

# SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting MINUTES

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 7.30pm – The Sports Pavilion, High Street, Handcross

Sally Mclean - Clerk to the Council Email [clerk@slaughampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@slaughampc.co.uk) Website: <http://www.slaughampc.co.uk>

Press and Public are welcome to attend - The Parish Council is an open and transparent local authority and encourages public attendance at meetings. The Council is maintaining COVID precautions. You should consider staying at home if you have tested positive.



**Present:** Cllrs Julia, Elliott, Lesley Read, Eric Prescott, Bob St George, Carole Steggles, David Dunn, Gary Marsh,

**Others present:** District Councillor Malcolm Avery, 8 members of public

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr Philip Morris
- 2. Declaration of interest from members in respect of any items on the agenda:** To record any declarations of interest. None
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting/s held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023** -To receive and accept the Minutes. APPROVED. RESOLVED
- 4. Adjournment for questions from the public:** Council to consider adjournment of the meeting in accordance with Council's Standing Orders, to receive questions from members of the public in attendance in respect of items on the agenda:

**Item 6.3 Neighbourhood Planning** – The CLT were advised at the last meeting held by Cllr Prescott that SPC were waiting to meet with the LPA housing officers to determine what the districts requirements would inform the tenure and mix.

Cllr Prescott advised that the Committee has met with the LPA. It was a constructive meeting that should allow the Council to meet their objectives and the CLTs. We will be referring this to our advisors for review.

It was questioned as to whether these requirements go further than DP31 (Affordable Housing) provision specifically DP31(4) *The Council will seek? 4. a mix of tenure of affordable housing, normally approximately 75% social or affordable rented homes, with the remaining 25% for intermediate homes, unless the best available evidence supports a different mix.*

The discussions that the CLT and SPNHP have been having is that social is more attractive to this Parish. This is alignment with the views of the Districts/Parish and the CLT, with the understanding that SPC need to understand how this will impact the valuation. They will now meet with the advisors and advise the Council and meet with the SPCLT.

With the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Neighbourhood Plan and as a previous member of Council and supporter of the Plan urge the Council to use their best endeavours to press forward with this project with the current increasing interest rates.

The Bus Shelter replacement planned can the Council ensure that the replacement is in keeping with the area. The Clerk confirmed that the shelter being discussed is rustic a rural shelter that will be in keeping and presented him with an image of the shelter to be discussed.

**Item 6.4 Planning** - Slaugham Garden Nurseries Appeal MID SUSSEX REF: AP/23/0038

Planning Inspectorate REF:APP/D3830/W/23/3320110 Land North, Staplefield Road Slaugham West Sussex: *Proposed change of use of land to a Transit Site for Gypsy/Traveler's comprising the formation of 6 Touring Caravan Pitches for nomadic use only, and the erection of 6 utility buildings, as well as the formation of a children's play area.*

MOP advised that a village meeting was held to discuss the appeal: They would like to know what the appeal consists of? and how/whether they can contribute? District Cllr Marsh advised that the appeal is an enquiry, the LPA will have their barristers present who will represent the LPA. He will discuss with the planning team as to whether the residents can add anything further to the case in advance of the appeal and connect the residents to the officers.

**Item 6.4 Planning** - West Sussex County Council re application proposals at Warninglid School - *The department for education consent has been received which will allow the County Council to dispose of the site. County have engaged planning advisors who have submitted two formal pre-application proposals to the district planning team for consideration. The first one is historic small building for conversion into two residential houses and the second one is a small-scale residential development of the neighbouring land.*

Resident adjacent to the site above have their house on the market which is proving difficult to sell due to the future uncertainty of that site and the Counties plans.

Cllr Marsh advised that the site has been under pre application discussions with the LPA which are confidential currently. However, he can confirm that the site will be in conformity with the current district and neighbourhood plan and policies and the AONB. Cllr Marsh will ask County Cllr Bruce Forbes to advise further ahead of the next meeting. The Clerk has emailed the resident confirming the Parish Councils position in accordance with the made neighbourhood plan, in that they will not support any further *small-scale residential* developments for housing outside of the allocation at St Martins Close.

Can we confirm that WSCC are not able to award themselves planning consent? – Cllr Marsh advised that the application for housing is a declassification of the site and so they are unable to award themselves with housing or other. Any application outside of the provision for a school must be presented to the LPA.

**Item 6.2 Benches on Slaugham Village Green** – The Slaugham Society Ltd - Replacement Benches Slaugham - It has been raised by Mr. Stewart Cooper, a local resident of the village, that residents have an issue with the replacement benches installed on the Green in Slaugham. Mr. Martin Lyne, a director of the Slaugham Society wished to make the Council aware that the Directors of the Slaugham Society were uninformed of any issues raised in relation to the benches. They have not been consulted on these and were not involved in the application of any grants awarded to remove and replace the benches. Mr. Martin Lyne stated that this has nothing to do with the Slaugham Society Ltd and that they do not endorse Mr. Coopers view.

**Item 6.2.4 – Members to consider the Warninglid Recreation Associations request for the Parish Council to explore acquisition of the Recreation Ground, Warninglid.** Member of the public on behalf of the residents of Warninglid. The Warninglid Residents Society have been negotiating with the district since November 2020 on the renewal a 25-year lease without resolution. The WRS have raised numerous concerns around the use of the site; the lease does not include the recreation ground; they are unable to host their own events because it's booked up; the lack of impetus from MSDC regarding the need to refurbish or replace the pavilion which was a secondhand building transferred 60 years ago. It is an old timber shed without toilets and may only have a few years of life left. The WRS are finding discussions very challenging, mostly because the people dealing with the district's assets are under short term contract and are unable to conclude negotiations to a satisfactory resolution. The WRS are not keen to sign the lease without the necessary changes or improvements being considered. It is for these reasons that they have approached Slaugham Parish Council (SPC) and ask that they consider a transfer of the site. SPC currently manages the allotments at the site, alongside the recreation ground at Handcross and the facilities at Pease Pottage. The WRS feel that the relationship between the Parish Council and WRS would be more streamlined and easier to deal with, there would be more impetus to raise money towards much needed improvements.

5. **Matters from District & County Councillors:** to receive verbal reports from representatives of other authorities.
  - 5.1. **Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC):** Press Release/s updates *cc'd in advance*.  
District Cllr Gary Marsh advised that MSDC have issued an email to Parishes that will restart and improve communications with the Parishes.
  - 5.2. **West Sussex County Council County Local Committee (WSCC/CLC) –** Press Release/s updates *cc'd in advance*.
6. **Committee Reports:** Council to consider the recommendations, receive and note committee and advisory group/updates: To approve meeting and or briefing notes received in advance of the meeting convened:
  - 6.1. **Finance & Policy Committee:** To update members on current activities: To approve meeting/note minutes. Nothing new to report. Meeting due in October/November to review budget.
  - 6.2. **Recreation:** To update members on current activities: To approve meeting/note minutes from meetings held:
    - 6.2.1. Members to consider the quote recommended by Committee for the replacement bus shelter by Nymans, Handcross papers *cc'd in advance*:
    - 6.2.2. Littlethorpe Surrey £13342.50 inc. delivery and installation. Amendment 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 £15586 APPROVED. RESOLVED There may be some additional groundwork required. This will be quoted for separately.
    - 6.2.3. Members to consider S106 application for the replacement shelter referenced 6.2.1 *cc'd in advance* APPROVED. RESOLVED
    - 6.2.4. Members to consider the Warninglid Recreation Associations request for the Parish Council to explore acquisition of the Recreation Ground, Warninglid *see item 4*. The members agreed to consider the acquisition APPROVED. RESOLVED. The Clerk was instructed to schedule a meeting with the leisure team at MSDC to discuss this proposal and other matters raised in relation to other facilities within the parish. District Cllr Marsh & Prescott advised that the timing of the request is problematic, but feasible considering the current multifaceted management in place.
  - 6.3. **Neighbourhood Planning: Land at St Martin Close** - To update members on current activities: To approve meeting/note minutes from meetings held: The Neighbourhood Plan indicates that the site is suitable for development – Update members on current progress and future meetings: *See item 4*
  - 6.4. **Planning Committee:** Members to consider updates: To approve meeting minutes of meeting/notes 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 *cc'd in advance*. DM/22/3873 | Proposed conversion of the approved annex on the site to a single 2no. bedroom dwellinghouse with associated works. (Amended plans received 05.07.2023 showing corrected red line application site boundary, parking layout and access arrangement) | The Armoury Warninglid Lane Warninglid Haywards Heath West Sussex RH17 5TQ. Cllr David Dunn advised that this is ongoing, the boundary is incorrect and there has been a change of ownership. There is an issue with regards a right of way, that was owned by the stable block which has passed back to the Armoury. There are many objections the proposals need to support to what they are saying. There is a new planning officer taking over the case. The information coming out from the LPA does not correlate with that that is being issued to the Parish Council. It is the aim to bring this before the Committee at the district, Cllr Dunn to coordinate representation with WRS.
7. **Chairman's Report:** to receive verbal report for the Chair: Nothing new to report.
8. **Clerks Report –** to receive verbal or written report from the Clerk papers *cc'd in advance*.  
Informal Councillors gathering scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> September. This session is a refresher under new council for existing and guidance for new Members. We will examine the Council's standing orders and other associated regulations. We will also review the project list, their status and allocate champions and resources to those projects. A review of the S106 contributions. An email with the relevant information will be issued to the Council ahead of this session.
9. **Finance Matters Payments and receipts** The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve: Bank Reconciliation for month June 2023 Approval in line with scheme delegation (*Ref: Bank Payment July cc'd in advance*) **RECOMMENDATION:** The Committee approves the schedule of payments for 23<sup>rd</sup> June – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 APPROVED. RESOLVED Proposed Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Dunn
  - 9.1. Members to review and approve the requests for grant donations Grants/Donations - *The Council under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to spend a limited amount of money on purposes not covered by other statutory powers. The appropriate sum for section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for Parish and Town Councils in England for 2023/24 is £9.93 per elector.*
  - 9.2. Members are asked to consider the following donations: £250 grant to each charity Proposed Cllr Prescott, Second Cllr Holborn APPROVED. RESOLVED
    - 9.2.1. The Macmillan Trust <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>
    - 9.2.2. Kent & Surrey Air Ambulance <https://aakss.org.uk/>
    - 9.2.3. Dementia Alzheimer's <https://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/>
  - 9.3. Members are asked to consider the acquisition of Unknown Tommy Statues ahead of Remembrance Day – The statues pay homage to fallen heroes. They serve as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by Britain's armed forces throughout history a focal point for reflection and remembrance within the community. This is also supporting the work at RBLI providing support and care to veterans and their families *papers cc'd in advance £200 per statue*. The Clerk to order one for each village £700. Proposed Cllr Prescott, Second Cllr Holborn APPROVED
10. **Correspondence/Information Items/Publications/Consultations:** (*Correspondence cc'd in advance to members*)
  - 10.1. To receive an update on the Handcross Hardware, Community Shop Survey Results – This is a survey from the Handcross Hardware store to understand more about what people in Handcross and the wider Slaugham parish want from the shops in Handcross and whether there is a need for a community owned general store. To be allocated to the meeting planned for the 7<sup>th</sup> September to identify an owner who can coordinate requirements and initiate feasibility study.

**11. Highways/Footpaths:** to review highways projects/items.

- 11.1. Active Communities - Council to consider Salt/Grit Data ahead of the winter *papers cc'd in advance*: Members to check the bins and advise so the Clerk can complete the order.
- 11.2. To initiate the traffic calming project that will explore procurement and installation of additional Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – To be allocated to the Project List. Cllr Marsh will discuss this with Cllr Forbes to expedite confirmation of the pole locations, what if any work is required by County etc. where possible and ask that Alan Demby (Richard Spellers replacement) attend a Parish Council meeting.

**12. Police / NHW Report / Resilience Group Reports**

- 12.1. Crime Reports cc'd members – Updates issued to members in advance.

**13. Any other matters that the Chairman wishes to raise for future discussion:**

**14. Date of next meeting/s – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_