

Minutes of General meeting

Held on Monday 21 January 2019, 18:45 at Lower Slaughter Village Hall

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

In attendance: Liz Dowie (consultant)
5 members of the public

190121/1 Chairman's Opening Remarks

In the absence of Cllr Sinclair, Cllr Thomas chaired the meeting and welcomed all present to the first meeting of 2019.

190121/2 Declarations of Interest

None were received.

190121/3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sinclair.

190121/4 Minutes of previous meetings

Two corrections had been made to the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2018, namely:

Page 2, 180917/16 Line 11 "letters" replaced by "a letter".

Page 4, 180917/17 Line 10 the words "for use by the WI" were removed.

The revised minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

Mr Edwin stated that he did not consider the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2018 to be accurate since item 181119/16 did not indicate that his statement regarding the LSVN had been provided to the Parish Council prior to the November meeting.

The draft minutes were agreed subject to the addition of this clarification.

190121/5 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising other than those covered elsewhere in the agenda.

190121/6 To receive comments from the public

Mr Ayers provided councillors with a photo of a tourist flying a drone in the village. He had sourced some notices to be displayed around the village and it was agreed that one would be displayed on the main noticeboard. This would be accompanied by instructions as to what to do if a drone is seen in the village.

Mr Cochrane reported that the Cotswold Wardens had cleared the mud and debris from the first section of Scare Lane. They had also re-dug the gullies and cut back overhanging branches. They now hoped to put in four drainage channels and were in the process of establishing what support the Highways Department might provide. The anticipated cost was £130 and the team might approach the Parish Council for financial support before the end of March. *The Parish Council was agreeable in principle to support the works, if needed.* Cllr Thomas commented that permission may be required from the Highways Department to put in the drainage channels, but it was noted that the tarmac surface would not be affected by the works.

Mr Cochrane also advised that the new trench by the equestrian centre appeared to be working well, but that there was still some run off over the path.

Mr Randles thanked the team for their work on Scare Lane and noted that this was a tarmac path which required ongoing maintenance to avoid repeated build up of mud, leaves and horse manure. The Parish Council would write to the equestrian centre, requesting that they undertake regular clearance of horse manure. It was also suggested that the Parish Council request the Highways Department to add this area to the twice yearly roadsweeping programme.

Mr Randles also noted that the sign at the Bourton end of Scare Lane where the footpath meets the Fosse, although in need of replacement, indicated that this route was wheelchair accessible. It was suggested that Cotswold District Council might be able to advise on policy for disabled access and confirm the necessity to keep the route clear and accessible. Advice would be sought from Rhodri Grey in the first instance.

Mr Randles advised that there was a smell of sewage in the field adjacent to Green Lane. This would be reported to the landowner's managing agents and, if appropriate, to Thames Water. Mr Ayers asked if there was any progress with installing a dog waste bin at the end of Green Lane. Further enquiries would be made about this.

Mr Edwin advised that a Pulhams coach had been parked between 6.00 and 6.15pm on 21 January and that the engine had been left running. Councillors would check whether notification of this visit had been received and this would be followed up with Pulhams Coaches, if necessary.

Mr Edwin asked why the Parish Council was no longer discussing planning applications at its meetings and it was noted that the two applications detailed on the agenda had passed the expiry date for comments. He suggested that residents should be advised of the Parish Council's policy on the matter. Cllr Thomas advised the Parish Council's policy had not changed and that planning applications were publicised by Cotswold District Council by way of notices in the vicinity of the property and that neighbours and other residents could make their own representations. With regard to non-residential applications, such as the application for the Gilder Scrap Haulage Yard, the Parish Council will continue to call Extraordinary Meetings for consideration of such applications.

190121/7 Finance

7.1 Cllr Chapman reported on the financial position as at 31 December 2018. *The report was approved by the Council and signed by Cllr Roche.* (See Appendix 1 for full financial report).

7.2 Cllr Chapman reported on receipts since the last meeting which included allotment income of £291.45 and a VAT refund of £843.78. The following payments sanctioned since the last meeting were noted:

Bibury Grass Maintenance	£274.67	Highways Act 1980 s96
K Randles (allotment postage and printing)	£18.50	Smallholding & Allotments Act 1908 s23
Community Heartbeat - defibrillator maintenance	£45.60	LGA 1972 s137
PATA Payroll admin charges	£7.50	LGA 1972 s111

7.3 *The following payments due were approved by the Council*

E Dowie – secretarial services	£278.75	LGA 1972 s111
Bibury Landscape Contractors – leaf clearance	£93.60	Highways Act 1980 s96
R Cochrane – orchard fence repair	£20.00	Smallholding & Allotments Act 1908 s23

In addition, a provisional sum of £750.00 was agreed for expenditure on allotment maintenance.

7.4 Cllr Chapman summarised his report (previously circulated) on the budget and proposed precept for 2019/20. (See Appendix 2). He proposed that the net funding requirement of £7,755 be met by increasing the precept from £5,600 to £5,700, with the shortfall being met by a reduction in capital reserves in line with the Parish Council's stated policy of reducing its

surplus reserves. The 1.8% increase in the precept equated to a 0.45% increase in the Band D Council Tax charge.

The Council agreed to the proposed precept and to create nominated reserves totalling £20,000 as contingency for 1) river works and 2) traffic management activities arising from the TRO.

7.5 Cllr Chapman advised that a new internal auditor would be appointed at the March meeting.

190121/8 Planning Applications

8.1 To report on earlier applications

18/01681/FUL Scrap Haulage Yard, Gilder, Fosseway, Lower Slaughter GL54 2EY
Re-development of existing scrap yard and haulage depot to create electric car charging service station and associated works. The case officer had reported that he was still awaiting further information before the application could be determined.

8.2 To consider new planning applications

18/04597/FUL Lavender Cottage, 15 Mill Lane, Lower Slaughter, GL54 2HX
Erection of two storey extension. Expired 10 January 2019. The Parish Council had no comments to make on the application in line with the Council's policy on domestic property development, no reason to object was identified.

18/04554/FUL Newlands Corner, Lower Slaughter, GL54 2HP
Conversion of roof space to bedrooms, single storey rear extension to kitchen and new porch (resubmission of 18/03442/FUL). Expired 3 January 2019. The Parish Council had no comments to make on the application in line with the Council's policy on domestic property development, no reason to object was identified.

8.3 To discuss any other planning issues

No other matters were raised.

190121/9 Highways, Traffic and Parking Report

Cllr Roche thanked Mr and Mrs Edwin for their efforts in ensuring that details of the planned road closure at Fosseway to Kingswell Lane on 21 – 22 February was included in the next LSVN. Cllr Thomas advised that he hoped that the Highways Department would carry out the kerb reinforcement by the church and he would follow this up.

190121/10 Village Grass Cutting and Maintenance Report

Cllr Chapman advised that he would try to obtain three quotations for the grass cutting and for some additional work on the allotment site.

190121/11 Reports from Local Organisations and Charities

Mr Randles reported that there would be a meeting on 9 March in the Village Hall to assess support for the fete. Some stallholders had indicated that they may take a year off and revenue might therefore be reduced by £2/3,000 if the fete goes ahead.

190121/12 Allotments and Orchard Report

Cllr Chapman reported that the future of the informal group which had been formed from the original Allotment Strategy Working Party was under consideration and the group would probably meet twice a year at the start and end of the season.

190121/13 Parish Website Report

There were no items to report.

190121/14 Reports from Wardens

14.1 River – there were no items to report.

14.2 Rights of Way – in addition to those matters already reported under agenda item 190121/6, Mr Randles reported that the maintenance work due to take place on bridlepath

HSL15 had now been carried out. A new gravel surface had been laid and the work was to a high standard. It was suggested that other areas along the river, in particular by the dam, would benefit from work by a professional contractor.

14.3 Snow – there were no items to report.

14.4 Trees – there were no items to report.

190121/15 Parish Council Elections

Elections will take place on 2 May 2019 and it was confirmed that publication of the Notice of Election would be on 18 March. The deadline for delivery of nomination papers is 4.00pm on 3 April. The Cotswold District Council Elections Office will provide further information in due course.

190121/16 Correspondence

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Slaughters Cricket Club. Bourton Vale and the Slaughters Cricket Clubs have both been suffering from declining numbers in recent times and have decided to create an informal partnership in an attempt to protect the clubs' future. The current proposal is for the third and fourth teams to play at the Slaughters CC. Application for grant funding is being considered, including £4,000 for the Slaughters with the intention of providing a community asset which would benefit both the Slaughters Cricket Club and the residents of Lower Slaughter. The funding would be used to provide a TV screen and wifi access, with access to the bar and lounge facilities for the villagers. At the same time any volunteers for assisting with the club, eg bar staff, grass cutting and assistance with a planned Beer Gin and Wine festival would clearly benefit the club. The Club is seeking a letter from the Parish Council in support of the grant application and *councillors were agreeable in principle to providing a letter of support*. Further information has been requested to enable a due diligence exercise to be carried out and the matter will be considered further at the March meeting. A query had also been raised regarding ownership of the fence between the cricket club and the allotments, since this was in need of repair. Cllr Thomas would look into this and confirm.

A letter had been received regarding the possible filming of Jane Austen's Emma in Lower Slaughter and representatives of the production company were to visit the village for a more detailed assessment of the location. Interest had been expressed in filming in the Square, but it was noted that the Village Hall could not be made available between April and October. If the village was considered to be a suitable location an open meeting would be arranged for residents and this would be considered further at the March meeting, if necessary. The company had been provided with the filming policy guidelines for consideration.

A request had also been received from the BBC regarding filming of Countryfile Diaries between 26 January and 28 January. Four other locations were also being considered and the impact on residents would be minimal since the crew would only comprise four people.

190121/17 Date of next meeting: Monday 18 March 2019 – 18:45 at Lower Slaughter Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date 21 January 2019.....