

SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting MINUTES

Thursday 30th September 2021 at 8.00pm – Handcross 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.
- 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 meetings, employees and visitors safe: When you attend the meeting, keep yourself and others safe by following the Government's guidance at all times.

Our safety measures require:

- wearing a face covering, unless exempt, until seated.
- maintaining some distance from others.
- using the hand sanitiser provided upon entrance to and exit from the meeting room.



Present: Cllrs Julie Elliott (chair), Eric Prescott, Lesley Read, Lorette Holborn, Colin Smith,

Others Present: 4 members of the public

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** To receive and accept apologies for absence Cllr Nick Dale, Bob St George, Michael Earle County Councillor Bruce Forbes, District Councillor Gary Marsh
- 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 12th August 2021:** To receive and accept the Minutes Cllr Eric Prescott, Second Cllr Lesley Read
- 4. Casual Vacancy Co-option** This Council publicised members vacancy in the villages of Handcross & Pease Pottage, Warninglid & Slaugham ward for the statutory period s.87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the 1972 Act") for the receipt of petitions for election from 10 electors or more and to date no valid notifications have been received. The Council are therefore permitted to co-opt in accordance with (Rule 6 of 1986 Rules and s87 Local government Act 1972).
 - Mr David Dunn – Warninglid & Slaugham
Mr Dunn is a returning Council member. It was proposed by Cllr Elliott, seconded by Cllr Prescott that David be co-opted onto the Parish Council. The members vote in favour.
 - Ms Lorraine Carvalho - Warninglid & Slaugham
Lorraine provided a resume of her interests to the Council in advance of the meeting. Cllr Elliott, seconded by Cllr Read that Lorraine be co-opted onto the Parish Council. The members vote in favour.

If present, a candidate who is co-opted will sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, including an undertaking to abide by the Parish Council's Code of Conduct, and may take office thereafter. If not present, a co-opted candidate will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office either before or at the next meeting of the Council. The co-opted councillor will complete a Register of Interests form.

- 5. 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.
Please note all COVID guidelines must be adhered to:

Two members of the public - A big thank you to the Council particularly the Clerk Sally Mclean for all of her hard work from the invites, to making sure the equipment was in the right place on the day, setting up the hall for the event held for a very special occasion to celebrate the life of Cllr Andrew MacNaughton. Thank you to the Council for letting Jane have the hall and for re-naming it in memory of Andrew. It was a lovely afternoon and had Andrew been there he would have loved it.

Two members of the public - Item 7.2.3.1. Beech Tree Recreation Ground – Members to consider correspondence received in relation to tree surgery requested on the Beech Tree – To remove overhang that is encroaching the garden and crown the tree by 25/30% to allow additional light into the garden. The Council and the owners of the adjacent property have obtained independent surveys/recommendations and quotes for the tree.

After discussion the Council advised that they support their contractors report in that the Tree is not overgrown but it is exhibiting natural growth habit for its age which is estimated to be at least 175 years and in rude health. It is his view as an Arborist that the Beech needs no work at all from a technical point of view.

The owner of the adjacent property is entitled to remove overhanging limbs back to the boundary line. However, this should be done to British Standard 3998 and may be subject to MSDC planning conditions. He strongly disagrees with the idea of crown reduction, this will in time greatly accelerate the demise of a fine tree.

The Council are responsible for the wellbeing of the tree for the benefit of the whole community. It is an asset for those that live and visit the recreation ground. It is a wildlife habitat that provides much to the environment and provides natural break from the development itself. There is nothing wrong with the tree other than it is encroaching on the fence.

In conclusion the Council resolved that their contractor will remove the overhanging limbs that are encroaching the adjacent

property and balance the tree, this will in turn thin the tree.

Any additional trees that are to be planted on the ground will not be planted near the adjacent properties. There will be no new paths installed on the Recreation Ground.

- 6. Matters from District & County Councillors:** to receive verbal reports from representatives of other authorities
- 6.1. **Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC):** Press Release/s COVID updates *cc'd in advance* *None present*
- 6.2. **West Sussex County Council County Local Committee (WSCC/CLC)** – Press Release/s COVID updates *cc'd in advance* *None Present*
- 7. Committee Reports:** To receive and note committee and advisory group updates: To ratify all decisions made at the following informal meetings held online under scheme delegation, and approve the minutes issued *cc'd in advance*
The Committee Chairmen will provide an update, Council to consider the RECOMMENDATIONS:
- 7.1. Finance & Policy**
- 7.1.1. To consider and APPROVE the Annual Return External Auditors Report. To note any comments made
APPROVED
- 7.2. Recreation:** The Committee met on the 19th/26th August: The Committee to provide updates and/or recommend the following works:
- 7.2.1. Security gate improvements Handcross Recreation Ground – Further information has been requested from the providers to ensure that these meet the security objectives of the Committee. Cllr Read to chase the quotes based on the diagram provided. The budget was set at £7k. The Committee meet next Tuesday to resolve.
- 7.2.2. The refurb/replacement of 3 Bus Stops 1 in Handcross 2 in Pease Pottage – The Committee have received various quotes for plastic and wooden shelters. Recent feedback received from residents is that a wooden shelter is preferred. The Committee were instructed to push forward with the wooden shelter quotes and resolve on Tuesday with a view to progressing with the order and installation.
- 7.2.3. Boundary Handcross Recreation Ground – Update
- 7.2.3.1. Beech Tree Recreation Ground – Members to consider correspondence received in relation to works requested on the tree see item 5
- 7.2.4. Benches Handcross and Pease Pottage – Cllr Read advised that the two donated benches are now in position, we now need to order the other 4.
- 7.2.5. St Dunstan's Land - The Council resolved to rename the site "Knape's Field" after Mr Bert Knape who *brought his family to Handcross from Manchester. Bert needed St Dunstan's help due to partial blindness and had a small chicken farm and provided eggs for his family and local community See [HERE](#).*
- 7.2.6. Park Road Playground Slaugham – Council to consider extending the lease for the playground at Park Road Slaugham *papers cc'd in advance* – The Council wish to reiterate their previous position in that they do not wish to extend the lease. The site is challenging to find outside of the village due to its position, coupled with the problematic access which prevents Councils contractors from gaining adequate access to sufficiently maintain it. Historically the Council agreed to take on the lease for the purposes of insurance but now feel this would be better administrated by a local group/trust. In addition to this they can access the same funding that the Council can or approach the Council for grant funding to assist with the management of the site. The Council propose that they use the current S106 funding available to bring the playground to include the boundary to an acceptable position in accordance with the current lease and transfer the site to either the Slaugham Society or Community Land Trust, this would need to be agreed in advance in order to apply for funding.
- 7.2.7. Pease Pottage – The Clerk to update members in relation to the area outside the Black Swan known as the as the Village Green. The Council to consider future maintenance/improvements etc.
- 7.3. Neighbourhood Planning:**
- Land at St Martin Close - The Neighbourhood Plan indicates that the site is suitable for development between 2017 – 2022 – To update Council on meetings held the options and considerations, site updates and next steps. The Committee are discussing options with their consultants which is ongoing.
The plan review is not due until the District Plan Review has been completed which is expected Summer 2022.
- 7.4. Planning Committee:** Members to consider updates
- 8. Chairman's Report:** to receive verbal report from the Chairman
- Nymans Update:**

Nymans Café and WC improvements

They hope that the new café will be completed by early 2022. The work to the existing café is complete and is working much better for staff and visitors. We have opened the new WC next to the café including a Changing Place facility, which has been much appreciated by those using it.

Cottage refurbishments in Handcross

You will see quite a bit of activity on some of our properties in Handcross and on the Staplefield Rd.

Chodd's Farmhouse, next to Handcross Hardware refurbishment work will take place between now and December. When completed the cottage will be rented as a holiday cottage, which we hope will bring business to the local economy. The contractors are well briefed on making sure the work they do does not impact on Handcross High Street. They will take deliveries down Chodd's Lane, they are also aware not to park on the High Street and again will use the lane and Chodd's Barn. Currently the contractors are working out how best to connect the cottage to mains drainage, this could necessitate some work in the High Street itself by we are hoping to avoid this.

Visitors

We have continued to welcome visitors throughout the year and whilst we are not receiving the number of visitors we did before the pandemic visitors are steadily returning. We have a number of exciting visitor programmes on offer in coming months including a sparkly decorated Christmas and then in February we will be working with a company called Raymond Gubbay to have an evening lights offer for three weeks. More information to follow and we will make sure that the Parish Council and immediate neighbours are able to visit. We are working closely with the contractors to make sure that this late opening does not impact on neighbours.

Conservation

We continue to have to respond to Ash dieback in the woods and will sadly be having to remove a significant number of affected trees over the next year. Whilst we lose trees due to Ash dieback we are now able to start to plant trees in our field alongside the A23, this will over the next 3-5 year be planted with blossom trees and natives to create a new woodland approx. 4ha. Children at Handcross school have been growing oaks from acorns for us to use as part of the planting. In the garden we are currently preparing the ground to the south of the gardens to sow wildflower seeds to improve the biodiversity of the land which was once dairy pasture.

Cllr Prescott suggests that a more informed discussion is required with the Trust. So much is taken from the village, with traffic etc being that Nymans is the second most visited site, we need to understand what are the Trust going to offer to offset this. Cllr Elliott and the Clerk to arrange an update meeting with the Trust.

High Speed Broadband Coos Lane Project – BT Open Reach/West Sussex Government Funding available to improve it but residents of Covert Mead needed to be included to enable them to qualify for the funding. Currently only 18 signed up 25 are needed. Cllr Prescott has just completed this for Warninglid and suggest that those running the project advise residents that there is no contract required they just need to express an interest, they are not committing to take it.

Clerks Report – to receive Clerk updates

9. **Finance Matters Payments and receipts** The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve: Bank Reconciliation for month April 2021 Approval in line with scheme delegation (*Ref: papers attached*) **RECOMMENDATION Approve**
The Committee approves the schedule of payments for August/September 2021 **APPROVED**

Treasurers 31/08/2021	£1,000.00
Business Investment 31/08/2021	£84,758.37

Total Payments 10th August – 31st August: £15,473.93

VAT £12.98

Net £15,460.95

Total Payments September: £26,756.09

VAT £2,229.77

Net £24,526.32

10. **Correspondence/Information Items/Publications/Consultations:** (*Correspondence cc'd in advance to members*)

10.1. Local, Conventional Rail Re-openings - Letter from the Dft cc'd on advance – Council to consider response to consultation received from a grassroots advocacy association looking for support reopening rail lines a Guildford-Horsham-Shoreham line. NOTED

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

The faulty SID that stopped working by Truckers Hatch has been sent back via Highways to Westcote. The Council require a plan for managing the SIDs going forward.

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

12.1. Crime Reports cc'd members – Updates issued to members in advance Cllr Holborn advised how well attended the Police Surgeries were and excellent job our PCSO is doing

12.2. EPLG Meetings/Updates – Updates issued to members in advance – Noted

12.3. Parish Winter Emergency Resilience Plan Review – Members to consider draft plan (*cc'd in advance*) This is progressing and not complete Cllr Holborn will share this when complete.

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

Cllr Holborn – Progressing with the Defib machines for Handcross sports Pavilion and Macnaughton Hall

Date of next meeting/s – 25th November 2021

Signed: _____ Date: _____