

Minutes of General meeting

Held on Sunday 17 November 2019, 18:00 hrs at Lower Slaughter Village Hall

Councillors present: Cllrs Sinclair (Chairman), Chapman, Randles (Minutes) and Thomas.
In attendance: 12 members of the public

191117/1 Chairman's Opening Remarks

Cllr Sinclair chaired the meeting and welcomed all present. Unfortunately the new Clerk had resigned as she felt the job was not for her after all. He thanked Tony Lang and Bob Ayers for looking after the parish waterways and suggested meeting with them separately to discuss maintenance in the longer term

191117/2 Declarations of Interest

None.

191117/3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Julie Roche.

191117/4 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the General Meeting on 15 September 2019 *were agreed by Councillors and signed as a true record by Cllr Sinclair.*

191117/5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

191117/6 To receive comments from the public

6.1 Recent near-flood situation.

David Barnes reported that since early June there had been spells of heavy rainfall, but thanks to previous flood mitigation work and low water levels, the river had coped well. However, the past couple of months had been very wet and the most recent downpours had caused the river to rise to an exceptionally high level and overtop its banks along Scare Lane. This highlighted the need to address the following matters:

1. Clear the drainage ditches along Copse Hill Road to reduce the volume of water coming down Mill Lane and into the river. **David Barnes to contact Highways to expedite this.**
2. Clear blockages and obstructions from the river downstream from the bridge on Scare Lane. **Cllr Sinclair to contact the relevant riparian owners to request that this work is done.**
3. Once the blockages are cleared, insert a pipe diagonally under Scare Lane to provide extra capacity at the bridge at an approximate cost of £6k. **David Barnes to contact Laurence King about this.**
4. Lowering the wall at the swale to permit water to escape more quickly. **Cllr Sinclair to contact The Slaughters Country Inn and request their permission to carry out this work.**

Gerald Harris said he keeps a daily watch on the weather forecast and has asked Eyford to alert him to any release of water from their lakes as this directly affects the Mill Pond levels. **Mr Harris to ascertain and advise Cllr Sinclair about who to contact at Eyford in this regard.** Maintaining low water levels in the Mill Pond in an effort to provide greater capacity during

heavy rainfall events was discussed, but negative implications for wildlife would need to be carefully considered before such action was taken.

It was noted that individuals can register to receive flood alerts from the Environment Agency and all home owners were responsible for making their own flood prevention arrangements. A supply of sandbags was kept in the Village Shed, but anyone requiring these would need to provide sand and fill them. **Details to be included in next LSVN entry.**

It was decided that a Flood Committee should be established and a meeting should be held as soon as possible to better understand the current situation and what was needed to better manage potential flood events. Cllr Sinclair to arrange with Cllr Thomas, Mr Harris, Laurence King (Drainage expert for West Oxfordshire, Cotswold and Forest of Dean District Councils), Mr Barnes, Steve Randles and someone from Eyford.

There were no other comments from the public.

191117/7 Planning Applications

7.1 To report on earlier applications

18/01681/FUL Scrap Haulage Yard, Gilder, Fosseyway, Lower Slaughter GL54 2EY

Re-development of existing scrap yard and haulage depot to create electric car charging service station and associated works. Parish Council objected 27/6/19. *At a CDC Planning Committee meeting held on 13 November 2019, **this application was refused.***

18/03618/FUL Hill Barn, Lower Swell. Retrospective change of use and extension of 2 x agricultural barns to conference hall and function suite (D2). Parish Council objected 1/8/19. *Some amendments have been made to this application which show further traffic implications for Lower Slaughter. **Parish Council to submit objection to amendments.***

19/01988/FUL and 19/1989/LBC The Old Mill, Mill Lane, Lower Slaughter. Conversion of café to dwelling, conversion of retail area to dwelling, re-configuration of café/retail area, refurbishment of outbuildings, associated landscaping. Parish Council supported "in principle" with areas of concern to be addressed 26/7/19. *Awaiting decision.*

19/02489/FUL Pennshill, Lower Slaughter GL54 2JH. Proposed single storey Orangery and Kitchen extensions and two storey Entrance Hall and Master Bedroom extension. *Awaiting decision.*

7.2 To consider new planning applications

19/03919/FUL Land Parcel at The Gravel Pits, Fosseyway, Lower Slaughter. Variation of Condition 1 of planning permission 18/03990/FUL for the operation of the temporary utilities compound until 21 November 2020. **Parish Council agreed to object to this UNLESS it was for Thames Water or one of their approved contractors.**

191117/8 Finance:

8.1 Cllr Chapman reported on the current financial position as at 31 October 2019 which showed available funds of just under £12k.

8.2 Cllr Chapman reported on receipts since the last meeting which included September and October interest on accounts of £2.71 and £2.63 and second payment of CDC Precept of £1,425.00. Payments made since the last meeting were as follows:

Bibury – Village grass maintenance	£262.28	Highways Act 1980 s96
Bibury – Initial remediation of west allotment boundary	£384.00	Smallholding & Allotments Act 1908 s23
Bibury – Plantation strimming	£316.80	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9,10
R Ayers – Fuel for strimmer	£5.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9,10
L Dowie – Secretarial services	£157.00	LGA 1972 s111
Bibury – Village grass maintenance	£262.28	Highways Act 1980 s96
Castle Water – allotment	£30.17	Smallholding & Allotments Act 1908 s23
Cllr S Thomas – purchase of second liquid amber tree	£61.99	Highways Act 1980 s96
Blue Leaf Gardens – planting of liquid amber tree	£70.00	Highways Act 1980 s96

8.3 *The following payments were approved by the Council:*

Cllr P Sinclair – purchase of LSPC computer/printer	£334.98	LGA 1972 s111
PKF Littlejohn LLP – Audit Fees	£240.00	LGA 1972 s111
HMRC – PAYE for LSPC Clerk (Ms A Tomkins)	£72.60	LGA 1972 s112
GAPTC – Clerk Training Fee	£40.00	LGA 1972 s111
Cllr P Sinclair – Software Licence for LSPC computer	£59.99	LGA 1972 s111
James English Window Cleaner – bus stop cleaning	£20.00	LG (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 s4
Ms A Tomkins – Clerk fees	£374.07	LGA 1972 s112
PATA – Payroll services	£22.75	LGA 1972 s111
Bibury – West Allotment clearance work	£3,374.00	Smallholding & Allotments Act 1908 s23

The report was approved by the Council and signed by Cllr Thomas (Appendix 1).

8.4 Cllr Chapman had prepared and provided a Budget and Precept Planning document for the coming year 2020/2021 for consideration prior to the meeting. *This was duly discussed and agreed by Councillors.* Thanks to Cllr Chapman for his work on this.

191117/9 Replacement of Clerk:

The Parish Council had again advertised with GAPTC for a Parish Clerk. If a Clerk could not be found before the January meeting, *it was proposed to advertise locally for someone to attend and minute the meetings on a temporary, contract/invoice basis.*

191117/10 Local Plan and Local Transport Plan:

Cllr Sinclair explained that, with the amount of work, time and cost involved in preparing such documents, and with little perceived benefit in doing so, *it was agreed not to take this further.*

191117/11 Complaints Procedure:

This had been reviewed since the last meeting and *all Councillors were happy for this to now be formally adopted.* **Cllr Sinclair to upload onto website.**

191117/12 VE Day 2020 – 75th Commemoration

Revd Katrina had written to the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee about this. *Councillors were happy to support a village event.* **Cllr Sinclair to write to Katrina to this effect.**

191117/13 Filming and Broadcasting:

13.1 Progress on agreed projects:

1. Planting of second tree by church entrance - *Done.* Thanks to Cllr Thomas for this.
2. Installation of a stone flower trough in front of the Village Hall and village-wide planting scheme. *No progress at present.* **Cllr Sinclair to write to Rachel Pejka about this.**
3. Upgrade of allotment facilities, storage etc. *Ongoing.* **Cllr Chapman to action this.**
4. Resurfacing Mill Dam footpath. *Cllr Thomas has approached the Hambro estate about being involved in and contributing to this project.* As Probate has yet to be granted and could take some time, **Cllr Thomas to contact them again in December.**
5. History book reprint. *It was agreed that if Mr Wheeler sells these, the money should be paid to a nominated charity.*
6. Discreet relining of the area opposite the small-holding on Becky Hill. **Cllr Thomas to contact Highways to see if they can do this.**
7. New junior cricket team kit. *Still to be discussed with the Cricket Club Treasurers.*
8. Village Hall sports facilities. *No requests to help fund have been forthcoming from the Village Hall Committee.*
9. To provide better signage etc. *Discussions ongoing.*
10. CCTV cameras. *To be discussed at future meetings.*

13.2 To review and approve new projects

1. Cotswold Riding Opportunities Project. *Cllr Sinclair has sent details about obtaining grants to support this to the Equestrian Centre.*

191117/14 Highways, Traffic and Parking Report

Following closure of the Reception at Stow Police Station, *Cllr Sinclair has written to Sgt Garrett Gloyn to find out what support he can provide regarding Coach Watch. A reply is awaited.*

191117/15 Village Grass Cutting and Maintenance Report

Work to improve the grassed areas between the hotels would be required.

191117/16 Reports from Local Organisations and Charities

None.

191117/17 Allotments and Orchard Report

The allotment picnic table had been temporarily moved to allow levelling and re-grassing work. Once the grass has established, the table will be repositioned. Allotment tenancy payments for 2019/20 have now been received from all bar 2 tenants; these are still awaited.

191117/18 Parish Website Report

The new website seemed to be working well with planning notifications being received by those who have requested them. Work is ongoing to ensure the site is accessibility-compliant by the end of the year. **The new website address to be republished in the next LSVN and Cllr Sinclair to invite the LSVN Team to put the monthly newsletters onto the site.**

191117/19 Reports from Wardens

19.1 River: Thanks to David Barnes for his work regarding the flood issues.

19.2 Rights of Way: HSL 1 footpath opposite The Rectory - part of the stile has now been removed allowing easier access for pedestrians. Flooding has affected parts of Scare Lane, the Equestrian Centre and the footpath behind Manor Farm. This latter route will need to be checked for damage once river levels subside. Earlier in the day, HSL 15 (bridleway opposite Lansdowne in BOTW) was checked to see how it was coping with the bad weather. It was found to be still in perfect condition in some areas, flooded in others, and in one place it had completely broken down into a large hole. Near the BOTW end, a stretch of approximately 10 metres had completely disappeared under about 6 inches of mud. Steve Randles thought it would be prudent for Robin Cochrane and someone from PROW or Highways to assess this and ascertain what had gone wrong before undertaking any work on Mill Dam to the same specification. Cllr Thomas has written to Highways about improving Scare Lane.

19.3 Snow – Bins had been checked and were fine, and there were additional bags of grit as well. In order to access the grit spreader, **Steve Randles to provide David Barnes with a Village Shed key.**

19.4 Trees – Notification about an Early 31 Day Motion regarding trees and climate change had been received. *Councillors agreed to support. Cllr Thomas to send to our MP.*

191117/20 Correspondence

All correspondence received had been dealt with under the relevant agenda items above.

191117/21 Date of Next Meeting: Sunday 19 January 2020 at 6.00pm – Lower Slaughter Village Hall

Cllr Sinclair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.30 pm.

Signed *Paul Sinclair 2/2/20*
Chairman

Date