

SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting MINUTES

Thursday 31st March 2022 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>

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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 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.
- if you have been instructed by the NHS to self-isolate.
- you have recently returned from travel abroad and should be either self-isolating or quarantining.

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

- wear a face covering, unless exempt, until seated.
- maintain some distance from others.

Present: Cllrs Julia Elliott, Michael Earle, David Dunn, Lorette Holborn, Lesley Read, Bob St George, Jane MacNaughton, Colin Smith

Others Present: Sally Mclean (Clerk) District Councillor Gary Marsh, District Councillor Jenny Edwards, 18 members of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence:** To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr Eric Prescott, County Cllr Bruce Forbes
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 24th February 2022** To receive and accept the Minutes Cllr David Dunn Seconded Cllr Lesley Read 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:

Members of the Public in relation to Item 6.4.1 - Slaugham Garden Nursery, Staplefield Road, Slaugham – To update members on recent activities taking place at the site, in addition to information received in relation to works taking place to allow for the provision of a traveller's encampment.

Members of the village raised concerns surrounding current recent clearance activities at the site. It has been reported to them that the site is being prepared for travellers and have no reason to disbelieve this information, but are anxious to ensure steps are taken to discourage this. There is an immediate concern that works with large machinery will continue throughout the easter break causing much disruption and wish to understand who to contact to stop this should it continue. The residents have written to Andrew Clarke at MSDC Planning to raise these issues and others as they believe that planning breaches have occurred in which conflict with Districts enforcement charter and preventative measures are required to protect the site and surrounding amenities. The residents request that the Council do everything in their power to support them and prevent further disruption.

District Cllr Gary Marsh advised the following based on correspondence received and issues raised:

- Tree Removal – Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) MSDC are unable to apply TPO's to land in the ownership of WSCC Highways. Highways have inspected the site and have not taken issue with the works taken place on the verge. Cllr Marsh will explore an application for TPO's with the District Tree Officer for the SSI land adjacent.
- Environmental Agency (EA) Flooding – The removal of trees from the verge are likely to increase flooding further down the lane where the area is already very problematic. This will require Highways and the EA to resolve. Residents request that preventive measures are considered before wet weather – Cllr Marsh asked for the relevant information/evidence is forwarded to him. He will inspect the site with County Cllr Bruce Forbes.
- The Forestry Commission – They have attended site and are satisfied that no tree of significant importance has been felled. The landowner has not yet breached the volume of up to 5 cubic metres of growing trees permitted per calendar quarter, or they would be required to provide evidence of what felling took place and when in order to demonstrate this.
- MSDC LPA (local planning authority) officers have inspected the site on a number of occasions and to date there is no evidence of any wrong doing and no lawful action the Local Planning Authority can take at this time. The owner of the site and the Councils legal department/enforcement team have been put on notice should anything untoward happen the LPA have the ability to apply a stop notice with immediate effect.
- Traveller Sites – Mid Sussex currently have adequate provision of sites and are not currently looking for further allocations. The landowner would need to submit their site for consideration, to qualify which must be supported by evidence of the suitability, availability and deliverability of the site for such use.
- The owner has advised the LPA that the site is reverting to a garden nursery.
- The LPA ask that the residents remain vigil and contact Cllr Marsh or Andy Clarke immediately should the situation change.
- Cllr Julia Elliott suggests that a portfolio of the information above is provided to Cllr Marsh and Cllr Forbes so that efforts can be coordinated to look at preventative measures for potential flooding, heathy tree removal and unlawful development at the site.

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 *cc'd in advance* District Cllr Gary Marsh
 - The District Plan have written to Secretary of State no reply has yet been received
 - The budget for next year has been approved and Hemsleys Finches Masterplan in included for the year.
 - 5.2. **West Sussex County Council County Local Committee (WSCC/CLC)** – Press Release/s COVID updates *cc'd in advance*. NONE PRESENT



- 6. Committee Reports:** to receive and note committee and advisory group updates
The Committee Chairmen will provide an update, Council to consider the RECOMMENDATIONS:
- 6.1. **Finance & Policy Committee:** Budget Review Meeting to be scheduled 12th April TBC.
- 6.2. **Recreation: To update members on current activities: To approve meeting/note minutes 15th March 2022 - APPROVED**
- 6.2.1. Security Gate Handcross – All papers to include recommendation cc'd in advance – The Committee considered four quotations based on agreed design TSM Ltd - Total package price including material, labour, testing and commissioning will be: £4,379.10 plus VAT - **APPROVED**
- 6.2.2. Bus Stop Pease Pottage – Installed on the 8th March 2022 – Committee to look at Bus Stop by Nymans in Handcross and London Road, Pease Pottage.
- 6.2.3. Benches / Planters – £960 quoted for the materials for the new planters, no labour **APPROVED**. The Clerk investigating logistics for delivery and installation of the new benches. Cllr Read to share details of other bench providers and report back to Recreation.
- 6.3. **Neighbourhood Planning:**
Land at St Martin Close - The Neighbourhood Plan indicates that the site is suitable for development between 2017 – 2022 – The Clerk advised that there a number of covenants and a right of way across the land leading to St. Martins Close (West). The Council are in negotiations with the land owner developers with regard to release of covenants/right of way reciprocatively.
- 6.4. **Planning Committee:** Members to consider updates: To approve meeting minutes 24th February 10th March 24th March **APPROVED**
- 6.4.1. Slaugham Garden Nursery, Staplefield Road, Slaugham – To update members on recent activities taking place at the site, in addition to information received in relation to works taking place to allow for the provision of a traveller's encampment. See Item 4.
- 7. Chairman's Report:** to review Chairman's updates
- 7.1. **Nymans** – The Clerk to organise a meeting with the manager Nymans.
- 8. Clerks Report – Governance**
- 8.1. Annual Parish Meeting – *Local Government Act 1972. S9 and S13 and Part 3 of Schedule 12* – Members to agree date for the meeting and speakers – 28th April 2022 at 8.15pm which will follow Full Council which will start at the earlier time of 6.00pm.
- 8.2. Members to consider two additional litter bins and replacing damage, tired dog bins. The Clerk to provide costs.
- 9. Finance Matters Payments and receipts** The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve: Bank Reconciliation for month February 2022 Approval in line with scheme delegation RESOLVED
(Ref: Bank Payment Analysis March 2022 attached) **RECOMMENDATION:** The Committee approves the schedule of payments for March 2022 –
Bank Reconciliation February 2022
- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Treasurers | £1,000.00 |
| Business Investment | £70,066.05 |
| Total at the Bank | £71,066.05 |
| Total Payments £23,238.65 VAT | £3,075.70 Total Net £20,162.95 |
- Proposed Cllr Earle Second Cllr Dunn **APPROVED**
- 10. Correspondence/Information Items/Publications/Consultations:** (Correspondence cc'd in advance to members)
- 10.1. Mims Davies MP Letter to the Secretary of State The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP – Following up the letter requesting urgent assistance from Council Leader Cllr Jonathan Ash-Edwards outlining the impact of the current methodology regarding housing and the impact of the waited revisions to an updated planning white Paper.
- 11. Highways/Footpaths:** to review highways projects/items
- 11.1. High Beeches Lane B2110 – Members to consider (TRO) to investigate speed reduction/traffic calming requirements from the High Street junction to High Beeches Gardens. More information required on application process, the Clerk to contact County on what is required, further assistance is required to progress.
Cllr Earle is investigating current SIDs in place as the batteries need changing weekly and exploring replacement solar options.
- 12. Police / NHW Report / Resilience Group Reports**
- 12.1. Crime Reports cc'd members – Updates issued to members in advance
- 12.2. EPLG Meetings/Updates – Updates issued to members in advance
- 13. Any other matters that the Chairman wishes to raise for future discussion:**

Cllr Dunn – Wrote to South East Water on the Future Water Supplies Consultation on behalf of Council – The consultation are asking for views on the emerging regional water resources management plan for the south east. To read all the documents in full and complete the consultation survey, visit the Water Resources South East's [Water Resources South East \(engagementhq.com\)](https://www.waterresourcesoutheast.co.uk/engagement)

Cllr Smith – Vehicle Crash Barrier, Furnace Pond – Confirmation has been received that a barrier will not be installed in this location

Cllr St George – Additional Jubilee Funding for Street Parties, Cllr Earle to investigate the budget ahead of the next finance meeting for consideration.

Date of next meeting/s – 28th April 2022 at 6.00pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____