Lower Slaughter Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting

Held on 21 October 2026 at 6.00pm

Present

Cllr Julie Hooson, Cllr Florence Edgar, Cllr Julian Grimshaw
Alison Robinson (Clerk)

Cllr Len Wilkins (Cotswold District Council)
Cllr Paul Hodgkinson (Gloucestershire County Council)
Chloe Marshall and Simon Siha (Gloucestershire County Council Parking Enforcement)
Sam Launchbury (Coach Park Proposal)

Members of the Public: 23 local residents

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr George Papadakis.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2026 were approved subject to the following amendment:

Section 8.2 (River Clean, Bullet Point 3): As no representative of St Mary's PCC was present at the meeting, it could not be stated that the church had agreed to the use of its bins.

4. Gloucestershire Highways Update

Representatives from Gloucestershire County Council provided an update on possible measures to address parking and verge-related issues within the village.

The Council was advised that enforcement action may be possible where parking restrictions exist adjacent to verges. Other potential measures discussed included cutting back hedges,

where ownership and permissions allow, to create additional parking space, installing signage to advise visitors that village parking is limited, and considering whether a traffic survey should be commissioned to provide evidence to support future measures.

Possible funding sources were discussed, including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding.

Action: Cllr Paul Hodgkinson to provide information on available funding opportunities.

5. Tourism

The meeting recognised that tourism is a significant contributor to traffic and parking pressures within the village.

Members discussed a range of possible measures, including investigating a tourist levy similar to proposals being considered in Bourton-on-the-Water and exploring whether the Parish Council could contribute towards additional parking enforcement during peak visitor periods.

It was acknowledged that demand for parking is likely to continue due to the village's popularity as a tourist destination. Opportunities to develop parking facilities capable of generating income were considered, including the use of the cricket club area for parking, which could provide revenue for the club. The meeting also noted that landowners may allow temporary parking on fields for up to 28 days each year.

6. Parking Enforcement

Chloe Marshall and Simon Siha of Gloucestershire County Council provided an overview of parking enforcement responsibilities and powers.

Members noted that a five-minute observation period applies to loading and unloading activities and that Blue Badge holders may park for up to three hours where regulations permit.

The officers emphasised the need for better information regarding parking patterns within the village. Similar issues are being experienced in other tourist destinations, including Bibury and Bourton-on-the-Water, and are becoming more severe each year.

Concerns were raised regarding the dangerous situations being created by congestion and inappropriate parking. Officers advised that enforcement resources remain limited, with

approximately 15 officers covering the entire county. High staff turnover and incidents of abuse towards enforcement officers were also highlighted.

Members queried whether faded double yellow lines could be refreshed. It was reported that an increasing number of Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) are being issued, although enforcement can be restricted when vehicle keeper information is unavailable.

The meeting discussed the impact of increasing coach traffic, including congestion and instances of private driveways being blocked. Gloucestershire County Council advised that it is exploring options such as rural clearways and technology-based solutions. Local authorities are also seeking increases to parking fines, although enforcement remains constrained by national legislation.

Members were advised that restrictions applying to vehicles carrying nine or more passengers in parts of Bourton-on-the-Water are enforceable only by the police. Coaches may, however, continue to drop off passengers at hotels where permitted.

Residents were encouraged to photograph offending vehicles and report them to the relevant coach company. Gloucestershire County Council confirmed that several operators have already been contacted regarding inappropriate drop-off arrangements.

The Council noted that intelligence gathering is important in identifying repeat offenders and supporting enforcement activity. Officers advised that where no parking restrictions exist, enforcement action is generally not possible.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson highlighted the lack of police presence within the area and suggested that representations should be made to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding local policing resources.

7. Coach Parking Proposal

Sam Launchbury presented a pre-application proposal for a coach and car park on land off Hawkstone Drive, close to the Fosse Way and accessed via the traffic lights.

The proposal sought to address parking pressures affecting Lower Slaughter and neighbouring villages. The proposed development would provide parking for approximately 25 coaches and more than 200 cars, together with public toilet facilities.

Members noted that the site would be similar in size to the main public car park in Bourton-on-the-Water. Potential financial contributions to the Parish Council were also outlined.

It was suggested that providing parking outside village centres could encourage visitors to leave their vehicles in a central location, thereby reducing congestion and parking pressures within the villages.

8. Resident Consultation

The Council agreed that several matters discussed during the meeting required further investigation before any decisions could be made.

These included:

- Working collaboratively with neighbouring parish councils.
- Exploring funding opportunities for additional parking enforcement.
- Considering other mitigation measures to address traffic and parking concerns.

It was agreed that these matters would be brought back to the Parish Council for further consideration at its November meeting.

9. Mitigation and Future Management

The Council agreed that wider mitigation measures and future management arrangements would be considered at a future meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

18 November 2026 at 6.00pm in the Village Hall, Lower Slaughter.

The meeting closed at 7.08pm.