

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Monday 20th November 2023 at 6 p.m.

Councillors present: Cllrs Paul Sinclair (Chair), Ann Classen, Julian Grimshaw, Andrea Jordison, George Papadakis

In attendance: Clerk Jane Carter, 9 attendees

231120/1 Chairman's Opening Remarks: Cllr Sinclair declared the meeting open. He welcomed District Councillor Len Wilcox and County Councillor Mark Mackenzie-Charrington and thanked them for giving up their time to attend.

231120/2 Declarations of Interest: NONE

231120/3 Apologies for absence: NONE

231120/4 To receive an update and report from County Councillor, Mark Mackenzie-Charrington. A report had been circulated. A new highways offer had been launched, inviting parish councils to use highways services for additional work in the parish including drain cleaning, grass and verge cutting. There was an additional county councillor budget which could also be used to fund works. Gullies had recently been cleaned by Highways and the Chairman asked for thanks to be passed onto the local team.

To receive update and report from Cotswold District Councillor Len Wilcox: Cotswold District Council was carrying out a public consultation regarding budget setting for the coming period. There would be a significant deficit by the end of the year. The cost of green bins would be increasing. Services had been reduced at district offices with phone lines now open only until 2 p.m. Residents were being asked to dispose of household appliance batteries carefully after they caused a fire in a refuse lorry. The Chairman asked if the council would be defending its refusal decision in the upcoming appeal for the 40-bedroom hotel at Grafters, Fosseway. Cllr Wilcox confirmed they would.

231120/5 Public Session: A resident raised concerns about Hawkstone Brewery and asked if the council had received any complaints directly. Lights had been erected which were too high and contrary to the dark skies policy of the area. The Chairman said that no complaints had been received directly. It was suggested that the resident take the complaints directly to planning enforcement or environmental health. A resident raised concerns about the discharge of water across the highway from Lavandula. The Chairman said the council had received a detailed reply from the homeowners explaining why this was necessary. It was agreed this could be dangerous in the winter conditions and that the matter had been reported to highways. A resident raised concerns about vehicles driving over verges near properties in Copse Hill Road. The item would be discussed in the Clerk's correspondence report

231120/6 **To resolve to approve the minutes of the annual meeting held on September 18th :** Council approved the minutes, and these were signed by the Chairman.

231120/7 **Matters arising:**

- I. **Allotments management and recruitment:** renewal letters had been sent out to allotment holders. Payments were due by the end of November. There were currently 8 vacant plots. It was agreed that the Clerk would advertise the availability on local social media groups and within the Bourton Browser. A budget of £50 was agreed.
- II. **Lavandula Sump Water discharge:** a detailed reply from the resident's agents had been circulated to councillors and this was noted. Water freezing across the highways was still a concern and this would be monitored. Highways had been informed.
- III. **Missing traffic signs Fosseway:** these had been reported to highways and would be replaced
- IV. **PROW Meeting:** the chairman reported on a meeting with the Public Rights of Way Officer which had been very successful. Improvements were being scheduled to both Mill Dam Path and Scare Lane and it was hoped at least one project would be carried out in the New Year. The Chairman would keep in contact with the PROW officer.

231120/8 **Planning Applications: No new applications to report.**

To note:-

Awaiting Decisions on:-

23/02845/LBC | Conversion of the attic space into a bedroom with a new timber staircase from the first floor. Addition of two small conservation roof lights | No 3 St Kellams The Square Lower Slaughter Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 2HU

23/02830/AGFO | Prior notification for a new Farm Building for hay storage with mono pitch roof | Copse Hill Farm Lower Slaughter Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 2HZ

22/04004/Ful Notice of appeal Change of Use of existing dwelling and extensions to create 40-bedroom hotel, Grafters Fosseway, Lower Slaughter GL54 2EY

The appeal was noted. It was agreed to revisit comments made on previous applications and ensure these would be carried forward to the appeal hearing.

231120/9 **To consider and approve current financial status of PC accounts.**

- I. **The financial report had been circulated** (as attached) and was approved. It was agreed that the CILS money received would be moved to reserves
- II. **To note payments sanctioned since last meeting.** Noted
- III. **To consider and authorise payments due.** Approved.

231120/10 Reports from the Wardens:

- I. **Neighbourhood Watch:-** the lights outside the Church were being replaced which would deter youths from congregating during the winter evenings.
- II. **River:-** There had been a great turnout of volunteers for clearing the river. The owners of the Mill Hotel had also supported the event and cleared their banks. Waste had been bagged and would be collected by CDC. This collection system would be used in future.
- III. **Rights of Way Report :** Scare Lane needed sweeping
- IV. **Trees** Four staked trees were being donated to the Parish Council under the Ash Dieback Replacement scheme.
- V. **Highways :** nothing to report
- VI. **Flood and Snow:** There had been issues with grit deliveries to the village, but Highways had been informed that there was a sufficient supply of grit for this winter and this would be reviewed again next year. The flood funding application had been submitted. Stuart Thomas was thanked for his continued work on this matter.

231120/11 Correspondence reviewed: the Clerk had circulated a correspondence report. It was agreed that protection of the verges outside The Pines would be raised with highways to understand if more substantial posts could be used. Cllr Grimshaw would mark the area on a Google plan for circulation to highways. The council noted that CCTV was now in place at The Park following an attempted break in and fires in the agricultural barns. Publication of the LSVN would be resuming in January and the council thanked Elaine McCormack for volunteering to take on the role of editor.

231120/12 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 22nd January 2024

Meeting ended: 19.20 p.m.

Signed _____

Date _____

Lower Slaughter Parish Council

Finance Report for Meeting of 20th November 2023

Current Financial Position (9.4)

(at 15 November 2023)

Reserves Account	£	49,786.18		
Reserved for Weir/River Repairs	£	20,000.00		
Reserved for TRO management	£	10,000.00		
Reserved for PROW Improvements	£	10,000.00		
Reserved for Village Projects	£	5,457.59		
Available Reserves	£	4,328.59	£	4,328.59
Treasurer's Account			£	8,310.19
			Total	£ 12,638.78

Receipts since last meeting on

September 18th 2023

CDC Precept	£	1,787.00
Allotment Rentals	£	132.45
CDC CILS The Old Mill, Mill Lane	£	2,563.17
	£	4,482.62

Payments made since last meeting on

September 18th 2023

James English (Bus Shelter)	£	90.00
Community Heartbeat	£	56.34
	£	146.34

Payments to be Noted/Approved by Council

Payments Sanctioned since last Meeting

Castle Water - water rates (Sept)	£	16.92
Castle Water - water rates (Oct)	£	16.92
Hugo Fox Website (Sept)	£	11.99
Finemow (Sept)	£	194.17
Hugo Fox Website (Oct))	£	11.99
Finemow (Oct)	£	194.17

Payments to be APPROVED

Additional Signature for Approval of Payments:

Initials: Date:

Signature: