



## LOWER SLAUGHTER COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL

**16 March 2026**

Present: Councillor Cornelius O'Boyle (Chairperson), Councillor Ann Classen, Councillor Julian Grimshaw

Parish Clerk: Alison Robinson

**Attendance:** 9 members of the public and Cllr Len Wilkins (Cotswold District Council)

### **Public Participation**

A concern was raised regarding overnight parking on a layby on Becky Hill.

**ACTION:** the resident will contact the clerk.

A resident raised ongoing concerns about foul water and sewage within the village. There has been significant correspondence with Thames Water. Thames Water has advised that camera work cannot be carried out until water levels drop.

Manholes have been lifted. Sewage reported in multiple locations. **ACTION:** There was discussion about setting up a public meeting to invite key representatives to attend to reach a resolution on this matter.

## **MINUTES**

**The meeting commenced at 6.24pm**

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies: Councillor George Papadakis, Councillor Julie Hooson

County Councillor Paul Hodgkinson.

Apologies were noted.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none recorded.

### **3. Minutes**

To **CONFIRM** as a true record the Minutes of the council meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 January 2026. The minutes were agreed as correct.



**4. Chairperson's Announcements** – Farewell to Jane Carter and official welcome to Alison Robinson.

#### **5. Principal Authority updates**

5.1 County Councillor report – written update – to **RECEIVED** and **NOTED**

**ACTION:** LSPC have not formally requested a 20mph speed limit, the Clerk to email Cllr Hodgkinson to let him know.

5.2 District Councillor report – verbal update – to **RECEIVE** and **NOTE**

The budget agreed and council tax has gone up. A planning overview was provided.

#### **6. Highways and Village Maintenance**

6.1. Progress of Gloucestershire County Council works –

6.1.1 Re-painting of yellow lines in village – **ACTION:** the clerk to contact Rhodri Grey, Cllr Grimshaw to share email to inform this.

6.1.2 To **NOTE** any blocked gulleys – and remind residents to report issues to [www.FixMYStreet.co.uk](http://www.FixMYStreet.co.uk)

6.1.3 Road sign repair – in middle of village – **ACTION:** the Clerk to contact Rhodri Grey and ask when it will be fixed.

6.2. Update from Cotswold District Council

6.2.1 Litter bin capacity and collection frequency – **ACTION:** the Clerk to follow up with an email to CDC.

6.2.2 Additional dog excrement bins at the end of Mill Dam Lane – **ACTION:** the Clerk to follow up with an email to CDC.

6.3. Maintenance matters arising

6.3.1 Broken handrail on wooden bridge – to **NOTE** a temporary repair has taken place. **ACTION:** this needs to be properly repaired and highlighted to the owner.

6.3.2 Collapsed riverbank, following a lorry reversing into it – an update was provided.

The Local Highways Officer (from North Cotswold) will keep us updated as the project progresses and will share timeline details as soon as they are confirmed. **ACTION:** the Clerk to request a timeline.



6.3.3 Reseeding of grass verge along the river between the Slaughter Hotel and Slaughter Inn - to **AGREE** how and when this will take place, including the resources required. **ACTION:** we need to explore options for the site to be reseeded between the two hotels. Needs to be dug up. **ACTION:** to organise a walkabout and consider next steps as part of a project pipeline approach.

6.3.4 The “No Fishing” signs have arrived – these signs will be installed when the river level has dropped. An update can be provided at the May meeting.

6.3.5 To discuss a litter picking party alongside the verges of Pike Lane. **ACTION:** a litter picking party will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

6.3.6 Replacement of cherry tree – to **AGREE** the replacement of the tree that has been vandalised. A quotation for the work has been obtained from TreeTech at £297.50 (including VAT). It should be **NOTED** that money would be taken from reserves. It was **AGREED** to proceed. **ACTION:** The clerk to check if GCC could fund this first.

## 7. Allotments:

7.1. Maintenance update – to provide an **UPDATE** on the maintenance person working on the allotment site. **ACTION:** the clerk to merge/update contract to maintain the village and the allotments.

7.2. Number of renewals and vacant plots – to provide an **UPDATE** and **AGREE** the allotment terms and conditions. It was confirmed that there are 6 vacant plots, and 6 people that haven't paid. **ACTION:** the clerk to chase payments.

**8. Flooding** - to **DISCUSS** the matter of drainage and flooding in the village and agree a plan/options to raise with the Thames Water Board.

**ACTION:** Community meeting to be organised, the Clerk will liaise with residents and councillors.

## 9. Planning

9.1 Planning applications live – Council to **DISCUSS** and **AGREE** a response

9.1.1 Full Application for Erection of a single-storey equestrian barn to replace a stable block at Bourton Vale Equestrian Centre College Farm Stow Road Bourton-on-the-Water, Cheltenham

Ref.No: 26/00250/FUL

Status: Approved



9.1.2 Full Application for Installation of soil pipe to east of property at Greyholme Copse Hill, Road Lower Slaughter Cheltenham Gloucestershire

Ref no: 26/00100/FUL

No objections were made

9.2. Aldi Store development – to **NOTE** that council would support a request for a contribution to improving HSL10 (the path by the river that villagers would use to walk to Aldi) as part of the planning process.

9.3 Previous applications – an Update

Lavandula Becky Hill application for the erection of 2 natural limestone pier supports to existing planted wooden garden trellis, was refused permission.

## 10. Finance Report

10.1 . Council **AGREED** that Alison Robinson is added as a new user to the Lloyds Bank account, and to remove Jane Carter.

10.2. **NOTE** and **APPROVE** payments and receipts

PAID

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Payment measure
04/03/26	Sign Shed	No Fishing signs	£33.45	VISA (Clerk)
05/03/26	CastleWater	Water rates	£12.39	VISA (Clerk)

Council to NOTED and AGREED to reimburse clerk for the payments made.

DIRECT DEBIT

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Payment measure
17/03/26	ICO	Annual Fee	£52.00	DD

Council NOTED upcoming payment

OUTSTANDING

Date	Payee	Description	Amount	Payment measure
26/02/26	PATA	Payroll	£24.55	BACS
26/02/26	J Carter	Salary	£432.05	BACS



09/02/26     TreeTech     Replacement of tree     £297.60     BACS

Council AGREED payments

10.3. To **NOTE** and approve bank reconciliation: current account – no update currently, waiting for the clerk to gain access to the bank.

10.4. To **NOTE** and approve bank reconciliation: reserves accounts – no update currently, waiting for the clerk to gain access to the bank.

10.5 To **NOTE** the internal auditor will undertake work in April – this was noted.

### **11. Digital and Data Compliance (Assertion 10)**

From 2025–26 onwards, councils must confirm they have taken proper steps to ensure digital and data compliance, including:

11.1 Using a council-owned domain (e.g. clerk@lowerslaughterparishcouncil.gov.uk) rather than personal Gmail/Outlook accounts. Noting org.uk is also acceptable. To AGREE generic council emails for the clerk and the chairperson – the clerk has followed this up and waiting for a response.

11.2 Ensuring websites are compliant with Accessibility Regulations 2018 (WCAG 2.2 AA). The website was examined according to various WCAG criteria to assess usability and accessibility. There were 15 mistakes found. There are 7 in the category 'not fulfilled'. **ACTION:** The clerk will investigate what action needs to be taken to increase accessibility of the website.

11.3 Publishing required documents under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Transparency Code. – This was agreed.

11.4 **AGREE** and **ADOPT** an updated IT and Email policy covering both council owned and personal devices. A draft policy is attached. This was agreed.

11.5 Complying with the General Data Protection Act GDPR 2018 for all personal data. Lower Slaughter PC is registered with the Information Commissioners Office The Clerk is nominated as the Data Processor and Data Controller. It is noted that Lower Slaughter Parish Council is signed up to the ICO, an annual fee of £52 is paid via Direct Debit – this will be paid on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

11.6 A Data Risk Assessment will be developed and is presented below to Council for discussion and approval in May 2026.



## 12. Parish Council equipment

Council to **AGREE** to provide up to £750 for the purchase of a laptop for the Clerk to undertake council business. In accordance with Financial Regulations three quotations have been sought. Funding will include the cost of Microsoft subscription. This was agreed.

## 13. Reports and Recommendations

### 13.1 Weir Project

To provide an **UPDATE** on progress – the funding has been secured from GCC for the entire project (excluding VAT), and that a contractor has been agreed at a price of £16,932.50 plus VAT, A B Hull will deliver this. Work will commence when water levels have subsided in the river. **ACTION:** the clerk to set up regular meetings with relevant officers at GCC.

### 13.2 Warden updates

13.2.1. Neighbourhood Watch – there were questions about traffic wardens in the village. **ACTION:** the clerk to touch base with the wardens that come from Bourton on the Water

13.2.2. River – no update

13.2.3. Rights of Way – hedge trimming along Green Lane and opposite. It is too late now due to nesting. **ACTION:** the clerk to find out why it hasn't been done. HSL10 – S106 funding potential. HSL4 – Cricket club has been underwater. Discussion about sorting the path out. **ACTION:** Walk through of the village to assess all the issues that need doing, and identify priorities relating to ownership, liabilities, quick wins.

13.2.4 Trees – **UPDATE** on the call to action to residents to help cut back the epicormic growth on the village lime trees. It was noted that Rich Godwin has undertaken the work.

13.2.5 Flood and Snow – include note in the minutes from warden

## 14. Well Run at Hawkstone event

The 10K run will come through Lower Slaughter on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (18:30 to 21:00) - there were no objections to this local event.

**15. Resignation of Ann Classen**– after many years Ann is standing down, she was thanked for her time and commitment to LSPC.



## **16. Day of council meetings**

Lower Slaughter Parish Council meets bi-monthly on the third Monday of the month. It is **PROPOSED** to change this date.

To **AGREE** from July 2026 that all parish meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY every second month, and the attached twelve-month calendar of meetings be **APPROVED** and published on the Parish Council website.

## **17. Date of the Next Meeting**

Members to **NOTE** that the next scheduled meeting will take place on:

Monday 18 May 2026, at Lower Slaughter Village Hall, at 6pm.

This will be the Annual Meeting of the Council

Meeting closed: 7.21pm.