

## Slapton Parish Council

### **Minutes of the Slapton Parish Council Meeting held at Elizabeth Griffin Memorial Hall, Slapton on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 8.00pm**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillors Frank Wakefield (Chairman), Mac Cleland, Emma Griffin, Tom Harris, Robert King and Alec Packham.

Buckinghamshire Councillor Peter Brazier.

Bridget Knight – Slapton Parish Clerk.

Two members of the public.

#### **C/149/22 Chairman's Welcome and announcements.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman thanked Councillor Griffin for organising the Jacquie Lamb Memorial Service and Councillor King for organising the Sweet Gum tree and John O'Dwyer for planting the tree.

#### **C/150/22 Attendance and Apologies.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Godsland and Buckinghamshire Councillor Town.

#### **C/151/22 Disclosures of interest/dispensations pertaining to the agenda.**

Councillors Wakefield and Griffin declared they are trustees of the Elizabeth Griffin Memorial Hall. Councillor Harris declared an interest planning application 20/03130/APP.

#### **C/152/22 To approve the minutes of the Slapton Parish Council Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022.**

The minutes were signed as true and accurate PROPOSED BY Councillor Harris and SECONDED BY Councillor King and carried unanimously.

#### **C/153/22 Public Question Time (2 minutes per person, maximum of 10 minutes).**

None.

#### **C/154/22 To Receive Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillor(s).**

Councillor Brazier had submitted an update on the Ivinghoe Zone Freight Strategy.

Councillor Brazier has been working with Buckinghamshire Council about Jubilee Field and a potential 49 or preferably 99 year could be been offered to Slapton Parish Council. Buckinghamshire Council had suggested Slapton Parish Council could buy the land for £16,000 and a discussion took place about either a lease or

purchase. Councillor Brazier will discuss with Buckinghamshire Council Officers. The Chairman thanked Councillor Brazier for his efforts on this project.

Councillor Brazier updated the council about the Horton 40MPH, this has been approved but no date has been agreed due to Transport for Bucks transition.

**C/155/2 To Receive details of planning decisions received ad to discuss planning applications.**

22/03130/APP I Removal of existing structures and construction of a new hangar (for Sui Generis use with the uses comprising storage of aircraft, aircraft parts, cars, car parts, agricultural machinery, lawnmowers, lawnmower parts and associated items), landscaping and associated works I Land Adj To B488 West Of Grove Farm Grove Slapton Buckinghamshire.

No Objection PROPOSED BY Councillor Packham and SECONDED BY Councillor Griffin and carried unanimously. Councillor Harris left the room and did not take part in the discussion or vote.

**C/156/22 Solar Farm.**

The Chairman mentioned the Solar Farm has been approved and that Billington Parish Council continue to raise concerns over access route and support route six which is on the exit of Horton S bend, it was agreed for Slapton Parish Council to take no further action at this stage.

Councillor Harris is investigating how solar farm excess production could be monitored and enforcement action take if appropriate.

**C/157/22 Village Signs.**

Councillor Packham showed the official drawings of the signs for Grove and Slapton which will cost £3,700 plus VAT each.

**C/158/22 Recreation Ground.**

- Slapton Active Project – the footpath extension will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> November.
- Removal of spoil by Recreational Ground Hedges – Councillor Packham will ask the contractor to remove future spoil.
- Councillor Griffin will speak to a local resident about the french drains which are located under the recreation ground.
- The quotation from John O’Dwyer for up to £352.50 to replace the wooden posts was accepted.
- Request from local resident to use Recreation Ground for private parties and sporting activities (as a business). As per the terms and conditions of the conveyancing document this is not permitted. The Parish Clerk will inform the resident.
- White lining of football pitch – this will be done soon.

**C/159/22 Footpaths, Bridleways and Roads.**

- Horton 40MPH – Councillor Brazier reported about this earlier.

- Horton Road had been closed for a day in September and the roadside hedges have been cut back to improve visibility. At the same time streetlight repairs were undertaken in Horton when the road was closed.  
Councillor Cleland thanked the Parish Clerk for organising.
- 1<sup>st</sup> October a vehicle crashed into Councillor Cleland's property's hedge and the crash caused an electricity power cut. Residents have asked about further traffic calming measures and Councillor Cleland has responded to residents.
- Speedwatch Team recruitment – Councillor Cleland reported the maximum speed reported is 52MPH. The smiley will be moved back to Horton to monitor any changes since the hedge cutting.
- Stile in Grove by canal – request from North Bucks rRIPPLE to provide a kissing gate with cost to parish of £500. Councillor King reported the Ramblers Association have suggested a new kissing gate. The damaged stile was reported to Buckinghamshire Council.
- Repair/replacement of broken stile east end of Church Road.
- Report from Chairman: Aggregates Industries proposed extension. A discussion took place about this. No further action was proposed.
- Graffiti on Grove canal bridge – reported to Canal and River Trust with no action taken to date.
- Advertising on two Planters for EGMHC – it was agreed not to proceed with the proposal.

## **C/160/22                      Environment.**

The Chairman read the below report from Councillor Godsland:

### **Rights of Way**

I attended a zoom conference on September 1 on Rights of Way with Roger Taylor, Consultant to Wellers Hedleys, Solicitors. Basically, he went through problems encountered by parish councils in relation to both public and private rights of way (these are rights of way across council-owned land that allow people to access their properties). To my knowledge we currently have no problems in this area but I have copious notes ready if we ever do.

### **BALC Climate Conference**

This is an in-person conference on Tuesday 25 October. There's a very full programme.

### **Wilder verges**

Frank, Bridget and I met with Malcolm Weaver from MW Agri Ltd on Monday 26 September to discuss implementing the Wilder Verges project.

Malcolm confirmed he already had a mower which could do cut-and-collect style cutting but it can operate on totally flat verges only. This reduces the verges that we can include in the project to the following: the triangle and verge opposite at the end of Horton Road, the verges outside the new houses in Mill Road, most verges in Church Road plus the area with the planter at the Knyghton Close end of Church

Road and some verges in Rectory Close plus two of the three verges in Horton. We decided to start to implement the programme in spring next year.

Nicky Hedges suggested clearing two areas in the verge adjacent to but outside Bury Farm Close to plant BeeBombs but we'll wait until the bulbs planted there have flowered next year before making a final decision.

Nicky Hedges and I completed a follow-up survey of wildflowers in the verges at the beginning of August, which revealed that we already have a wide variety of flowers.

Managed nature area

We still await a reply from Mrs Thompson and/or Ms Phipps in response to our proposal to terminate the lease.

There were no comments.

**C/161/22                      Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements.**

The Chairman explained the situation and recommended the council does not change.

**C/162/22                      Elizabeth Griffin Memorial Hall.**

Councillor Griffin explained the Asda Warm Spaces Grants. Councillor Griffin reported her plan to open the EGMH to open for two hours a day where Julian Mann will be able to operate his café from the hall and provide a warm space for residents. There would be toys available for children, book swap and a friendly place for people to keep warm.

Councillor Griffin is working with the Knyghton Charity to support a local family in need, Buckinghamshire Council Helping Hands are also offering support.

It was agreed to produce a leaflet for the residents to supply information about local sources of help including helping hand, warm café, foodbank and Knyghton Trust Charity. The budget for this project is £250. Councillors Griffin and Packham will design the leaflet.

The Chairman explained about conference microphones used for parish council meetings. It was agreed to purchase eight conference microphones for £36 each.

Defibrillator – it was agreed that Councillor Harris will monitor the defibrillator in Slapton and Councillor Cleland will continue to monitor the defibrillator in Horton.

**C/163/22                      Clerk's Report.**

The Parish Clerk will order a poppy wreath.

**C/164/22                      Parish Council Website.**

This is working well.

**C/165/22**

**Date of next meetings – to be agreed due to Village Hall availability.**

It was agreed to change to the second Monday of every month starting at 7pm from November with the exception of January at 6pm. The next Parish Council Meeting will be the 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 10.00pm