until the end of March 2019 at selected car parks across the District, including in Bourton-on-the-Water, Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Tetbury. Work is progressing with detailed plans for the proposed Waterloo decked car park in Cirencester with interim arrangements for additional parking at Cirencester Rugby Club.

Publica: Cotswold District Council employees have now been transferred to Publica Group, a newly created public sector company, in November 2017. The councils involved in using Publica’s services are Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council. The formation of Publica has been driven to create one employer for all four councils and are planned to:

- Reduce the cost of management and administration
- Deliver a better, more cost-effective service to communities
- Allow us to offer new staff an employment package that is both more flexible for them and sustainable for the council
- Provide the opportunity to share workloads, learn from each other and benefit from shared expertise, resources and knowledge.
- **This partnership will bring cost savings of £5.6m a year by 2020 and £41m over 10 years.**

WW1 Commemoration: Each District Councillor has been allocated £750 to assist with planned activities to celebrate the end of WWI. Any projects requiring application for funding can submit a form which I can provide.

Cotswold Community Awards: The Chairman of Cotswold District Council is proposing to have a Community Awards event for the Cotswold District, one that could be repeated annually which will be solely Community based. Anyone from the Cotswold District can nominate a person or a team from the District. Several categories have been suggested, they are: Carer of the Year, Town and Parish Council nomination – the person who goes above and beyond for their community. Community Team Award – A team of people from a community, sports club, activity group, health group etc. who gives their time freely and regularly to assist others. Charity Team Award – A team that has organised one off events or several events to raise funds for charities. Fundraiser of the Year – someone who is the driving force behind charity events and has helped raise money for a charity or several charities. Unsung hero of the Year – someone in the District who quietly makes a difference to other people’s lives and Young Volunteer of the Year.

Enforcement: Cotswold District Council arranged two training sessions for the Planning Enforcement process. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (on which I sit) pressed the Council hard in the last financial year for additional resources to bring the Enforcement team up to strength. The meetings were well attended and it was felt that they were informative and useful.”

c) St. Mary’s Church: The following report was received from Revd Katrina Scott:

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Date _____

“Looking back over the last year, it has been a good one for our church community. This is especially as we enjoyed the various celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the rededication of the church (on 23rd April 1867). It was great to have a full church on the anniversary date itself, and to follow that with a variety of socials and gatherings for villagers and friends. Thank you to all who join us.

The church building continues to be well looked after, with some repair work completed to the stonework on the tower last Spring. Alongside this, work has begun towards the hoped for addition of a toilet in the grounds.

The church is deeply grateful to all those who are a part of the team and support us in so many ways – those who open and close each day, look after the churchyard, arrange flowers, are members of the Church Council, help out at services, and our Churchwardens.

At our Annual Church Meeting, we were sorry to accept the resignation of Stephie Etherington as Churchwarden (due to ill health) – she has been a fantastic support and helper. We thank her very much and continue to pray for her improved health.

If anyone would like to join us, come on to the Church Council, or be a part of our regular services, you are very welcome!”

d) Police: The Clerk gave a brief summary of the police report for Lower Slaughter from Bob Hardie, receptionist at Stow police Station.

“**ASB:** These types of incidents remain rare and in 2017/2018 ran at an average of 0.0036 per day. It should also be taken in to account that the daily average for Crime Incidents in Lower Slaughter for 2017/2018 was 0.07 per day. **NB.** Comparisons for Burglaries are problematic due to the fact that in April 2017 Central Government changed the way all burglaries were to be categorised.

	2016/2017	2017/2018
Highway disruption	20	29
Road related offence	13	18
RTC Death / Injury	2	3
Rtc damage only(inc animal rtc's)	8	20

Road/Traffic:

Although there appears to be a concerning rise in RTC's, over half of those in 2017/2018 took place on the Fosseyway during the last few months and were no doubt due to the weather and road conditions. “

The full report is available on request from the Clerk and will also be on the council's website: www.lowerslaughter.btck.co.uk

e) Village hall Committee: “The Lower Slaughter Village Hall is a wonderful asset to the village, originally gifted by the Whitmore family, and its Constitution states that it should be managed by a Committee, comprising of representatives from the village clubs and villager Trustees. However, the only regular village activity which is represented on the Committee is the WI, as other groups have failed to respond to the invitation to send representatives to join the Committee.

The Village Hall is also a registered charity and as such is governed by the regulations of the Charities Commission. The Trustees, in conjunction with the rest of the committee have a responsibility to maintain the building and provide it for use of the villagers in order to enhance the lives of those who live in Lower Slaughter. Although there has been much discussion recently concerning the use of the Hall for activities, it is not the Committee's remit to provide those activities, merely to provide a place for the activities to take place.

The main income for the Hall comes from artists who exhibit in the Hall from April to October (for three weeks out of every month).The fourth week is reserved for use by villagers. The other income source is the annual Village Fete. Fund raising events have been held in the past for various charities, although this has lessened as people have grown older or left the village.

Signed _____

Date _____

We have a music + entertainment licence and are able to cater for 60 people seated and 100 people standing.

There is no charge for villagers who wish to use the hall for private or public events, but we do charge a hiring fee for those who do not live in Lower Slaughter. The Committee is always trying to encourage the use of the Hall by villagers, and although a recent questionnaire discovered interest in various activities, it has not yet uncovered people willing to organise these activities. This, hopefully, may happen in the future, and people may come forward. Considerable sums of money have been spent over the last few years, in building a storage extension to the Hall, providing a new roof and re-decorating the interior.

We are always looking for new, younger people to join the Committee and take responsibility for keeping this village facility open, so that it can continue to be of use to future generations.”

f) Lower Slaughter Village News:

This useful service has been provided for those living in Lower Slaughter for many years. Most villagers appreciate this from what I hear. Of course, as for many things in a village such as ours, it depends on volunteers offering to take on such responsibilities.

Currently we are looking for someone to take on the responsibility of Editor. This person will be responsible as part of the small team, consisting of David Alderman, our Distribution Manager and myself as Treasurer, in putting together relevant pieces of news, information and dates which the villagers need to be made aware of. Once this is drafted and agreed by the Team, it is emailed to our printers locally who print it off and send it to David each month for distribution by our wonderful team of distributors.

At the present time David and myself, together with help from our respective partners have agreed to keep the production of this valuable asset to the village going. THIS CAN ONLY BE A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT AND IT WILL BE REVIEWED AFTER THE VILLAGE FETE. Unless we can find someone available and suitable to join the team, regrettably the LSVN will cease to be produced.

We are most grateful to those villagers who work hard each year to ensure that our village have a successful fete, because the fete provides us with our only source of income.

ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP IN THE CONTINUED PRODUCTION OF THE LSVN SHOULD CONTACT ME VIA EMAIL, colinandchristineedwinedwin@gmail.com or telephone 01451 822176”

180417_5 Annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council: The Chairman of the Parish Council had retired in March this year and a new Chairman had yet to be appointed. Therefore, no report was available for 2017-18

180417_6 Questions from the floor to be answered by Councillors:

A request had been received via email for the Parish to consider becoming ‘twinned’ with a community is the Santa Lucia Preserve (“The Preserve”) located in the hills above Carmel, California: <https://www.santaluciapreserve.com>. The connection between the two communities was the Redwood Tree in the village. **Those present voted unanimously NOT to pursue this request further.**

8. Closing Comments from the Chairman – The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and those who had contributed reports. There being no further business, closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

Signed _____

Date _____