

# Slapton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Elizabeth Griffin Memorial Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 8.00pm

### **PRESENT:**

Slapton Parish Council Councillors: F Wakefield (Chairman), M Cleland, M Godsland, T Harris, A Packham, Buckinghamshire Councillor D Town and Slapton Parish Clerk Mrs B Knight.

Thames Valley Police Constables I Carter, L Burns, PCSO T Hobson and Laura England from the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust

Five members of the public.

### **C/040/22 Chairman's Welcome and announcements.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **C/041/22 Attendance and Apologies.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Griffin and King. Apologies were received from Buckinghamshire Councillors Brazier and Poll.

### **C/042/22 Disclosures of interest/dispensations pertaining to this agenda.**

None.

### **C/043/22 To Approve the Minutes of the Slapton Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

The minutes for the Slapton Parish Council Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were amended and signed as true and accurate. PROPOSED BY Councillor Cleland and SECONDED BY Councillor Harris and carried unanimously.

### **C/044/22 Public Question Time.**

None.

### **C/045/22 Mill Road Garages.**

Laura England – Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust and Thames Valley Police had been made aware of the use of illegal substances and anti-social behaviour adjacent to Mill Road garages. In suggesting remedial action, it was mentioned that CCTV is not permitted near the recreation ground and the option of improved lighting and possible bollard was discussed. Slapton Parish Council will consider the options at a future meeting. Thames Valley Police confirmed recently there have been several arrests for burglaries and vehicle crime. Police Constable Carter confirmed there continues to be a joint operation with Bedfordshire Police and two new Police Officers will be joining the Wing team next week.

### **C/046/22 Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor(s).**

Councillor Town submitted a report before the meeting and there were no comments. Councillor Town confirmed the Ofsted report for Children's Services has improved and is now good. The budget recommendations have been reconciled. Jubilee Celebrations – Buckinghamshire Council will assist with road closures, Councillor Town suggested a slow bike race through the villages. The boundary commission consultation is open for members of the public to comment. Councillor Town spoke about private fostering.

Signed by Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Town enquired about the Horton Speed Limit Change and Councillor Cleland stated that the Community Board Administrator is expecting the PID from Transport for Bucks which has been delayed and should be available as early as April.

The Chairman asked about the Slapton Solar Farm and Councillor Town advised that the Chairman of the Planning Committee had stated there is not enough reason for this to go to committee and this will be determined by the Planning Officer. It was agreed to write to the Chairman of the North Bucks Planning Committee, to ask him to explain why this will not be heard at the Planning Committee when a similar case in Central Bucks were heard last week.

The Chairman spoke about the recent planning application that was considered at the Central Bucks Planning Committee the previous week; he explained the sightline from an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty had been a crucial factor in determining the hedge and tree cover for the proposed site. The Slapton Applications also involved a similar sightline from Ivinghoe Beacon. Councillor Town explained the difference between the Slapton application and the one considered last week was the access issues for Slapton. The Chairman asked if this is likely to be approved and Councillor Town explained the access route six has been withdrawn and access will be through Little Billington into Mill Road.

Slapton Parish Council will write to the Chairman of the Planning Committee to ask for this application to be called in to committee and for him to explain the reasons for his apparent refusal.

**C/047/22 Planning Application(s):**

Solar Panel Farm Application - 21/02775/APP – this was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**C/048/22 Footpaths, Bridleways and Roads.**

Horton Speed Limit Change – an application is being process with Buckinghamshire Council to change the speed limit to 40 MPH. Slapton Parish Clerk will seek clarification on the exact area covered by the proposal which is expected in April from Transport for Bucks.

The hedge on the B488/A4146 is expected to be cut back by Bedfordshire Council.

Village Signs – Councillor Packham took photographs of the canal with a qualified drone operator and a canal boat occupier threatened to shoot the drone and threatened him with a gun.

Councillor Packham reported the artwork needs to be produced for the pattern maker, the additional cost will be £450 plus VAT. PROPOSED BY Councillor Packham and SECONDED BY Councillor Harris and carried unanimously.

Tree Preservation Orders – no update.

Streetlight Survey – the survey has been completed and the streetlights are in good condition except the Horton streetlights, a meeting will be arranged with Sparkx.

**C/049/22 Slapton Recreation Ground.**

Tribute to Jacquie Lamb – this was deferred to the April meeting.

Play area improvements – the play area equipment has been ordered and the dead tree has been removed.

Slapton Brazier – Councillor Packham gave an update, the gas part of the brazier has caused a problem and Councillor Harris will help with the brazing. The location for the brazier has been identified and John O'Dwyer will prepare the area.

Rose Garden and Gate in Recreational Ground – the gate needs some maintenance, and the Chairman will speak John O'Dwyer about the repair. A volunteer is required to help look after the rose garden and the Chairman will speak to a local resident who is a professional gardener.

Signed by Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

**C/050/22 Proposed Managed Nature Area and Bee Slapton.**

The WI had discussed the matter and decided that they did not want a specific area for the WI but could be prepared to donate trees to the general area. Councillor Godsland had contacted the councillors in Great Brickhill who had initiated their nature areas. The latter were happy to offer advice and to show Slapton councillors around their nature areas if they wanted. The Beebombs have been delivered and are being distributed to local residents.

**C/051/22 HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

The Chairman reported that plans are underway for the Jubilee Celebrations. The budget of £4,000 was agreed for the event. PROPOSED BY Councillor Wakefield and SECONDED BY Councillor Harris and carried unanimously.

**C/052/22 Allotments Site/Jubilee Field – requisition from Buckinghamshire Council.**

Bucks Councillor Brazier has assisted the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk has sent information to the Buckinghamshire Estate Manager submitting that an exception should be made so that the title to the Jubilee Field can be transferred to Slapton Parish Council.

**C/053/22 Slapton Parish Council Website.**

The website will be updated to include information about the Bee Bombs project. The website has been updated to show the flat available in Slapton to be rented by local people.

**C/54/22 Annual Meetings.**

The annual meeting of the Parish Council will take place at the May parish council meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Parish could take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> May – to be confirmed.

**C/055/22 Slapton Senior Citizens Application for Funding.**

The application to Slapton Parish Council has been withdrawn as funding has been obtained elsewhere.

**C/056/22 Clerk's Report.**

The Parish Clerk and Chairman attended a demonstration by Scribe which is specialised accounting software for Parish Councils. Once the quotation is available this will be discussed at a future meeting.

**C/057/22 Financial Matters.**

The following accounts were approved for payment PROPOSED BY Councillor Packham and SECONDED BY Councillor Cleland and carried unanimously.

Payee	Details	Amount
Almar Tring	Stationery	£14.58
John O'Dwyer	Inspections	£25.00
John O'Dwyer	Recreation Ground Tree Felling	£80.00
Hammer and Tongs	25% stage payment	£483.00
Hugh Harris Ltd/Fresh Air Fitness	Deposit - play area equipment	£9,594.89
Beebombs	Wildflower Seeds	£468.33
Clerk	Allowance and expenses	£28.78
SSE	February Streetlights	£99.43
Alec Packham/Intergas	Brazier accessories	£62.58
Sparkx	Streetlight Survey	£750.00

Signed by Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Balances - 2nd March 22	
Cambridge & Counties	£27,306.05
Barclays (30.04.21 statement)	£4,560.84
Unity Trust Current Account	£62,610.48
Unity Trust Savings Account	£4,990.31
	£99,467.68

**C/058/22 NJC Pay Scales.**

It was agreed to adjust the Clerk's Salary to reflect a 1.78% pay increase backdated to April 2021 in line with the NJC Pay Scales. PROPOSED BY Councillor Cleland and SECONDED BY Councillor Packham and carried unanimously.

**C/059/22 Next Meeting Dates.**

The meeting ended at 9.25pm.

The next Slapton Parish Council Meetings will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 12<sup>th</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> November and 14<sup>th</sup> December all in Elizabeth Griffin Memorial Hall at 8pm.

Signed by Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_