

Minutes of the Meeting of Lower Slaughter Parish Council
Held in the Village Hall on Monday 18th November 2024 at 6 p.m.

Councillors present: Cllrs Ann Classen, Julian Grimshaw, Andrea Jordison, George Papadakis (Chair of meeting)

In attendance: Clerk Jane Carter, 7 members of the public, Cllr Len Wilkins, Cllr Mark Mackenzie-Charrington

241118/1 Election of Chair: Cllr Papadakis was proposed and unanimously elected as Chair for the November meeting.

241118/2 Declarations of Interest: None

241118/3 Apologies for absence: none

241118/4 Public Session: No matters raised

241118/5 To approve the minutes of the meeting held September 16th 2024 : Council approved the minutes, and these were signed by the acting Chair.

241118/6 To receive an update and report from County Councillor, Mark Mackenzie-Charrington. The report had been circulated and was noted. The highways work in the village had been delayed. The outstanding matters would be raised with the acting highways officer for the area. The responsibilities of riparian owners were highlighted.

To receive update and report from Cotswold District Councillor Len Wilcox: the public toilets would remain open in Stowe. People were again being warned about disposing of batteries in black bin boxes because of the fire risk.

Councillor Papadakis asked if the district council could offer any support with the issues regarding the Thames Water tanker in the village. It was running frequently including during the night to prevent sewage back up. The Bourton sewage works was being doubled in size and work was expected to be complete by March but there was unlikely to be a quick resolution to the issues.

241118/7 Matters arising:

- I. Highways: Cllr Mackenzie-Charrington explained the role of area officer for highways was currently being filled on a temporary basis. The outstanding works would be raised again and the repairs to the bridge were now urgent. The sharing of Bourton parking wardens during the busy periods was raised. The clerk would raise with Bourton Parish Council.
- II. Gigaclear: work had been delayed until January
- III. Allotment maintenance: an outline of the work needed had been sent to the maintenance contractor. A budget of up to £650 was agreed. Work was unlikely to take place before the end of the year due to the very wet weather

- IV. Swale reprofiling: Stuart Thomas updated the council on the progress. The date for the approval committee had been pushed back to the new year. A cost value analysis would need to be resubmitted and this would be considered at the next meeting now planned for March 2025
- V. The resignation of Councillor Daniel O'Driscoll and the publication of the casual vacancy were noted.

241118/8 Governance:

The following governance policies had been updated and circulated for review. It was agreed to adopt all as circulated:-

- I. NALC Model Standing Orders
- II. Risk Management Policy
- III. Data Protection Policy
- IV. Privacy Policy

241118/ 9 Planning Applications:

Application for a premises licence Pappalou Ltd, The Old Mill, Lower Slaughter.

An application had been made to serve alcohol from the temporary coffee kiosk operating outside the Old Mill. The application was to sell mulled wine during the winter months and local beers in the summer. The kiosk would not be trading in the evening. Cllr Papadakis expressed concerns at the sale of alcohol within the village and the impact it may have. It was agreed by 3-1 to make no objection to the application

241118/10 Finance:

- I. To approve current statement of accounts and bank reconciliation (as circulated): APPROVED
- II. To approve payments and note receipts (as circulated) The 2024 VAT refund of £481.59 was noted.
- III. To approve the national clerk pay award as set out by NALC of an increase of £1290 pro rata on all pay points 2 to 43 and backdated to April 2024
- IV. **2025-2026 Budget and precept submission:** the clerk had circulated an updated 2024-25 income and expenditure with a forecast to the end of the financial year. The current year budget was running as forecast. Expenditure for 2025-26 had been estimated at £8500. Reserves at the end of October stood at £43329 and all were allocated. A precept of £8750 was approved. This represented an increase of £4.28 per Band D household per annum.

241118/11 Reports from the Wardens:

- I. **Neighbourhood Watch:-** the dark winter evening mean that people should be more aware of the importance of their home security
- II. **River:-** nothing to report
- III. **Rights of Way Report :** The PRWO Steve Randles reported that paths were still overgrown. The clerk would attempt to contact someone from the estate landowners. Work would be carried out to clear the ditch which was causing flooding to the cricket car park. Cllr Jordison would speak to the landowner
- IV. **Trees** Stuart Thomas had stepped down as Tree Warden. The clerk would meet for a handover. Dead wooding was needed for the lime trees
- V. **Highways :** No further matters
- VI. **Flood and Snow:** There was a sufficient supply of grit. Councillors agreed the grit bin locks should be held in a central point by the clerk

241118/12 **Matters to be raised by councillors:** no matters raised

241118/13 **Date of Next Meeting: To be confirmed**

Meeting ended: 19.15 p.m.

Signed _____

Date _____