

Annual Meeting of Lower Slaughter Parish Council

Held in the Village Hall on Monday 17th May 2021, 18:50

Councillors present: Cllrs Chapman (Chair), Thomas, Classen and Papadakis.
In attendance: 7 members of the public

- 210517/1 To elect the Chairman and receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office:** Having been proposed by Cllr Thomas and seconded by Cllr Classen, Cllr Chapman was duly elected as Chairman. As per NALC guidelines, due to Covid the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be completed outside the meeting.
- 210517/2 To elect the Vice -Chairman and receive the Declaration of Acceptance of Office:** Having been proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Papadakis, Cllr Thomas was duly elected as Vice - Chairman. As per NALC guidelines, due to Covid the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be completed outside the meeting.
- 210517/3 Confirmation that Declarations of Interests are still current:** Confirmed by all councillors.
- 210517/4 Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 210517/5 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 20th May 2019:** All previously approved. No meeting in 2020 due to Covid.
- 210517/6 Matters Arising from the Minutes:** None.
- 210517/7 Allocation of responsibilities:**
7.1 Highways - Cllr Thomas
7.2 Trees - Cllr Thomas
7.3 Allotments - Cllr Classen assisted by Cllr Papadakis
7.4 Finance – RFO/ Cllr Chapman
7.5 Planning – Cllr Thomas
7.6 PROW – Steve Randles
7.7 Snow & Flood – TBC David Barnes supported by Cllr Papadakis
- 210517/8 To consider any necessary changes to current policies and procedures as documented on LSPC Website:** Council agreed to review the Filming Policy for the Village. Filming will be allowed, but as a rule LSPC concluded that they would not support filming or broadcasting that served to promote additional visits to the village of Lower Slaughter. All other policies and procedures to remain as they are.
- 210517/9 To receive the Annual Finance Update:** Cllr Chapman had previously circulated the appropriate finance documentation for review.
9.1 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 APPROVED
9.2 Approval of the Accounting Statements for 2020/21 APPROVED BY ALL AND SIGNED BY CLLR THOMAS
9.3 Presentation of the Financial Report since the last meeting APPROVED
9.4 Notification of Payments Made since the last meeting AGREED

9.5 Approval of Payments Due APPROVED

9.6 Appointment of Internal Auditor Council agreed to appoint Steve Roberts as the Internal Auditor.

- 210517/10** **Gilders Scrap Yard Planning Application Update: 20/0068/CWMAJW. Importation of inert material to infill the existing ponds to enable the applicant to relocate his metal recycling facility:** Cllr Thomas summarised the current situation regarding this application and the position of LSPC, who have objected.
- 210517/11** **Flood Mitigation Update:** Cllr Chapman asked Cllr Thomas and Cllr Papadakis to present the latest updates regarding discussions with Thames Water and the other initiatives that were being considered to reduce flood risk in the Village. Cllr Thomas confirmed that Council was in discussions with two civil engineering consultants who were able to provide the appropriate engineering input for an option study to identify the effectiveness of a range of choices to improve river flow out of the Village. LSPC will also be requesting support from GCC for the co-funding of this study, but if it is not received, may elect to finance this study entirely from LSPC reserves. Cllr Thomas re-iterated and reminded residents, that it was the individual homeowner's responsibility to ensure they had adequate flood defence measures in place for their property. Cllr Thomas thanked Mr S Randles for the information about a wooden penstock as a potential solution, and asked residents to bear with the PC, whilst more options were investigated. Cllr Papadakis advised that there were still two outstanding queries with TW that were yet to be addressed. These were an explanation for the lack of tankering at the pumping station over the Xmas period 2020, and the request for a formal alert system to be in place to allow the Village some pre-warning of flooding.
- 210517/12** **Notice of Councillor Vacancy:** Cllr Chapman was delighted to announce that David Thornton has been co-opted onto Lower Slaughter Parish Council.
- 210517/13** **Planning Applications:**
13.1 To report on earlier applications:
20/03730/FUL East Allotment Cottage, Copse Hill Road, Lower Slaughter GL54 2HY. Proposed single storey extension. *Permitted by CDC. LSPC have considered and have no comments.*
13.2 To consider new planning applications:
21/01180/TCONR St Marys Church, Copse Hill Road Lower Slaughter GL54 2HR. To lift crown to approx. 2.5m Western Red Cedar in the corner of the reserved burial ground and to coppice 2 clumps of Hazel and 1 Willow to approx. 1 m in height. *No objection by CDC. LSPC considered and have no comments.*
- 210517/14** **To receive updates as appropriate on Highways / River / PROW:**
14.1 Highways Three '20 is Plenty' signs were now positioned around the Village
14.2 River Cllr Chapman advised that the River Maintenance Team would continue once a month as planned, although an informal objection had been received about the impact of this work on wild life. It was suggested that Council consider requesting a visit from the River Trust to assess the situation.
14.2 PROW Cllr Chapman thanked Mr S. Randles for delivering his annual report which can be found in the Appendices.
- 210517/15** **To review relevant correspondence received since the last meeting**
15.1 Domestic waste being deposited in public waste bins LSPC have been contacted by CDC Enviro-Crime Programmes Officer and the local Police about this matter. The PC are assisting with these enquiries.
15.2 Maintenance of Memorial Bench Thanks give to Steve Hathaway for the renovation of Daphne's bench located in the Allotments.
15.3 Additional public waste bin request for installation by the bus stop This has been received from a resident at Slaughter Pike and agreed in principle by LSPC. The Parish Clerk will investigate the costs involved.
- 210517/16** **Date of next meeting: Monday 16th May 2022**

Lower Slaughter Parish Council

Finance Report for Meeting of 17 May 2021

Current Financial Position (at 30th Apr 2021)

Reserves Account	£	60,713.35		
Reserved for Weir/River Repairs	£	10,000.00		
Reserved for TRO management	£	10,000.00		
Reserved for Village Projects	£	36,683.87		
Available Reserves	£	4,029.48	£	4,029.48
Treasurer's Account			£	5,126.58
			Total	£ 9,156.06

Receipts since last meeting on Mar-21

Bank Interest (Mar)	£	0.47
Bank Interest (Apr)	£	0.52
WPD Wayleave Income	£	4.76
Allotment Income	£	5.00
CDC Precept	£	4,950.00

Payments made since last meeting on Mar-21

R Godwin: W Allotment improvement works (Phase 1)	£	700.00
Clerk Wages and Expenses (Feb)		Data Protected
English Window Cleaning Services	£	20.00
Clerk Wages and Expenses (Mar)		Data Protected
Clerk Wages and Expenses (Apr)		Data Protected

Payments to be Approved by Council

<u>Payments Sanctioned since last Meeting (Minute 9.4)</u>			
Clerk Wages and Expenses (Apr)	£	358.95	LGA 1972 s111
<u>Payments to be Sanctioned (Minute 9.4)</u>			
Clerk Wages and Expenses (May)	£	210.38	LGA 1972 s111
Came & Company - Annual Insurance Renewal [Provisional]	£	450.00	LGA 1972 s111
Additional Signature for Approval of Payments:			
Initials:	Date:	Signature:

Lower Slaughter Public Rights of Way				May-21
General Comment		Areas needing work written in red		
PROW	Status	Description	Signage/Styles/Bridges	Comment on condition of footpath/bridleway
HSL 1	Footpath	Rectory towards Copse Hill	Good	
HSL 2	Footpath	Green Lane towards Upper Slaughter	Good	
HSL 3	Footpath	Mill Dam towards Upper Slaughter	Good	Very muddy across 2 -3 metre width. Request for resurfacing of this footpath to a similar specification as HSL15 has been submitted to the PC as an "Emma Fund" project. PC in consultation with Landowner regarding shared funding. However, as the village will benefit from the improvement and we have windfall funding I see no reason why we should not move to proceed. SR & Clerk met with Frank Dorrington-Ward to show him the state of footpath. As Frank has moved on we need to contact his replacement to progress this to a quotation. Have not received any reply to emails.
HSL 4	Footpath	Back of Plantation,Cricket Club to Slaughter Coppice	Good	
HSL 5	Footpath	The Square & Malthouse Lane	Good	
HSL 6	Bridlepath	Top of Kingswell, straight on to crossing at Buckle St	Good	
HSL 7	Bridlepath	Weir, Scare Lane to paddocks, then up hill to road	Good	The first section from weir to river bridge is relatively ok, however from bridge to paddock it is unacceptably muddy. For wheelchair and pram access it is particularly filthy. In the past, complaints have been made by Cotswold School re the state of pupil's shoes after walking this route. This is the main footpath from Bourton to LS and was once fully surfaced in tarmac. Glos Highway's previous attempts at improvement of this section and HSL9 has been to scalp away most of tarmac!!! Thankfully their latest proposal to remove the remaining surface was stopped by the PC and resurfacing may now be considered. This section continues to be a disgrace for both abled and disabled access and we should continue to keep requesting improvements and resurfacing. SR & Clerk met with Frank Dorrington-Ward at beginning of year to show him the state of footpath. Now that Frank has moved on we should make contact with his replacement to seek support for the build up and re-tarmac of Scare Lane footpath. It is worth noting that when this section of the footpath floods the depth of the water is no higher than the original level of tarmac surface!
HSL 8	Footpath	Kingswell Lane (The Orchard) across to Fosseway	Good including new Footpath Sign with wheelchair symbol.	Approx 15m section where Equestrian Centre track crosses footpath can become a stream following spells of wet weather. Water flows off paddock across track and runs along footpath before flowing into ditch. A new drainage ditch has been dug across the paddock where the overflow occurred. It looks like during the extreme conditions on 23rd Dec it overflowed. Following this latest flooding it looks like further digging of the ditch has occurred and the soil used to increase the downhill side of ditch.
HSL 9	Footpath	Scare Lane to HSL 8 at entrance to Bourton Vale	Good	
HSL 10	Footpath	Follows River Eye from Scare Lane footbridge to Fosseway.	Good	Footpath flooded in December in a number of places. Worst flooding opposite large tree stump resulting in further erosion to the river bank and removal of some of surface of footpath. Repair required but may be worth waiting until tree stump removal. A tree has fallen across the original footpath towards the Fosse end of footpath. It is however, possible to bypass this as over the years a parallel path exists along the fenceline. Would be a good project for Cotswold Wardens.
HSL 11	Footpath	Kennel Lane, behind Pike Farm to Fosseway Terrace	Good	
HSL 12	Bridlepath	Wyck Lane bridge over R. Dikler to Fosseway opposite Pike	Good	
HSL13	Bridlepath	Buckle St (opposite HSL6) to Parish Boundary in field	Good	
HSL 14	Footpath	Linking Slaughter Farm to Kingswell Lane road and	Good	
HSL 15	Bridlepath	Fosseway at Lansdowne end of Bourton to Little Aston Mill	Good	Surface is in a good condition despite the rainfall in December. Although the first 30m is ankle deep in mud the surface below is still solid. Work to HSL3 to this specification would be excellent. When dry the mud should be cleared.
Local Cotswold Wardens				
David Russell		mrd Russell@gmail.com		
John Foster		jafoster.leighroyd@btinternet.com		

Summary Actions during 2020/2021 PC year, and Key Issues for next PC Year

During latest PC Year some good work was achieved for example:

- Trimming of hedges by land agents on HSL1 & 2 following requests by Clerk
- Replacement of Wheelchair sign on HSL 8 at Fosse end.
- Replacement of signage at top of Kingswell lane by Robin/Cotswold Wardens
- Maintenance work by Cotswold Wardens via Robin
- PC Prevention of Work scheduled by GCC Highways to further scalp surface of Scare Lane rather than resurface it.

Key Issues for coming Year

- Establish contact with Bourton-on-the Water Cotswold Wardens to facilitate maintenance projects
- Establish contact with New PROW Officer to:
 - Progress re-surfacing work on HSL 3 Mill Dam footpath similar to HSL15. Obtain Quote and contractor
 - Lobby for support in re tarmac of Scare Lane
- Encourage LSPC to:
 - Commit funding for HSL 3 improvements with or without landowner contribution.
 - Continue to press GCC Highways & PROW for the Re-tarmac of Scare Lane.