Minutes of the Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on Monday 6th December 2021 at the Village Hall, Slip End.

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

Ward Councillors: None

Apologies: Cllr E Perry; Cllr K Collins;

Members of the public: None

This meeting was chaired by Cllr. Cooper

21/22/125 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Hooker informed the Chairman that he will be audio recording the meeting.

21/22/126 Meeting Open to the Public.
None

21/22/127 Minutes of recent meetings.
The minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2021 were read.
The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Minnighan and Cllr. Beeton;
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st November 2021 and to authorise the Chair to sign them.
The resolution was passed unanimously.

21/22/128 Planning Matters
None

21/22/129 Crawley Playground and Youth Shelter
Cllr. Minnighan said that one of the legs supporting the cradle swing has become loose from its ground fixing and needs to be repaired by Kompan.

Cost will be £535 + VAT.

Cllr Hooker said we have no choice regarding the repair, but after only a couple of years use, it should not have become loose.

Kompan said it may have been hit by a mower, but it was felt that it was poor workmanship that caused the fault.
The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Brennan and Cllr. Beeton;
To approve the spend of £535 + VAT to Kompan to repair the cradle swing at the playground.
The resolution was passed unanimously.

Cllr. Minnighan said that Mr. Prothero has the nuts and bolts to replace the missing ones on various pieces of equipment, and also re-fix the detached foot plate on the adult gym equipment.

The quote from Cain Markings had previously been circulated by the Clerk.

It was for £735.32 + VAT to clean the entire playground and path.

After discussion, it was agreed that the cost was too high and that we should ask Mr. Prothero to quote for jet washing the equipment and path in Spring next year.

21/22/130 Community Projects Group
Cllr. Minnighan confirmed that the CPG will be closing at the end of the year.

A new system will be introduced where community groups can obtain Grants from the Parish Council by application in March each year.
She outlined the CPGs current financial position and their financial commitments, and said that it looks like there will be a residual amount of £252.42 to be returned to the Parish Council.

The Clerk requested that a list of local community groups that have previously applied for Grants via the CPG be forwarded to him ready for February. **(S.P)**

Cllr. Patterson said that all the Christmas biscuits have been distributed.

There had been comments by Councillors about the size of the boxes compared to last year, but many residents who have received them, have voiced their appreciation.

Cllr. Patterson was asked to forward to the Clerk, the Christmas biscuit list, so that we have a second copy if needed. **(S.P)**

There will be a GNS Christmas party and raffle this Wednesday at the Village Hall.

21/22/131 Community Improvement Fund

Cllr. Minnighan said she and Mr. Prothero had identified which lamp posts can be used next year to site the hanging baskets.

Some new split lamp posts now cannot be used because they are aluminium and need to be able to split for maintenance.

It was thought that Plantscape will be surveying all the identified lamp posts this week.

Mr Prothero will look at the new gate in Lower Woodside to see if it can take the weight of a flower trough next year.

If not, an alternative method of planting will be used.

Cllr Beeton said that there was a lack of Christmas lighting in the Village, compared to Caddington.

The Chair said it was a problem finding suitable locations for lighting as we don't have a village green.

He did agree that it was something we could look at for next year.

It was agreed that the new Christmas tree was a big improvement over previous years.

21/22/132 Gardening Contract Update

The Clerk said that with one week to go before the Tender deadline, we have had four Tenders submitted.

The Clerk has spent six hours in total showing contractors around the sites and so will adjust his pay next month by an extra £83.00.

This was agreed by the Council.

21/22/133 Fly Tipping

No update

21/22/134 Highways and Footpaths

Cllr. Shaw said that some traffic lights are out at the cross roads. Some have been reported, and the Clerk was asked to check which ones are not logged as being defective and report to Highways **(P.S)**

Cllr. Beeton said that she felt that the gritter had not been out this winter so far.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Contractor and ask what nights gritting had taken place. **(P.S)**

21/22/135 Parish Trees

No update

21/22/136 Approval of the 2022/23 Parish Council Budget

The Clerk had previously circulated the Draft Budget to Members.

The Chair took the meeting through the proposed Budget.

The proposal is that the Clerks Salary should rise by 7% as the Minimum Wage in the UK is rising higher than inflation next year.

This maintains the Clerks premium over basic wage levels.

There is a Budget amount this year for recruitment, as the Clerk expects to retire by March 2023.

The Budget has increased for our Gardening Contract due to our current Contractor retiring in March 2022.

After discussion it was agreed to pass the 2022/23 Budget which is attached as **Appendix A**
The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Beeton and Cllr. Brennan;
To approve the 2022/23 Parish Council Budget.
The resolution was passed unanimously.

21/22/137 Approval of the 2022/23 Precept

This had been previously circulated to Members as part of the Budget documentation.

It was proposed that the Precept be raised to £57,000, an increase of 5.6%

Cllr Hooker felt that in today's economic climate, with household bills rising, this was excessive.

Inflation is running at around 4.2% and he would like to see an increase no higher than 3.1%

He would support cuts in several areas of the Budget to support such a reduction.

Cllr Brennan agreed, and Cllr. Minnighan also was concerned that prices are rising generally.
After a discussion, it was agreed to raise the Precept to £55,000, an increase of 1.9% and an increase of 1.1% for a Band D property.
The difference will be paid for out of retained funds.
The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Brennan and Cllr. Shaw;
To approve the 2022/23 Precept amount of £55,000.
The resolution was passed unanimously.

21/22/138 Account 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. Shaw and seconded by Cllr. Beeton
Cheques were signed by Cllr Minnighan and Cllr. Patterson

21/22/139 Report by Central Beds Councillors

No Councillors attended the meeting.
Cllr Hooker asked if there had been any progress on the Open Reach Cabinet.
There had been no update on this.

21/22/140 Policing

Cllr. Minnighan said there had been two burglaries in the Parish, so we are getting some criminal attention at the moment.

21/22/141 Residents Communications

None
Cllr Beeton said that she attended two online courses recently.
One was titled "Vulnerable Puffins" and concerned different scenarios safeguarding vulnerable adults.
One thing that came out was that all utility companies have a list of vulnerable people on its books.
She also attended a course on Flood Training.

Date of next meeting – 10th January 2022.

Signed…….. **Date**……
Chair

Appendix A

2022-23 SLIP END PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET - FINAL

ADMINISTRATION	Budget 21/22	Spend to Date	Budget 22/23
Direct Employee costs (inc PAYE)	15900.00	7811.96	17013.00
Employer Pension Costs	1060.00	518.06	1124.00
Recruitment Costs	0.00	0.00	1000.00
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	0.00	0.00
Parish Council Insurance	876.00	844.26	900.00
Clerks Expenses - post, print & stationery	350.00	102.24	350.00
Clerks Travel expenses	350.00	123.60	350.00
Telephone, Fax, Computer, Broadband & software	800.00	244.55	700.00
Data Protection	70.00	0.00	70.00
Hire of Meeting Rooms	350.00	68.00	350.00
Hire of Storage facility	60.00	60.00	60.00
Website Costs	300.00	220.00	300.00
Office Equipment (Repairs and Renewals)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Member and Employee course and travel exps	200.00	50.00	600.00
Publications & Books & SLCC Membership	100.00	0.00	170.00
Election *** SR1	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest Received	**-10.00**	**-0.36**	**-5.00**
TOTAL	**20906.00**	**10442.31**	**23482.00**

HIGHWAYS AND AMENITY AREAS	Budget 21/22	Spend to Date	Budget 22/23
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	200.00	0.00	200.00

Street Furniture Repairs & Renewals ***SR4	1000.00	0.00	1000.00
Outside Contractor Gardening	7862.00	4055.25	10000.00
Outside Contractor Grass Cutting	1313.00	0.00	1212.00
Extra plants and bulbs to enhance gardens	250.00	37.50	250.00
Gritter Operating Costs	1000.00	0.00	1000.00
TOTAL	**13475.00**	**4092.75**	**15512.00**

CRAWLEY PLAYGROUND	**Budget 21/22**	**Spend to Date**	**Budget 22/23**
Crawley Playground ROSPA Safety Reports	150.00	117.50	150.00
Crawley Playground Repairs, Replacement and Cleaning	1700.00	973.17	1700.00
Crawley Playground repairs to fencing	0.00	0.00	0.00
Playground Equipment Repair, Replace or renew ***SR 8	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	**1850.00**	**1090.67**	**1850.00**

SUBSCRIPTIONS	**Budget 21/22**	**Spend to Date**	**Budget 22/23**
BATPC	425.00	408.00	425.00
CPRE	50.00	0.00	50.00
Chiltern Society	30.00	30.00	30.00
TOTAL	**505.00**	**438.00**	**505.00**

ALEY GREEN CEMETERY	**1339.00**	**1339.00**	**1393.00**

PLANNING AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION	**Budget 21/22**	**Spend to Date**	**Budget 22/23**
Professional Consultancy Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00
Professional Consultancy Fees ***SR2	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**

VILLAGE HALL	Budget 21/22	Spend to Date	Budget 22/23
Playground Yearly Lease	100.00	0.00	100.00
Insurance of CCTV at Village Hall (50%)	150.00	0.00	150.00
TOTAL	**250.00**	**0.00**	**250.00**

Grants	Budget 21/22	Spend to Date	Budget 22/23
S137 Grants (ex CPG)	9500.00	5226.12	11000.00
Christmas Biscuits	1100.00	0.00	1100.00
Slip End Playing Fields ***SR17	4000.00	0.00	4000.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	75.00	0.00	75.00
TOTAL	**14675.00**	**5226.12**	**16175.00**

SUMMARY	Budget 21/22	Spend to Date	Budget 22/23
ADMINISTRATION	20906.00	10442.31	23482.00
HIGHWAYS AND AMENITY AREAS	13475.00	4092.75	15512.00
CRAWLEY PLAYGROUND	1850.00	1090.67	1850.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	505.00	438.00	505.00
ALEY GREEN CEMETERY	1339.00	1339.00	1393.00
PLANNING AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION	0.00	0.00	0.00
VILLAGE HALL	250.00	0.00	250.00
GRANTS	14675.00	5226.12	16175.00
TOTAL	**53000.00**	**22628.85**	**59167.00**

SPECIFIC RESERVES	Opening 2021/22	in/out to date	Opening 2022/23
SR 1 – Election	1000.00	0.00	1000.00
SR 2 – Professional Consultancy Fees	4000.00	0.00	4000.00
SR 3 – All fencing in Parish	3000.00	0.00	3000.00
SR 4 - Street Furniture Repairs and Renewals	3000.00	0.00	3000.00

SR 8 – Playground equipment – repair, replace or new	16000.00	0.00	19000.00
SR 12 - Community Improvement Fund	30000.00	3331.50	30000.00
SR13 - St Andrews Churchyard Maintenance	4000.00	0.00	4000.00
SR17- Slip End Playing Fields	4000.00	0.00	4000.00
TOTAL	**65000.00**	**3331.50**	**68000.00**

Community Improvement Fund - SR 12	**Budget 21/22**	**Spend 2020/21**	**Budget 22/23**
Traffic Calming	12000.00	0.00	0.00
Hanging Basket Project	4000.00	3331.50	3272.00
TOTAL	**16000.00**	**3331.50**	**3272.00**

PRECEPT 2021/22	**£54,000.00**	**Plus 0.5% Due to lower Tax Base**
PRECEPT 2022/23	**£55,000.00**	**Plus 1.9% (plus 1.1% Band D)**

Appendix B

Cheques for Payment
December 2021

Payee	**Reason**	**Amount**	**Cheq Num.**
A Prothero	Gardening Nov 2021 plus others	£873-05	100218
CPRE	Membership 2022	£36-00	100219

P Segal	Clerks Salary Nov 2021 and wfh allowance	£1050-14	100220
P Segal	Clerks Expenses Nov 2021	£86-07	100221
P Cooper	Christmas Biscuits	£1149-12	100222