

# **LOWER SLAUGHTER PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 6.15pm at St Mary's Church, Lower Slaughter**

Councillors present: Cllrs Chapman, Randles, Roche, Sinclair and Thomas

Also present: County Councillor Nigel Moor  
District Councillor Richard Keeling  
8 members of the public  
Liz Dowie (consultant)

The meeting commenced at 6.10pm

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Cllr Sinclair (Chairman) welcomed all those present.

### **2. Apologies**

None were received.

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2018 were agreed and signed as a correct record after a correction to the date.

### **5 Reports from County and District Councillors**

This item was brought forward to allow Cllrs Moor and Keeling to attend other meetings.

#### Report from County Councillor Dr Nigel Moor

Cllr Moor summarised the work of Gloucestershire County Council over the last 12 months which included updates on the A417 Missing Link, Ashchurch Garden Town, the new Highways contract, Governance of the Fire and Rescue Service and the commitment to becoming carbon neutral. (See Appendix 1 for full report).

Cllr Moor took questions:

He confirmed that there was now a larger contingent of Highways staff based at Shire Hall following the end of the Amey contract.

He confirmed that the County Council had set aside funds in its budget to support its commitment towards becoming carbon neutral.

He acknowledged that the number of tourists visiting Bourton, especially over Bank Holiday periods was becoming unsustainable and would take these concerns back to Council.

#### Report from District Councillor Richard Keeling

Cllr Keeling reported on District Council matters including the May election, the increase in members' allowances, car parking in Cirencester, garden waste arrangements and the streamlining of the management of delivery of local services by Publica Group Ltd across four council areas. (See Appendix 2 for full report)

He also advised that a survey of the impact of tourism on the Bourton area had been carried out and Bourton Parish Council would now debate the results.



Cllr Keeling took questions:

He confirmed that he did not support planning application 18/01861/FUL to create an electric car charging service station on the Gilder, Fosseyway site. Whilst the principle of providing such facilities on environmental grounds was sound, he did not consider that this site was an appropriate location for such a facility. He did not believe that the change in Council would affect the outcome of the application and it was still to be confirmed whether it would be considered by the full Planning Committee.

Mr Battersby reported that the Case Officer had advised that the closing date for comments had not been extended beyond the original date of 27 March 2019. Cllr Thomas advised that he remained in regular contact with the Case Officer and had been advised that the traffic report was expected in the next 7 days, following which the Parish Council would submit its comments. Cllr Sinclair also advised that, following attendance at a recent District Planning Committee meeting, it was clear that officers would submit comments for consideration by the Committee up to the date of the meeting.

Cllr Moor confirmed that he would ask the Case Officer to ensure that all interested parties were advised once the traffic report had been received.

Mr Battersby expressed concerns that the Parish Council had not submitted comments in March and considered this to be a dereliction of duty. Cllr Thomas reiterated that he was in continued contact with the Case Officer on behalf of the Parish Council and that any response made prior to receipt of the traffic report would be a repetition of that already made on 10 August 2018.

6.50pm Cllrs Moor and Keeling left the meeting.

#### **4. Annual Report of the Chairman of Lower Slaughter Parish Council**

Cllr Sinclair gave his report on the activities of the Parish Council over the last year. (See Appendix 3 for full report).

Cllr Chapman gave an update on allotments matters:

Following a decline in the population of the village, under an initiative proposed by the former Parish Council Chairman John Fennell, Kevin Chapman had formed a working party which had met three times to consider the future management of the allotments. This had been a useful exercise generating new ideas and an increase of six tenants and a resultant increase in revenue. Consideration would be given to having more public areas within the allotment site for use by all villagers. There had been insufficient volunteers to form a permanent committee but an informal "Friends of the Allotments" group would probably hold a meeting twice a year to provide an open forum for discussion of allotment issues.

Cllr Thomas gave an update on Highways matters. (See Appendix 4). He also thanked Robin Cochrane and the team of Cotswold Wardens for the work carried out on Scare Lane.

Cllr Sinclair added a report on the filming of "Emma". Villagers commented that the experience had been worthwhile but that it would probably be preferable not to repeat it due to the level of inconvenience for villagers. However, it was acknowledged that the village had been left in good order after the filming. Cllr Sinclair confirmed that £40,000 had been received from the production company and that this matter was included on the agenda of the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

#### **6. Local Community Reports**

##### Village Hall Committee

Christine Edwin gave a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee (See Appendix 5)

##### St Mary's Church

Cllr Sinclair read out the report sent in by Rev Katrina Scott. (See Appendix 6)



### Fete Committee

Steve Randles reported that the fete in 2018 had been very successful and had brought all parts of the community together. The net profit of £8,850 had been distributed to local groups including the following: LSVN £1,000, St Mary's Church £4,000, Village Hall £2,500.

A good start had been made with the preparations for the 2019 fete though it was proving challenging to attract new stallholders and the fete would not yield the same level of profit this year. Two new residents had joined the committee and would be running the raffle, though volunteers were being sought to run the BBQ. Villagers were asked to consider making donations of cakes, books, produce and tombola prizes.

### Rights of Way

Steve Randles thanked Robin Cochrane and the Cotswold Wardens for their work, particularly:

- (a) on improving the drainage on Scare Lane opposite the Equestrian Centre which to date appeared to have proved very effective,
- (b) for replacing the vandalised railing on the river bridge along Scare Lane, and
- (c) for carrying out extensive work on the section of Scare Lane between the weir and the paddock. This section has been unacceptably muddy for wheelchair access and a great deal of work has been carried out to expose the tarmac surface and to improve the drainage.

Steve Randles asked the Parish Council to request Gloucestershire Highways to include this section in its twice yearly road sweeping programme.

He also confirmed that re-gravelling/re-surfacing work, similar to the standard carried out on footpath HSL15, was also needed on HSL 3 (Mill Dam to Black Bridge section).

### Cotswold Wardens

Robin Cochrane gave an account of the background to the work of the Cotswold Wardens. They have up to 10 wardens who meet weekly to carry out work in the villages and Lower Slaughter has benefitted from a significant proportion of their time this year. They are prepared to do any type of work from erecting gates and stiles to general maintenance work. They also welcome any local residents who would like to work with them. They will be carrying out further work on Scare Lane and will be re-building the railings on the footbridge this week. (See Appendix 7 for full report).

## **7. Open Forum**

Questions were raised regarding the allotments and Cllr Chapman confirmed that the Parish Council had budgeted for additional grass cutting, though the scope of the work had not yet been decided. Cllr Chapman asked for any comments on the allotments to be forwarded to him.

Robin Cochrane asked that consideration be given to leaving the overgrown area untouched as this was a haven for wildlife including hedgehogs and partridge.

## **8. Closing Comments from the Chairman**

Cllr Sinclair thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm



**Lower Slaughter Parish Council Monday 20th May 2019**

**Report by Cllr Dr Nigel Moor Gloucestershire County Councillor for the Stow Division**

- County Council tax increased by 4.99% overall this year – which includes an Adult Social Care levy of 2% which is ring-fenced for adult care. Gloucestershire's council tax is the third lowest of any county council in England (£1.57 pa higher than lowest), and lower than every neighbouring county.
- Despite keeping tax down, the budget this year increases investment in key areas:
  - £2m extra to protect older people
  - £11m extra for children and young people
  - Year 2 of £150m investment into road resurfacing
  - £45m for Gloucestershire schools (part of our overall £100m commitment)
- Demand continues to grow in key areas.
  - The level of children in care has increased by 39% since 2014 (478 – 707).
  - Since 2015, the number of children requiring a Educational Health and Care Plan (what used to be called a statement of special educational need) has increased by 47%.
  - The level of older people in Gloucestershire has grown by 28% since 2007, with projections showing that the number of older people needing help with an illness or disability will increase by 41% in the next 11 years.
- The recently agreed budget provides the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Conservative £150m investment road resurfacing programme. In its first year, this saw 164 projects carried out across the Gloucestershire, with over 108km of roads resurfaced and 60km surface dressed. In the Cotswolds this included more than 40 projects valued at £7m and some 80 km of roads resurfaced. This coming year will see a similar scale of work in the Cotswolds with many minor roads also included.

This year's budget also provides every councillor with £25,000 of Highways Local funding to invest in repairing and upgrading roads and footpaths in their division.

- Key route announcement for the A417 Missing Link was announced by Government in March. Total cost of £500m. Consultation on preferred route summer 2019. Bid to government for finance to improve Junction 10 on the M5 (West Cheltenham) to increase capacity and build to a full junction with access/leave both North and South directions. Part of Cheltenham Cyber Park scheme. GCC has also bid for funds to expand Cheltenham's Arle Court Park and Ride.
- The Government also announced support for the Ashchurch Garden Town located off the A46 near Junction 9 on the M5 and adjoining the station on the Gloucester: Birmingham railway line. This is to accommodate 10,000 new homes and in my view should help to relieve housing pressures in the North Cotswolds



- The £100m investment into Gloucestershire schools continues this year, with a range of capital projects, including a brand new secondary school for Cheltenham as well as improvements to local schools including Moreton, Stow, Rissington, and Bledington.
- Fastershire – We are investing a further £1.4m from April into delivering fast broadband right across the county. So far, over 97% of homes and businesses have access and work continues on the hardest to reach areas.

GCC have appointed Ringway Infrastructure Services to deliver the new £245m highways maintenance contract for the county. The contract is initially for seven years and they are responsible from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 for

- Pothole repairs
- Winter gritting and snow clearing
- Gully cleaning
- Verge and grass cutting
- Surface dressing

Ringway have been working for Worcestershire for over 13 years as well as Wiltshire and Highways England in the south west. They have a lot of capacity and experience and mobilisation has begun. Together with the choice of Tarmac for the major resurfacing projects and WS Atkins for the professional service contract this now completes the procurement of the highways contract. These are all top levels firms and I anticipate a big improvement.

The proposal by the Police & Crime Commissioner to present a business case for his governance of the Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service: Gloucestershire County Councillors debated a motion at Council on this further proposal by the PCC and all 53 councillors resolved that governance should remain with the County Council. In a letter to the PCC in November all five Conservative MP's for Gloucestershire constituencies confirmed their support for the county council's position. All six district councils in Gloucestershire have also confirmed their opposition. Both Moreton and Stow Town Councils have voted in support of the county council's position.

Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan Review 2015-2041 Work has begun on the review. Consultation in autumn 2019. We will also look further ahead to tie in with the 2050 vision so as to examine long –term options eg. A Third Severn Crossing. The continuing use of the Fosse as a strategic freight route will also be examined.

Gloucestershire County Council commits to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and will play its part in global carbon reduction following a motion on climate change which was unanimously supported at council on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Following a Climate Summit to be convened with stakeholders from across the county GCC will publish its draft climate change strategy and action plan in the summer for widespread public consultation.

**Bourton Vale Ward**  
**District Councillors Report**  
**May 2019**

Some highlights of recent Cotswold District Council decisions during 2018/19:

**Council Tax**

CDC has agreed a 2% increase in the authority's share of residents' council tax payments for 2019/2020. This follows a sequence of either reductions or freezes over more than 10 years which represents a real terms reduction of c50% against a 2010 baseline.

The 2% rise means the average band D charge for District services will increase from £126.40 per annum to £128.93 per annum - less than 5p per week.

**Car Parking**

There will be a continuation of the freeze on parking charges at all CDC owned car parks for 2019/20.

There will be a continuation of the 'free after 3 pm' parking scheme until the end of March 2020 at selected car parks across the District, including in Bourton-on-the-Water, Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Tetbury.

Work is progressing with detailed plans for the proposed Waterloo decked car park in Cirencester and with interim arrangements for additional parking at Cirencester Rugby Club.

A structural ground survey began on 18<sup>th</sup> March prior to submitting proposals for the new multi storey car park.

To make up for the shortfall of spaces whilst the Waterloo car park is constructed the Council is to provide temporary decked car parking for c100 extra spaces in the town.

**Garden Waste service**

The Council reversed a decision, after consultation, to suspend the garden waste collection for 3 months during the winter. The revised arrangements reinstate the all year-round collections albeit on a fortnightly basis from November 2019. The licence fee for the service remains at £30 per annum.



The new arrangements – which include separate collections of food waste (in new larger and more robust outdoor caddies) on a weekly basis – will come into effect on 1st November 2019.

### **Publica**

The work to establish and develop Publica continues. The company is a council owned arrangement delivering shared services to Cotswold, West Oxfordshire and Forest of Dean District Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council.

By sharing services and staff Publica delivers efficient, value for money services and enables the use of digital technology that would not be possible or cost effective for Cotswold District Council on its own,

Savings estimated in the 2020 -2023 budget period are £2m for Cotswold District Council.

### **District Council Election 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

The recent election produced success for the Liberal Democrat Party who now control the District Council with 18 seats to the Conservatives' 14 with one Independent and one Green Party representative.

Thank you to all who returned me as District Councillor to the Bourton Vale Ward.

The initial meeting of the Lib Dems administration last week included only one item for decision – that of voting to increase Members Allowances. The Conservative Members voted against the motion. We shall be keeping a close watch on the Council's finances.

**Richard Keeling**

**Bourton Vale District Councillor**

**May 2019**



## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF LOWER SLAUGHTER PARISH COUNCIL**

This year has seen the arrival of Sasha Sahota and Hugo Murphy joining his two year old sister Harriet. However, I am sorry to report the passing of Ray Mosson whose funeral was last Friday. He will be greatly missed especially his fantastic display of dahlias which I understand were in commemoration of his wife. I believe he is one of two chaps born, raised and brought up his family in Lower Slaughter. The year also saw the passing of Tony and Sheena Frost and Tony provided support to the Council for a number of years auditing the Council's accounts.

Thank you to John Fennel for being the point of contact and forwarding information gathered by villagers. We need to thank villagers for their vigilance in reporting coaches contravening the TRO. I believe Coach Watch has been successful in decreasing the number of coaches coming into the village. We also must thank Pulhams Coaches for coming to meet with us and for consistently notifying us when they are dropping off and picking up at the hotel and taking notice of our TRO. We did recently have a small problem when the police said they could no longer support the TRO as we did not have signs on all of the access roads. John and I carried out an audit of the signs and the police have now reinstated their activity in support of the TRO.

Allotments – Kevin Chapman and Karen Randles have done a sterling job in encouraging the use of the allotments and Kevin will give a separate update on this.

Highways – Stuart Thomas will give a separate report.

Film and Broadcasting - During the past year we have seen the BBC recording a short segment for Country File with John Craven and more recently, I am not sure if anybody noticed it but a company backed by Universal Studios used the village as part of their new production of Emma! Due to an unfortunate issue with the leading lady being under the weather they have returned to the village to shoot some scenes they missed the first time. It is worth mentioning that the BBC paid the village a "small" amount for the short recording. The economic impact to the village from the making of Emma is in the region of £250,000 if you take into consideration the hotels, payments to villagers, the Village Hall, Parish Council etc.

Village Maintenance - Significant work has been carried out in and around the village this year. Grass cutting was handled well by Bibury Garden Services who have secured the contract again for this year.

Fete – a dry day saw a very successful event which will be reported on separately later in the meeting.

Planning – The Parish Council convened a meeting of the village to discuss the Gilders application for an electric charging station and we continue to monitor and provide input as this application progresses. We have stressed that it is important for individuals to register either their support or objections on the Cotswold District Council website as the number of comments are taken into consideration as well as what individuals say.

Dog bins and fly tipping - Fly tipping has occurred again in the village. We reported it to CDC who cleaned it up reasonably quickly and we have now arranged for the installation of a new dog bin at the end of the footpath on Copse Hill Road.

I would like to make special mention and thank:

David Alderman, Jeannette Wheeler, Christine and Colin Edwin for their work on the Lower Slaughter Village Newsletter. They are supported by the following villagers: Jenny Smith, Bob Ayers, Tony and Marie Lang, Karen Randles, Phil Battersby, Sundous Swallow, Judie Fennell and Dean Oseman. who deliver the 70 paper copies within the village.



David Barnes, for leading the Flood Group, maintaining the defibrillator and for his work as snow warden

Steve Randles, for organising the annual Spring Clean, Fete, and as rights of way warden.

Bob Ayers and Tony Lang for their work around the village and along the river.

Karen and Steve Randles for doing an outstanding job in raising funds to support the purchase the "There But Not There" silhouette Tommies and plaques to mark the occasion of the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Robin Cochrane and the voluntary wardens for repairing the river bridge on Scare Lane, for trimming back trees and generally keeping the paths around the village clear and passable.

Finally I would like to thank your Councillors for signing up to and taking responsibility for the efficient running of the Council and ensuring we adhere to the rules. Also for continuing to keep Lower Slaughter Village a safe, well kept super place to live recognising the heritage of this, one of the jewels of the Cotswolds. They all give their time voluntarily and sign up to the responsibility associated with that of being a councillor giving all of their time for free and dealing with what is sometimes a thankless task.

Specifically I would like to thank Stuart for his work as Vice-Chairman and for the work he does in the village including ensuring that the film company did not destroy our village and for his work as tree warden; Kevin for keeping us compliant with the rules and regulations with regard to our finances and for ensuring that we have and adhere to an agreed fiscal policy; Julie for her continued support and taking care of our communications and Karen, our latest addition – thank you for joining us and for your work on administering the allotments.

Added following the meeting. My apologies to Liz Dowie for not thanking her in the meeting. Liz joined the council almost a year ago as consultant and has been a fantastic asset and the council have benefited greatly from her guidance.

Paul Sinclair

Chairman – Lower Slaughter Parish Council

20 May 2019



## **LOWER SLAUGHTER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **HIGHWAYS REPORT**

It has been a rather frustrating year with issues raised with Gloucestershire Highways and PROW making slow or no progress. On the positive side the road repairs on Copse Hill between the hotels were almost completed after a year of reminders and remarking. Unfortunately, the two day road closure was reduced to one day at very short notice and limited repairs remain outstanding adjacent to the church. Some limited improvement works have been carried out on Kingswell Lane to try and reduce the overflow on to the road from the adjacent spring and time will tell on how successfully the works will perform. Gloucestershire Highways (GCCHighways) have been made aware of problems with signage in a couple of locations but have simply removed rather than replaced/repared the signage.

The vandal damage to the footbridge along Scare Lane has been repaired using softwood timbers with Robin Cochrane and the Cotswold Wardens doing a sterling job in respect of both the repair and improvement works to Scare Lane. PROW were asked to provided chestnut posts and rails as the original construction for durability but have failed to produce the correct sections and after 9 months of waiting these will now be funded by the Parish Council for Robin and the Wardens to progress replacement.

Some potholes along Copse Hill have been filled by GCC Highways. The issue of the bus stop on the A429 and in particular safe access has been raised again with GCC Highways and we await their improvement works proposals although we expect this to take some time due to "funding and resource" issues. We similarly await proposals for improvements to Scare lane footpath to enable improved wheelchair access from Bourton.

A recurring pollution incident on the Hambro Land has been sorted with the help of Thames Water and Hambros agent and the temporary fencing will be removed 6 months after the incident.

Stuart Thomas  
Vice-Chairman  
20 May 2019



## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019**

### **REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE**

**The Village Hall Committee continues to maintain and manage the Village Hall on behalf of the Villagers, as stipulated in its original constitution and according to the rules laid down by the original Trustees, when it was gifted to the Village by the Whitmore family in 1888.**

**Unfortunately, the Committee seems to be getting smaller, and each member therefore has more work to do, but each member and Trustee is fully committed to maintaining this beautiful facility which the village is lucky to have. However, its use by villagers has lessened considerably during the last five years.**

**Despite appeals through word of mouth and the LSVN, we cannot find any volunteers to share the load, although we will be appealing shortly for someone to undertake a specific job. The Committee is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the facility and ensuring the village has access to it, but it is not responsible for providing social activities for the village. We are very happy to listen to any suggestions whereby the Hall could be used more, but these activities require leadership and are constrained by the artists exhibitions during the summer. This is our main source of income, as we still provide free use for villagers.**

**As you can imagine, the cost of maintenance of an old and listed building is quite considerable. We have had major work done in the last four years running into tens of thousands of pounds, and we have adopted an on-going programme of maintenance and improvement of the facilities.**

**Recently, the Village Hall has featured in the filming taking place in Lower Slaughter, and although it received a drastic makeover, it was restored to its original state, with only one or two small hiccups to be dealt with. We are confident that this restoration will be equally acceptable after the second round of filming.**



**St. Mary's Church, Lower Slaughter**  
**Annual Report – May 2019**

As a Church community, we love being involved in village life and being a part of this amazing community. Looking back over this last year, we continue to try to express God's love for us all in our worship, our community activities, our events and our day to day lives. Some highlights include:

- Our regular services follow a pattern of communions and more informal family worship. Our special events (often around the seasons of the year) can be diverse in style and are usually well supported. Visitors and new regulars are always warmly welcomed.
- We try to reflect God's presence with us through our journeys in life and our joyful baptisms, love filled weddings and reflective funerals are an important part of this. We love to serve our community in these services. During 2018 we held 7 baptisms, 24 weddings and 7 funerals.
- We try to work hard at ensuring our building and church grounds are attractive and well maintained. This year some significant work has been done to the heating system and also in extending the garden of remembrance. Plans for a church toilet are developing well.
- As a church we work very closely with the wider Benefice (including Upper Slaughter, Naunton, Guiting Power and Temple Guiting parishes) and with them we offer a variety of services, work with Temple Guiting School, and offer pastoral and discipleship support.
- Our church finances are becoming tighter year on year and we much appreciate the donations that are made to help support our ministry.
- We love to be involved with village events and would love to be more involved in supporting the village community.
- At our Church Annual Meeting in April, Roger Baggott stepped down as Treasurer and Churchwarden. He has been a superb asset to the church in recent years and we will miss him and Diane as they move on. Many thanks to a number of villagers and church members who have now joined the PCC and are now helping to support the church week by week.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the people in and around the village who do so much to support the church community. Those who open and close the church on a daily basis, who do flower arrangements and who help with the grounds, as well as those who assist with worship – are all greatly appreciated. Thank you!

We'd love to hear your ideas too of things that we could be doing to serve our community and work together – do let us know!

Katrina Scott, Rector



## **Cotswold Voluntary Wardens 2018-19**

The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens service was formed 51 years ago to walk and report on the state of rights of ways in the Cotswolds. Today there are around 300 active wardens who come under the Cotswolds Conservation Board and our functions have expanded to include work parties, guided walks and working with children. Up to 10 of us who live locally spend one morning a week on a work party, with one visit a month to the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and another to the National Trust. The remaining work parties are in the local parishes where we install gates, stiles and bridges and undertake other maintenance and clearance work. We made five visits to Lower Slaughter in the last 12 months – more than any other parish we cover. The main tasks were to make temporary repairs to the vandalised bridge on Scare Lane, two mornings clearing mud and digging gullies also on Scare Lane and a morning rebuilding a stile and carrying out clearance at Pike Farm. In addition I carry out minor repairs and clearance when walking the parish paths.

We are planning further work on Scare Lane and the installation of new posts and rails on the bridge once these have been provided by the county rights of way team.

Robin Cochrane

Cotswold Voluntary Warden – Lower Slaughter

20.5.19