

Minutes of General Meeting

Held by virtual means on Monday 18th January 2021, 18:00.

Councillors present Cllrs Chapman (Chair), Classen, Randles, Thomas and Papadakis.
In attendance: 26 members of the public

Lower Slaughter Parish Council conducted this meeting by virtual means in accordance with NALC guidelines. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting and contact the Parish Clerk for login and password details.

210118/1 Chairman's Opening Remarks:

Cllr Chapman thanked Members of the Public for attending the meeting, welcoming 2021 whilst acknowledging what a difficult year 2020 had been. Thanks were expressed for the continued support provided by Councillors and the various Wardens in the Village. Gratitude and thanks were also expressed to the group of residents in Upper Slaughter who kindly included Lower Slaughter in their litter picking activities. Cllr Chapman conveyed further thanks to several villagers who provided assistance and support during the flooding event just before Christmas. Correspondence had been received to particularly mention thanks to Laura Harris from the Mill.

210118/2 Declarations of Interest: None.

210118/3 Apologies: None

210118/4 To formally co-opt George Papadakis as Councillor on Lower Slaughter Parish Council:

Cllr Chapman confirmed that LSPC had followed the correct procedure for co-option as no call for Election was received by CDC. George Papadakis was formally co-opted onto the Council and the Parish Clerk confirmed that the Acceptance Letter and Declaration of Interests documents had been completed and signed in accordance with current legislation. Cllr Chapman thanked all candidates who expressed an interest in the role, but who on this occasion were not successful.

210118/5 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 23rd November 2020: These minutes were approved by all and signed virtually by Chair, Cllr Chapman.

210118/6 Matters Arising from the previous meeting held on 23rd November 2020.

6.1 Gilders, Electric Car Charging Station and the re-development of existing scrap yard and haulage depot. The Appeal Hearing for the EV Charging Station Development took place on the 24th to 26th November. On 9th December, the Planning Inspector published a Decision Notice advising that the Appeal had been successful, and the Development was therefore Permitted. Whilst this decision was disappointing, Cllr Chapman advised the Meeting that the Planning Inspector attached 25 Conditions to the Development and a number of these conditions were applied because of the intervention by LSPC. If the Development does proceed, LSPC are hopeful that it will be in a more appropriate scale, in a more sustainable fashion and with a pattern of use that would be much safer than it otherwise could have been. Cllr Chapman also informed the Meeting that during the Planning Enquiry, it was confirmed that notice to cease operation of the Scrap Yard facility had been served and this should come into effect by end of March 2021.

Cllr Chapman made the following statement for the record:

As a Parish Council, we recognise the range anxiety issues associated with the acceptance of Electric Vehicle Technology and as such the need for the development of appropriate and suitably sized Electric

Vehicle Charging facilities in and around the Cotswolds. However, when a Developer submits a proposal to develop the largest EV charging facility in Europe within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it is very disappointing to find out that the responsibility to challenge this is left to the initiatives of a humble Parish Council, with the conspicuous absence of both the Lead Planning Authority, Cotswold District Council as well as Gloucestershire County Council. Finally, on this topic, could I thank Mr Colin Edwin for his support and especially Mr Robin Cochrane who also had the courage to address the Planning Enquiry

Mr Cochrane expressed his thanks, especially to Cllrs Chapman and Thomas for all their efforts regarding this application and appeal.

6.2 20 is plenty signage in Lower Slaughter

Temporary 20 is Plenty signage was proposed and agreed. The Parish Clerk is liaising with GCC to obtain signs and if necessary, arrange a meeting with appropriate personnel to agree locations.

210118/7 GDPR policy for Lower Slaughter Parish Council

The Parish Council voted unanimously to adopt the proposed policy which fulfils the requirements of the GDPR 2018 regulations.

210118/8 Flooding Issues in Lower Slaughter 23rd – 30th December 2020

Cllr Chapman summarised the serious flooding event that occurred just before and during Christmas when at least 20 properties were affected, of which at least 8 experienced water ingress into residential spaces. It was acknowledged that although the river topped its banks in several locations, the information gathered to date suggests that it was the flow of water from drains and rising groundwater levels that created internal flooding. Heavy rainfall on the back of a prolonged increase in ground saturation and already elevated river levels contributed to the problem.

8.1 Meetings held with Thames Water and Local Lead Flood Authority

Representatives from the PC held an on-site meeting with an engineer from CDC (representing the Local Lead Flood Authority) on Tuesday 29th December and explained the range of issues experienced. Probably the most useful outcome of this meeting was an acknowledgement that the village suffered a bigger impact than had been anticipated and a detailed account of the issues experienced would be essential to engage the Local Lead Flood Authority moving forward. A useful and specific discussion surrounding the design of the weir took place, and potential measures to provide greater control of river levels were discussed.

On Friday 15th January, the PC held a virtual meeting with representatives from Thames Water out of which a range of actions have been generated concerning their response to events at the time; the ongoing drainage lining works that are ongoing; and the interactions between the pumping station activities at Upper and Lower Slaughter. Although too early to make any further comments on the Thames Water issues at this stage, Cllr Chapman advised that it was a useful initial meeting and has commenced an engagement process that will be important to the Village.

8.2 Review of survey to solicit support from CDC and GCC for future mitigation measures

Immediately following the flooding event, a Flood Survey form was created and issued to all properties that were affected or had the potential to be affected. Using the information collated, a report has been submitted to the Local Flood Management Authority and will shortly be updated and issued to Thames Water. It was noted that according to the current Strategic Flood Management Plan of Gloucestershire County Council, Lower Slaughter is rated as a Low Flood Risk village, with the number of properties at risk being less than 5. Therefore, unless the PC are successful in raising the profile of the Village within the strategic thinking of the Local Lead Flood Authority, it is unlikely that commitment and finance to undertake any significant measures to alleviate flood risk for the village will be achieved.

8.3 Short term actions including procurement of pumps to be considered.

Cllr Chapman advised that LSPC were limited in the direct support they could provide in the event of flooding. Cllr Chapman recommended that individual households must take responsibility for developing their own flood alleviation and management strategies. Each property has specific and unique considerations. However, the PC are currently pursuing a number of short-term actions:

- raising the profile of the village and the completion and submission of the Flood Event Report to several relevant authorities is a key priority.
- consideration is being given to how the PC can best communicate advice to Residents in how to prepare and manage a flood event.
- the purchase of two or three pumps for deployment in the event of future flooding using the Village Project Fund.

8.4 Review of obstructions in the River and remedial work required.

Obstructions in the river were discussed and it was agreed that keeping the river flowing freely throughout the village is important in helping surges in flow being managed effectively. One of the obstructions is in the form of a large tree stump creating problems down Scare Lane. It was noted that the Parish Council have repeatedly been trying to persuade the relevant Riparian Owner to remove this obstruction since 2016. However, unfortunately the Riparian Owner is insistent that the tree stump is not creating issues despite recommendations from both the PROW Officer and the Local Lead Flood Authority that the obstruction should be removed. It was also noted that an invitation for the Riparian Owners to attend the meeting had been declined. Further discussions took place, and it was agreed that Council would write to the Riparian Owners to see if a meeting could be arranged to review the obstruction together. Photographs taken of the obstruction at the time of the recent floods would be included in this correspondence.

An Open Forum then took place with several affected residents thanking LSPC for the attention given to this matter and the flooding event so far. Further actions and possible solutions were debated before Cllr Chapman brought the Open Forum to a close. It was agreed that the PC would carry on with the actions already started and it was resolved to use a maximum of £1.5k to purchase pumps and ancillary flood defence equipment using the Village Project Fund. Cllr Chapman also re-iterated the importance of residents purchasing their own sandbags and equipment as a matter of priority. Updates will be posted on LSPC website in due course.

210118/9

Planning Applications Update

20/03730/FUL East Allotment Cottage Copse Hill Road Lower Slaughter, GL54 2HY Proposed single storey extension. *Awaiting decision by CDC. LSPC have considered and have no comments.*

20/03104/FUL Penshill Lower Slaughter Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 2JH. Variation of a condition 9 (existing stone mullion windows) of application 19/04562/FUL (Two storey rear extension) to change one stone mullion window to rear elevation. *Application withdrawn.*

20/03769/FUL Stonestrow Fosseyway Lower Slaughter GL54 2EY. Erection of detached dwelling house, enlargement of access and associated works. *Application withdrawn.*

210118/10

Finance:

10.1 Cllr Chapman reported on the current financial status and full itemised details can be found in Appendix 1.

10.2 and 10.3 Cllr Chapman reported on receipts since the last meeting/retrospective payments and secured approval from the meeting for payments due. These are also detailed in Appendix 1. All were APPROVED.

10.4 Cllr Chapman had circulated in advance a 2021/22 Budgetary Planning document for Councillors to review. Consideration was required for the 2021/22 Precept Application.

Agreement was reached to adopt a blended approach to cover the increased cost base of the PC and approval given to increase next FY precept to £6.8k. It was AGREED that an adjustment of the Earmarked Reserves of LSPC would be required to support this approach.

210118/11

Reports from Wardens

11.1 River As per earlier discussions

11.2 Rights of Way Warden S. Randles reported on PROW in LS. The Parish Clerk will make contact with landowners regarding maintenance required on HSL1 and HSL2.

11.3 Trees It was resolved to develop a new orchard area utilising free plots at the allotments. Cllr Thomas to prepare a plan for consideration. In addition, it was agreed that the Village needed a policy to replace trees removed due to Ash Dieback. Parish Clerk to prepare.

11.4 Snow Cllr Papadakis confirmed that grit bins were full.

210118/12

Allotments

Resolution passed to use Ravens Chapel for the removal of Ray's garage on the allotments. Estimated cost is £565 for labour and skip hire.

210118/13

Correspondence.

13.1 Query from Heaton Partners regarding due diligence and a property purchase outside LS

An enquiry was received from a Conveyancing Agent requesting information about LS on behalf of a client looking to purchase a large property on the borders of our Parish. The PC referred the client to the PC website where the minutes of recent meetings could be viewed.

13.2 Correspondence from a resident regarding the appointment of George Papadakis

LSPC received an accusation that the appointment of Cllr Papadakis should not be permitted as the candidate does not meet the requisite eligibility criteria. For the record, Council confirmed Cllr Papadakis meets all four eligibility criteria to serve as a Parish Councillor. The Complainant has been advised accordingly, but also advised of the escalation mechanism if they are not satisfied with Council's response.

13.3 Various communication regarding flooding

LSPC are in regular contact with several property owners who live outside the Council area.

13.4 Residents concern over breach of Covid Rules in LS

The PC received communication from a concerned Resident reporting an alleged breach of Coronavirus Restrictions by other Residents within the village with a request that the PC report this breach to the Police. Cllr Chapman advised that LSPC are not responsible for policing the actions of residents and the concerned resident was advised to raise this issue directly with the appropriate authorities. Council understand that the non-emergency Police number was used to report this alleged breach and a visit from the Police was made.

13.5 20 mph initiative enquiry from Dr Paul Morrish

A resident of Shipton Oliffe is looking to motivate a statutory and permanent change in speed limits in villages such as LS from 30mph to 20mph. No plans exist for these changes to be introduced at a national level and therefore this would need to be achieved through local Traffic Orders which are typically quite costly to achieve. However, Dr Morrish believes that, if a "collective" of Villages approach GCC to introduce 20mph speed limits then there could be economies of scale in the drafting of legislation in addition to reducing the costs of implementation. It was resolved to respond to Dr Morrish confirming that LSPC understand the benefits of a 20mph speed limit and would like to understand what the costs could be, whilst also seeking the views of the wider community.

210118/14

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 15th March 2021 at 6pm via Zoom.

Meeting ended at 20.15

Signed: *Kevin Chapman*

Date: 15th March 2021

