

# SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Parish Council Meeting MINUTES

Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 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:** Cllr Julia Elliott Chair, Eric Prescott (Vice Chair), Gary Marsh, Jane MacNaughton, Lorette Holborn, Bob St George, David Dunn, Phil Morris, Carole Steggles,

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr Lesley Read, Cllr Adrienne Melville, District Councillor Malcolm Avery, County Cllr Bruce Forbes
- 2. Declaration of interest from members in respect of any items on the agenda:** To record any declarations of interest. Cllr Gary Marsh declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 6.4.2 *Planning Application DM/23/2398 - Change of use from un-used agricultural land to doggy day-care* – The application has been “called in” at the LPA and as Chair of the committee he will not take part in debate.
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting/s held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023** -To receive and accept the Minutes. Proposed Cllr Dunn Second Cllr Holborn **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.

Slaugham Community Trust (SPCLT) Member asked if the meeting with the developer had taken place and the views of the trust had been shared with the consultant around their preferred housing provider.

Cllr Prescott advised that for various reasons the meeting had not yet taken place. It is the Council's intention to meet with the consultant and the developer within the next 2/3 weeks. We hope to share more information at the next meeting scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> December. The Clerk confirmed that request to work with Aster as the CLT's preferred provider has been shared with the consultant's and developer. Cllr Marsh confirmed that you can ask for any RSL preferred.

- 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*.

Cllr Gary Marsh – **Slaugham Garden Nursery Enforcement** – The enforcement officer will be attending the site with the senior planning officer to inspect the site. They will be resolving breaches of planning control and use of the land and buildings in the public's interest as the site is untidy and an eyesore to the parish and wider community. It is the intention of the LPA to bring an accurate conclusion to this, Cllr Marsh will not compromise and allow additional time for procrastination by the owner of the site.

**Slaugham Manor S106 Affordable Housing Contributions DM/23/2174** Modification of Section 106 Agreement relating to application DM/16/2531 to remove Clause 4 of the first schedule so as to remove the requirement to pay the Affordable Housing contribution and to review the viability of the leisure. Community building and local community infrastructure contributions as set out in clauses 1 to 3 of the first schedule. DM/23/2174 – The developer has asked that this contribution is reevaluated so that they may relinquish this obligation. This is under review by the district and will go before the committee. The affordable monies will be ring fenced towards the development in Handcross.
  - 5.2. West Sussex County Council County Local Committee (WSCC/CLC)** – Press Release/s updates *cc'd in advance*.

The site at Warninglid primary school is now on the market as it is.
- 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 distributed. Members are scheduled to meet week commencing the 20<sup>th</sup> November TBC.
    - 6.1.1.** Members are to consider the grass cutting grant application from the Slaugham Society Ltd for the village green Slaugham £560.00 **APPROVED** in principle, the Clerk to obtain receipts for retrospective grass cutting grant. Members suggest some rewilding in the new year as part of the current District Council initiative supporting the BLUE Campaign's 'Rewilding Britain' nationwide initiative to help combat loss by allowing 40 areas in the district to 'rewild'. Most rewilding areas in the district have at least 10 wildflower species, over 15 at many sites and over 35 species at a couple of very biodiverse sites.
  - 6.2. Recreation:** To update members on current activities: To approve meeting/note minutes from meetings held:
    - 6.2.1** **Members are asked to consider the removal and relocation of the newly installed benches and allow the Slaugham CIC to procure and install replacement benches on the village green in Slaugham.** Members reviewed the results of a village survey, sent to residents who were asked “should the current plastic benches on the village green in Slaugham, be replaced with oak”. There are approximately 90 properties in Slaugham. There were 33 responses of which 30 answered yes to the question “I believe oak benches are essential to the character of the village green”. The Clerk was contacted by the district in relation to the final eligibility checks for the release of grant. She advised that the benches were not in need of replacing, that they Council supported the renovation works on the telephone kiosk and the installation of a defibrillator.

The members are in support of the project for the telephone kiosk on the understanding that the renovation works are shared with Parish Council, English Heritage, and the LPA. Further understanding of future maintenance and costs is required.

The benches were not in need of repair or replacement: the criteria for the installation remains; resources have been spent and should not be spent again for the reasons set out previously. The Council do not support their replacement. The members **RESOLVED** to retain the existing benches. The resolution is carried and cannot be reconsidered or reversed within six months under the Council's official procedures.
    - 6.2.2** **Members are asked to consider the unauthorised tree planted on the village green in Slaugham.** The tree was not planted with authority of the Directors of the Slaugham Society Ltd. There was no consultation with the Parish. The location is unsuitable and as an oak tree it will lift the green and the roadside and eventually affect the sightlines for drivers as it is badly sited. The owner of the Rectory also raised his concerns with the siting of the tree. The Council instructed the Clerk to write to the individual that planted the tree and request to repatriate the tree to a more suitable location not on the Green. A suggestion is on the land in the ownership of the woodland trust adjacent to the Church yard.

- 6.3. **Neighbourhood Planning: Land at St Martin Close** - To update members on current activities/status: To approve meeting/note minutes from meetings held: see item 4
- 6.4. **Planning Committee:** Members to consider updates: To approve meeting minutes of meeting/notes *cc'd in advance*.  
To receive updates on other planning matters:
- 6.4.1. Planning Application DM/23/2398 - Change of use from un-used agricultural land to doggy day-care. London Rd Handcross. The application has been called in to the LPA for consideration.
- 6.4.2. Planning Application DM/23/2174 Modification of Section 106 Agreement relating to application DM/16/2531 to remove Clause 4 of the first schedule so as to remove the requirement to pay the Affordable Housing contribution and to review the viability of the leisure. Community building and local community infrastructure contributions as set out in clauses 1 to 3 of the first schedule. Cllr Marsh advised that the application will go before the LPA for consideration. The affordable monies are needed and will be spent on the housing provision in Handcross and ringfenced for St Martins Close development.
- 6.4.3. Draft High Weald AONB Management Plan - The AONB Management Plan is the single most important document for the area; it sets out a vision for the kind of place the High Weald could be in years to come and, crucially, some of the actions we can all take to help achieve that vision – To confirm members consultee response. Cllr Prescott to advise.

7. **Chairman's Report:** to receive verbal report for the Chair:

8. **Clerks Report** – to receive verbal or written report from the Clerk:

- 8.1. To note Councils project list for information *cc'd in advance*. The working group is reviewing the list, the structure and linking those to the ambitions and aims set out in the neighborhood plan. This will help inform what the projects might look like. It is intention for this to be ready for review in the next few weeks.
- 8.2. To note Tommy Silhouette locations ahead of Remembrance Day.
- Warninglid - Half Moon
  - Handcross - Cow Wood Entrance by Nymans
  - Slaugham - TBA
  - Pease Pottage – To be located by the village sign on the Green.
- 8.3. To update members on the meeting held with the Leisure Team MSDC -

#### MacNaughton Hall / Finches Field

- Football /Simpsons Trust- we discussed the management issues/ clashes between use of the hall and football fixtures. In particular issues with parking capacity, and with footballers/ spectators walking/ standing in front of the hall on match days- impacting the ability to hire the hall out for functions. MSDC agreed to consider how to address the issues through the site masterplan- improved signage, better footpaths, etc. also agreed that SPC could look at creating a separate entrance to the car park to the south of the existing one for hall-users only. MSDC to also consider this as part of masterplan.
- Masterplan Finches/Hemsleys- SPC are concerned that the masterplan has taken too long to come to fruition and has become 'too big'. Could it be rationalised? RA/ JR explained the master planning process, and that the latest plans are the result of extensive public consultation, so it would not be appropriate to change them now. We understand there is a lot of scepticism in the community around the delivery of the plans but confirmed that they will be going for planning approval over the coming months, after which the contracts will be tendered, then work will be able to commence. There is a significant amount of s106 collected for the project, and the final scheme budget will be subject to review once tenders have been received. If there is any surplus funding, this could be used to support works to the car park and/or used for other priority projects in the parish.

#### Allotment Provision

- SPC have allotments in Warninglid and Handcross- but would like more information on the current need for a site (and the means of securing one) in the Pease Pottage area.
- MSDC's Local Plan identifies, under DP24, the need to protect existing, and provide additional leisure and cultural facilities, including allotments <https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/3406/mid-sussex-district-plan.pdf>. Where allotments aren't provided within a new development, there is provision for 'Local Community Infrastructure' s106 funds to be secured to provide off-site facilities. Whilst not a 'quick fix', I would therefore advise the Parish Council to seek to secure contributions from any future developments within the parish.
- In the meantime, as discussed, given the fact that Pease Pottage is extremely close to the border with Crawley, it may be that the Parish Council could reach out to Crawley Borough Council to establish whether there is scope for parishioners to join the waiting list for their sites in Bewbush, Broadfield or Tilgate- here's a link to the relevant part of CBC's website <https://crawley.gov.uk/culture/sport-and-leisure/leisure-facilities/allotments>

#### Handcross Recreation Ground

- Tree Protection Orders- We discussed the challenges with local residents carrying out unauthorised works to SPC's trees; and the fact that SPC have previously reached out to Irene Fletcher (Planning Tree Officer) for assistance. We committed to asking again.
- Formal Sports Pitch improvement projects- we discussed the fact that a significant amount of s106 has been ringfenced for the Finches/ Hemsleys project, and that if there is any surplus funding following the tendering of the works, this could be used to support works to the car park and/or used for other priority projects in the parish. In the meantime, there is approximately £60k of 'kickabout' funding available for Handcross Recreation Ground. If SPC develop a costed project, a conversation could be had with the developer about releasing this money to fund sports pitch improvements.

#### Acquisition Request Warninglid Recreation Ground

- Lease/ Pavilion- we explained the current situation with the lease of the building. We understand the group's challenges, and so have provided a short-term lease, and have also built in a break clause as requested.
- It would obviously need to be subject to appropriate governance and decision making, but MSDC would be happy to explore how a transfer of the site to SPC might work, if that was something you actively wanted to pursue.

An additional update from the MSDC Communications meeting attended updated Clerks on the progress made on the tender applications that will be taking over the management of all the leisure facilities across the district.

## 9. Finance Matters:

- 9.1. **Payments and receipts** The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve Bank Reconciliation for month October 2023 Approval in line with scheme delegation (*Ref: Bank Payment October November part cc'd in advance*) **RECOMMENDATION:** The Committee approves the schedule of payments for October 2023 previously distributed. Proposed Cllr Dunn Second Cllr Prescott **APPROVED RESOLVED**

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Authorized Ref	Transaction Detail
03/10/2023	RBLI	BACS	700.00	S137	Tommy Statues S137
06/10/2023	Adobe Product	DDR	19.97		Adobe Product IT
18/10/2023	NPOWER Electricity	DDR	29.46		UMS Supp Street Lighting
19/10/2023	Complete Garden Service Tree S	BACS	4,404.00		Tree Surgery
19/10/2023	Three Mobile PPCC	BACS	21.58		WiFi Broadband Mac Hall
19/10/2023	Direct Technical Services	BACS	316.44		Street Light Maint Contract
25/10/2023	Lukes Garden Services	BACS	120.00		Lukes Garden Services
25/10/2023	West Sussex County Council	BACS	160.27		Payroll Admin
25/10/2023	Land Registry	DD	6.00		Warninglid School Site
06/11/2023	Adobe Product	DDR	19.97		Adobe IT Supporter
09/11/2023	Luke Garden Services	BACS	140.00		Grass Cutting Various
09/11/2023	Grasstex Landscape	BACS	5,419.20		Handcross Rec Maint Contract
09/11/2023	West Sussex County Council	BACS	4,486.64		Staff Salaries October 2023
09/11/2023	Direct Technical Services	BACS	510.00		Damaged Street Light
09/11/2023	Sussex Assoc of Local Councils	BACS	1,231.08		WSALC Ltd Subscription
09/11/2023	Playground Inspection Company	BACS	240.00		Playground Inspections
09/11/2023	Parish Office	BACS	173.81		Parish Office Fees
Total Payments			17,998.42		

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

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

- 11.1. Preliminary Enquiries TRO Proposal Staplefield Road B2114 – Members are asked to support extension of the 30mph speed limit approx. 300 meters. The Council agrees to support this proposal but would question whether there is a need for additional traffic calming measures to enforce. Additional gates/SID what be of benefit on the National Trust land to accommodate these. This will need investment by the trust.
- 11.2. To note Tree Preservation Order (TPO) Warninglid Primary School **NOTED**
- 11.3. To receive updates on the uneven Footpath/s - West Park Road/ Coos Lane to Covert Mead/Horsham Road. The jobs were raised with County, but no report received Cllr Marsh to raise it with County Cllr Forbes.
- 11.4. Preliminary Enquiries TRO Old Brighton Road/Cotsford/Barn Close - Members to consider supporting potential scheme that may introduce controlled parking zones, yellow lines. County Officers are investigating.
- 11.5. Members are to consider the damage to the land fronting the Heritage, Park Road, Slaugham. This needs to be in discussion with the County and the Parish, to include the Heritage who are using the Green as a car park as well as local parking. Cllr Gary Marsh suggested that MSDC might be able to assist. The Clerk to forward details to Cllr Forbes also.

### 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:

- 13.1. Footpath High Street to the school is overgrown and needs clearance. The Clerk to arrange clearance.
- 13.2. Slaugham Lane public footpath bridge over the Ouse is weather damaged and requires replacing, it has been raised with County.

### 14. Date of next meeting/s –

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