

## Minutes of General Meeting

Held by virtual means on Monday 23rd November 2020, 18:00

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Councillors present: Cllrs Chapman (Acting Chair), Classen, Randles and Thomas  
In attendance: 3 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.

**201123/1 To elect the Chairman for the meeting:** In the absence of a Chair, the Parish Clerk asked for a volunteer from council to chair the meeting. Cllr Chapman volunteered and was elected to act as Chairperson.

**201123/2 Chairman's Opening Remarks:**

- Cllr Chapman thanked Members of the Public for attending the meeting and fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their continued support in these unusual and difficult times.
- Cllr Chapman also thanked Cllr Randles who represented the Council at the restricted Remembrance Day Celebrations held in the churchyard.
- Residents were informed that contractors working on behalf of Thames Water were in the Village carrying out major works in an attempt to address the water infiltration issues that continue to create problems at the village's waste water pumping station. It is hoped that the impact to the village over the next couple of weeks should be minimal.
- Residents were made aware that LS has a new Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and a useful article on this topic was published in the last edition of the LSVN.

**201123/3 Declarations of Interest:** None

**201123/4 Apologies:** - None

**201123/5 Minutes of Previous Meetings:** Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were reviewed electronically prior to the meeting and confirmed as accurate. A resolution to approve the minutes was passed and signed virtually by Cllr Chapman.

**201123/6 Matters Arising from previous General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - Planning Application for EV Charging Service Station at Gilder's Scrap Yard:** Cllr Chapman advised that the Appeal against CDC's decision to reject the application commences on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020. He also advised that the Planning Inspector would be visiting Lower Slaughter on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November for a site and location review. Cllr Thomas then gave an update on the PC's efforts and ongoing actions to try and prevent this development happening.

**201123/7 The election of a Chair and Vice Chair until the new elections in May 2021:** The PC recognise that a permanent Chair and Vice Chair need to be appointed to provide clarity and consistency

for the Council moving forward. Cllrs Chapman and Thomas were proposed and seconded as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

**201123/8 Recruitment of a new Councillor by co-option:** CDC confirmed that LSPC were free to pursue the co-option process to fill the vacancy left by our outgoing Chair, Mr Paul Sinclair. It was noted that there had been a great deal of interest expressed in serving on the Parish Council. Expressions of interest were received from three residents and Cllr Chapman confirmed that a fair process was followed for the selection of the most suitable candidate. The Clerk was asked to confirm that the necessary eligibility information had been received from all three candidates and that all three are confirmed as eligible to be co-opted. After this confirmation, the Clerk advised Council the scores allocated to each candidate after the first round of electronic voting. Candidates were referenced as Candidate A, Candidate B and Candidate C. On the basis that one Candidate emerged the 'winner', no second round of voting was required. The Parish Clerk was asked to confirm with the winning candidate that they remain willing to service on the Council, and then inform all Councillors of the outcome. Unsuccessful candidates would duly be contacted and thanked for their interest. Details of the new Councillor will be displayed on the noticeboard and website in due course.

**201123/9 Planning Applications Update:**

**20/02806/FUL Stable off Wyck Road Lower Slaughter Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 2EY**  
Proposed conversion of existing stable to form one holiday let. *Permitted by CDC.*

**20/03489/FUL Land parcel at The Gravel Pits Fosseyway Lower Slaughter Gloucestershire.** Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission 19/03919/FUL for the operation of the temporary utilities compound until 21 November 2021. *Permitted by CDC.*

**20/02979/FUL The Pines Copse Hill Road, Lower Slaughter Gloucs GL54 2HY.**  
Proposed alteration to form a dormer and stone mullion window. *Permitted by CDC.*

**20/03730/FUL East Allotment Cottage Copse Hill Road Lower Slaughter Cheltenham Gloucestershire 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. *Awaiting decision by CDC. LSPC have considered and have no comments.*

**20/03624/TCONR River Cottage the Square Lower Slaughter Gloucs GL54 2HU.**  
Yew (T1) - Reduce the height and spread of this Yew tree by approximately 2metres to previous reduction points, to leave an end height of approximately 10metres and a lateral spread at approximately 4metres. *Permitted by CDC.*

**201123/10 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 the payments due. These are also detailed in Appendix 1.

Cllr Chapman thanked Cllr Randles for her efficient collection of the allotment rentals. All were received on time.

**201123/11 Reports from Wardens:**

**11.1 River** LSPC have taken over as volunteers for routine river maintenance on a half a day a month basis. Residents are encouraged to volunteer as well.

**11.2 PROW** A thorough report was prepared and provided by Steve Randles. A meeting has been arranged with GCC Highways PROW Officer for 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 to visit the Village and review paths.

**11.3 Trees** Nothing to report on common land. It was agreed to conduct a review and create a strategy at the next meeting.

**11.4 Snow & Flood** Currently no issues. All the grit bins are full and the Village generally prepared. Cllr Chapman to discuss Snow Warden duties with Mr Barnes.

**201123/12 Highways 20 is plenty signage in Lower Slaughter**

LSPC have identified as a first initiative, the use of 20 is Plenty signage in the Village. GCC have signs that can be borrowed, and it was agreed that these would be utilised on a temporary basis. It is hoped that these signs will successfully change the behaviour of persistent offenders. The Clerk will contact Rhodri Grey to get them installed.

**201123/13 Correspondence**

**13.1 Enquiry from resident about maintenance contract for River Eye.**

Correspondence received from a river-front property owner raising concerns about the build-up of vegetation in the river and the concerns that this could increase risk of flooding.

LSPC were already aware of this and have already commenced a programme of works to tackle this issue initially through efforts of Cllrs Chapman and Thomas.

**13.2 Update on status for support for the Church including contributions towards toilet/path upgrade.** Information has been received from Cllr Randles in connection with the Church Project to install a toilet and upgrade the church path. At this stage, it looks like the project faces serious challenges and is unlikely to be progressed because of the current pandemic. LSPC are happy to receive further updates on progress on this matter.

**13.3 Request from Village Hall Committee for PC to review filing cabinets held in the village hall.** The Village Hall Committee have asked LSPC to review the filing cabinets held in the village hall. Subject to the relaxation of the current lockdown restrictions, the PC intend to undertake an audit of the information contained therein in early December.

**13.4 Letter from P. Gilder regarding highways concerns and the stable conversion on Fosseway.** There has been ongoing correspondence between the PC and Mr Peter Gilder in respect of a change of use application to convert the stables off the Wyck Rissington Road into a holiday let. The PC had submitted a road safety issue associated with this change of use to CDC and Mr Gilder was challenging the reasons for our objection directly. Ultimately it transpires that the drawings issued by Agents acting on behalf of Mr Gilder were incorrect, and we are happy to acknowledge that our concerns were not valid. LSPC will write to Mr Gilder withdrawing our concerns, but point out that this issue only arose due to the incorrect information that had been submitted with his application.

**13.5 Letter from Circle Management regarding maintenance of River Eye.**

Correspondence has been received in response to the PC's latest efforts to persuade riparian owners to remove a tree stump that is impeding the flow of the River Eye. Unfortunately, the letter received does not confirm that the impediment will be removed, and instead appears to question LSPC's competence in assessing this to be an issue. The letter also raises concerns

about Councils strategy of developing a “risk register” to monitor potential flood risks throughout the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would acknowledge the letter and advise the sender that LSPC are keen to resolve this issue amicably, but we see no alternative in the meantime but to refer this matter back to the appropriate statutory agencies for further guidance. Clerk to contact Lawrence King at CDC and discuss undercutting of the footpath with PROW Officer on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

**13.6 Enquiry via website about the use of an allotment by resident of BOTW.**

A request has been received from a resident of BOTW to take on an allotment. On the basis that we currently have BOTW residents working plots with no issues, we have responded positively to this request.

**13.7 Request for refund by allotment owner due to Bind Weed**

A request for a refund by a current allotment tenant has been received citing the presence of bind weed affecting the ability of the plot to be utilised. This has been discussed and consensus reached that this matter is outside the reasonable control of the PC and a refund will not be made. This decision has been communicated to the affected party.

**201123/14**     **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 6pm via Zoom.

**Meeting ended at 6.57pm**

Signed: *Kevin Chapman* - Chairman

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

