

Slapton Parish Council

Minutes of the Slapton Parish Council Meeting

held at Elizabeth Griffin Memorial Hall, Slapton on
Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 6.30pm

PRESENT:

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

Buckinghamshire Councillor Peter Brazier.

Bridget Knight – Slapton Parish Clerk.

Two members of the public.

C/036/23 Chairman's Welcome and announcements.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

C/037/23 Attendance and Apologies.

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

C/038/23 Disclosures of interest/dispensations pertaining to the agenda.

None.

C/039/23 To approve the minutes of the Slapton Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th February 2023.

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

C/040/23 Public Question Time (2 minutes per person, maximum of 10 minutes).

None.

C/041/23 To Receive Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillor(s).

Councillor Brazier stated the budget has been set by Buckinghamshire Council and Council Tax will be increased by 4.99% equivalent to £1.61 per week increase for an average property. There will be a £32M deficit in the budget but cost savings from unitary are beginning to show. Councillor Brazier confirmed there will be an extra £5M extra for highways and he is asking for roads to be properly repaired.

Councillor Packham enquired about Ivinghoe Freight Strategy if ANPR cameras are in place. Councillor Brazier confirmed cameras will be installed but signage in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire needs to be in place first. Buckinghamshire Council

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trading standards can only issue fines of £1,000 for breaches. The Chairman stated a new sign has been placed on the Billington border and gave a briefing about the recent Buckinghamshire Parishes Liaison meeting including Helping Hands assistance and housing for people from Ukraine.

C/042/23 Jubilee Field Lease.

The Chairman stated that a Solicitor has been approached and a quotation has been received of £1,100 plus VAT to represent Slapton Parish Council, it was agreed to appoint the Solicitor.

C/043/23 To Receive details of planning decisions received and to discuss planning applications.

23/00395/APP Householder application for demolition of side extension and erection of single storey side extension – 21 Mill Road Slapton, Buckinghamshire LU7 9BT. No Objection PROPOSED BY Councillor Packham and SECONDED BY Councillor Harris and carried unanimously.

C/044/23 Local Plan for Buckinghamshire Infrastructure Baseline.

Councillor Packham, Councillor Wakefield and the Parish Clerk met and Councillor Packham gave a report. A list of assets and services and aspirations has been sent to Buckinghamshire Council.

C/045/23 Solar Farm Update.

Councillor Harris reported the Solar Farm has been permitted with 22 conditions, most of these require a written permission from the local authority before work can start. Councillor Harris is checking how the Parish Council can ensure that permission is given before work commences, no work has commenced. Councillor Harris is investigating on how to monitor the amount of electricity generated and will report back. Councillor Griffin commented there are building materials stored at Bury Farm.

C/046/23 Village Signs.

Councillor Packham stated that the signs are being made and should be complete for the Coronation. Councillor Harris has offered to collect the signs and the Chairman thanked him.

C/047/23 Recreation Ground.

Councillor King confirmed the Community Board Funding has been granted and an article will be written for The Villager. Councillor Packham has been obtaining quotes for the main gates and an update is expected next month. Councillor King reported the Viking Swing has been repaired.

C/048/23 Website.

Councillor Packham welcomes articles for the website. Recently a comedy night was organised for the charity Mind which raised £850. A second comedy night is being organised for June. The website is remains accessible and compliant.

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C/049/23 Footpaths, Bridleways and Roads.

Councillor Brazier stated the 40MPH will take place and there should be an update in May. It was agreed to accept the devolved services offer and the document was signed.

Grove Stiles – no update and no response from the Ramblers Association.
Councillors Packham and Godsland will undertake an audit of the footpaths and condition of the stiles in the parish and an update is expected in June.

It was agreed to purchase a 115l salt bin and shovel for Grove at a cost of £99 plus VAT PROPOSED BY Councillor King and SECONDED BY Councillor Packham and carried unanimously.

Councillor King confirmed the litter bin has been emptied weekly with no litter picking collection by Buckinghamshire.

Councillor King stated overnight camping has been taking place in Grove with a camper van and Councillor King and the Parish Clerk are in contact with Thames Valley Police.

Aggregate Industries have said there has been some noise on one day, Councillor King questioned this as the beeping from the vans has been more frequent and noise will be monitored.

C/050/23 Environment.

It was agreed to terminate the lease on the land behind Holy Cross Church PROPOSED BY Councillor Godsland and SECONDED BY Councillor King and carried unanimously. The Parish Clerk will instruct Wellers Solicitors to act on this at a cost of £400.

Councillor Godsland stated that an insect hotel is located in the recreation ground and one is located in the churchyard.

Councillor Godsland confirmed the verge cutting will take place later this month with a 'cut and collect' service to happen three times this year (April, July and September) as agreed with the contractor.

Bee bombs will be placed in the verge next to Bury Farm Close and Councillor Godsland will liaise with Nicky Hedges.

C/051/23 King Charles III Coronation – 6th May 2023.

This was discussed in private session and decided to order 250 commemorative Mugs. A provisional budget was set at £750.

C/052/23 Finance and Payments Approval.

It was agreed to appoint Trevor Beeches as internal auditor PROPOSED BY

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Councillor King and SECONDED BY Councillor Griffin and carried unanimously. It was agreed to renew insurance with Gallagher at a cost of £1,103.37 and to enter a three-year arrangement if possible.

Slapton Parish Council Standing Orders were reviewed.

The following payments were approved PROPOSED BY Councillor Harris and SECONDED BY Councillor Godsland and carried unanimously.

08-Mar-23

Payee	Details	Amount
John O'Dwyer	Rec inspections - Feb 23	£30.00
SWALEC	Streetlight Electricity	£99.43
Amazon	Bin Bags	£11.49
Feeola	Domain Name	£31.17
Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe end of year check	£46.80
Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe end of year check	£328.32
Clerk	Office expenses	£29.05
Sparkx	Repair lights 26 & 1	£816.00
Amazon	Stationery	£22.16
Ivinghoe Parish Council	Phone Share	£15.00
BALC	Training	£45.00
Hammer & Tongs	Signs - deposit	£1,980.00
Buckinghamshire Council	Dog Bins	£241.67

Receipts:	
BP Lightsource - Solar Farm	£6,892.68

Balances at 02.03.23

Unity Trust Bank Current	£53,141.18
Unity Trust Bank Savings	£10,814.59
Cambridge and Counties	£27,578.99
Barclays Savings	£0.29

Total **£91,535.05**

C/053/23 Clerk's Report.

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It was agreed to write an article for The Villager regarding vegetation encroaching on to the footpaths.

C/054/23 Date of next meeting(s):

The meetings will be held the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be Wednesday 12th April 2023 in Elizabeth Griffin Memorial Hall at 6.30pm.

The Annual Meetings will be held on 24th May 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm and went into private session to discuss the King's Coronation.

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