



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 Annual Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on
Monday 13th May 2024 at the Village Hall, Slip End.**

Present: Councillors: Cllr. S. Minnighan (CHAIR); Cllr. Patterson
Cllr. C Beeton; Cllr. P Shaw; Cllr. C Brennan; Cllr. S. Durndell; Cllr. S. Baird
Cllr. V. Malone, Cllr. K. Collins.

Also Present: Tracey O'Neill – Clerk
2 members of the public were present.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Elections: Cllr S. Minnighan was proposed by Cllr. C Brennan as Chair. This was
seconded by Cllr. C Beeton and was unanimously supported.

It was thereby resolved that Cllr. Minnighan would be Chair for the coming
year and the Vice Chair position would remain vacant at the present time.

Apologies: None

Appointment of Committees and Representatives

These will remain the same as last year and will be discussed further at the June meeting.

Minutes of last Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (May 2023)

The Clerk provided all members with a copy of these Minutes (Originally circulated May 2023). The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. P Shaw and seconded by Cllr. S Durnell 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. Brennan and seconded by Cllr. Beeton 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 2024 Risk Assessment.
Acceptance of the 2024 Risk Assessment was proposed by Cllr. Brennan and Seconded by
Cllr. Beeton and was unanimously supported.

These can be found on our website: www.slipendparishcouncil.co.uk

Approval of the 2024 Asset Register

The Clerk had already circulated the proposed 2024 Asset Register.
The changes proposed were removal of the old Parish Notice Boards and replaced with new
notice boards.

Acceptance of the 2024 Asset Register was proposed by Cllr. Brennan and Seconded by Cllr.
Baird 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.

These can be found on our website: www.slipendparishcouncil.co.uk

Approved

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

Cllr. Minnighan presented her Chairman`s Report for 2023/24 and took the opportunity to relate the Parish Councils achievements for the past year.

Her report is attached as **Appendix A.**

These can be found on our website: www.slipendparishcouncil.co.uk

Approved

Cllr. V. Malone

Ward Councillors report for 2023/24 is attached as **Appendix B**

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

Signed.....
Cllr. S Minnighan - Chair

Date.....

Appendix A

Slip End Parish Council Annual Chairmans Report 2023 - 2024

We started our year with the local elections in May. Ward Councillor Kevin Collins was re-elected, Cllr Vicky Malone was voted in as our second ward Councillor. Cllr Hooker stood down from the Council at the end of April with all other councillors re-standing and we co-opted councillors Stuart Durndell and Steven Baird.

In April 2023 we considered **Grant Applications for Community Groups** and issued just over £10,000 supporting Slip End Village Day Association, CaseBUG, the Parish News, the GNS, 1st Woodside Brownies, Slip End Bowls Club and FoSELS.

Crawley Playground and Youth Shelter

The playground continues to be well used. A full safety check of the playground equipment is carried out twice a week by our Gardening Contractor so any required remedial work can be identified quickly, and the location is subject to a ROSPA report annually.

London Luton Airport

Cllr Shaw and Cllr Brennan have attended several consultation meetings over the year and put the views of the Parish Council and our residents forward for consideration. Cllr Shaw also sent a comprehensive response stating our reasons for objecting. The consultation ended in February 2024 and the committee will report to the Secretary of State in May 2024.

Hanging Baskets

Hanging flower baskets were sited throughout the Parish again over the summer of 2023 and our approved contractor Plantscape will be in their third year of contract for the summer of 2024. Council members will decide planting requirements going forward later this year.

Fly Tipping has continued to plague our roads. Woodside Road and Half Moon Lane are two areas worst affected. The CBC waste grab lorry visits these sites on a fortnightly basis to remove the rubbish. CBC decided early on that these locations are not suitable for cameras, so members continue to report and encourage residents to report any tips to FixMyStreet.

Tree Maintenance

St Andrews Church Cypress trees Phase 2 was completed in this financial year and Phase 3 will start in September 2024. We received emails from residents of family graves who were concerned about the weeds and moss that was accumulating in the graveyard. The felling of trees leaves no ground cover causing the weeds to grow at a faster rate. The Council instructed our approved contractor to remove the moss and cut back the weeds every couple of weeks.

Council members also approved other tree works in Old School Walk & Crawley Close.

Highways and Footpaths

Along with the usual general wear and tear and weather damage on various roads in the parish there was substantial road surface replacement along Markyate Road in the vicinity of Woodside Wildfowl Park. Again, council members continue to report and encourage residents to report any pothole or road surface issues to FixMyStreet.

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 13th May 2024

Residents Parking Scheme

The Council conducted a resident consultation for a parking scheme in the parish and received a very poor response. The consensus was that residents would like a permit scheme in place but are reluctant to pay for it. The results were compiled and sent to Central Bedfordshire Council, who will let the Council know how to progress this project, this will continue into this year.

Good Neighbourhood Scheme

The GNS has been extremely successful this past year supporting residents in the parish. They have held tea parties a Christmas and Easter party in the parish hall. The weekly Soup and Sarnie event is continuing at the Rising Sun and is well attended each week. They received a grant from the Angus Brewer fund and have been fundraising with running tombola stalls. They have picked up some new volunteers and have reviewed and updated their policies. Parish residents received a biscuits again for Christmas.

CASEBug

CASEBUG continue to campaign to keep good local bus services available. They attend council meetings and provide regular updates to both Slip End & Caddington Parish Councils.

Flooding

Flooding became a much larger issue in the parish after a particularly heavy downpour on 31st March 2023, particularly in Mancroft Road Aley Green, Lower Woodside and Grove Road. A flood working committee was set up and council members took advantage of a CBC grant to for flood equipment for Slip End and a container was purchased to house it. It is installed in the Village Hall car park. Additional flood items were purchased as items were used.

Lower Woodside and Aley Green are now receiving investment to works needed at that end of the parish. Grove Road previous works failed, and this location is now on CBC's list of jobs to revisit and improve, and therefore remains an agenda item.

Policing

The crime statistics have shown that fortunately our parish still has a low level of crime reported. We had a visit from PCC Ian Dalgarno from Bedfordshire Police who gave an overview of plans to tackle rural policing and to take any concerns we had in the parish onboard to address.

Banking and Accounts

Thanks to our clerk the parish council have updated and modernised their banking arrangements, moving to online banking to facilitate faster and more efficient payments by BACS. The parish council agreed to close down our account with Barclays Bank and open a new account with the Unity Trust bank which is widely used among Parish Councils. We continue to operate two banks and retain two accounts, one with Unity and one with the Co-operative Bank.

Again, thanks to the clerk in October 2023 we purchased a Scribe online accounts package for our accounting purposes. The transition to Scribe enabled more accurate recording of accounts, reports and compiled the information needed to complete the year end accounts for audit.

Community Improvements

We purchased and installed three new Parish Notice Boards, two additional poo bins, arranged for several general waste bins to be replaced by CBC, purchased two metal Remembrance Statues and a Remembrance bench.

Defibrillators

The defibrillator at the village hall was taken and not replaced resulting in the parish council having to purchase a new one. All defibrillators are now clearly marked with ownership of Slip End Parish Council. A new casing unit was installed at Peter Edwards Fields.

Sarah Minnighan - Chairman

Slip End Parish Council

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May 2024

Appendix B

Annual Report from Cllr. Vicky Malone - Ward Councillor 2023-2024

I can't believe it's a year since I became a Councillor for the Caddington Ward. I am getting to grips with the role and am pleased to be supported by some of the long-standing independents by being part of their network.

I will be the first person to admit that this year's budget was difficult. We started with a £39m deficit between income and expenditure from the previous Council. We have started reducing this through filling only essential vacancies; reducing management costs; cutting council heating and lighting bills; also the new independent administration immediately cut the amount of money that would have been paid to themselves under the previous administration to set a good example... This pay cut alone saved £110,000. With regret, to close this gap further we have had to implement a charge for garden waste.

And now moving onto some good news... we are looking forward to increasing spending in children's services by £10m a year, spending a further £13m on roads and pavements, and further committing £10m to health hubs and other primary care infrastructure.

I have been busy in Slip End too, working with Highways to alert them to the dreadful state of the local roads which hopefully like Markyate rd should start to improve, I have also liaised with the flood team about local flooding... and have been working with residents and our enforcement team about local enforcement problems. I am also actively campaigning with my group to bring the cameras that CBC brought a few years ago back to catch fly tippers this year, something that severely affects ALL the villages in the Caddington ward

It's been a pleasure working with you this year. I am looking forward to spending the next three years of my term working hard to improve the quality of life and services in Caddington Ward and its Parishes.

Vicky Malone – Ward Councillor
May 2024