

**Minutes of the Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on Monday 2nd November 2020.
This was a virtual meeting held on Zoom.**

Present: Councillors: Mr. Paul Cooper (Chairman); Mrs. S Minnighan; Mr. T Hooker; Mrs C Beeton;
Mr. S Patterson; Mrs C Brennan; Mr. P Shaw.
P Segal (Clerk)

Ward Councillors: Cllr. K Collins (part meeting)

Apologies: Cllr E Perry

Members of the public: One member of the public was present.

This meeting was chaired by Cllr. Cooper.

20/21/76 Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Hooker expressed an interest in item 5 on the Agenda and made the following statement;
"My declaration on my official Election Nomination said "say no to more housing development."
I am generally opposed to more, new house building, but I have come to this meeting with an open
mind."

Cllr Hooker informed the Chair that he would be audio recording the meeting.

The Clerk also informed Members that he would be recording the meeting.

20/21/77 Meeting Open to the Public.

No comments made.

20/21/78 Minutes of recent meetings.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2020 were read and approved.

The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Minnighan and seconded by Cllr. Shaw.

**To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th October 2020
and to authorise the Chair to sign them.**

The resolution was passed unanimously.

20/21/79 Planning Matters

The Chair commented that the Planning Application for a Telecoms Mast in Front Street had been refused, and they will have to find an alternative location.

CB/20/03894/FULL – Land next to 66 Woodside Road, Woodside – Erection of two detached bungalows.

The Chair said there had already been several applications for this site.

Cllr. Shaw had concerns as to the material the houses were made from as they are close together and may pose a fire risk.

The Chair felt that we could not make a comment on these factors.

After a short discussion, it was agreed that we should lodge a "No Objection" comment to CBC Planning.

Several residents had expressed concerns that the Woodside Park Homes estate were working on constructing new concrete bases on the site.

Planning enforcement had previously been alerted to this and had replied that they were aware of this work being carried out.

The new work was causing concern but we have not had any reply to our new E-Mails to Planning Enforcement.

Cllr. Minnighan said that she will write to Planning Enforcement again this week **(S.M)**

She thinks that they have not broken any planning laws so far.

20/21/80 Angus Brewer Fund

Cllr Minnighan reported no new progress.

- 20/21/81** **Crawley Playground and Youth Shelter**
The Chair said that despite new restrictions, playgrounds can still stay open.
Cllr. Minnighan said that five youths have been seen on CCTV spraying drinks onto the playground equipment.
She will speak to them when she sees them again.
- 20/21/82** **Grass Cutting Contract Update**
Cllr. Hooker has shown one potential bidder around the area. This clarified the extent of the allotment hedge. He has another viewing this Wednesday.
The Clerk said he had received one confirmed bid so far.
- 20/21/83** **Community Improvement Fund**
E-Mails sent to the Ward Councillors about Residents parking costs, Flooding and Newlands Road overgrown footpaths have not been replied to so far.
The Chair suggested raising the footpath so that it isn't flooded so regularly.
The Clerk was asked to chase these issues up again with Ward Councillors. **(P.S)**
The recent pictures of the flooding in the Parish News can be attached to add weight to our request to get something done about this frequently reoccurring event.
Cllr Shaw commented on a recent severe accident in Front Street when a car exiting from Old School Walk, was hit by another car.
The Chair said that any further traffic controls we put in, will not improve safety there, and the visibility had improved because of new measures recently put in.
- 20/21/84** **Parish Trees**
No new issues
- 20/21/85** **Community Projects Group**
Cllr. Patterson said that 215 boxes of biscuits are required this year.
- 20/21/86** **Audit Results 2019/20**
The Clerk reported that the Audit has now been successfully completed.
There were three areas that the Auditor has asked us to look at for next year and these had been circulated to members.
One requirement is that we draft a Letter of Engagement for the Internal Auditor, laying out the terms of reference and areas we wish him to look at in the next Audit.
The Clerk said he will do this in the New Year and submit it to the Council for approval at the February meeting **(P.S)**
- 20/21/87** **Half Year Accounts and Budget Position**
The Clerk had previously circulated the Half Year Accounts to Members.
The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Minnighan and seconded by Cllr. Beeton;
To approve the 2020/21 Half Year Accounts.
The resolution was passed unanimously.
- The Clerk said that overall, we are tracking at below Budget in all areas except the three areas below where we were overspent or likely to overspend.
1. **Clerks Software costs** – due to the unbudgeted expense of Zoom subscriptions.
 2. **Website Costs** – due to the cost of recent Accessibility Compliance requirements.
 3. **Professional Consultancy Fees** – due to asking Roger Shrimplin to reply to the Local Plan and advise on recent Government Planning Proposals.
- 20/21/88** **2021/22 Budget**
The Clerk said we have not had any new projects identified by Members for 2021/22 nor have we had any suggestions where we can save money or cut costs.
The Budget will now be discussed by the Finance Committee, with a view to presenting the proposals to the Parish Council at the December meeting.
Cllr Hooker said that in view of residents living on reduced income and have or may lose their jobs due to Covid19, he encouraged the Finance Committee to propose a Budget that does not increase the Parish Council Precept amount per household in the coming year.
He is minded to support any cost cutting measure proposed by the Finance Committee, except cutting the Christmas Biscuit Budget for older residents.

20/21/89 Accounts for Payment

Prior to the meeting The Clerk had circulated the schedule below (**Appendix A**) to Members for approval. The payments were unanimously approved, having been proposed by Cllr. Minnighan and seconded by Cllr. Brennan
Cheques will be signed by Cllr Minnighan and Cllr Cooper at a later date.

20/21/90 Report by Ward Councillors

Cllr. Collins said that there was no more progress on the abandoned BT cabinet in Woodside. There has been a re-organisation of the Highways department and is now more focused. Marcel has taken up the Chief Executive role at CBC on 1st November. He reported that new Business Grants will be available soon due to the second lockdown. The Local Plan hearings will re-commence on 7th December and will be on line to view. LBC have concerns about the level of affordable housing in the plan. Cllr. Collins said that more housing west of Luton could not be supported by the infrastructure currently in place and roads and drainage are not able to support more housing and resultant increase in traffic. The Chair asked if any progress had been made regarding the flooding areas identified to him by the Clerk. Cllr Collins said he will chase this up. Also, E-Mails about the Newlands Road overgrown pathway and Residents Parking Scheme will also be followed up. Cllr Shaw asked about the junction near Harpers. Cllr Collins said that as part of the Planning Application for workers cottages at Harpers, the junction may well be replaced with a safer option. Cllr Beeton said that McFarlands Park homes site had a CBC Inspection and she asked if we could have sight of the findings. Cllr Collins said he had not been copied in on the findings but he will try and find out the results if they are not confidential. **(K.C)** Cllr Collins also said that Michael Bailey has been away on holiday so may be why he has not replied to our concerns about new works at the Woodside Park homes site. Cllr Hooker said that we have not received new posters replacing Richard Stay on the CBC Ward Councillors contact sheet. Cllr Collins said he will get these sent through shortly **(K.C)**

20/21/91 Policing

No new updates

20/21/92 Resident Communications

We have received a communication from a resident regarding the possibility of changing our postcode away from LU1, as he felt that our Insurance Premiums are higher because of the association with the Luton area. The Chair said this subject had been discussed with this resident before and that Insurance Premiums are not affected by just the postcode. He said he will reply to his E-mail this week. **(P.C)** Cllr Minnighan said that a number of people are parking in Front Street and visiting the Rising Sun pub rather than parking in their car park.

20/21/93 Closing Comments

Cllr Shaw said that the deadline is drawing near to respond to the Luton Airport consultation regarding increasing airport numbers. It was agreed that the Clerk respond to the consultation, using text supplied by Cllr. Shaw. **(P.S)**

The meeting was then closed at 7.53 pm.

Date of next meeting – 7th December 2020

Signed.....
Chair

Date.....

The meeting was then opened up to the public
There were no comments

Appendix A

Cheques for Payment November 2020

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheq Num.</u>
Royal British legion	Poppy Appeal	£75-00	100176
A Prothero	Gardening, sanitising Playground and others.	£865-64	100177
A Prothero	Document Storage	£60-00	100178
SLCC	Membership 2020/21	£161-00	100179
Kompan Ltd	Playground parts	£33-73	100180
P Segal	Clerks Salary Oct 20	£849-21	100181
P Segal	Clerks Expenses Oct 20	£122-69	100182