



## **LOWER SLAUGHTER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Full Council Extraordinary Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** 15 June 2026

**Start Time:** 6.04 pm

**Venue:** Lower Slaughter Parish Hall

#### **Present**

- Councillor Florence Edgar
- Councillor Julie Hooson (Deputy Chair)
- Councillor Julian Grimshaw
- Alison Robinson – Parish Clerk
- Saffron (Thames Water – Area Network Manager)
- Sophie Thomas (Thames Water – Customer Liaison)
- 21 members of the public

#### **Public Participation**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 3, it was agreed that questions from members of the public would be taken following the Thames Water presentation under Item 5.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and noted from Councillor George Papadakis.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 May 2026 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**Resolved:** All members agreed.

#### **4. Chair's Announcements**

There were no Chair's announcements.

#### **5. Flooding and Drainage Issues Affecting Lower Slaughter**

The Council received an update from Thames Water regarding actions undertaken and planned to mitigate and manage issues affecting the sewage network.

#### **Thames Water Update**

Sophie (Customer Liaison) and Saffron (Area Network Manager) provided the following update:

- A site visit has been undertaken to gather information and understand the history of works carried out within the village.
- Thames Water has also been investigating issues in Upper Slaughter, as the Upper Slaughter network impacts the Lower Slaughter system. Upper Slaughter



does not experience the same level of groundwater infiltration as Lower Slaughter.

- Sewer lining work has been undertaken. This process creates an internal lining within the sewer, preventing infiltration from surface and groundwater.
- The lining installed has an estimated lifespan of approximately 20 years. Additional technologies, including "top hat" lining, are also being considered. This method seals the connection between lateral drains and the main sewer.
- Since 2020, approximately 1.24 km of the sewer network has been lined, representing around 40% of the Lower Slaughter network.
- The twin section of sewer adjacent to the river has been inspected. The northern section is lined, while the opposite side remains unlined.
- Forty-three manholes were sealed during works completed in 2020 and 2021.
- CCTV investigations were carried out during the previous week. Thames Water identified locations where river water is entering the sewer network, including through private laterals serving properties and businesses.
- Thames Water intends to undertake CCTV surveys of the entire Lower Slaughter network using its contractor, Terrar. This work is scheduled for the week commencing 22 June 2026.
- The surveys will identify areas where groundwater infiltration is occurring and where lining or re-lining works may be required.
- Any future lining programme will require a business case to be submitted within Thames Water. This will include full costings and consideration of:
  - Frequency of property flooding;
  - Climate change impacts; and
  - Future development pressures.
- Timescales for investment will depend on procurement processes, risk assessments, and any road closures required to facilitate works.
- On 16 June 2026, Thames Water will investigate the pumping station. The work will focus on monitoring levels within the wet well and identifying the point at which network issues occur before alarm thresholds are reached.
- A SIM card monitoring system will be installed to provide improved remote monitoring.
- Thames Water confirmed that no freshwater is intentionally discharged into the river and that any outflows are part of the designed system.

### **Questions from Members of the Public**

**Q:** Is there calibration between the Upper Slaughter and Lower Slaughter pumping stations?

**Action:** Thames Water to investigate and report back.



**Q:** How often are the pumping stations serviced?

**Action:** Thames Water to investigate and report back.

**Q:** What is the capacity of the outflow system?

**Action:** Thames Water to investigate and report back.

**Q:** Is there provision to install a monitor at the Island Junction?

**Response:** Yes; however, the planned monitoring upgrade at the pumping station should remove the need for monitoring at Island Junction.

**Q:** Could privately owned drains be impacting the network?

**Response:** Yes. Thames Water confirmed that private laterals may contribute to infiltration and will be investigated as part of the ongoing work.

**Q:** Is the field through which the sewer lines run contributing to the problem?

**Response:** This is considered a potential source of water infiltration and will form part of the wider investigation.

### **Next Steps**

Saffron agreed to provide regular updates as the project progresses, including network information and drawings relating to:

- Upper Slaughter;
- Lower Slaughter; and
- Bourton-on-the-Water.

Thames Water will continue to communicate progress and may be invited to attend future Council meetings, towards the end of 2026.

### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on **Wednesday 15 July 2026 at 6.00 pm** at Lower Slaughter Parish Hall

**Meeting Closed** - The meeting closed at **7.02 pm**