

SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting MINUTES

Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7.30pm – The Sports Pavilion, High Street, Handcross



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

Press and Public are welcome to attend - **Public attendance at Parish Council meetings** - The Parish Council is an open and transparent local authority and encourages public attendance at meetings. However, the Council is maintaining COVID precautions. You should not attend a meeting in person if: -

- you have coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature, loss or change to sense of smell or taste, a new continuous cough.
- if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or are waiting for a test result.

Keeping us all safe: When you attend the meeting, keep yourself and others safe by following the Government's guidance at all times.

Present: Cllrs Julia Elliott, Eric Prescott, Bob St George, Lorette Holborn, Jane MacNaughton, David Dunn, Lesley Read,

Others Present: District Councillor Kristy Adams, District Councillor Gary Marsh, County Councillor Bruce Forbes, 7 members of public

1. **Apologies for Absence:** To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr Earle
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 held on 26th January 2023** -To receive and accept the Minutes Proposed Cllrs David Dunn, Second Cllr Jane MacNaughton **APPROVED**
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

Member of Public –St Martins Close 6.3 – As a previous member of Council from the conception of the neighbourhood plan in 2010 to 2015. There are two areas of concern within the report, what is built and how it is achieved. The comments are based on having being Involved during that time.

With regard to “what is built” throughout the planning process from the very early exhibitions and meetings it was clear that the underlying principles of neighbourhood planning was that you could have a local development for local people and this could be achieved a St Martin Close as the land is in the ownership of the Parish Council. The intention was to use that site to maximise affordable housing in perpetuity. Together with other housing needs of the Parish and to finance reprovision of the Parish Hall. To build a number of private houses on that site that would allow those things to happen. The opportunity to make this a really special site which the Parish Council can be proud of is unlikely to happen again. The Parish Council should do all it can to meet these needs.

The concept of the CLT delivering the housing in perpetuity and the hall was supported by the Council at that time. That the Parish are very lucky to have a dedicated group who took on the task of establishing the CLT. They have the expertise in carrying this project through with the support of Action in Rural Sussex (AiRs), who assisted in delivering these types of projects across Sussex. They do not believe that this site was gifted to the Parish for it to deliver the minimum requirement of affordable housing. They believe that there is no legal requirement for the Parish Council to maximise the income on a project of this size if it would be benefiting the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of this area.

They believe that the statement on the website that sets the objective for disposal of the site in accordance with Section 127 of the Local Government Act 1972. is disappointing that the primary objective should be to deliver the very special development that the Parish had promised, they urge the Council to reconsider the proposals currently being considered for St Martins Close East and that the CLT is included as a medium to deliver the affordable housing and hall.

Member of the Public – St Martins Close 6.3 – As a previous Chair of the Council having served 4 years during the second and successful delivery of the Slaugham Neighbourhood Plan (SPNHP). Many hours spent working towards the development of St Martin Close East with the aim of creating a development that would be a flagship example of affordable housing development not only in handcross but in Mid Sussex.

The SNHP states – proposals should provide a suitable mix of dwelling types and sizes to meet the needs of current and future households. Furthermore, it was always inferred that these affordable houses should be affordable in perpetuity. Therefore, I am aghast to see the proposals in appendix 2 of the schedule it is not so much a flagship as a tugboat with just 9 dwellings the minimum 30% laid down by MSDC, of those, 9 – 6 are 1-bedroom dwellings and 3 are two bed dwellings, this manifestly does not fulfil the NHP objectives. Indeed, the unit square footage of the affordable housing in the schedule is just 19.1% of the total area. Retired people looking at the 1-bedroom option will find they are far removed from shops, surgery and so on whilst young couples who subsequently start a family will need to move on. There should be more houses in total with a mix of 2 and 3 bedrooms with one or two single bedroom dwellings. It seems that the Council's advisors have been given the wrong terms of reference and I ask members of the Council to revisit the project to amend the current proposals and create a development worthy of the site.

Cllr Prescott advised that the report is not on the agenda for this evening. However, the attendees written submissions were previously received and have been captured and are being considered along further comments from the CLT and others shared at a meeting of the Committee held on the 20th February. These have been shared with the Councils advisers and will be discussed at the next convenient meeting. The Committee and the CLT are not that far apart that there is a little bit of entrenchment on both sides that need to be aligned.

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 Kristy Adams –

Introduced Malcom Avery who will be standing at the May elections Conservative for Cuckfield & Bolney to include Slaugham & Warninglid

- Mid Sussex District Council approved its Corporate Plan and Budget for 2023/24 at a meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 1 March 2023. The budget includes increases to some fees and charges to help offset the rising cost of providing Council services. Council Tax will increase by 2.75%, which is £4.95 for an average Band D property, but which is a lower increase than permitted by the Government's cap. This is the first budget post covid where the council are not having to draw on reserves to support our day-to-day work. The budget was unanimously approved by Councillors on a cross-party basis.
- Investing in the waste and recycling service by increasing the number of bulky and garden waste collections and adding those on the waiting list.
- NPPF levelling up and regeneration bill has now closed. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities was seeking views on how they might develop new national planning policy to support their wider objectives. The Government will respond to the consultation by Spring 2023, publishing the NPPF revisions 'as part of this', so that 'policy changes can take effect as soon as possible. Cllr Adams made a submission on behalf of resident's:
 - Government should be considering the fact that 60% of Sussex is AONB and National Park. That there is huge pressure on the remaining 40% of land area to produce the remaining housing, that this is unreasonable, they should therefore apply a calculation to allow for that.
 - The latest census information should be used to calculate and decide how much housing is required over a 5-year land supply.
 - The Councils submission was detailed and took several officers over a week to complete. The response called for more flexible options for calculating housing numbers and recognition of the AONB and National Park.
 - Enhancing village fund details coming forward in the future from Council.

District Cllr Gary Marsh – Nothing additional to add

5.2. West Sussex County Council County Local Committee (WSCC/CLC) – Press Release/s updates *cc'd in advance*

Remove CLC no longer exist.

County Cllr Bruce Forbes –

- Traffic lights fines applied to gas works not advertised in Pease Pottage recently.
- The County Council budget has been approved. The budget includes a plan to increase the County Council element of council tax by 2.99% - plus an additional 2% for adult social care – making a total increase of 4.99%. This would see an increase for an average Band D property of £77.67 per year or around £1.50 per week.
- County Local Committees have been disbanded. The funding opportunities that were scheduled at these meetings are being looked at.

Cllr Prescott asked for an update on the plans for the now redundant school at Warninglid. The mature oak trees on the site need considering. Cllr Marsh advised that a TPO can be applied for by a member of the public but the trees need to be under threat. Cllr Prescott will apply for a TPO when the future of the school is known. Cllr Forbes to advise.

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:

6.1.1. Members to schedule a meeting to review the effectiveness of its system of internal control which shall be in accordance with proper practices and adopt Council Financial Regulations TBC 20th March 2023

6.2. **Recreation:** Meeting scheduled for the 16th March 2023 at 7.30pm.

6.3. **Neighbourhood Planning: Land at St Martin Close -** The Neighbourhood Plan indicates that the site is suitable for development between 2017 – 2022 – Update members on current progress with options and lawful requirements of the site pending document review and future meetings: 9th March 2023 at 7.30pm
Cllr Prescott advised that Committee met on the 20th February as previously stated and are considering the comments and correspondence received with Councils advisers.

Member of the CLT advised that there is a time limit for the judicial review. That they do not wish to proceed with this but will need a response to their letter setting out their position. The Clerk suggested that the Committee meet next week to sign off the response and consider the comments received in conjunction with an update from their consultants. Cllr Gary Marsh advised that a statement made within the letter to the Council indicating that s106 developers proceeds will go to the Parish from the strategic development at the Pease Pottage is inaccurate. The monies are being spent within the site itself.

The SNHP2 the successful adopted plan does fulfill the objectives set out. It is still the intention of the Council to deliver the wants and needs of the Parish.

6.4. **Planning Committee:** Members to consider updates: To approve meeting minutes of meeting/notes *cc'd in advance*
The Hollies, enforcement update – This is ongoing and has not been remedied.

A fence has been built on the Highways land on the junction in Warninglid opposite the Half Moon PH. The reflectors have been ripped. This has been reported to enforcement team.

7. **Chairman's Report:** to receive verbal report for the Chair:
- 7.1. Nymans – To meet up on village enhancements Cllr Prescott to be included. The Clerk emailed the community engagement officer but hasn't heard back yet. Cllr Elliott to set up a meeting with the Manager
 - 7.2. Traffic Calming – the SID outside Truckers Hatch is not working again. We need to coordinate a sub- committee under to look at the location's additional units etc. Cllr Bob St George stated that you cannot remove it to change the battery safely with a ladder as it's too close to the highway with the incline. This is what the Council wanted to avoid and feels they were poorly advised in that a permanent sign (VAS) should have been installed as originally requested. Cllr Forbes may be able to assist changing this over the Clerk and Cllr Prescott to look at it with the planning team.
8. **Clerks Report** – to receive verbal or written report from the Clerk papers cc'd in advance
- 8.1. To remind members of the elections timetable <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/elections-voting/upcoming-elections/>
 - 8.2. **The Annual Parish Meeting.** The Local Government Act states that every parish must hold Parish Meeting a year. This meeting must be held between 1st March and 1st June and proceedings must not begin before 6pm. This is a meeting where the parish council report to its electorate on what it has accomplished in the preceding year, Electors, public and press are invited are the to hear reports from the Chair, District & County Cllrs. **AGREED 18th May 2023**
 - 8.3. **The Annual Meeting of the Council** In an election year, the "old Council" retires on the Monday following the day of elections, when the new Council comes into being. The new Council must hold its Annual (and first) Meeting within a fortnight from that Monday. In any other year, the Council must hold its Annual Meeting on any day in May. **AGREED 11th May 2023**
 - 8.4. Members to consider dog report and collection service issues and advise: Bin 356 Covert Mead/Horsham Road junction was removed and replaced with a smaller bin by 10ltrs. Residents have complained the bin is now overflowing weekly.
The contractors removed the bin and left the old post and installed a new post and bin, leaving quite a mess. District Cllr Gary Marsh asked the Clerk to wait ahead of looking at a new contractor and forward the information to him as this is affecting other parishes with new developments.
 - 8.5. Code of Conduct – Members are asked to ADOPT the Code of Conduct Proposed Cllr Prescott Second Cllr Holborn **RESOLVED**
 - 8.6. Standing Orders Review - Members are asked to resolve to accept Councils Standing Orders Cllr Elliott Second Cllr Prescott
 - 8.7. Members are asked to adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge – APPROVED Proposed Cllr Holborn Second Cllr Elliott **RESOLVED**
9. **Finance Matters Payments and receipts** The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve: Bank Reconciliation for month January 2023 Approval in line with scheme delegation (*Ref: Bank Payment Analysis attached*) **RECOMMENDATION:** The Committee approves the schedule of payments for February (part March) February 2023 – Proposed Cllr Prescott Second Cllr Dunn
Total Payments: £10,606.79 **VAT** £689.19 **Payments** £9,917.60
Total Receipts: £1,519.45
- | Bank Statement Account Name (s) | Statement Date | Page No | Balances |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------|
| Treasurers | | | £1,001.00 |
| Business | | | £78,144.97 |
| Total at the Bank | | | £79,145.97 |
10. **Correspondence/Information Items/Publications/Consultations:** (*Correspondence cc'd in advance to members*)
11. **Highways/Footpaths:** to review highways projects/items
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:**
- Cllr Bob St George and the Dudley House team were thanked for refilling the grit bins. MSDC Masterplan Finches/Hemsleys will not be started for another year and there may not be enough money to complete the project. It is this Councils view that by pushing this out another year will incur further increases in costs. The Clerk has not received a response from Rob Anderton MSDC Director Contracts, surrounding the £80k monies allocated from Handcross Hoadlands to the project this Pease Pottage. District Cllr Gary Marsh to find out more.
- Meeting Closed 20.50pm**
14. **Date of next meeting/s – 30th March 2023 7.30pm**

Signed: _____ Date: _____