

Minutes of General meeting

Held on Monday 18 March 2019, 18:45 at Lower Slaughter Village Hall

Councillors present: Cllrs Chapman, Randles, Roche and Thomas.

In attendance: Liz Dowie (consultant)
11 members of the public

190318/1 Chairman's Opening Remarks

In the absence of Cllr Sinclair, Cllr Thomas chaired the meeting and welcomed all present. He sent congratulations to the Murphy family following the recent arrival of baby Hugo.

190318/2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Thomas declared an interest, as a neighbour, in item 9.1 – planning application for Lavender Cottage.

Cllrs Randles and Roche declared an interest in item 7.2 as householders directly affected by the arrangements for the filming of “Emma”.

190318/3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sinclair, due to illness, and Cllr Thomas passed on councillors' good wishes for a speedy recovery.

190318/4 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record.

190318/5 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising other than those covered elsewhere in the agenda.

190318/6 To receive comments from the public

Mr Ayers asked for an update on the installation of a dog waste bin at the end of Green Lane. This was to be discussed under item 16.2 and was brought forward in the agenda. Cotswold District Council had advised that a bin could be supplied and installed for £210 excl. VAT. If the Parish Council wished to supply the bin the installation cost would be £60 excl. VAT. The Council agreed to the cost of £210 and Cotswold District Council would be instructed to carry out the work. It was suggested that the bin might be attached to the existing post for the footpath sign. (Subsequent to the meeting Cllr Thomas contacted CDC to place the order and was advised that an amended policy had been put in place (Appendix 1) and this will now be reviewed).

Mr Ayers asked when the worn yellow lines would be reinstated on the highway and Cllr Thomas advised that GCC had been contacted and they advised that the works should be completed during the course of the coming week, weather permitting.

Mr Randles thanked councillors for their part in organising the swift repair of the sewage leak in the field adjacent to Green Lane.

Mrs Edwin asked what action had been taken regarding the maintenance of the bus shelter, which was in poor condition and needed cleaning. A quotation supplied by the Village Hall window cleaners had previously been forwarded to the Parish Council – this was £40 for the first clean and £20 thereafter. Mrs Edwin was asked to pass on the contractor's details to the Parish Council so that this might be followed up.

It was also noted that there was a very large pothole by the bus stop which was a hazard for passengers alighting from the bus. Cllr Thomas confirmed that GCC Highways had stated that they were planning to carry out improvement works around the bus stop but this was still awaited. Cllr Thomas would check again with GCC.

190318/7 Filming and Broadcasting

7.1 Filming for an episode of “Countryfile Winter Diaries” had taken place in January and this had been aired by the BBC in February.

7.2 Preparations for the filming of “Emma” had commenced on 18 March and all locations would be restored by 12 April. All residents had received a letter from the production company detailing the arrangements including filming dates and road closures. Residents present at the meeting agreed that communication had been good and that representatives of the company had visited those who had raised queries about the filming.

190318/8 Finance

8.1 Cllr Chapman reported on the financial position as at 28 February 2019. *The report was approved by the Council and signed by Cllr Randles (Appendix 2).*

8.2 Cllr Chapman reported on receipts since the last meeting which included a wayleave payment of £7.22 and a BBC filming contribution of £50.00 in respect of “Countryfile Winter Diaries”.

No payments had been made since the last meeting.

8.3 *The following payment due was approved by the Council*

PATA Payroll admin charges	£15.00	LGA 1972 s111
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8.4 Cllr Chapman had previously circulated details of tenders for the grass cutting contract. Four contractors had been approached, of which two had submitted quotations and these had been assessed by way of a scoring matrix. This had identified Thebes Ltd (T/A Bibury Garden Services) as the most competitive and Cllr Chapman proposed that this company be retained for the next 3 years on a fixed price contract and *the Council agreed to this proposal*. The specification remained the same as at present except for the addition of one small area of grass at the junction of Scare Lane and Copse Hill Road. Bibury Garden Services had also submitted a schedule of rates for additional work on the allotment area.

8.5 Cllr Chapman had identified a resident who might be able to carry out the internal audit. In addition, it was suggested by a resident that the Village Hall treasurer might pass on details of the accountant who acts for the Village Hall committee. *Since the internal auditor would need to be appointed before the next meeting, the Council delegated responsibility for finding a suitable candidate to Cllr Chapman.*

8.6 The Council carried out the annual review of the effectiveness of internal control systems and Cllr Thomas signed the summary by way of confirmation that all controls were in accordance with expected standards. (Appendix 3)

190318/9 Planning Applications

8.1 To report on earlier applications

18/01681/FUL Scrap Haulage Yard, Gilder, Fosseyway, Lower Slaughter GL54 2EY
Re-development of existing scrap yard and haulage depot to create electric car charging service station and associated works.

The case officer had reported that the plans received were incorrectly dated and the re-consultation would commence once the correct documentation had been received. It was therefore noted that an extraordinary meeting may be necessary to discuss this application.

18/04597/FUL Lavender Cottage, 15 Mill Lane, Lower Slaughter, GL54 2HX

Erection of two storey extension (revised plans). Expired 15 March 2019

The occupant of 16 Mill Lane, Mrs Higginson, made representation on this application. She advised that she still had concerns following the submission of revised plans and that she and other residents had submitted objections to Cotswold District Council. Her concerns were as follows: the house at no 16 was offset within the plot and had a smaller garden. Since the

extension would run along one third of the length of no. 16, this would cause the proposed extension to be overbearing and create a sense of being hemmed in by the property at 15 Mill Lane. The eaves height shown in the plans would be 4.2m which was in excess of the permitted height of 3m.

Another resident advised that the period for comments had been extended to 20 March. Cllr Chapman referred to the Council's policy of not generally commenting on residential applications, but leaving the planning authority to carry out its function, since any comments from the Parish Council would carry the same weight as those submitted by a neighbour. The occupant of 16 Mill Lane drew councillors' attention to the fact that the Parish Council had objected to residential applications in the past. Mr Edwin advised that he had recently asked the Parish Council to publish its policy on planning issues and Cllr Chapman advised that a policy paper would be prepared, but that it was considered more appropriate to table this after May 2019 due to the impending Parish Council elections.

The Council acknowledged that comments have been submitted on past applications where there has been cause for concern or in cases where a number of residents had concerns about an application.

Since Cllr Thomas had declared an interest in this item the remaining Councillors agreed to the request from Mrs Higginson for a site visit. Since Cllr Chapman was unable to attend until the following weekend, it was agreed that Cllrs Randles and Roche would attend on 19 March and would share their findings with Cllr Chapman, following which a decision would be made whether to submit comments to Cotswold District Council.

9.2 To consider new planning applications

There were no new applications pending.

9.3 To discuss any other planning issues

No other matters were raised.

190318/10 Highways, Traffic and Parking Report

Mr Randles reported that the Cotswold Wardens had cleared the mud on Scare Lane between the weir and the bridge and further work, including the digging of drainage channels, would be carried out on 3 April. The current state of the bridleway was unacceptable if designated as a disabled route. The staff at the Bourton Vale Equestrian Centre had also cleared mud from the route, but the poor state also hindered its use as a bridleway. It was suggested that Leanne Launchbury be requested to contact the Highways Department as well to request that this route be maintained on a regular basis. It was noted that the sign at the Bourton end of Scare Lane where the route meets the Fosse was in need of replacement since the wheelchair accessible sign was partially erased. Cotswold District Council would be asked to rectify this.

Cllr Thomas reported that Gloucestershire County Council's contractors had spent a day carrying out highways repairs and the majority of the work requested had been completed.

Cllr Roche suggested that a letter be sent to all houses on the Square and along the waterfront reminding residents of the need to park considerately and to ask them to encourage their visitors and contractors to park elsewhere.

Mr Ayers commented on the problem of parking on the grass triangle and the edging stones being moved by vehicles. Some years ago it was suggested that the kerbs were edged with granite setts, but this solution was turned down.

It was also suggested that "No Access" signs might be erected in the village, as in Upper Slaughter.

Cllr Thomas reported that Gloucestershire County Council had offered to carry out work on the kerbs outside the Church but had later withdrawn the offer.

190318/11 Village Grass Cutting and Maintenance Report

This had been covered under agenda item 8.4.

190318/12 Reports from District and County Councillors

District and County Councillors did not attend the meeting.

190318/13 Reports from Local Organisations and Charities

Mr Randles reported that the 10 people had attended the Village Fete meeting and 6 had sent their apologies. There was sufficient support for the fete to go ahead, albeit on a smaller scale. Less income would be generated, but only one bid for funding had been received – from St Mary's Church. The first committee meeting would take place on 6 April and anyone wishing to join the committee should contact Steve Randles.

190318/14 Allotments and Orchard Report

Following reports of rats on the allotments Cllr Sinclair had contacted a pest controller, and it was noted that the problem may be due to some allotment holders and residents in the vicinity keeping chickens. It was agreed that one further round of treatment would be instructed following the first visit, after which the effectiveness of the treatment would be reviewed. The pest controller's advice would be sought as to the necessity of alerting dog walkers using the allotments that treatment was to be carried out.

Cllr Thomas advised that Dick Chenery had called a meeting of the Orchard Committee which was to be held on 25th March.

190318/15 Parish Website Report

There were no items to report.

190318/16 Reports from Wardens

16.1 River – Mr Ayers reported that the reed growth in the river would need clearing by the end of the year. Cllr Roche asked Mr Ayers to provide a scope for the river works so that the Parish Council could consider the appointment of a contractor to carry out the works which Mr Ayers had carried out in previous years.

It was noted that the stone footbridge would need repairing in due course. Though a listed structure, the Highways Department had indicated that it did not fall within its responsibility. However, Mrs Edwin advised that the Highways Department had repaired the bridge in the past. Cllr Thomas had raised the issue with GCC but had received no response. He would therefore raise this with GCC again.

16.2 Rights of Way – in addition to those matters already reported under agenda item 10, it was agreed that the Accessibility Officer at Cotswold District Council would be contacted to see if assistance could be provided in getting GCC Highways to improve the footpath access for wheelchairs, in particular from Bourton along Scare Lane including improvement of the wheelchair sign at the A429.

16.3 Snow – there were no items to report.

16.4 Trees – there were no items to report.

190318/17 Annual Spring Clean

Mr Randles advised that he had provided a letter to residents for the LSVN about the Annual Spring Clean. This would take place throughout the month of April, rather than on one day. He thanked those who helped all year round to keep the village tidy and made a plea to walkers to pick up litter.

190318/18 Parish Council Elections

The Notice of Election had been published and Parish Council elections would take place on 2 May 2019. The deadline for delivery of nomination papers is 4.00pm on 3 April.

190318/19 Annual Parish Meeting

This was covered under agenda item 21.

190318/20 Correspondence

Following receipt of the letter from the Slaughters Cricket Club, Cllr Thomas had entered into further correspondence regarding the Club's request for the Parish Council to provide a letter of support for its application to secure grant funding. In a bid to boost membership the Bourton Vale and Slaughters Cricket Clubs are to amalgamate informally and a grant of £1,000 is sought from Cotswold District Council towards the cost of providing a TV screen and wifi access, with access to the bar and lounge facilities for the villagers. Whilst the Parish Council is keen to support this local facility it was considered that the Club should provide details of any covenants affecting the land, in order for the Parish Council to provide a letter of support. It was agreed that this would be added to the agenda of the May meeting and Cllr Thomas, with some assistance from Cllr Chapman, would try to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Cricket Club in the meantime to discuss the matter further.

A letter had been received from an allotment holder making some good suggestions about storage. Cllr Chapman would invite her to the next meeting of the informal working group to present her comments in person.

190318/21 Date of next meeting: Monday 20 May 2019 – Lower Slaughter Village Hall

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place immediately before the Annual Parish Council Meeting with the first meeting commencing at 6.00pm and the second meeting at 6.45pm. County Councillor Nigel Moor and District Councillor Richard Keeling would be invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting.



Signed
Chairman

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Date ...20 May 2019.....