

**Minutes of the Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 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: Cllr K Collins

Apologies: Cllr E Perry; Mrs C Brennan

Members of the public: No members of the public attended.

This meeting was chaired by Cllr. Cooper

**22/23/119 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.

**22/23/120 Meeting Open to the Public.**

None

**22/23/121 Minutes of recent meetings.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were read.

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

**To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and to authorise the Chair to sign them.**

**The resolution was passed unanimously.**

**22/23/122 Report by Ward Councillor**

Cllr Collins said he had an E-Mail from the Clerk at Aley Green Cemetery, expressing concern that the floods of rainwater, coming through the Cemetery into Mancroft Road was not being taken into account by environmental agencies when deciding what flood prevention remedies should be considered. Also, the Chair of the Cemetery Committee felt that proposed housing developments further up Mancroft Road would lead to more flooding at the Aley Green/ Woodside Road end of Mancroft Road. He said that these issues would be taken into account, and the Clerk at Aley Green Cemetery may be contacted for evidence of the impact of the flooding there.

Cllr Collins thanked the Parish Council for their feedback regarding the flooding and remedial work done in Grove Road.

Although the flooding situation has improved there, the problem is far from being solved.

Cllr. Collins said he attended the development meeting at Luton Borough Council where the Newlands Road Planning Application was discussed.

The meeting acknowledged the traffic concerns regarding Newlands Road, and the potential problems in Front Street and Half Moon Lane Hyde.

Despite concerns, the planning application for the northern site was approved.

One new development was that traffic would not be able to use the site to cut through from Newlands Road to Luton.

There will be two road accesses, not joined together.

The option for a Park and Ride site at the southern development will be kept open for discussion at a later date.

Cllr. Collins said that the Centre bus route 231 is likely to be withdrawn in the New Year.

There are proposals for changes to the 230 route, paid for by the Caddington Woods development.

It is proposed to change it to an hourly service, on a one-way loop.

It will still be free to use by residents.

Cllr Hooker asked if Cllr, Collins knew how many people use the 230 service?

Cllr Collins said that the Case Board get a breakdown every month.

Cllr. Hooker said that there had been changes made to the 231 service only a Month ago, and now the service will be scrapped.

Also, residents in Pepperstock will now not have a service.

Cllr Collins said that the Planning Approval backlog, caused by the restrictions imposed by the Ashridge Estate ruling may soon be coming to an end, with a resolution nearing agreement.  
No developments in Slip End have been affected.  
There are plans to upgrade the Luton Hoo golf course to Championship status.  
If this comes off, it will have a big impact on hospitality venues in the area, as it will be a major destination on the international golf circuit.

**22/23/123 Planning Matters**

**A) CB/22/04389/FULL – 47 Woodside Road, Woodside – Part two storey and part single storey side extension.**

After a short discussion, it was agreed not to comment on this Planning Application.

**22/23/124 Crawley Playground and Youth Shelter**

Cllr. Minnighan said that Kompan have repaired the Cross Trainer.

The slip proof tape used on the ramp did not stay on for long, and an alternative method is sought.

She was asked by the Chair to speak to Kompan to see if they had a better alternative. **(S.M)**

**22/23/125 Good Neighbour Scheme**

Cllr. Patterson said that the Christmas party held at the Village Hall was successful.

Cllr Beeton said that the soup and a sandwich initiative has had 84 visits by residents, roughly 15 per week.

£168 has been spent so far. Mince pies and extra treats have been purchased.

The Clerk suggested making the cost of the lunch free for the last couple of weeks, to use up the excess funds.

The Chair wished to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work.

Cllr. Patterson asked that the Parish Council pay for the GNS Insurance of £244.12p

After a short discussion, this was agreed, and Cllr Patterson was asked to include the insurance costs in next year's Grant application.

**22/23/126 2023/24 Budget Proposal**

The Clerk had previously circulated a copy of the proposed Budget and Precept to Members.

The Chair presented the proposals for the 2023/24 Parish Council Budget.

With inflation at 11.1% the Budget has had to be increased.

Also, we will have to make provision for the new Clerk's computer and printer costs and training.

The Chair went through the proposed Budget, line by line.

After a short discussion, the following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Minnighan and Cllr. Beeton;

**To approve the 2023/24 Parish Council Budget.**

**The resolution was passed unanimously.**

**The 2023/24 agreed Budget can be found below as Appendix A**

**22/23/127 2023/24 Precept Request**

The Chair outlined the reasons we proposed a lower precept this year, despite an increase in our spending.

He said that both Internal and external Auditors had commented that we were retaining too much funds without any identifiable projects to spend them on.

We have to reduce our cash holding next year.

The proposed Precept will reduce from £55,000 to £50,000, a 9.1% reduction.

This means, a Band D property will pay £68.87 a year, down from £75.45 (-8.7%)

In a time of severe financial hardship, residents will see a reduction in the Parish Councils proportion of Council Tax.

After a short discussion, the following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Minnighan and Cllr. Beeton;

**To approve the 2023/24 Parish Council Precept.**

**The resolution was passed unanimously.**

**22/23/128 New Clerk Recruitment**  
The Clerk said that we had twelve applicants for the job and after one withdrew, we now have a short list of two, both living in the Parish.  
Rejected applicants have been contacted.  
The Clerk and Councillors will be meeting this week to discuss the short list and decide on a venue and date for the interviews.  
The Chair said that he will be standing down from the Parish Council in the New Year.  
The Clerk said we will have to appoint a new signatory, and suggested waiting until the new Clerk is appointed and we know if existing signatories will be standing again in May.

**22/23/129 Community Improvement Fund**  
The Chair said that the Christmas Biscuits will be delivered tomorrow.  
Cllr Minnighan said she would like to spend more on better Christmas Tree lighting next year.  
This could cost £1,000 more.  
She was more than happy with the tree this year. It was delivered, lit and will be taken down and recycled by a new supplier.

**22/23/130 Fly Tipping**  
There has been fly tipping again at Half Moon Lane Hyde.  
Also, the church have complained about nitrous oxide canisters strewn around the car park.  
The Clerk explained that this area is regularly litter picked by volunteers.

**22/23/131 Highways and Footpaths**  
No issues

**22/23/132 Parish Trees**  
No issues

**22/23/133 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. Shaw  
The cheques were signed by Cllr. Minnighan and Cllr. Patterson.

**22/23/134 Residents Communications**  
Cllr Minnighan said that a new resident of Front Street had enquired about the progress of the proposed roundabout at Half Moon Lane, and the speed limits on the roads there.  
The Clerk had informed him that no decisions had yet been made as to the layout of the junction, and the proposed speed limits there will be linked to the final plan, when known.

**Date of next meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Signed**.....  
**Chair**

**Date**.....

## Appendix A

### 2023-24 SLIP END PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET - FINAL

ADMINISTRATION	Budget 22/23	Spend to Date	Budget 23/24
Direct Employee costs (inc PAYE)	17013.00	8345.99	17700.00
Employer Pension Costs	1124.00	463.45	2500.00
Recruitment Costs	1000.00	0.00	0.00
Civic Expenses & Regalia & Minute Clerk	0.00	0.00	0.00
Internal & External Auditors Fees	500.00	400.00	500.00
Bank Charges	0.00	5.00	0.00
Parish Council Insurance	900.00	862.05	900.00
Clerks Expenses - post, print & stationery	350.00	102.36	350.00
Clerks Travel expenses	350.00	133.85	100.00
Telephone, Computer, Broadband & software	700.00	253.63	700.00
Data Protection	70.00	0.00	70.00
Hire of Meeting Rooms	350.00	456.00	500.00
Hire of Storage facility	60.00	0.00	60.00
Website Costs	300.00	220.00	300.00
Office Equipment (Repairs and Renewals)	0.00	0.00	1000.00
Member and Employee course and travel exps	600.00	44.10	700.00
Publications & Books & SLCC Membership	170.00	0.00	170.00
Election *** SR1	0.00	0.00	2000.00
Bank Interest Received	<b>-5.00</b>	<b>-0.39</b>	<b>-5.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23482.00</b>	<b>11286.04</b>	<b>27545.00</b>

  

HIGHWAYS AND AMENITY AREAS	Budget 22/23	Spend to Date	Budget 23/24
Tree Planting & Surgery	1000.00	0.00	1000.00
St Andrews Churchyard maintenance ***SR13	850.00	0.00	850.00

All Fencing in Parish ***SR 3
Street Furniture Repairs & Renewals ***SR4
Outside Contractor Gardening
Outside Contractor Grass Cutting
Extra plants and bulbs to enhance gardens
Gritter Operating Costs
<b>TOTAL</b>

200.00	0.00	200.00
1000.00	29.45	1000.00
10000.00	4455.99	10000.00
1212.00	0.00	1333.00
250.00	84.95	300.00
1000.00	0.00	1000.00
<b>15512.00</b>	<b>4570.39</b>	<b>15683.00</b>

<b>CRAWLEY PLAYGROUND</b>
Crawley Playground ROSPA Safety Reports
Crawley Playground Repairs, Replacement and Cleaning
Crawley Playground repairs to fencing
Playground Equipment Repair, Replace or renew ***SR 8
<b>TOTAL</b>

Budget 22/23	Spend to Date	Budget 23/24
150.00	142.80	150.00
1700.00	692.00	4000.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>1850.00</b>	<b>834.80</b>	<b>4150.00</b>

<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>
BATPC
CPRE
Chiltern Society
<b>TOTAL</b>

Budget 22/23	Spend to Date	Budget 23/24
425.00	403.00	425.00
50.00	0.00	50.00
30.00	30.00	30.00
<b>505.00</b>	<b>433.00</b>	<b>505.00</b>

<b>ALEY GREEN CEMETERY</b>
<b>PLANNING AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION</b>
Professional Consultancy Fees
Professional Consultancy Fees ***SR2
<b>TOTAL</b>

Budget 22/23	Spend to Date	Budget 23/24
1393.00	1393.00	1535.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

<b>VILLAGE HALL</b>
Playground Yearly Lease
Insurance of CCTV at Village Hall (50%)
<b>TOTAL</b>

Budget 22/23	Spend to Date	Budget 23/24
100.00	0.00	100.00
150.00	0.00	150.00
<b>250.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>250.00</b>

<b>GRANTS</b>
S137 Grants (ex CPG)
Christmas Biscuits
Slip End Playing Fields ***SR17
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
<b>TOTAL</b>

Budget 22/23	Spend to Date	Budget 23/24
11000.00	8189.94	12000.00
1100.00	0.00	1300.00
4000.00	0.00	4000.00
75.00	0.00	100.00
<b>16175.00</b>	<b>8189.94</b>	<b>17400.00</b>

<b>SUMMARY</b>
ADMINISTRATION
HIGHWAYS AND AMENITY AREAS
CRAWLEY PLAYGROUND
SUBSCRIPTIONS
ALEY GREEN CEMETERY
PLANNING AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION
VILLAGE HALL
GRANTS
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT FUND
<b>TOTAL</b>

Budget 22/23	Spend to Date	Budget 23/24
23482.00	11286.04	27545.00
15512.00	4570.39	15683.00
1850.00	834.80	4150.00
505.00	433.00	505.00
1393.00	1393.00	1535.00
0.00	0.00	0.00
250.00	0.00	250.00
16175.00	8189.94	17400.00
3272.00	4344.00	10500.00
<b>62439.00</b>	<b>31051.17</b>	<b>77568.00</b>

<b>SPECIFIC RESERVES</b>
SR 1 – Election
SR 2 – Professional Consultancy Fees
SR 3 – All fencing in Parish
SR 4 - Street Furniture Repairs and Renewals

Opening 2022/23	in/out to date	Opening 2023/24
1000.00		2000.00
4000.00		4000.00
3000.00		3000.00
3000.00	-29.45	3000.00

SR 8 – Playground equipment – replace 2038	19000.00		25000.00
SR 12 - Community Improvement Fund	30000.00	-2724.00	25000.00
SR13 - St Andrews Churchyard Maintenance	4000.00		4000.00
SR17- Slip End Playing Fields	4000.00		4000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68000.00</b>	<b>-2753.45</b>	<b>70000.00</b>

Community Improvement Fund - SR 12	Budget 22/23	Spend 2022/23	Budget 23/24
Notice Boards and new Defib casing	0.00	0.00	5000.00
Hanging Basket Project	3272.00	2724.00	3000.00
Christmas Tree	0.00	1620.00	2500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3272.00</b>	<b>4344.00</b>	<b>10500.00</b>

PRECEPT 2022/23

PRECEPT 2023/24

£55,000.00	Plus 1.9% ( plus 1.1% Band D )
£50,000.00	Minus 9.1% ( Minus 8.7% Band D )

## Appendix B

### Cheques for Payment December 2022

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheq Num.</u>
Kompan Ltd	Playground Equipment Repair	£1,364-17	100743
S Patterson	GNS Christmas Cards	£154-24	100744
Lansdowne Services	Gardening Nov 2022	£737-50	100745

Lansdowne Services	Winter Plants	£67-96	100746
P Segal	Clerks Salary Nov 22 Inc wfh allowance	£1113-15	100747
P Segal	Clerks Expenses Nov 22	£209-46	100748
CPRE	Membership 2022/23	£36-00	100749
Village Hall	Room Hire - 1 hour	£20-00	100750