

Minutes of the Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on Monday 4th July 2011 at the Village Hall, Slip End at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Mr K Crossett (Chairman); Mr P Cooper (Vice Chairman);
Mr K Holme; Mrs J Crawley; Mr S Baird;
Central Beds Cllr Richard Stay (part meeting)
P Segal (Clerk)
Members of the public: Two members of the public were present.

Apologies: Mr S Fuell; Ms S Minnighan; Mrs R Gammons

11/12/30 **Declarations of Interest**
None

11/12/31 **Meeting Open to the Public**
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the public for any comments on agenda items. There were no comments.

11/12/32 **Minutes of recent meetings.**
The minutes of the meeting of 6th June 2011 were read and approved. The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr Holme and seconded by Cllr Crawley.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6th June 2011, and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

11/12/33 **Neighbourhood Plan**

The Chair confirmed that the leaflets outlining the Parish Plan were being distributed with the global edition of the Parish News over the coming week and that the full document is currently being proof read. He reminded members of the previous format for County plans and that the Localism Bill will allow for similar plans to be made but at a more local level under the name of Neighbourhood Plans. The Chair commented that this could be seen as a natural extension to the Parish Plan for while it dealt with issues within the Parish, a Neighbourhood Plan will allow residents a greater say on these issues within the neighbouring areas in which the Parish sits. Cllr Stay said it's a way of putting forward a view of what the Community will want to look like in the next ten to fifteen years while being in conformity with the South Bedfordshire Local Plan of 2004 and in line with the Core Strategy.

It was suggested that Slip End Parish Council jointly complete a plan with Caddington Parish Council, as they have similar profiles and could share the costs involved. A Neighbourhood Plan says clearly what the Community wants to see developed and where.

The process is formal, Caddington and Slip End Parish Councils would need to resolve that time and funds will be devoted to creating such a plan. Once Central Bedfordshire Council is informed of their desire to create a plan, they will write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. There is some grant money available to fund a test of such a plan but it will not cover the whole cost. A referendum of the community will at some stage have to be carried out before the plan is completed. Developers wishing to build in the area will need to take account of the Neighbourhood Plan as it is very unlikely proposals which do not conform to the plan, will obtain approval.

The Chair stated that Case4 would seem to be an appropriate body made up of residents from both parishes to take this forward liaising heavily with both Parish Councils.

During the discussions members welcomed this proposal with enthusiasm and particularly welcomed the opportunities a Neighbourhood Plan will bring.

Three Resolutions were proposed by Cllr Cooper and Seconded by Cllr Baird;

RESOLVED:

1. This Parish Council resolves to write to Central Bedfordshire requesting that they contact the Sec of State for Communities to advise him that the Parishes of Slip End & Caddington wish to be a vanguard area under the provisions contained with the Decentralisation & Localism bill for a Neighbourhood Plan jointly between the Parishes of Caddington & Slip End.
2. Further that this Parish Council resolves to make appropriate budget provision once the costs involved have been properly assessed, but believe that a Neighbourhood Plan is an important aspect of protecting, enhancing and developing the rural nature of our communities.

3. The preparation of a letter to CBC be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman.

The three resolutions were passed unanimously.

11/12/34 Report from Central Beds Councillors

Cllr Stay said that the biggest issue on the horizon is next years required Budget reduction. Certain areas of spend should not be cut and so we are left with very few options as to where the savings should come from.

Cllr Cooper remarked that the Environmental Health department are not treating all food outlets equally. He remarked that some establishments do not get a regular inspection and some get constant visits. Cllr Stay agreed to look into this as soon as Cllr Cooper sends him details of outlets involved. **(P.C)**

Cllr Stay said that ten schools are considering a soft foundation by sharing facilities and IT.

There was an update on the gritter. Cllr Stay said there has been a request for the list of roads that the gritter will to be sent through to the Council by the end of July. Salt had already been allocated at the depot.

Insurance would still have to be arranged between Slip End and Caddington.

Cllr Stay left the meeting at 7.50pm

11/12/35 Speeding Issues

The Chair said that there was nothing to report as the recent works on the water mains had slowed traffic in the area. It was not expected to get back to normal until September.

11/12/36 Neighbourhood watch

Cllr Fuell wants to revive the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme as well as starting a Street Watch scheme. He is also trying to arrange a MANPAD presentation for residents.

11/12/37 Report on local roads

Cllr Fuell aims to have a walk round the area with Highways to inspect the quality of work following the recent roadworks by the water board.

11/12/38 Garages in St Andrews Close

So far there has been no reply to the E-Mail sent to Central Beds Council regarding the poor state of the garages in St Andrews Close. The Clerk to chase this up. **(P.S)**

11/12/39 Footpath Report

The Chair reported that there had been excessive amounts of dog excrement dumped on the footpath near the Ruchi. This had now been cleared and Councillors were asked to be vigilant to episodes like this occurring again.

11/12/40 Youth Shelter

No Issues

11/12/41 Crawley Playground

Resident Andy Prothero said that the two swing seats had now been received and would be fitted shortly. The fence would also be fixed this month. The bin had a sharp seam protruding which may be a hazard and may need replacing.

Nappies have been deposited by mothers using the playground and this was a health hazard, especially at this time of the year. To get them emptied and cleaned at a regular interval would only cost £3 a visit and it was agreed to have this done as soon as possible.

11/12/42 Planning Matters

Cllr Cooper asked if there had been any reply to our request for Planning details regarding the Yard in Front Street. The Clerk had not received any reply and will again contact Central Beds Planning Dept. **(P.S)**

The Chair said that the Chapel site in Pepperstock had not been progressing due to Planning problems. He said that Felix is still keen to progress, and the Chair will liaise between Felix and Central Beds Planning department to try and resolve any outstanding issues. **(K.C)**

Cllr Cooper reported he had received complaints from a number of Summer Street residents about a number of cars being parked in Summer Street, possibly connected to a car sales or repair operation working from a local address. Cllr Crossett had received a similar complaint. The Clerk reported he had asked Central Beds Planning Department to investigate and check that all the necessary consents had been obtained. He is awaiting a reply.

11/12/43 Review of the 2010/11 Accounts

The Clerk reported that the 2010/11 Accounts had now been audited by the internal auditor and no issues had been raised. They have now been sent for external audit.

Overall 2010/11 was a successful year.

We finished the year with £65,774, in the bank, slightly more than we started the year with, and so the Accounts were balanced.

Due to Santander merging with the other Banks we had used, all the councils money was then with one bank. We successfully opened two accounts with the Co-Op Bank and moved funds accordingly.

We now have funds evenly distributed between the Co-Op Bank and Santander, reducing our exposure. We also finished the year under Budget by £4,500 and almost all the Budget areas finished the year below Budget.

11/12/44 Review of the 2011/12 Accounts Q1

The Clerk presented the first quarter Accounts for 2011/12.

He reported no significant variances from Budgeted figures.

Going forward, the costs of the Neighbourhood Plan will have an impact as there has been no Budget allocated and so will have to come out of Reserves.

As the Parish Plan is about to be published, there will be allocated monies spent on projects in this and subsequent years

11/12/45 Accounts for payment

Prior to the meeting The Clerk had circulated the schedule below **(Appendix A)** to members for approval. The payments were unanimously approved. Having been proposed by Cllr Cooper and seconded by Cllr. Holme. Cheques were signed by Cllr Crossett and Cllr Cooper.

11/12/46 Parish Plan

Cllr Cooper requested a full copy of the Parish Plan so the CPG could start working on implementation plans. It was stated that it is currently being prepared for printing and an electronic copy might be ready soon to be sent to Carol Brennan and Andy Prothero.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....
Chair

Date.....

The meeting was then opened to the public
There were no questions from the public

Appendix A

Cheques for Payment July 2011

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheq Num.</u>
Wicksteed Playscapes	Two swing seats	£90-60	100065
Miss A Baldwin	Internal Audit Fees	£100-00	100066
P Segal	Clerks Salary June 11	£661-51	100067
P Segal	Clerks Expenses June 11	£125-43	100068
HMRC	PAYE and NI Q1	£730-21	100069
A Prothero	Gardening Services	£410-62	100070