

Slip End Parish Council

Chairman: Mrs Sarah Minnighan

Vice-Chairman: Vacant

Clerk: Mrs Tracey O'Neill – clerk@slipendparishcouncil.co.uk

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Minutes of the Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on Monday 3rd April 2023 at the Village Hall, Slip End.

Present: Councillors: Mrs. S Minnighan (CHAIR); Mr. P Shaw; Mr. S Patterson; Mrs. C Brennan; Mr. T Hooker, Mrs C Beeton, Mr K Collins

Also Present: Mrs T O`Neill (Clerk),

Apologies: Councillor: None

Members of the public: 4 members of the public attended.

This meeting was chaired by Cllr. S Minnighan (CHAIR)

22/23/187 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr. T Hooker stated that he will be sound recording the meeting.

Item 7 of the meeting - Parish Council Grants 2023 - Review of Grant applications, Cllr. S Patterson and Cllr. C Beeton, stated their association with the Good Neighbour Scheme application. Cllr. S Minnighan stated her association with the Village Day application.

22/23/188 **Meeting Open to the Public.**

No comments

22/23/189 **Minutes of recent meetings.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2023 were read.

The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Paul Shaw and seconded by Cllr. Carol Brennan to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6th February 2023 and to authorise the Chair to sign them. The resolution was passed unanimously.

22/23/190 **Planning Matters**

An update of the fencing of 78 Woodside Road, was unavailable as Cllr. K Collins had not yet received an update from Bedfordshire County Council.

22/23/191 **Crawley Playground and Youth Shelter**

The Clerk has been notified of ROSPA's Annual Inspection of the playground is to be carried out in May. The cost is £75.00 plus VAT. We are not given a date, to request a specific date and accompany the inspector would result in a cost to the council of an additional fee of £42.00 plus VAT.

22/23/192 **Parish Council Grants 2023**

Councillors had received in advance the applications for this year's parish council grants and discussed each application.

Slip End Village Day Association – Mr H Neale attended the meeting, as the representative for the Village Day committee. The application was for £2,500 to go towards funding the Annual Village Day event that brings the local community together. The Chair asked for comments, the parish council approved the application. Cllr. P Shaw proposed, Cllr. C Brennan seconded.

CASEBUG – Mr M Russell and Mr N Markwell attended the meeting, as representatives of CASEBUG. The application was for £250 to go towards the printing of bus timetables for the community. Caddington Parish Council had contributed the remaining balance. The Chair asked for comments, the parish council approved the application. Cllr. C Beeton proposed, Cllr. S Patterson seconded. CASEBUG asked for the monies to be sent to Mr N Markwell.

Slip End and District Parish News – the application was for £2,600 to go towards the production of a monthly parish wide magazine, 10 per annum to be delivered free of charge to all households in the parish. The Chair asked for comments, the parish council approved the application. Cllr. S Patterson proposed, Cllr C Brennan seconded.

Good Neighbourhood Scheme – the application was for £1,185.00 go towards increasing its level of support to venerable residents in the parish and widening their activities. The Chair asked for comments, the parish council approved the application. Cllr T Hooker proposed, Cllr C Brennan seconded.

1st Woodside Brownies – the application was for £744 to be paid to the guiding association for running costs and insurance. The Chair asked for comments, the parish council approved the application. Cllr. C Beeton proposed, Cllr. C Brennan approved.

Slip End Bowls Club - the application was for £750.00 to support the costs of the venue at the village hall. The Chair asked for comments and the Parish council discussed that the clubs' numbers have increased but still need support as they do not fund raised. A suggestion would be for the club to advertise at the village hall, District Parish News and noticeboards. The venue hire is to the village hall which keeps the money in the community. The parish council approved the application. Cllr C Beeton proposed, Cllr T Hooker seconded.

FoSELS – the application was for £1,978.80 to go towards the refurbishment of the library of Slip End Village schools to provide a multi-purpose area for students. The Chair asked for comments and the parish council discussed that more clarification was needed from FoSELS as to the expenditure of last years' grant for laptops. Central Beds Council do not provide money to the school for refurbishments and contributions are received from parents. The Parish Council asked the Clerk to go back to FoSELS and ask for clarification of actual expenditure from last years grant. When clarification is received the application will be discussed at a further meeting and a decision will be made.

The parish council received have an allocated amount of monies to award as grants and this year the applications would be in excess slightly. Cllr. T Hooker stated that he was uncomfortable with exceeding this and it was discussed that if FoSELS application was approved it may be at a reduced amount to keep within the allocated budgeted amount for grants.

Action: The Clerk will contact FoSELS for further clarification and inform the council and the application to be discussed at a further meeting.

22/23/193 **Good Neighbour Scheme**

Cllr. S Patterson said that the scheme was busy as normal and very well received. Cllr. C Beeton stated that in her absence over the last couple of weeks team had pulled together and done an excellent job. A Whatsapp, group has been set up for volunteers to keep everyone informed. There is a chocolate themed event set up for tomorrow's soup and sarnie session and an easter event was being held at the Village Hall.

22/23/194 Community Improvement Fund**CASEBUG**

CASEBUG have made significant progress and have been accepted to join the bus forum to attend meetings. An article was placed in the Caddington village magazine and had a positive response from residents. The committee will continue to monitor the 232, bus service. The Chair suggested that if the committee wished to repeat the article in the Slip End District News then they could contact Alison at the Parish News.

Hanging Baskets

Hanging baskets are ready to be installed in the parish. Some baskets are having to be replaced with troughs due to the weight on some lamp posts.

22/23/195 Fly Tipping

There has been two lots of fly tipping at St Andrews Church. The CCTV which is not very clear showed a van pull up and dump the rubbish. The footage has been sent to Younis at CBC. Cllr. P Shaw commented on the concrete blocks that had been placed at the bend on Woodside Road, the council were unsure if it was the farmer or the council who had installed these but this seemed to help with fly tipping in this area. Mr K Stephens a resident from Woodside Road who attended the meeting asked if there was a schedule by CBC to do litter picking. The Chair confirmed that there wasn't and it was only done when requested by the Parish council. Cllr. T Hooker thanked Mr Stephens for his input in litter picking in Woodside Road. The Chair said the parish council was grateful for residents' support, but some areas required road closures when CBC remove rubbish so would not advocate residents litter picking on dangerous roads as this was job to be carried out by CBC.

22/23/196 Highways and Footpaths

Cllr. C Beeton said that there were discussions on social media about cars being parked on the grass verges at Ross Way and St Andrews close. It was suggested that local, residents should politely have a discussion with their neighbours who parked there.

The table on the chicane on Grove Road is damaged and Cllr. S Minnighan has reported this to CBC as a matter of urgency. A traffic cone has been placed on the table. Cllr. Minnighan has also reported pot, holes that have appeared in the parish and will report back at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr. S Minnighan to report an update at the meeting in May

22/23/197 Parish Trees and Gardening

Old School Walk – Cllr. S Minnighan had sent photos to councillors of the trees on old school walk. The trees have become overgrown and in need of attention. Cllr Minnighan asked for quotes from Lansdowne Services for two options. Option One – a quote of £672.00 to cut back three fir trees and a Silver Birch tree. Option two – a quote for £1002.00 to remove three fir trees and cut back the Silver Birch. The council felt that the best course of action would be to remove the fir trees but retain the birch tree, but that consultation with residents was to be done prior to any work being carried out. Cllr Minnighan prepared flyers to send to residents and will put these in residents' doors.

Crawley Close – the Cherry Tree needs to be felled as it has damage to it and is dangerous. Cllr. S Minnighan asked for a quote from Lansdowne Services to remove the Cherry Tree for £250. Mr E Thrift from Lansdowne very kindly suggested that he would replace the tree with another tree in recognition of Queen Elizabeth 11 and he would provide the tree. The council agreed the work had to be carried out and were delighted with Mr Thrift's offer of replacing the tree.

St Andrews Church Trees

The Clerk received an email from Susan Wiltshire of St Andrews Church, thanking the Parish Council for carrying out the removal of trees from the church and stating that it has made an outstanding improvement to the churchyard. The church asked if we would be able support further work to remove 9 Cypress trees. over a period of two years. She supplied a quote from Lansdowne Services for a cost of £3,720 plus VAT. The council has not budgeted for the full cost of this, but the church stated that they are happy for the work to be carried out over a period of two years. Cllr. T Hooker stated that he was unhappy that the Parish council had to pay for the removal of the trees at the cost of the tax, payer but accepted that the remit of removing trees from the churchyard came under the councils' responsibility. The council asked for the Clerk to go back to church and ask for when they wished to work to start and agreed to the work and costs provided it was staggered.

Action: Cllr. S Minnigan to put consultation flyers in residents, doors at Old School Walk and report back to the council at the next meeting.

Action: The Clerk to contact Susan Wiltshire of St Andrews Church to clarify when they wish the commence work on the felling of trees and agree a timetable for the work.

Action: The Cherry Tree on Crawley Close to be removed and replaced with another tree in recognition of Queen Elizabeth 11.

22/23/198 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. C Brennan and seconded by Cllr. C Beeton. The cheques were signed by Cllr. S Minnighan and Cllr. S Patterson.

New Banking Plans

The parish council have for some time wanted to update their banking arrangements and move from writing cheques to online banking to facilitate faster and more efficient payments. The parish council operate two banks, the Co-operative and Barclays Bank. The Co-op were extremely easy to work with and online banking would be an easy transition. Barclays bank has proved much harder to communicate with and as such the Clerk has sourced other options for a second bank account. The clerk suggested the Unity Trust Bank as it comes highly recommended and used with other parish councils. The plan would be to close the open an account with a new banking provider transfer funds and close the Barclays account. The parish council were happy for the Clerk to complete the necessary forms to open an account with Unity Trust Bank.

Action: The Clerk will report back to the council at the next meeting of the progress of the transition of banks.

22/23/199 Report from Central Bedfordshire Councillor(s)

Grove Road/Mancroft Flooding – Cllr. K Collins reiterated from his last report that he met with the Highways Engineer to look at Grove Road and Mancroft Road to discuss a plan going forward. Work was agreed and carried out, but it has proved not to be enough to prevent flooding in these areas. The proposal from investigation work carried out was to refurbish the pipework. There is a new contractor taking over to carry out refurbishments in April and will adopt a work package so at present there are not dates.

Flooding in Woodside, Aley Green and Grove Road – on Friday 31st March the parish was affected by a heavy down pour of rain. Several residents were flooded, areas of the district had to be closed to drivers. The council expressed to Cllr. Collins that Central Beds Council needed to look at what could be done to prevent this as a matter of urgency. The drains were taking water away but not quickly enough causing major flooding as a result. The condition of Mancroft road was shocking the day after the flood, the roads were like silt.

Cllr. T Hooker introduced Mr K Stephens a resident from Woodside Road who he had invited to the meeting to discuss the flooding at his home. Mr Stephens explained what happened on Friday night during the flooding and outlined the extent of the damage to his property. He stated that it was very frightening for his family who are concerned it will happen again. Having experience gained from his

profession Mr Stephens asked the council about the infrastructure of the drains in the villages and whether they were fit for purpose and if not could they be improved. His family have lived in Slip End and Woodside for a number, of years and has contacted CBC previously about drainage and said that he has been pushed to contact the waterways or speak to local farmers about drainage. He also asked what neighbours could do to be on top of prevention and expressed his thanks to his neighbours who supported his family during the flooding. He urged Cllr. K Collins to push the issue with the council as we need answers. The Beds Fire and Rescue service are powerless as they could not pump the water away as they had nowhere to pump it due to the drains being backed up. Cllr. T Hooker stated that as you turned into Woodside Road from Mancroft Road that there was a huge hole about a meter across and this was full and was pumping water like a fountain. The Chair asked if it had been reported to which Cllr. Hooker stated it had not. The Chair would ensure this was reported. Cllr. Collins, said he was told by CBC that there was no map showing the drainage work in the parish as the original drivers knew where they were. He suggested that after the election the new Ward Councillor ask for an update on maps from the council, he asked the parish to log addresses and incidents and dates of flooding for evidence and recommended setting up a database. Cllr. T Hooker asked Cllr. Collins if re-elected as Ward Councillor to come back to the council in the next three months to give an update. Councillor Collins said he would get some confirmation from CBC, copy in the Clerk and in the event of not being re-elected there would be a paper trail for a new Ward Councillor to pick up.

Cllr. P Shaw, said that we should be thinking about mapping, at planning level we should be scrutinising what is happening in flood areas. He also suggested whether the question should be whether new properties that were built may have an impact. The Chair asked Cllr. Shaw if he would be the contact for flooding in the parish, to which he accepted. The council discussed kits for flooding issues to be on standby for residents. Mr. Stephens said Mark Conway from the Emergency Response team called him and said that flood kits were available for Parish Councils. We would need to have a storage facility in the parish to store them. Mark Conway and Alice Bishop were contacts to discuss obtaining flood kits.

The council agreed that the issue of flooding was to remain a permanent fixture on the agenda as residents should not be experiencing this, we are in a high district area but still flooding. It was stated that the emergency response team were excellent and supported residents and eventually stood down at 1.30 am.

Parking Scheme

Cllr. K Collins said that the contact at CBC who took over the post which had responsibility for this had no notes on the system to follow up progress and was starting from scratch. It will some time before we have an update on this.

Bus Routes

Cllr. Collins said he had nothing further to report and that CASEBUG were speaking to the right people and he was happy to support them. CASEBUG would contact Cllr. Collins if needed.

Ward Councillor Grants

Grants are currently on hold due to the elections but will be resumed after the election.

Action: Cllr. K Collins to provide an update on flooding in the next three months or in the event of not being re-elected will provide a paper trail to a new Ward Councillor.

Action: The Clerk will speak to CBC to obtain flooding kits and source a storage for them.

22/23/200 POLICING

Police Engagement Event

The planned engagement event was cancelled at short notice. CSO L Tuck said that she was not given permission to pay for the hire of the hall from her superiors. The council were disappointed that the event did not take place to give the residents a chance to discuss local issues and suggested that they have a table at the Village Day event.

New Chief Inspector for Community Policing

CI Goldsmith has been appointed as the Chief Inspector for community policing in Bedfordshire. He contacted the clerk as asked for a list of parish council meeting dates and he would like to attend a meeting of the council and introduce himself and address any concerns. The clerk will send a list of dates to him.

Action: Clerk to send list of meeting dates for the next year to CI Goldsmith

22/23/201 Residents Communications**Bin outside 16 Front Street**

The clerk received communication from a resident in Slip End regarding an antiquated damage bin in Front Street that was spilling refuse onto the pavement. The Clerk has reported this to CBC and has asked for it to be removed.

A resident in Mancroft Road put sleepers down to stop residents parking on the grass. This has caused some upset with residents and the resident has received some abuse. The council discussed alternatives and suggested possibly placing planting troughs there. Cllr. S Minnighan will speak to CBC about getting posts put in as another option.

22/23/202 Clerk Long Term Sick Leave Insurance

The Clerk investigated insurance policies and asked Zurich if this was something they could offer under our current insurance. Zurich stated it was a stand, alone, policy that was tailor made for the applicant. After a discussion of the council and current arrangements it was decided not to pursue a separate insurance.

Dog Waste Bin

The Clerk contacted CBC about the siting of two dog waste bins in Markyate Road and Woodside Road. The council were asked to carry out consultation with the neighbours closet to where the bins were being sited for their comments prior to installation. The Clerk prepared flyers to local, residents for both roads and will post them in their doors. The Clerk will then collate any responses, and concerns prior to installation.

New Parish Council Notice Boards

The Clerk sourced three new notice boards to replace three of the parish notice boards that were in disrepair. The parish notice board company supplied a quote of £3,300 plus VAT and free delivery. The new notice boards will be weatherproof and magnetic. The parish council were happy with the quote and the noticeboards and approved the Clerk to go ahead and order the boards and obtain a quote for installation.

New Defib Casing at Peter Edwards Hall

The Clerk spoke to Community Heartbeat, the suppliers of our defibrillators to get a quote for a new casing for the unit at Peter Edwards Hall. The existing casing has rusted and needs replacing. The quote received was for £750.00 plus VAT. The installation quote was for £300.00. The parish council decided to purchase the new casing but get a further quote for the installation from a local electrician. Cllr. S Minnighan said she would speak to the committee of the Peter Edwards Playing Fields to discuss halving the costs.

Action: Clerk to leaflet local residents for both Markyate and Woodside Roads to consult on the placement of the dog waste bins.

Action: Clerk to order three new parish noticeboards from the parish notice board company and obtain a quote for installation.

Action: Clerk to order new defibrillator casing and obtain a quote for installation.

22/23/203 Closing Comments

Cllr S Minnighan thanked Cllr. T Hooker for his last four years of service as Parish Councillor. Cllr. Hooker has decided not to stand for re-election. Cllr. Minnighan also thanked Cllr. E Perry our Ward Councillor for his time as he also will not be standing for re-election. Cllr. K Collins is standing again as Ward Councillor at the election.

Instilcom

Cllr. P Shaw stated that Instilcom in Slip End were driving a lot of their large vehicles through the village and it was becoming a problem. Cllr. S Minnighan said she would contact Felix the owner and discuss this with him.

District Parish News Contact

As Cllr. T Hooker our contact for the Parish News updates is not standing for re-election, we will require someone to take this over. Cllr. Hooker said he will do the April update. A decision of a new volunteer will be made at the meeting in March.

Action: Cllr. Minnighan to contact Felix at Intilcom regarding the large vehicles going through the village.

Meeting Closed

Date of next meeting – 15th May 2023 at 7 pm.

Signed.....
Cllr Sarah Milligan - CHAIR

Date.....

Appendix A **Slip End Parish Council**
Cheques for Payment / Approval
3rd April 2023

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheq Num.</u>
Iris Annual Invoice Aley Green will pay 50%	Payroll Software Annual Licence Fee	£364.80	100279
HM Rev & Customs	Qtr Fee	£928.39	100280
Peter Segal	Shred It	£130.14	100281
Peter Segal	Salary March 23	£577.59	100282
Peter Segal	Expenses March 23	£62.75	100283
Tracey O'Neill	Salary March 23	£1232.40	100284
Lansdowne Services Edwin has gone VAT registered so higher invoice – will reclaim VAT	Gardening – March 23	£885.00	100286
Tracey O'Neill	Parish Laptop	£168.00	100287
Tracey O'Neill	Expenses March 23	£226.26	100288
Aley Green Cemetery Joint Committee	Cemetery Precept 2023 / 2024	£1535.00	100289
Total Cheque Payments for March 2023	£	6110.33	=====

Authorised:

Proposed: _____

Seconded: _____