

Minutes of General Meeting

Held by virtual means on Monday 28th September 2020, 18:15

Councillors present: Cllrs Thomas (Acting Chair), Classen, Randles and Chapman.
In attendance: 3 members of the public

Lower Slaughter Parish Council conducted this meeting by virtual means in accordance with NALC guidelines. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting and contact the Parish Clerk for login and password details. Interested parties were informed that the meeting would be recorded for the purpose of ensuring accuracy of minutes and the recording would be deleted thereafter. Unfortunately, technical difficulties at the start of the meeting prevented a 18:00 start. These were due to a change in login requirements via Zoom.

- 200928/1 To elect the Chairman for the meeting.** In the absence of a Chair, the Parish Clerk asked for a volunteer from council to chair the meeting. Cllr Thomas volunteered and was elected to act as Chairperson for this meeting only.
- 200928/2 Chairman's Opening Remarks.**
Cllr Thomas thanked Members of the Public for attending the meeting and commented that it had been a quiet month in the Village in terms of correspondence involving the Parish Council and other activities requiring PC support. Cllr Thomas advised attendees and Council of the death of Mrs Horlock (Copse Hill House) due to ill health and mentioned that there would be a family service to mark her passing.
- 200928/3 Recruitment for the Council**
Cllr Thomas asked the Parish Clerk to update Council on the recruitment of a new Councillor. Council were advised that CDC had been informed of Cllr Sinclair's resignation and on 24th September 2020 a Notice of Vacancy has been posted on the Village noticeboard as well as the PC website. The vacancy is to be filled by election if requested by 10 residents/ local electors before 14th October 2020. If this does not occur, the PC can fill by co-option.
- 200928/4 Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Classen declared an interest in respect of the Planning Application for the building alterations at The Pines, Copse Hill Road (Item 8). Cllr Thomas declared an interest in respect of the fence repairs between the allotment and the cricket club (Item 11.5). Cllr Thomas requested that they both recuse themselves at the appropriate time.
- 200928/5 Apologies:** None
- 200928/6 Minutes of Previous Meetings:** It was agreed to make minor changes to the Draft minutes of the GM held on 14th June 2020. These amended minutes were approved by all Councillors in addition to the unaltered Draft minutes from 30th August 2020. Both were signed virtually by acting chair, Cllr Thomas.

200928/7

Matters Arising from previous General Meeting held on 30th August 2020 - Planning

Application for EV Charging Service Station at Gilder's Scrap Yard: Cllr Thomas confirmed that Gloucester Highways had received a complaint about the green 'Yes' posters around the village and acknowledged that more had been sited along Copse Hill Road. These signs are currently under investigation as potential flyposting. Cllr Thomas continued and provided a detailed summary of PC actions to date regarding this appeal, communications sent to the Planning Inspectorate as well as outlining possible costs for legal and consultancy advice to supplement the submissions already made by LSPC. At this point, Cllr Chapman reminded everyone that LSPC were continuing to oppose this development in line with the views of the vast majority of residents living in the Village. If a legal expense was required, monies were available and could be released from the Village Project (Emma) Fund. Whilst a budget was discussed in open forum, Cllr Chapman advised that an EGM could be used to finalise and approve the expenditure details at the appropriate time. Cllr Thomas agreed to obtain full costs as discussed. Following a question raised by a parishioner, Cllr Thomas encouraged individuals to continue to write independently to the Planning Inspectorate if they wish to add to their earlier submissions. It was generally understood that this approach carried far more weight and impact than LSPC co-ordinating submissions into one.

200928/8

Planning Applications Update:

20/02806/FUL Stable of Wyck Road Lower Slaughter Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 2EY

Proposed conversion of existing stable to form one holiday let. *LSPC have objected to this development and are awaiting decision by CDC.*

20/02238/FUL Park View Mill Lane Lower Slaughter Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 2HX

Erection of two-storey side extension (resubmission of application 20/01054/FUL) *Permitted by CDC.*

20/01805/FUL East Allotment Cottage Copse Hill Road Lower Slaughter Cheltenham

Gloucestershire GL54 2HY Demolition of single storey building. Construction of new single storey extension and garage. *Application refused by CDC.*

20/02561/TCONR Tree works at Mill Meadow House Mill Lane Lower Slaughter Cheltenham

Gloucestershire GL54 2HX Scots Pine (T2) - Proximity and heavy lean towards property. Fell to ground level. Scots Pine (T3) - Heavy lean over boundary towards neighbouring garden. Fell to ground level. Ash (T4) - Symptomatic of ash dieback. Fell to ground level. *No objection by CDC.*

20/02829/TCONR Tree works at St Marys Church Copse Hill Road Lower Slaughter

Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 2HR to fell to ground level and remove large Ash Tree (T1) in corner of churchyard. To fell to ground level Conifer (T2) near flagpole. *No objection by CDC.*

20/02979/FUL The Pines Copse Hill Road, Lower Slaughter Gloucestershire GL54 2HY.

Proposed alteration to form a dormers window and stone mullion window. Awaiting decision by CDC. *Cllr Classen temporarily left the meeting. LSPC considered this application and have no comments.*

20/02759/TCONR Tree works at Faru, Mill Lane, Lower Slaughter Cheltenham,

Gloucestershire GL54 2HX to pollard row of Maples at approximately 12ft to allow trees to reform hedge on boundary. *Awaiting decision by CDC. LSPC considered the application and have no objection.*

200928/9

Finance:

9.1 Cllr Chapman reported on the current financial status and full itemised details can be found in Appendix 1.

9.2 and 9.3 Cllr Chapman reported on receipts since the last meeting/ retrospective payments and secured approval from the meeting for the payments due. These are also detailed in Appendix 1.

Cllr Chapman also advised Council that the Internal Audit of the 2019/2020 Financial Period had been successfully completed by HouseGo Accountancy and Taxation with no issues or observations reported. Following this outcome, the Annual Governance and Accountability Report 2019/20 Part 3 had been submitted to our External Auditors (PFK Littlejohn) in line with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

200928/10

Reports from Wardens:

10.1 River Cllr Thomas reported that parts of the river were still getting congested with reeds and suggested that a working group of volunteers could be used to clear away debris or work to supplement the activities of Tony Laing and Bob Ayers who regularly clear reeds in the Mill Dam area, but understandably are less active than in previous years. One option could be to instigate an annual river maintenance plan and contract whilst protecting all the wildlife. Cllr Chapman agreed to speak to BA and TL about the required maintenance activities and to discuss wildlife safety with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

10.2 PROW A thorough report was prepared and provided by Steve Randles (see Appendix 2). This will be passed onto GCC Highways. Although footpaths are currently generally dry and easily walkable, those requiring attention are:

- HSL1 - hedge encroaching on path and requires cutting back by landowner asap
- HSL3 - PC to discuss resurfacing further with Hambros for shared funding
- HSL7 - resurfacing required. Warden Randles to pass report onto GCC Highways
- HSL8 - new signage required showing pedestrian and wheelchair user symbols
- HSL 11 - sign and signpost on Fosseway still obscured by hedge

10.3 Trees Cllr Thomas reported that trees in the village were generally OK and will not require attention until 2021. Parish Clerk to explore funding opportunities via CPRE Gloucestershire. In respect of the plantation area, it was agreed that Cllrs Chapman and Thomas will arrange a meeting with residents who previously served on the Orchard Committee to identify any ongoing maintenance requirements for this area of the village.

10.4 Snow & Flood Currently no issues and it was confirmed via the Snow Warden that all grit bins have recently been filled.

200928/11

Correspondence

11.1 Enquiry about who has safe custody of the Village Hall keys previously retained by Cllr Sinclair. Cllr Thomas currently has these keys and will keep hold of these until further notice.

11.2 Correspondence received about Cotswold Natural Landscape replacing the term AONB. LSPC would like to thank Robin Cochrane for communicating this change. There is a 168 page document that will need reviewing, especially regarding potential implications for planning.

11.3 Acknowledgement and thanks from Colin Edwin and LSVN regarding LSPC support into 2021. LSPC appreciate the thanks that has been communicated from the LSVN Team.

11.4 BBC Countryfile Children in Need Ramble. LSPC have been contacted by the BBC to film Adam Henson walking into the village from Upper Slaughter as part of Children in Need fundraising. This is taking place on Monday 5th October 2020. LSPC agreed in principle to this good cause with the stipulation that landowners are contacted directly by the BBC and the exact route was confirmed in advance. All Covid guidelines will be followed.

11.5 Drainage works to reduce flow of River Eye. Cllr Thomas confirmed that CCTV surveys had been completed after August Bank Holiday and the contractor for Thames Water had

confirmed that the lining works in the village are likely to be undertaken during the weeks commencing the 19th and 26th of October.

11.6 Update on Cricket Club fence. Cllr Thomas left the meeting. Cllr Chapman advised that the PC have communicated with the Cricket Club but there is nothing in writing or in the title deeds to confirm ownership of the fence. LSPC feel the expense and work to replace the fence should be authorised and accept a 50/50 split of costs with the CC. LSPC believe there are two quotations for the work, £3k with concrete bases and £2.8k without. The Councils preference is the former. Further discussions took place and Council agreed to contribute no more than 50% of the costs and for CC to take the lead role.

NB. Items 11.4 and 11.5 were received after the Meeting Notice had been placed.

200928/12 **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 23rd November at 6pm via Zoom.

Meeting ended at 7.17pm

Signed: *Kevin Chapman*

Date: 23rd November 2020

APPENDIX 1 Finances

Lower Slaughter Parish Council

Finance Report for Meeting of 28 Sep 2020

Current Financial Position (at 28th September 2020)

Reserves Account	£	64,209.69	
Reserved for Weir/River Repairs	£	10,000.00	
Reserved for TRO management	£	10,000.00	
Reserved for Village Projects	£	39,240.02	
Available Reserves	£	4,969.67	£ 4,969.67
Treasurer's Account			£ 3,684.40
	Total	£	8,654.07

Receipts since last meeting on Aug-20

Aug 2020 - Interest on Bank Accounts	£	2.50
Sep 2020 - Interest on Bank Accounts	£	0.53
Sep 2020 - Precept second installment	£	1,450.00
Total	£	1,453.03

Payments made since last meeting on Aug-20

Bibury - Grass Maintenance	17-Aug	£	426.96	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9,10
Cllr Sinclair Expenses (web Hosting)	14-Aug	£	7.30	LGA 1972 s111
Cllr Thomas Expenses (Travel and Safety Tape)	24-Sep	£	54.28	LGA 1972 s111
Clerk Wages and Expenses (Aug)	24-Aug	£	462.53	LGA 1972 s111
Cllr Chapman Expenses (Printing and Postage)	17-Aug	£	99.99	LGA 1972 s111
Bibury - Grass Maintenance	17-Sep	£	426.96	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9,10
Total		£	1,478.02	

Payments to be Approved by Council

Payments Sanctioned since last Meeting (Minute 9.2)

Clerk Wages and Expenses (Sep)	18-Sep	£	592.38	LGA 1972 s111
PATA Admin Charges	18-Sep	£	23.25	LGA 1972 s111
Contribution to the LSVN	18-Sep	£	350.00	LGA 1972 s111
Total		£	965.63	

Payments to be Sanctioned (Minute 9.3)

S HOUSEGO: Internal Audit Fees		£	168.00	LGA 1972 s111
Total		£	168.00	

Additional Signature for Approval of Payments:

Initials: Date: Signature:

APPENDIX 2 PROW Report

Lower Slaughter Public Rights of Way

Sep-20

General Comment Footpaths are generally dry and easily walkable.

PROW	Status	Description	Signage/Styles/Bridges	Comment
HSL 1	Footpath	Rectory towards Copse Hill	Good	Hedge starting to encroach footpath and will need cutting back by landowner soon
HSL 2	Footpath	Green Lane towards Upper Slaughter	Good	
HSL 3	Footpath	Mill Dam towards Upper Slaughter	Good	Currently good, but can become muddy across 2-3 metre width. Request for resurfacing of this footpath to a similar specification as HSL15 has been submitted to the PC as an "Emma Fund" project. PC in consultation with Landowner regarding shared funding.
HSL 4	Footpath	Back of Plantation, Cricket Club to Slaughter Coppice	Good	
HSL 5	Footpath	The Square & Malthouse Lane	Good	
HSL 6	Bridlepath	Top of Kingswell, straight on to crossing at B Road	Good	New signage at top of Kingswell Lane recently installed by Robin.
HSL 7	Bridlepath	Weir, Scare Lane to paddocks, then up hill to road	Good	The first section from weir to river bridge is relatively good. From bridge to paddock it regularly becomes unacceptably filthy with mud and horse manure. I counted 8 piles of manure this week. Wheelchair and pram access is then particularly filthy. Complaints have been made by Cotswold School re the state of pupil's shoes after walking this route. This is the main footpath from Bourton to LS and was once fully surfaced in tarmac. Glos Highway's previous attempts at improvement of this section and HSL9 has been to scalp away most of tarmac!!! Thankfully their latest proposal to remove the remaining surface was stopped by the PC and resurfacing may now be considered. <i>Any further news?</i>
HSL 8	Footpath	Kingswell Lane (The Orchard) across to Fosseyway	Footpath Sign....Still waiting for a new sign showing both pedestrian and wheelchair user symbols.	Approx 15m section where Equestrian Centre track crosses footpath is a stream following spells of wet weather. Water flows off paddock across track and runs along footpath before flowing into ditch. A new drainage ditch has been dug across the paddock where the overflow occurred. Currently no overflow and in relatively good condition
HSL 9	Footpath	Scare Lane to HSL 8 at entrance to Bourton Vale Equestrian	Good	
HSL 10	Footpath	Follows River Eye from Scare Lane footbridge to Fosseyway.	Good	A large tree branch fell across the footpath next to near to Scare lane bridge. Access restored by Cotswold wardens (Robin) and the whole branch subsequently been removed altogether. Flood water has caused some erosion close to footpath. Will need work done here soon.
HSL 11	Footpath	Kennel Lane, behind Pike Farm to Fosseyway Terrace	At Fosseyway, sign and signpost obscured by hedge	
HSL 12	Bridlepath	Wyck Lane bridge over R. Dikler to Fosseyway opposite Pike	Good	
HSL 14	Footpath	Linking Slaughter Farm to Kingswell Lane road and Fosseyway	Good	
HSL 15	Bridlepath	Fosseyway at Lansdowne end of Bourton to Little Aston Mill	Good	Cotswold Wardens have cleared most of the ankle deep mud that was covering the first 30m.