

SLAPTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES 13 JULY 22

Councillors Frank Wakefield, Mac Cleland, Maggie Godsland, Emma Griffin, Tom Harris, Robert King and Alec Packham.

AGENDA ITEM: MEETING STARTED 20:00

C/111/22 Chairman's Welcome and announcements.

The Chairman opened proceedings by welcoming what was an overwhelming gathering. He announced that the Village Hall now had Wi-Fi and gave out the password.

He announced that Fairhive, the owners of the Mill Road properties were going to install a key operated bollard to protect the garages from unauthorised traffic.

He said that he and Cllr Griffin had attended the inauguration of the Rev. James Grainger Smith by the Bishop of Buckingham as the new Rector of the Benefice of Ivinghoe with Pitstone, Slapton and Marsworth.

As neither the PCSOs nor Mr. Chris Parker had so far attended, that he would press on with the Agenda until they turned up.

C/112/22 Attendance and Apologies.

Frank Wakefield, Mac Cleland, Maggie Godsland, Emma Griffin, Tom Harris, Robert King and Alec Packham

An email from Councillor Tom Harris has been received apologising for his absence due to family holiday.

All the other Councillors were present.

C/113/22 Disclosures of interest/dispensations pertaining to the agenda.

Cllr Emma Griffin

Confirmed her ownership of Bury Farm driveway and provided evidence of her ownership of the access road from Bury Farm to Mill Road by a Land Registry document.

C/114/22 To approve the minutes of the Slapton Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th June 2022.

Proposer

Cllr Rob King

Secunder

Cllr Alec Packham

C/115/22 New Bury Summer Festival – 13th and 14th August 22.

Chris Parker – Events Director.

Did not turn up.

C/116/22 Thames Valley Police.

No Police presence detected.

C/117/22 Public Question Time (2 minutes per person, maximum of 10 minutes).

A resident from Horton reminded the meeting about the accident in Horton where a high sided HGV had pulled down a support pole for the electrical power in Horton. The HGV dragged the pole some 100 m down the street in the direction of Cheddington.

The village was without power from 12:00 until 01:30 that night, 5th July. The resident asked if the police had an incident number for the accident, Bedford police were the first attending on site. PCSOs from Wing attended later.

The resident also asked if this was even more evidence that Horton was unsuitable for the transit of HGV traffic and asked regarding progress of the Freight Strategy initiative.

Cllr. Peter Brazier answered that the Freight Strategy initiative was imminently to be approved this month (July) and evidence of its implementation should be visible by Sep-Nov this year.

A follow-on question by the Horton resident querying if a Horton By-pass was possible.

A resident reported that the dog poo bin in the recreation area was full. *Cllr Packham said that the bin had been emptied this very morning.*

Various residents in Mill Road complained about the level of speeding along Mill Road. There was a great deal of heat in the discussion with various requests for Speed Humps, in road parking, traffic islands etc.

The Chairman fought diligently to retain a dignified meeting and whilst giving the assertion that Speed Humps are not advocated by the police at present. However, that we could move the 'Smiley Face' TAS from Horton to Slapton to assess the scale of the problem. He also invited volunteers to re-energise the Slapton Speedwatch Group to establish sessions in order to issue letters of censure from Thames Valley Police to drivers who exceed the limit.

Cllr Lorraine Mawer from Billington Parish Council volunteered that Billington had been forced to install speed humps but that there was an element that treated the speed humps as a high speed challenge. Billington PC had provided a lay by for Police use and a Police Detector van did pay occasional visits to the site.

A resident voiced an opinion that better communications links should be forged between Billington PC and Slapton PC. He extended this to indicate that Bucks CC and Bedford CC should also improve communications to the benefit of villages and towns that border either county.

C/118/22 To receive reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors.

Report attached Cllr Peter Brazier was brief bearing in mind the time spent on residents' questions. He re-iterated his belief that the Freight Strategy was due to be passed by BCC in July and the project should bear fruit by September – November. The estimate was that this should produce a reduction in HGV traffic in the area by about 40%.

On the subject of a Horton bypass, he said that as this would likely be a five-year project, that it should be tabled as soon as possible.

C/119/22

To receive details of planning decisions received and to discuss planning application(s):

22/01831/APP | Householder application for single storey rear extension with lantern light | 27 Mill Road Slapton Buckinghamshire LU7 9BT

Discussion among the Councillors produced a consensus of no objection.

Objection+ reason

No Objection Proposed by Alec Packham, Seconded by Maggie Godsland

Support with reason

22/01702/APP | Householder application for erection of two storey rear extension | North Stables Horton Road Horton Buckinghamshire LU7 0QR

This item was passed with no objection in the last meeting so was passed over to the next item.

Objection+ reason

No Objection

Support with reason

21/02775/APP | Construction of a solar farm | Land Rear Of Bury Farm Mill Road Slapton Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire Council granted permission.

Discussion on result of planning meeting.

The Chairman announced our disappointment that our representatives, Cllr Alec Packham and Cllr Peter Brazier had not managed to sway the Planning Officer enough and that the BCC Planning Committee had approved the application.

Various discussions were made along the lines of requesting a review using our Neighbourhood Plan. **Cllr. Alec Packham** thought there should be an official complaint on the procedure, but that a change to our NP would 'supercede the VALP for any future planning issues.

C/120/22

Recreation Ground.

- Council to consider quotation from John O'Dwyer to repair gate to quiet area £133.13 and other improvements raised by RoSPA inspection £105.75.

Proposer

Rob King,

Secunder

Alec Packham

Discussion on the gate between Bury Farm Close and the recreation ground being difficult to open. It needs to be lifted to stop it dragging on the floor. Consensus that this should be attended to.

- Recreation Ground footpath.

Proposer

Alec Packham

Secunder

Rob King

Cllr Alec Packham stated that the original plan was to create a path right around the recreation ground. Phase 1 allows for wheelchair access as far as the handicapped exercise area. There are supplies left over from the first phase that can be utilised for Phase 2. He proposed that in view of the August recess, a motion be proposed to complete the footpath, Phase 2, as soon as the section 106 monies are received from BC, in order to try to get it completed before the weather turned bad. The proposal was seconded by Cllr King and approved unanimously.

The Chairman will talk to the Parish Clerk on her return. Investigation into match funding required.

- Replacement of broken litter bin.

Proposer Rob King

Seconder Alec Packham

Rob King will discuss the purchase with the Clerk on her return. His records show the range in price for a new bin circa £170- 200.

C/121/22 Footpaths, Bridleways and Roads.

- Grove – roads.

Cllr Robert King reported that the road surfacing in Grove was now satisfactory.

- Horton 40MPH – if update.

Cllr Cleland has had an email from Katrina Holyoake indicating things are progressing. Peter Brazier added that it should be approved this month.

- Village Planters.

Cllr Alec Packham advised that the village planters are reported to be in need of some care. A formalized agreement is needed with a volunteer. Cllr Packham proposed we approach the reporting parishioner with a proposal to care for the planters. Some monetary recompense should be on offer.

- Horton hedges.

Cllr Cleland reported that the LAT had unilaterally issued notices to 5 Horton residents that live next to the traffic constriction that their hedges are to be cut back to the road sidings. Bucks CC will pay for the work.

The road will perforce be closed for this. We have asked the LAT for information on the road closure so that lighting can be upgraded along the main road in Horton.

C/122/22 Tribute to the late Jacquie Lamb

- Sweet Gum Tree.

Cllr Griffin reported that she is in communication with Jacquie Lamb jnr. regarding the planting of a commemorative tree with plaque in the recreation area. In view of the August recess Cllr Griffin proposed

That authorisation of circa £100 be approved for the ordering and planting a suitable tree to commemorate Jacquie Lamb's commitment to the village. Cllr King was asked to research the cost of the tree

Proposed **Cllr Griffin**, Seconded **Cllr King** and passed unanimously.

C/123/22

Environment.

- Wilder verges.

Cllr Godsland Reported that an article about the project had gone into the July Villager, that she and Nikki Hedges would be doing another survey at the beginning of August and that Bridget would arrange a meeting with Malcolm Weaver of MW Agri Ltd at the end July/beginning August. MG and AP discussed the possibility of planting an area of attractive wildflowers in the bed in Horton Road at the T-junction with Church Road and Mill Road.

- Managed nature area.

Cllr Godsland Reported that two letters had been received from the landowners: the letter of 30 May from Mrs Thompson followed by a letter of 10 June from Miss Phipps. The former mentioned the dumping of builder's rubble on the land leased by the PC and again proposed forfeiting the lease. The latter also mentioned a pile of builder's rubble that MG had located in another part of the field to that leased by the PC, just outside the garden of 29 Church Road. The PC had replied on 13 July pointing out that the rubble in question was some distance from the land currently leased. As it had become clear that neither of the landowners was interested in supporting any scheme for using the land differently, the PC had proposed that the lease be terminated

MEETING CLOSED 21:16

C/124/22

Date of next meetings:

14th September, 12th October, 9th November and 14th December 2022.