

LOWER SLAUGHTER PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of Lower Slaughter Parish Council Meeting
held in Lower Slaughter Village Hall at 6.45pm on Monday 15 January 2018

Present: Councillors J Fennell (Chair), K Chapman (RFO), P Sinclair, J Roche. Mrs K Randles (Minutes).

Members of the Public: 5.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr S Thomas.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None.
3. **Chairman's Opening Remarks** – “Happy New Year” to everyone, and attendees welcomed to meeting.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (20 November 2017)**
Having been circulated to members and displayed on the noticeboard, the Chairman signed the Minutes as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Cllr Sinclair; Seconded: Cllr Chapman. All in favour, motion carried.
5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
 - 5.1 ***Item 5.1 (b) Defibrillator training*** – Still to be progressed as no further information was available.
 - 5.2 ***Item 6.1 Letter to Heythrop Hunt*** – As Ms Bennett's suggested letter had not been received, Councillors were unable to progress the matter. Professor Miles was therefore asked to remind her to forward this to enable due consideration at the next meeting.
6. **Public Questions**
 - 6.1 Mr Cochrane enquired about interest in the Allotment Working Party. This would be covered under agenda item 15.
7. **Correspondence**
 - 7.1 Following recent correspondence with the Police, a meeting had been held between the Chairman, the Police Sergeant Garrett Gloyn from Cirencester and PC Jason Page from Stow. Discussions covered congestion, coaches and parking and the Police stated their willingness to help. With coaches, ie vehicles with more than 9 seats, villagers were asked to capture photographic evidence with date and vehicle registration number and email to the Chairman - all details to be communicated in the next LSVN. Speeding was also discussed and the use of a speed gun was offered together with appropriate training. Examples of measures other communities have adopted to mitigate this problem, such as verge gates etc, have since been received. Parish Council to consider options including the possibility of borrowing a flashing speed sign.
 - 7.2 A letter has been received regarding a proposed electric vehicle service area with café at The Yard, Fosseway which is owned by Mr Gilder. This has been sent to the Parish Council as a “concept”, but as it was not a formal planning application the Parish Council have not responded. It was also noted that Bence were now retailing from the site, which appeared to contravene planning permission.
8. **Village Grass Cutting and Maintenance**
 - 8.1 Cllr Chapman proposed the reappointment of Bibury Garden Services for the 3rd year to maintain village grass in a naturally managed way. This would be the last of 3 years and would incur an automatic 2% cost increase per annum. Seconded by Cllr Sinclair and with all in favour the motion was carried.
 - 8.2 Grass damage at the entrance to the Church precinct was discussed by the Parochial Church Council on 11 January 2018. The Rector and Churchwarden agreed to advise service attendees about the problem and do everything possible to prevent further damage.

9. Finance

9.1 Cllr Chapman provided a full finance report (see Appendix 1).

9.2 The following payments were considered and authorised by Councillors:

Admin Costs November/December (K Randles)	£126.00
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Allotment Gate Replacement (value not to exceed)	£300.00
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Proposed: Chairman; Seconded: Cllr Roche. All in favour and motion carried.

9.3 (a) The 2018/2019 Budget proposal was provided by Cllr Chapman (see Appendix 2). Of particular note was the provision of additional funding for a Parish Clerk. After a comprehensive explanation, Cllr Chapman recommended that this should be adopted by the Parish Council and that a 2018/2019 Precept request of £5,600 should be made. Proposed: Cllr Roche, Seconded: Cllr Sinclair. With all Councillors in agreement, this motion was carried.

9.3 (b) A company called Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) have been selected by Government as the body responsible for appointing local auditors and Lower Slaughter Parish Council have now been advised that our External Auditors for the current financial period and the following four years (ie until 2022/2023, and replacing Grant Thornton) will be PKF Littlejohn LLP, a medium-sized accountancy practice based in London.

As required under the Regulations, Cllr Chapman confirmed and requested it was duly minuted as a statement of fact that no current Councillor was an employee of PKF Littlejohn LLP nor has any business interests with them and as such there was no conflict of interest with their appointment.

10. Planning Applications

10.1 CDC decisions since the last meeting:

17/03260/FUL – Resubmission of single storey rear extension (previously approved 15/05306/FUL) and UPVC cladding to rear dormers and render to front dormers (part retrospective) at Tarneki, Copse Hill Road. CDC approved.

17/03551/FUL – Conversion of garage and new dormer window on side at Fairfield, Copse Hill Road. CDC refused.

17/03354/FUL – Erection of new wall and replacement gate (part retrospective) at The Gravel Pits, Fosseway. CDC approved.

17/04339/FUL - Extension to existing brewery at The Cotswold Brewing Co, College Farm, Stow Road, Bourton-on-the-Water. CDC approved.

17/04350/FUL – Amendments to stable building approved under 17/01339/FUL at Land off Wyck Road, Lower Slaughter. CDC decision awaited.

10.2 New applications for consideration:

C/17/01415/STC – Licensing Application Consultation; Street Trading at The Grafters, Fosseway. This related to the property currently occupied by Bence and a decision was still pending.

10.3 Other planning issues: As the Parish Council are unable to provide input on these, future planning applications for tree work will no longer be considered.

11. Highways, Traffic and Parking Report

11.1 Please refer to Item 7.1 above regarding the recent meeting with Police Officers.

11.2 An advisory letter for parking in The Square had been redrafted by Cllr Roche and Steve Randles. Cllr Roche suggested the letter be sent to Councillors for approval before sending from the Parish Council to appropriate households, landlords and tenants. Proposed: Cllr Chapman; Seconded: Cllr Sinclair. All in favour and motion carried.

12. Flood Alleviation Report

12.1 The tree stump in the river behind The Stables was still an ongoing issue.

13. **Village Maintenance Report**

13.1 Having obtained three further quotes, a Liquid Amber tree has now been ordered from Burford with delivery expected in February and professional planting in the Spring.

14. **Local Businesses, Church, Fete and Village Hall Report**

14.1 ***Local Businesses and Church:*** Nothing to report.

14.2 ***Fete:*** Notices to appear in the February and March LSVNs advising that an Open Village Meeting would be held at 10.30am on Saturday 3 March in the Village Hall to discuss 2018 Fete arrangements.

14.3 ***Village Hall:*** Due to forthcoming retirements, residents were being encouraged to join the Village Hall Committee.

15. **Allotments and Orchard Report**

15.1 ***Orchard.*** Nothing to report, but trees now required some attention.

15.2 ***Allotments.*** Ten residents have expressed interest in joining the Allotment Working Party. Cllr Chapman planned to contact everyone and meet on 4 occasions during February, March and April to decide terms of reference and look at future strategies. Cllr Chapman to contact Mrs Edwin to book the Village Hall for these meetings. It was also noted that some new requests to take on allotment plots had also been received.

16. **Parish Website**

16.1 Cllr Sinclair confirmed that the website was now up and running and a brief introduction would be included in the next LSVN.

17. **Reports from Wardens**

17.1 ***River:*** Nothing to report.

17.2 ***Snow:*** Nothing to report.

17.3 ***Rights of Way:*** Recently walked and report provided. Many thanks to Cotswold Voluntary Wardens for work carried out along Scare Lane and road sign replacement. Flooding across footpath at Equestrian Centre entrance and fallen tree on footpath behind the former gravel pit site now needed attention.

17.4 ***Trees:*** Endeavours were underway to find another contractor to complete the outstanding tree work.

18. **Any Other Business**

18.1 As briefly mentioned in Item 9.3 (a) above, Councillors were looking into the possible and probable employment of a Parish Clerk and would be following up on some recently-expressed interest.

18.2 Cllr Roche advised that a drone being operated on Sunday morning 7 January from the Church Precinct had been reported to the Police and to The Rector. The matter was discussed on 11 January when the PCC agreed to adopt a "no drone" policy. This would be communicated to all involved with future services such as weddings etc.

19. **Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 19 March 2018, 6.45pm in Lower Slaughter Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____

Lower Slaughter Parish Council

Budgetary Proposal for 2018/2019

	Proposal for 2018/2019	Budget for 2017/2018	
Income			
Net Contribution from/(to) Allotment WPD - Wayleaves (see allotment)	-£31.00	-£56.00	
Bank Interest	£13.25	£13.00	
VAT Recovery	£600.00	£600.00	
Other (Hotel Contribution/grant)	£300.00	£500.00	
Total	£932.25	£1,057.00	
Expense			
Clerk Services	£2,750.00	£900.00	
Grass Maintenance	£2,100.00	£1,905.00	
Insurance	£391.33	£375.00	
GAPTC	£62.58	£60.00	
Audit - provision	£100.00		
Printing & Stationary	£20.00	£20.00	
Postage	£10.00	£10.00	
Salt/Grit	£50.00	£100.00	
Tree Maintenance	£1,000.00	£2,800.00	
Councillor Training Expenses			
Fuel for Strimmer	£20.00		
General Mtce	£250.00	£175.00	
Defibrillator (training)	£150.00	£30.00	
Projects			
Allotment North Boundary Repair	£950.00		
Kerbside Repairs	£480.00		
Allotment South Boundary Repair		£1,200.00	
Stumpbusting	£200.00	£200.00	
St Mary's 150 year celebration		£1,000.00	
Sub Total projects	£1,630.00	£2,400.00	
Contingency		£-	
Total	£8,533.92	£8,775.00	
Financing Required	£7,601.67	£7,718.00	
Precept Requested	£5,600.00	£5,500.00	change 1.82%
Balance from Capital Reserves grant	£2,001.67	£2,218.00	
tax base	161.5	160.7	
Band D charge	£34.67	£34.23	change 1.31%