

Minutes of the Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on Monday 4th April 2022 at the Village Hall, Slip End.

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

Ward Councillors: None

Apologies: Cllr E Perry; Cllr K Collins; Mrs C Brennan.

Members of the public: None

This meeting was chaired by Cllr. Cooper

22/23/01 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." He also said he will be sound recording the meeting.
Cllr. Patterson, Cllr. Minnighan and Cllr. Beeton all expressed interests in Item 6 " Grant Applications"

22/23/02 Meeting Open to the Public.

None

22/23/03 Minutes of recent meetings.

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2022 were read.
The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Shaw and Cllr. Beeton;
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7th March 2022 and to authorise the Chair to sign them.
The resolution was passed unanimously.

22/23/04 Planning Matters

The Chair said that the recent planning appeal for ten houses on the paddock in Woodside Road has been dismissed.

CB/22/00979/FULL – Land next to 78 Woodside Road, Woodside – Erection of one bedroom dwelling with parking.

Cllr Hooker said he would advise that we object to this Planning Application on the grounds of;

1. The proposed development would constitute inappropriate development within the Green Belt.
2. The proposed development, by virtue of its excessive scale and mass, would constitute an over development of the plot, and would harm the character and enjoyment of FP4 of the Heritage Greenway
3. Parking is already a problem around the site with a large number of cars parked outside the flint cottages opposite the proposed development. This reduces visibility and is unsafe for cars exiting the Heritage Greenway opposite.
4. The Heritage Greenway, which runs adjacent to the site, was introduced as part of the Caddington and Slip End Neighbourhood Plan. One of the specific objectives of the Plan was to "increase the provision of safe and enjoyable walking, cycling and horse-riding links".

The narrow space between No. 78 and the proposed new house will be used by cars accessing the rear car parking of No 78 and the car parking at the front of 1 Whyley Cottage. This will also be shared with people walking, cycling and horse riding along the Heritage Greenway; it is this sharing that is inherently unsafe.

After a short discussion, it was agreed to lodge an Objection to this Planning Application.

22/23/05 Consideration of Grant Applications

Parish News

The Parish News was seen as an important way to communicate to all the households in the Parish on a regular basis.

After a short discussion, the Grant request for **£2,600** was agreed.

Good Neighbour Scheme

The funds were requested to help fund the possible training of volunteers in the more complex cases they are now seeing applying for assistance.

After a short discussion, the Grant request for **£960** was agreed.

Slip End Playing Fields

The Playing Fields have requested funds, so they can apply for match funding to replace their septic tank pit with one that is more robust.

If outside funding can be sourced, then this Grant money may not be fully needed.

The poor design of their current pump pit is contributing to pump breakdowns and replacements on a regular basis, and a replacement pit is needed to resolve the problems.

Cllr. Hooker said he was impressed by the application detail.

He also asked if the Playing Fields Committee are confident that the price quoted was fair?

Cllr Minnighan said she was, and that the work is quite specialised and there are very few local companies that would undertake the work competently.

After a short discussion, the Grant of **£4,000** was agreed.

FoSELS

Cllr. Minnighan said that CBC are not funding laptops for Schools and if FoSELS want laptops for their pupils, they are having to fund raise.

Cllr Hooker said that in the current economic environment, any money we save now means we can keep Council Tax bills as low as possible next year. He proposed that we make a contribution, but lower than requested. A grant of £1,399.74 would mean a purchase of 3 Laptops, rather than the 5 requested.

One good aspect is they are match funding the project.

The Chair said that laptops can be bought for under £500 and questioned why so much is being requested when they have c£18,000 in the bank.

The Clerk was asked to write to them asking if this money is ring-fenced for another project and so cannot be spent on lap tops. **(P.S)**

Also, we would be interested as to what laptops they are interested in purchasing.

The Grant request will be discussed at the next meeting, after this extra information has been obtained.

Slip End Pre-School

Cllr. Hooker said he is inclined not to support their Grant request, because he felt that it was not a good use of public funds.

The financial details given by them was sparse and Members queried the amount spent on phone and internet costs.

The Clerk was asked to write to them and obtain audited and up-to-date Accounts before a decision can be made at the next meeting, **(P.S)**

1st Woodside Brownies

The Grant request is to help with the high cost of their annual insurance premium.

After a short discussion, the **£497** Grant request was agreed.

Slip End Carpet Bowls

After a short discussion, the **£300** Grant request was agreed.

22/23/06

Crawley Playground and Youth Shelter

Cllr. Minnighan said that Edwin has started his three-year contract and has been on a ROSPA safety course at PC expense.

The Clerk was asked to invite him to our June meeting to meet the Members **(P.S)**

The Chair wanted to thank Mr. and Mrs. Prothero for all their hard work keeping the playground safe and clean over the past years.

This was unanimously agreed by Members.

- 22/23/07 Good Neighbour Scheme**
 Cllr. Patterson said there will be a GNS tea party at the Village Hall next week.
 Also, there will be a Tombola at Village Day in July.
 The volunteers are seeing more complex cases and some are taking more time to be resolved.
- 22/23/08 Airport Expansion**
 The Chair thanked Cllr. Shaw for his comprehensive response to the Airport Expansion Consultation.
 Our objection to the plans has been lodged.
 Our response to the Consultation is attached as **(Appendix A)**
- 22/23/09 Community Improvement Fund**
 Cllr. Minnighan said the hanging baskets will be delivered in June.
- 22/23/10 Fly Tipping**
 Cllr. Minnighan said that she has not had any update as to when covert cameras will be deployed at fly tipping hot spots.
 A resident in Woodside Road is now actively reporting any new fly tipping incidents.
- 22/23/11 Highways and Footpaths**
 Cllr. Shaw asked when the speed survey will be taking place in Summer Street.
 The Clerk said this should be taking place late April or early May.
- 22/23/12 Parish Trees**
 No Issues
- 22/23/13 Accounts for Payment**
 Prior to the meeting The Clerk had circulated the schedule below **(Appendix B)** to Members for approval. The payments were unanimously approved, having been proposed by Cllr. Minnighan and seconded by Cllr. Beeton
 Cheques were signed by Cllr Minnighan and Cllr. Patterson.
- 22/23/14 Report By Ward Councillors**
 As there were no Ward Councillors attending, Cllr. Minnighan had been given their update.
 The Open Reach cabinet will be looked at to see if it had been removed.
 CBC will run a consultation into the need for a Residents Parking Scheme in Slip End.
 Both CBC and Cllr. Collins have responded to the Airport Expansion Consultation.
 Important issues raised were noise mitigation and elimination of night flights.
 Their submissions will be forwarded to the Clerk.
 The CBC flood team will be visiting Mancroft Road to discuss measures needed at this flooding hot spot.
 It is hoped that the Grove Road path reconstruction will go ahead on 11th and 12th April after several postponements.
- 22/23/15 Policing**
 Cllr. Hooker has been in contact with our new PC, Jack Hollands and he will be invited to attend our May meeting.
- 22/23/16 Residents Communications**
 None
- 22/23/17 Closing Comments**
 Cllr. Patterson said there seemed to be a lady litter picking in Slip End this week with little or no safety equipment.
 Cllr Hooker said he would support the Parish Council loaning litter picking equipment to residents to carry out litter picking.
 It was pointed out that any such organised litter picking will need a Risk Assessment and Insurance cover as well as safety training.
 Other members said they would support the loan of equipment to local residents.

Date of next meeting and Annual Meetings – 9th May 2022.

Signed.....
Chair

Date.....

Appendix A

23rd March 2022

We thank you for the opportunity to comment, as a prescribed consultee, on yet another Luton Airport expansion plan, the third such consultation within four years. We note that the present documentation, which now runs to in excess of 15,000 pages, devotes 1,538 pages to feedback on the 2019 consultation. The amount of documentation is now so comprehensive that it is not possible, without the sort of resources available to organisations such as the LLAOL, to respond effectively to it. However, our serious concerns about the airport expansion remain.

In the Feedback Report Appendix A/1 there are comments which relate to specific points raised by SEPC, though, of course, there are other issues which we share with other respondents. Essentially there are two directions of reply from LLAOL. The first is to sweep everything environmental into the Green Controlled Growth (GCG) plan (eg our comments 3.1.46 (impact of doubling flight numbers), 3.1.68 (current noise levels), 3.1.80 (increased noise levels)), the second is to just say it is not being considered, marked by ‘no’ in the right hand column (such as 4.1.22 (wide body jets), 5.1.21(emissions monitoring west of the airport), 5.1.47 (fixed point monitoring strategy)). We cannot find a response to the issue of ‘flyparking’ in the parish.

Thus, fundamental to all environmental concerns is the CGC plan, a proposal for an ‘independent’ body to monitor four areas of environment and mandate as necessary (or quasi-independent as it happens, with LBC both the owner of the airport and represented on the monitoring panels – the comment on ‘marking our own homework’ on page 3 is appropriate humour). The plan is complex and the variables movable – why only PM10, PM2.5 and NOx emissions to be monitored, for example? In its current draft form it is also a plan in which any outcome is possible, and is essentially a set of promises to get the planning over the line. Obviously independent scrutiny is essential and should have been introduced years ago, a point made by Stevenage Borough Council in Response Appendix 2 (5.1.20) For LLAOL it must now be expedient to have such a plan, in a situation where both the plan and its implementation remain in the hands of the operators. Given the past record of LLAOL on environmental matters we can have little optimism about the outcome.

A more fundamental issue underlies the entire consultation. The 2019 consultation used the 2017 data set as a baseline. The 2022 consultation uses 2019 data. 2019 represents the peak of flight numbers and passenger throughput pre-covid, and using this data as a baseline normalises it (eg PEIR 2 16.5.4 states that 2019 was the last year of ‘normal’ operations and concedes that noise limits were breached in both day and night

operations) - a ‘new normal’ which, by definition, becomes acceptable and/or desirable simply because it is the status quo. There is no consideration here of the factors which led to this exceptional growth, which far exceeded the original estimates, or whether 2019 baseline is appropriate, particularly from an environmental viewpoint, as in 16.5.4 above. Thus, with an ‘acceptable’ scenario in place it has merely become a matter of ensuring that future scenarios remain comparable to the 2019 level to claim green kudos. For example, it is remarkable that the future Noise Envelope scenarios for 2027, 2039 and 2043 (PEIR 4 figures 16.7 to 16.24) look remarkably similar to each other, and to the 2019 scenario, even though aircraft numbers will have doubled by the end of the sequence.

PEIR 2 16.5.16 classifies adverse noise as LOAEL (lowest adverse effect level), SOAEL (significant adverse effect level – enough to cause ‘material change in behaviour’) and UAEL (Unacceptable adverse effect level – approximately 69 db), with design parameters set to noise in an indoor setting. Slip End Parish is firmly within the 57 db contour (PEIR 4 Fig 16.4), with maximum noise in the Pepperstock area under the westerly take off, though there is also noise from inbound easterly flights at the north end of the parish. Noise exceeding 60 db is found at location ML12, adjacent to the M1. However, this data is drawn from monitoring sites ML9 (Manor Farm) and ML26 (Pepsal End Farm), which are peripheral to the main takeoff line, and lie at a lower altitude and further distance from the airport than the hamlet of Pepperstock, so almost certainly underestimate noise levels.

The inhabitants of Pepperstock and adjacent parts of Slip End village estimate noise by the number of times a conversation has to be interrupted in the garden or the street by an aircraft passing overhead, which may be ten times in a half hour of batch takeoff during summer months. Such interruption qualifies as above SOAEL and calls in to question the statement (PEIR 2 16.9.46)” The precautionary UAEL is not predicted to be exceeded at any assessment location.” Doubling the number of flights, with a takeoff every 90 seconds, will double the problem by 2043, no matter how much Fig 16.24 tries to persuade us otherwise. It is worth noting that the flight path changes being introduced under the Airspace Modernisation Strategy will have no impact in the parish as immediate takeoff and landing paths cannot be changed.

It is also apparent that the economic demand appraisal for the project is hopelessly optimistic. Although there has been recovery in aviation demand post-covid, the industry has been hit by a doubling in the cost of aviation fuel in the year running up to October 2021 (Financial Times 21/10/2010), and is now exacerbated by political instability in eastern Europe, a key market for the airport. Furthermore, a recent report by the New Economics Foundation estimates that, as a result of adjustment of the government’s carbon values in September 2021, the cost of cleaning up emissions from departing aircraft have doubled. In the case of Luton Airport, this cost has risen from £2,615m to £5,231m pa, even before expansion is considered. Effectively none of the eight UK airports currently seeking expansion will now be able to meet 2050 net zero emission targets (New Civil Engineer 28/1/2022). Indeed, Leeds Bradford Airport scrapped its expansion plans on 10th March 2022. It would be in the best interests and wellbeing of the Slip End Parish community if LLAOL were to do likewise.

We congratulate you on the comprehensiveness of your documentation (which is twelve times longer than Tolstoy’s War and Peace), but can see no benefit within it for the community of Slip End Parish. We therefore strongly oppose your proposals.

Yours truly

Peter Segal
Parish Clerk
clerk@slipendparishcouncil.co.uk

Appendix B

Cheques for Payment April 2022

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheq Num.</u>
HMRC	PAYE and NI Q4	£911-73	100246
Iris Business Software	Payroll Software 22/23 (50% shared by Aley Green)	£313-20	100247
Aley Green Cemetery	Precept 2022/23	£1393-00	100248
BATPC	Membership 2022/23	£403-00	100249
A Prothero	Gardening March 2022	£648-05	100250
Playsafety Ltd	ROSPA Course – Edwin	£324-00	100251
P Segal	Clerks Salary – March 2022	£900-14	100252
P Segal	Clerks Expenses	£143-04	100253