

**Minutes of the Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on Monday 9th May 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 (part meeting)

Apologies: Cllr E Perry; Mrs C Brennan.

Members of the public: Eight

This meeting was chaired by Cllr. Cooper

22/23/18 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.

22/23/19 Meeting Open to the Public.

None

22/23/20 Minutes of recent meetings.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2022 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 4th April 2022
and to authorise the Chair to sign them.**

The resolution was passed unanimously.

22/23/21 Planning Matters

**a) CB/22/00659/FULL – 40 Front Street, Slip End – removal of shed and erection of
detached dwelling to the rear.**

A number of residents were in attendance from St. Andrews Walk and Front Street.

One of the residents present said that the proposed property requires access via parking spaces
situated in St. Andrews Walk

Parking spaces are allocated to several local properties and form part of the house Deeds.

A copy of the plan allocating spaces and the Deeds were presented to the meeting by Cllr Minnighan.

Another resident was concerned about the size of the proposed property and the fact that if completed,
would allow its residents to directly see into their houses and gardens.

After a short discussion by Members, it was agreed to Object to this Planning application on the
grounds of;

1. The development constitutes inappropriate infill
2. The development is not in keeping with the area.
3. When completed, there will be a loss of privacy in adjoining gardens and their houses.
4. The access to the property, via existing parking spaces already owned by local residents of
St. Andrews Walk is unacceptable. Common areas here are also maintained by these house holders.
5. The development is taking parking spaces away, not adding to them.

Cllr Hooker emphasised that local residents also need to make their own comments via the Planning
Portal.

The Chair said that the recent Planning Appeal for Cobblers Gold in Mancroft Road had been successful,
with conditions.

22/23/22

Grant Applications

At the April meeting, Members requested more information from two remaining Grant applicants before any monies could be allocated. This information has now been received and the remaining Grant Applications were re-considered by Members.

FoSELS

The Chair said that they have money in the Bank but there are plans to spend that on projects not completed due to the recent lock downs.

We have looked at the spec. for the laptops proposed and they are low end machines and prices quoted are competitive.

Cllr Minnighan said they will be match funding the project.

Cllr Hooker was minded to see if we should cut them back from five laptops to three.

After a short discussion, it was agreed to grant them the full **£2,332.94** requested.

Cllr Hooker asked if the no parking signs bought previously by the Parish Council are still being used.

Cllr. Minnighan said that they are used morning and afternoon and they have had a positive effect on the parking here.

Pre-School

The Chair said that they had sent in a plan to take the Pre-School forward, which was helpful.

The money was to improve the outside area, which all agreed could do with improving.

Cllr. Hooker asked that if the Holiday Club proved successful, would they require on-going Holiday Club Grant assistance from the Parish Council in future years.

Cllr. Minnighan said they would discontinue it if it was poorly attended.

After a short discussion, it was agreed to offer the Grant of **£1,500** in full

22/23/23

Crawley Playground and Youth Shelter

Cllr. Minnighan said the fixing bolts had come loose on one of the legs of the child's swing.

Edwin had tied up the swing so it cannot be used, but the tape has been cut and the swing used regardless.

New signs had been put up saying it should not be used, and it was suggested that putting a bike lock on it to deter the swing being used until it can be fixed.

Kompan have been informed.

They have also not got back to her regarding a long-term plan for fixing there re-occurring maintenance issues.

22/23/24

Report by Ward Councillor.

Cllr. Collins said that the proposal by Luton Airport to raise passenger numbers from 18m to 19m has been referred to the Secretary of State, who has called for a Public Enquiry.

The plans to move to 32m passengers a year was more serious.

CBC has sent in a lengthy written response to the consultation, and Hertfordshire will also respond.

When the Public Enquiry does take place, we are recommended to highlight our concerns.

The request for a Residents Parking Scheme has been raised with Highways.

He advised getting residents to sign a petition.

Once we have the results, we can then ask Highways for options.

The Chair thought that we could use Survey Monkey and said he will investigate if this is a viable option we could use, **(P.C)**

The rejection by CBC to the siting of CCTV cameras at Fly Tipping hotspots was raised.

Cllr Minnighan said she has not had much support by CBC after they said the areas identified are not suitable.

The Open Reach cabinet has finally been removed after two years of complaints.

Cllr. Hooker thanked Cllr. Collins for his work on this, but questioned the length of time this had taken.

The footpath in Grove Road has been raised and time will tell if it is successful in allowing residents to use the footpath in times of flooding.

A key issue is the prevention of the road flooding at all!

The issue of flooding in Mancroft Road is ongoing.

The Chair asked Cllr. Collins if he could look into a lorry ban through Slip End as well as a downgrade of the B road to an unclassified road.

Cllr. Collins said he will forward a map of roads and permitted vehicles to the Clerk. **(K.C)**

The Chair asked Cllr. Collins if he would call in the Planning Application for 40 Front Street, if it is down for approval.

Cllr. Collins said the loss of these parking spaces constitutes a loss of amenity and so would not be allowed by Planning.

22/23/25

Policing

The Chair welcomed PC Jack Hollands to the meeting.
He is part of the Community Policing Team based at Dunstable Police Station.
He outlined his role and the difference between rural and community policing.
He said that Slip End is treated very much as rural policing and is not grouped in with policing in Luton.
Although resources are sometimes stretched, they are maintainable and we may be getting extra resource in June or July this year.
The meeting raised a number of local issues with PC Hollands, including Fly Tipping.
He said it is a CBC responsibility and may be drug related.
Members expressed concern about the increase at this time of year of off-road motorbikes.
Riders often have no helmets and are unlikely to be insured.
They cause noise nuisance and are dangerous when on the roads.
PC Hollands said that they pose a real problem and asked residents to report any such activity to the Police.
Operation Meteor is still very much ongoing
PC Hollands was asked by Cllr. Hooker if we can do anything to make his job more effective.
He said the best way was to report everything of concern so Police can build up a KICK picture of criminal activity within an area and respond.
The Chair thanked PC Holland for his time and insight and said he would be welcome to attend future meetings.

22/23/26

Good Neighbour Scheme.

Cllr. Patterson thanked the Parish Council for the recent Grant payment.
It will go a long way to helping vulnerable resident in the area.
There will be a Tea Party on 1st June at the Village Hall.
There will also be a Quiz Night at the Social Club on 18th June, as well as a Tombola at Village Day in July.
Cllr. Minnighan said that the Bobby Scheme will be helpful to local residents who are worried about home security.
The GNS are already using this facility to install security systems in houses that feel that they will benefit from it.

22/23/27

Community Improvement Fund

The hanging Baskets will be arriving soon.
Cllr. Minnighan said that the newly installed gates are made of plastic and are unsuitable to hang flower troughs from them.
We may have to use permanent troughs at the foot of the gates instead.
We should get a lower Invoice for the reduced number of planters now required as well as the reduced watering bill.

22/23/28

Appointment of Auditors

The Clerk said that the internal Auditor will be Ray Foster and the external Auditor will be Mazars LLP.

22/23/29

Receipt of Precept

The Chair reported that we have received our first Precept Payment from CBC of £27,500.

22/23/30

Fly Tipping

Covered off previously

22/23/31

Highways and Footpaths

Cllr. Shaw said that the footpath between M1 and the Harpenden Road has not been re-instated.
The Clerk was asked to inform the Footpaths Officer at CBC to report this. **(P.S)**
We have applied for match funding for a speed activated sign in Mancroft Road.
We have been informed that a sign can only be sited a minimum of 100m from a speed sign.
The Chair said he will visit the site and measure distances to see if a speed activated sign can be sited here. **(P.C)**

22/23/32

Parish Trees

No issues

22/23/33 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. Patterson and seconded by Cllr. Shaw
Cheques were signed by Cllr Minnighan and Cllr. Patterson.

22/23/34 Residents Communications

None

22/23/35 Closing Comments

Cllr. Hooker asked to be informed of any changes needed to the draft text for the Parish News article on the meeting contents.

Date of next meeting – 6th June 2022.

Signed.....
Chair

Date.....

Appendix A

**Cheques for Payment
May 2022**

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheq Num.</u>
Village Hall	Hire Fees 2022/23	£418-00	100254
New Leaf	Web Costs 2022/23	£220-00	100699
S. Minnighan	Protheros Leaving Gifts	£30-99	100700
Lansdowne Services	Mileage, ROSPA Course	£44-10	100701
Parish News	Grant Payment	£2,600-00	100702
GNS	Grant Payment	£960-00	100703

1 st Woodside Brownies	Grant Payment	£497-00	100704
Carpet Bowles	Grant Payment	£300-00	100705
A Prothero	Playground Cleaning	£476-00	100706
Zurich	Insurance Renewal	£862-05	100707
Landsdowne Services	Gardening April 22	£737-50	100708
Landsdowne Services	Bolt purchase and fitting	£37-00	100709
P Segal	Clerks Salary April 22	£963-15	100710
P Segal	Clerks Expenses April 22	£79-55	100711