

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

Present: Councillors: Mrs. S Minnighan (Vice Chair); Mr. T Hooker; Mrs C Beeton; Mr. P Shaw;
Mrs C Brennan.
P Segal (Clerk)

Ward Councillors: None

Apologies: Cllr E Perry; Cllr K Collins; Mr. S Patterson; Mr. Paul Cooper;

Members of the public: Four

This meeting was chaired by Cllr. Minnighan.

21/22/69 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. Minnighan and Cllr. Beeton declared an interest in item 15, "CPG Update"

21/22/70 Meeting Open to the Public.

None

21/22/71 Minutes of recent meetings.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2021 were read.
The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr. Brennan and Cllr. Shaw;
**To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5th July 2021
and to authorise the Chair to sign them.
The resolution was passed unanimously.**

21/22/72 Planning Matters

1) CB/21/03910/FULL – 19 Crawley Close, Slip End – side connecting extension.

Following a short discussion it was agreed to lodge a "No Objection" reply to this new Planning
Application.

Mr and Mrs Hay attended the meeting and gave the Parish Council details of a proposed new Planning
Application for a third bungalow on their land at 62-64 Woodside Road.

They are currently building two new Bungalows, and demand has indicated that a third one would be
quickly snapped up, once built.

The final footprint will be smaller than the previous stables they replace.

The application is in Pre-App with CBC and we await the full application being submitted.

They said the new application has the support of Cllr. Perry.

21/22/73 2020/21 Audit Result

The Clerk told the meeting that the 2020/21 Audit has been successfully completed with no issues.
There was one small comment on the Public Rights dates which was amended correctly and was
uploaded to the website, and will be corrected at the next Audit.

21/22/74 Angus Brewer Fund

No new updates

21/22/75 Crawley Playground and Youth Shelter

Mr. Prothero said he had cleared up a lot of broken glass around the Youth Shelter.

On the Zip Wire, one stud has broken and will be replaced.

The Chair said four or five lads had been seen sitting on the front gate and would have been seen as
intimidating to visitors.

Mr Prothero said a lady who took a dog into the Playground was spoken to.

21/22/76

Community Improvement Fund

The Chair said that the hanging baskets are still looking good.

Cllr. Hooker asked if the new hanging basket quote from Plantscape includes the proposed Woodside basket and the troughs on the gates.

It does not, but a final list of sites will be agreed nearer the time.

We would not be able to get just one lamp post tested because of the call out cost of £270.

The Chair said the posts for the new gates at Woodside were plastic.

The Sign says "Woodside" rather than "Lower Woodside"

She will ask if the sign can be changed. **(S.M)**

The Chair said we would not be able to get full troughs onto the new gates, so will get half baskets instead.

21/22/77

Gardening and Hanging Basket Watering Contracts

The proposed new Hanging Basket contract is marginally more expensive than the existing contract, mainly due to higher delivery costs.

The quote of £2004.50 +VAT is for a further three years.

After a short discussion, it was agreed to accept the quote.

For reasons of safety, it was agreed to ask Plantscape to re-survey all the lamp posts at an approximate cost of £15 per post.

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

To approve the Plantscape quote for hanging basket supply at £2,004.50 p.a. and ask them to survey all lamp posts before next years delivery.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Cllr. Hooker said that there are four good reasons for accepting Plantscapes quote;

1. The price they quoted is cheaper than our existing Contractor.

2. It is a single source of supply. If flowers die, we don't have the problem of blame, especially as we will have a new, unproven Contractor doing the work.

3. Plantscape will have previous experience of watering their own baskets.

4. If we go and ask for Tenders, and then finally go with Plantscape, it may be difficult to obtain future external quotes, as it may seem we are always going with known suppliers.

After a short discussion, it was agreed to accept Plantscape`s quote to water the Hanging Baskets for the next three years.

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

To agree the Plantscape quote of £1267.00 p.a + VAT to water the Hanging Baskets for the next three years.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

Mr Prothero said that strimming the gateway posts and watering the troughs at Rossway need adding to the Gardening Contract.

The Vice Chairman said that she had spoken to Cllr. Collins about the broken gate in Grove Road and CBCs presumption that the gate is the Parish Councils responsibility.

All the gates, including the new ones at Woodside have been paid for by CBC and are on Highways land and they are not on the Parish Councils Asset register.

It was agreed to email the relevant CBC contact pointing this out and copy in Cllr Collins. **(S.M)**

21/22/78

Gardening Contract

Previously, the Clerk had circulated to Members, a Draft copy of a proposed three-year Gardening Contract.

Cllr. Hooker was concerned that the collection of grass clippings on the new contract reflects what has historically been done by the current Contractor.

The Clerk said it is stipulated on every section of the contract that they should be collected and disposed of responsibly. Also, paths should be blown clear.

As with the separate grass cutting contract, Cllr Hooker wanted to ensure grass cutting would take place when needed, rather than sticking to a rigid timetable, and the invoicing would reflect the number of cuts undertaken.

In long, dry spells the grass will not grow and when its wet, it will grow faster than we could cut.

The frequency of cuts are stipulated, but there will have to be an understanding with the new Contractor as to the flexibility of the contract to take account of the vagaries of the British weather and cutting through the growing season.

The Clerk said the total contract price would be divided by twelve so that equal monthly payments can be made.

Also, because next years Budget will be finalised before the awarding of the contract has been agreed, he will need to Budget for double the existing costs so that we can try and keep within Budget.

We will advertise the contract in the next two editions of the Parish News, with the end date for submissions being 11th December 2021.

21/22/79 Fly Tipping

The Chair said things have improved recently due to two large cannabis factories having been shut down in Luton.

Cllr. Beeton said that a large number of black plastic bags have been dumped at the entrance to a field in Front Street again.

The Chair said there had been no progress in installing covert CCTV cameras in fly tipping hot spots.

Cllr. Hooker said that the CCTV sign in Woodside Road at the farmers entrance near the Luton Road has helped fly tipping there, but items have been fly tipped all along the Woodside Road instead!

21/22/80 Highways and Footpaths

Overgrown vegetation in Half Moon Lane was brought up again.

This will have to be week killed before being strimmed to kill it off completely.

CBC have changed grass cutting Contractors to John O`Conner after complaints that the previous Contractor was doing a poor job. Frequency of cuts will still be an issue.

21/22/81 Parish Trees

No Issues

21/22/82 CPG Update

The Chair said that Cllr. Patterson had circulated the updated breakdown of CPG funds and the Grant payments.

She said that on inspection, the CPG had not requested enough money from the Parish Council to cover their costs and approved Grants.

This resulted in the CPG using their reserves to plug the gaps.

The Chair says she feels the CPG has run its course as there are no more projects to oversee.

Cllr. Shaw said that the future of the CPG needs discussing and probably replacing by another system of allocating funds.

The Chair thought a sub-committee of the Parish Council should be formed to administer funding going forward.

The Clerk said that the Parish Council and CPG should meet in a separate meeting just to discuss this subject, and recommendations put before the Parish Council for final agreement at a full meeting.

After further discussion, it was agreed to pay the CPG its initial funding request, with a further request for Grant payment to be submitted at a later date.

The Chair asked the Clerk to put "The future of the CPG" onto the next PC Agenda. **(P.S)**

21/22/83 Accounts for Payment

Prior to the meeting The Clerk had circulated the schedule below **(Appendix A)** to Members for approval. The payments were unanimously approved, having been proposed by Cllr. Shaw and seconded by Cllr. Brennan.

Cheques were signed by Cllr Minnighan and earlier by Cllr Cooper.

21/22/84 Report by Ward Councillors

The Chair said that in the absence of the two Ward Councillors, Cllr Collins had forwarded the following updates;

Regarding the defunct BT box in Woodside, CBC have a new Highways Custodian and it was hoped he would have greater success in getting this removed.

Regarding the flooding in Grove Road, the pavement accessibility will be given priority.

The Residents Parking Scheme request will be followed up by Cllr Collins in light of the Newlands Road Retail Park proposals. It is expected that this development will put extra pressure on the parking in Slip End.

- 21/22/85 Policing**
 Cllr. Hooker said he recently attended the P&CC webinar for Town and Parish Councils.
 He was surprised that the meeting was attended by a number of CBC Councillors who then did a fair amount of the speaking themselves.
 When he asked about off road motorcycles, he was advised people should ring 101.
 He was also told new legislation coming to assist in the removal of Travellers trespassing illegally.
- 21/22/86 Residents Communications**
 Cllr Shaw asked if there had been any update in the activity at the Plough.
 It was felt that the management there had now changed and was about to re-open with new food menus etc.
 The Clerk said he is receiving E-mails from the residents of Woodside, concerned about construction development of the park homes site.
- 21/22/87 Closing Comments**
 None.

Date of next meeting – 4th October 2021

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

Appendix A

**Cheques for Payment
 September 2021**

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheq Num.</u>
Plantscape	Hanging Baskets 2021	£2375-40	100683
A Prothero	Gardening July 2021	£648-05	100210
P Segal	Clerks Salary July 2021 Inc. wfh allowance	£1050-14	100211
P Segal	Clerks Expenses	£92-46	100212

CPG	Interim Grant Payment	£5226-12	100213
A Prothero	Gardening Aug + others	£815-00	100214
Mazars LLP	External Audit Fee	£360-00	100215
P Segal	Clerks Salary – Aug	£900-14	100216
P Segal	Clerks Expenses	£64-91	100217