

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on
Tuesday 4th May 2021.
This was a virtual meeting held on Zoom.**

Present: Councillors: Cllr. P Cooper (Chair); Cllr. T Hooker
Cllr. C Brennan; Cllr. C Beeton; Cllr. S Patterson; Cllr. P Shaw.
Ward Councillors; Cllr K Collins; Cllr. E. Perry

Also Present: Peter Segal – Clerk
No members of the public were present.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Elections: Cllr Paul Cooper was proposed as Chair by Cllr. Shaw. This was seconded by Cllr. Brennan and was unanimously supported.

Cllr. Brennan proposed Cllr. Minnighan as Vice Chair and this was seconded by Cllr. Beeton and was unanimously supported.

It was thereby resolved that Cllr. Cooper would be Chair and Cllr. Minnighan be Vice Chair for the coming year.

Apologies: Cllr. S. Minnighan

Appointment of Committees and Representatives

The Special Interest List was discussed.
Cllr Cooper was taken off the Roads list and a replacement is to be agreed.
Cllr. Shaw replaced Cllr. Brennan for responsibility for the Airport.
Case4 was renamed Case Community Trust
Cllr. Hooker was taken off this list and replaced by Cllr. Patterson.
These changes were proposed by Cllr. Beeton and seconded by Cllr. Brennan
Full list and other minor changes can be seen on;
www.slipendparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of last Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (May 2019)

The Clerk provided all members with a copy of these Minutes (Originally circulated May 2019). The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Shaw and seconded by Cllr. Brennan, and duly signed by the Chair.

Review of Standing Orders and Financial Standing Orders

The Clerk had previously circulated the Standing Orders to Members.
The Standing Orders were proposed by Cllr Beeton and seconded by Cllr Shaw and was unanimously supported.
These can be found on our website: www.slipendparishcouncil.co.uk

Approval of Risk Assessment

The Clerk had already circulated the proposed 2021 Risk Assessment.
Acceptance of the 2021 Risk Assessment was proposed by Cllr. Beeton and Seconded by Cllr. Brennan and was unanimously supported.
These can be found on our website: www.slipendparishcouncil.co.uk

Schedule of Meeting Dates

The Clerk circulated a list of proposed meeting dates to all Councillors (Further copies of the date list are available from the Clerk) These were unanimously agreed by Members.

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The meeting was then followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish, chaired by Cllr. Cooper

Cllr. Cooper presented his Chairman`s Report for 2020 and 2021 and took the opportunity to relate the Parish Councils achievements for the past year. His Report is attached as **Appendix A.**

Cllr. Collins presented the Ward Councillors report for 2021 and this is attached as **Appendix B**

Cllr Perry thanked all the Slip End Councillors for all their support and good wishes through his recent spell of ill health.

There being no further business, the Annual Meeting of the Parish was closed at 7.20pm.

Signed.....
Chair

Date.....

Appendix A

**Slip End Parish Council Annual Report
May 2021**

Due to Coronavirus, there was no annual meeting of the Parish Council in 2020 and, therefore, no Annual Report. This report covers the two financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21.

In May 2019 Parish Council elections were held and we welcomed Trefor Hooker onto the Council. Trefor replaced Steve Baird and I would like to thank Steve for all his hard work & commitment during his years on the council.

Crawley Playground

Refurbishment of the playground commenced at the start of Summer 2019. The old playground equipment was worn out and slowly becoming unusable. The work was carried out by Kompan after the appraisal of several tenders. Black Shu Investments had committed to provide funding of £80,000 towards the project if they received planning permission for the retirement village in Markyate Road. Once this was received, we were able to provide outdoor gym equipment for older children and adults as well as replace the fencing around the playground. We are also grateful to Airparks for kindly funding the playground signage and installation. The Parish now has an amazing state of the art facility which has received an astounding response from residents.

Community Improvement Fund

During the past two years the Council's community improvement fund has been used to purchase a defibrillator for Pepperstock, provide four considerate parking signs for Slip End Village School and install anti fly-tipping signage at locations around the Parish.

Summer 2019 was the first year that we sited hanging baskets around the Parish. This was done in conjunction with an outside contractor who supplies the containers and plants. Our local contractor, Country Gardens, waters all plants on a regular basis throughout the summer. The project will continue through 2021 which will complete our current three-year contract. The hanging baskets have been a great success and many residents have complimented the Parish Council. In July, we will be deciding whether to continue the project beyond 2021.

Coronavirus

In March 2020 the global pandemic forced shops and hospitality to close, people were instructed to work from home and Parish Council meetings were cancelled. There were no Parish Council meetings in April and May 2020 as virtual meetings were not then legal. Following a change in regulations we recommenced meetings in June using an online platform.

Crawley playground had to be closed due to restrictions and was permitted to re-open in July. A deep clean and sanitising of equipment was carried out, grass was cut, restrictions signs installed and all equipment safety inspected. I would like to thank our contractors Andy and Debbie Prothero for all their work in this and with continuing to sanitise the equipment on a weekly basis.

Highways

A speed table was installed in June 2020, slowing traffic approaching Lower Woodside from the direction of The Plough. Following a resident's noise complaint, it was discovered that the speed table was installed in the wrong location. The table has now been moved to its correct position at no cost to the Parish Council. We have recently been in discussion with Central Beds regarding the installation of approach gates in this location and work is ongoing.

Airport parking in the streets around the Parish continues to be an issue, although we had a respite in 2020. Expansion of the airport and the proposed Newlands Retail Park

will increase parking pressure in the village. The Parish Council have approached Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the feasibility and costings for a residents only parking scheme throughout the Parish. Such a scheme will have its advantages and disadvantages and the Parish Council will fully consult with residents regarding these.

Following heavy rain in January 2021, Mancroft Road was closed for several days. The water authorities and Central Bedfordshire Council are working to resolve this issue to prevent future flooding. Grove Road now regularly floods with only moderate rainfall. This makes it difficult for cars to pass and cuts off Slip End from Woodside for pedestrians. This lack of accessibility for residents from Woodside is unacceptable and Ward Councillors are being pressurised by the Parish Council to push for a permanent solution.

During 2020, we looked to renew the grass cutting contract for the Parish. Interested companies submitted tenders and after scrutiny of the submissions, Richard Gurney and Son were awarded the three-year contract.

Fly Tipping

Fly tipping events have continued to increase across the Parish. It is extremely disturbing that as soon as rubbish is cleared more is almost immediately dumped. Many of the dumping events in the Parish are from cannabis farms however, evidence of domestic rubbish from Luton and north London has also been found. One Luton resident has been fined for fly tipping in the Parish.

The Parish Council have investigated installing our own covert cameras at fly-tipping hot spots. The advice we have received is that the legal complexities and requirements of siting cameras is extremely onerous. We are now pursuing the installation of cameras by Central Bedfordshire Council. These will comply with the law and give a better chance of prosecution.

The budget was maintained this year and I would like to thank the Clerk and Cllr Brennan for keeping us on track. I would also like to thank the Ward Councillors, Kevin Collins and Eddie Perry for their support over the past two years. A special thank you goes to my fellow Councillors for all their support and advice throughout the year.

Cllr. Paul Cooper
Chair
Slip End Parish Council

Appendix B

04 May 2021

Update on Central Bedfordshire Council for reporting at Parish AGM

The dominant theme for 2020/2021 has been the disruption and altered circumstances arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. Every resident and every local business have been affected and it has presented many challenges for the authority,

both as an employer but more importantly as a supplier of services to our residents and others.

Notwithstanding that there will be many instances where people might feel performance could have been better, it would be churlish not to acknowledge that many, many Council employees have gone the extra mile in making things happen. Remote working has been adopted as far as possible, home-schooling and responsibilities as carers have been juggled around getting work done; many people have tackled tasks outside their normal jobs and, in many instances, working long-hours including evenings and weekends to handle grant schemes, healthcare roll-out and much more.

In the same vein, credit is due to Parish Councillors and their clerks who have reacted so well to changing circumstances and continued to deliver wherever possible for their residents.

This time last year, Cllr Eddie Perry was absent due to serious illness; we are glad to report that he is now well on the road to recovery and taking an ever more active role in the ward.

There are two significant leadership changes at Central Bedfordshire Council. Firstly, Chief Executive Richard Carr stepped down, having held local authority CE roles for 25 years and having taken the helm at Central Bedfordshire soon after its formation from the previous District and County councils. He remained in post beyond his original intended retirement date so as not to step out at the peak of an unfolding crisis but was able to hand over towards the end of 2020.

The new Chief Executive is Marcel Coiffait, previously CBC's Director of Place and Communities. There were many applicants for the position and the final shortlist offered a selection of very strong candidates; we have every confidence that Marcel is the right and strong choice to take Central Bedfordshire forward.

The other leadership change was in the position of Leader of the Council. Cllr James Jamieson remains a member of CBC and continues to represent his ward but has cut back on additional responsibilities to enable him to focus strongly on his other role as Chairman of the Local Government Association. This is a vital role in the liaison between central and local government, and Cllr Jamieson's work with council colleagues across the country and, crucially, with Government ministers delivers real benefits.

The Conservative group elected Cllr Richard Wenham as their new group leader, and he was subsequently elected at full Council to the position as leader. Richard is a strong leader, offering a good balance between providing direction but also consulting and listening to advice. Richard's cabinet retains the same portfolio

holders as previously under Cllr Jamieson (save for the stepping back of Nigel Young) although there has been some realignment of responsibilities and some new deputies introduced to gain experience and offer assistance.

It has been a difficult year for addressing ward specific issues, with restrictions on movement and working practises combined with long-term absences or vacancies in critical roles. We are hoping that we will be able to see more meaningful progress in the coming year on issues such as getting some of the recently acquired CCTV deployed in Slip End parish, the Pepperstock junction and long-term on street parking by non-residents. We will also continue to engage with the local plan process, especially the attempts to pursue the flawed and unsustainable West of Luton proposals, and also the continuing evolution of the airport.

We look forward to working with the Parish through 2021/2022.

Eddie Perry & Kevin Collins