

SLAUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting MINUTES

Meeting held on Thursday 31st October 2024 6.15pm – 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 - The Parish Council is an open and transparent local authority and encourages public attendance at meetings.



Present: Cllr's Eric Prescott (chair), Lesley Read, James Keating, David Dunn, Bob St George, Debbie Beckinsale, Jane MacNaughton, Phillip Morris and Carole Steggs

Others Present: 3 members of public

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** To receive and accept apologies for absence. Cllr's Adrienne Melville, Julia Elliott, County Councillor 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/s held on 26th September 2024** -To receive and accept the Minutes Proposed Cllr Lesley Read, Second Cllr Bob St George
- 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 Public - CLT St Martins – Update on the St Martins Close – Cllr Prescott advised that there has been no further correspondence from the developers of the west site, which is extremely disappointing. He recommended that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee convene a meeting to review the Council's position and options

Members of Public - Slaugham Manor S106 Affordable Housing DM/16/2531 — Concerns were raised surrounding the recommendation to accept the modification of the Section 106 Agreement. This modification would remove Clause 4 of the first schedule, eliminating the requirement to pay the Affordable Housing contribution of £645,000. Additionally, it would 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. - The Parish Council to draft a letter to the LPA Planning Committee to object to the recommendation to accept the offer from Martin Homes and uphold the affordable housing Payment in Lieu, ensuring that all community contributions are met as lawfully determined.

Cllr Philip Morris arrived at 6.25pm

- 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 Plan Hearing, should be completed by the end of November – It is likely that Mid Sussex will need to increase the housing figures to approx. 20,000 due to the unmet need in Brighton and Crawley
 - 5.2. West Sussex County Council County Local Committee (WSCC/CLC) –** Press Release/s updates *cc'd in advance* **None Present**
- 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 and recommendations:
 - 6.2. Members to consider the following quotes for approval reviewed recommended at Committee *cc'd in advance*:**
 - 6.2.1 Knapes Field –** Tree surgery to include clearance works to allow for access from the allotment site into the field for future maintenance and management. £11860 plus vat Proposed Cllr Marsh Second Cllr Prescott
APPROVED RESOLVED
 - 6.2.2 Common Land Coos Lane –** Tree surgery £3820 plus vat Proposed Cllr Prescott Second Cllr Keating
APPROVED RESOLVED
 - 6.2.3 Warninglid Allotment –** Tree surgery to include overgrown vegetation clearance £2450 plus vat NOT
APPROVED
 - 6.2.4 Warninglid Allotment Replacement Fencing –** North and South boundary to include tree surgery on the footpath to include vegetation clearance £5850 plus vat. Proposed Cllr Prescott Second Cllr Marsh **APPROVED RESOLVED**
Minute Reference: The Parish Council did not obtain three quotes for the clearance work at Knapes Field, as required by Financial Regulations, due to the contractor already being on-site for tree surgery. Leveraging the contractor's proximity, availability, and access to the necessary equipment was deemed a more cost-effective approach, achieving an economy of scale. The clearance was also necessary to prepare for scheduled tree inspections and any subsequent required actions.
Note for Clarity: This decision was made to ensure the timely and efficient use of resources, in line with provisions within the Council's Financial Regulations, which allow for exceptions under specific circumstances, such as immediate need or demonstrable cost efficiency.

- 6.3. **Recreation:** To update members on current activities and to approve meeting/note minutes from meeting held:
- 6.3.1 MacNaughton Hall – To update members on current activities in relation to the renovation improvements linked to the masterplan and future use of the hall. A new survey for the residents will be going live with our follow-up community engagement on the Hemsleys and Finches Field Park Masterplan on Monday (28 October).
- 6.3.2 The Council received a complaint via Environmental Health at MSDC due to inadequate lighting in the car park at MacNaughton Hall. We do not have visibility of the complaint. The Committee has been exploring temporary lighting solutions since it was identified that the damage to the bollards had in fact damaged the cable which is now porous and been decommissioned.
With the darker evening and winter approaching, an electrician is scheduled to visit on October 28, 2024, to investigate temporary lighting options, however this is unlikely to light the whole car park.
In response to the complaint, the Committee restricted all bookings beyond 4:30 p.m. until a satisfactory lighting solution is in place. This affects three user groups: the Women’s Institute (WI), the Pilates Group, and the Ladies Group, with minimal revenue loss expected. Regular hirers have been informed about the car park renovation plans, and all other bookings will be advised accordingly.
- 6.4. **Neighbourhood Planning: Land at St Martin Close** - To update members on current activities to review and approve meeting/note minutes where required: see item 4
- 6.5. **Planning Committee:** Members to consider updates: To approve meeting minutes of meeting/notes *cc'd in advance*
See item 4
- 6.6. **Communications Committee:** Members to consider updates: To approve meeting minutes of meeting/notes
- 6.6.1 Members to review draft website: *link cc'd in advance* The committee hope to launch at the end of November providing council resolve to accept the new site and members are to be trained for so that others can update the site.
- 6.6.2 Members to share photos of the villages for the website.
- 6.6.3 Newsletter and Facebook has been set up, please like and share the page.
7. **Chairman’s Report:** to receive verbal report for the Chair:
8. **Clerks Report** – to receive information, verbal or written report from the Clerk papers *cc'd in advance*
- 8.1. To update members on other matters/projects currently being pursued by the Clerk.
- 8.2. The Clerk to meet with Nymans on the Bus shelter tree planting projects and other community projects that are being considered
9. **Finance Matters Payments and receipts** The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to approve: Bank Reconciliation for month September 2024 Approval in line with scheme delegation (*Ref: Bank Payment Analysis October cc'd in advance attached*) **RECOMMENDATION:** The Committee approves the schedule of payments for October 2024 as listed: Proposed Cllr Prescott Second Cllr Marsh
10. **Correspondence/Information Items/Publications/Consultations:** (*Correspondence cc'd in advance to members*)
11. **Highways/Footpaths:** to review highways projects/items
- 11.1. The Council has been awarded s106 funding for replacement SID's.
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:**
The highway/traffic calming committee to meet to review locations/set up and discuss TRO's for 20mph for the High Street, Handcross and Horsham Road, Pease Pottage.
14. **Date of next meeting/s –**

Signed: _____ Date: _____