

Minutes of the Meeting of Slip End Parish Council held on Monday 10th January 2011 at the Village Hall, Slip End at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Mr K Crossett (Chairman); Ms S Minnighan;
Mrs J Crawley; Mr P Penman; Mr K Holme
Central Beds Cllrs Ruth Gammons; Richard Stay (part meeting)
P Segal (Clerk)

Members of the public: Three members of the public were present.

Apologies: Mr P Cooper (Vice Chairman); Mr S Fuell.

10/11/134 Declarations of Interest
None

10/11/135 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 made.

10/11/136 Minutes of recent meetings.
The minutes of the meeting of 6th December 2010 were read and approved. The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr Penman and seconded by Cllr Minnighan;
RESOLVED:
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6th December 2010, and to authorise the Chairman to sign them.
The resolution was passed unanimously.

10/11/137 Council Budget 2011/12
Cllr Penman stated that the Parish Council Budget had been agreed at the last meeting and no new changes have arisen. Enquiries have been made to Central Bedfordshire Council regarding the Tax Base for 2011/12. This figure is needed before the Precept can be set.

10/11/138 Central Bedfordshire Council Budget Cuts
The Chair stated that no new cuts have yet been announced. The Mobile Library will probably cease in April, but may be succeeded by an alternative service. The Chair has been invited to present at a Central Bedfordshire Council conference on Thursday 13th January at Chicksands, highlighting local Community Involvement in the Parish.

10/11/139 Emergency Plan
The Chair stated that the Clerk is currently updating the Emergency Plan and has received suggested updates from two Councillors so far. The Emergency Committee will be convened to agree the draft Plan before presenting to the Parish Council for agreement at the next meeting (K.C)

10/11/140 Speeding issues within the Parish
The Chair stated that Caddington Council are continuing with the rent-a-cop project. After a review of results with them, we will discuss conclusions with the Police to see if there is a more productive use of resources to be gained. One idea may be to reduce the number of sites visited as process times for each driver stopped, hindered the overall numbers of speeding drivers caught. Longer visit times at fewer locations may prove more productive.
Cllr Minnighan asked about the Blue signs being used to warn of Speed Enforcement. If signage and speed activated signs can be rotated around the Parish then it may have a greater effect.
The Chair made comments regarding a Speedwatch Scheme in Oxfordshire, where local residents have been carrying out their own speed checks. There have been instances of motorists stopping and verbally and physically abusing volunteers after being caught speeding. This issue must be taken into account if we were to start such a scheme.

10/11/141 Report on Local Roads

The Chair took on the reporting of this issue as Cllr Fuell is on holiday. He said that Highways had written to Councillors highlighting the projects earmarked for the next three years.

Caddington Parish Council has invited Slip End Parish Council to join with them in purchasing and operating a gritting machine that can be towed behind a van and grit roads not currently covered by Highways. Costs will be around £2,000 to purchase in addition to operating costs and insurance cover.

Cllr Penman expressed concern over the insurance implications if any cars paintwork were to be damaged by flying grit.

The Traffic Bollard light in Grove Road has still not been replaced despite a number of requests and its danger to oncoming cars by not being lit.

There was sewerage escaping in Church Road that has been traced to the Nursing Home. They are aware of the problem and have employed a contractor to repair.

Coparts car Breakers are running down their operation in Slip End and will have vacated the site by the end of February. There was some doubt as to who will be taking the site and local residents should be vigilant and check for changes in Operators Licence in local papers for a clue as to who may be taking over the site. Depending on who wants the site, there may not be a request for change of use.

10/11/142 Garages in St. Andrews Close

Cllr Minnighan stated that on 19th December 2010, one of the Garages in St.Andrews Close caught fire. Considerable damage occurred and there was now a fear that this garage is structurally unsafe. If this is the case, this has to be notified to Central Bedfordshire Council for investigation. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners of the garage asking if repairs are in hand. **(P.S)**

Cllr Minnighan has made progress obtaining a copy of the deeds to a house in the close that has one of these garages. This will give a clue to any covenant requiring the owners to maintain the garage in good repair. A copy of the Deeds should be available within the next few days.

10/11/143 Footpath Report

Much of the latest report was hang-over's from previous reports except the sewerage problem at Church Road already mentioned. Don Burford has already been updated regarding the repair to the sewer.

10/11/144 Trees in the Parish

The trees bordering the walk way between St.Andrews Close and Crawley Close had been trimmed by residents and will need to be looked at again in the spring when growth re-starts. The Shrubbery on the dangerous bend at Pepsil End Lane had now been severely cut back and has made a considerable difference to visibility.

10/11/145 Community Projects Group

Cllr Minnighan stated that all Grant applications are now in for consideration. The next scheduled meeting will probably be cancelled due to a number of members being unable to attend.

The Projects Group were still awaiting the results of the Parish Plan. The Chair stated that the next meeting was planned for 31st January where the completed sections and final presentation plans will be discussed.

10/11/146 Planning Matters

CB/10/04502/FULL - 32 Ross Way, Slip End

Erection of two storey side extension

Plans for the extension were studied by Councillors. There were no objections raised to the extension itself but the Clerk was asked to inform the Planning Authorities that the solid brick wall contrasts aesthetically with the rest of the area. **(P.S)**

10/11/147 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 Crawley and seconded by Cllr. Minnighan.

The Chair stated that the new Co-Op Deposit Account is now open and it is time to close the Santander Deposit Account and move these funds to the Co-Op, to spread our financial exposure to just one bank.

10/11/148 The following resolution was then proposed by Cllr Minnighan and seconded by Cllr Holme;

RESOLVED:

To close the Santander Deposit Account and move the funds to the Co-Op Bank Deposit Account.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

10/11/149 Civic Service

The Chair discussed the need to recognise outstanding civic service in the Parish by either Councillors or residents. A number of Residents give a considerable amount of their time to aid the community and this should be recognised in some way. Cllr Minnighan suggested a framed Certificate presented with some ceremony would be a nice gesture to those who have given their time so generously. This was unanimously agreed.

10/11/150 Report by Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Cllr Stay supported the letter by Caddington Council regarding the new Bushwood proposals but said that Slip End should do their own letter, referring to the Caddington objections. It needs to be punchy and point out that a long process had been undertaken and already concluded that all large developments should take place to the North of Dunstable and not to the west of Luton.

The Chair to draft a letter and circulate for comment. **(K.C)**

Cllr Gammons said that there will be a Town and Parish Conference on Thursday 13th January at Chicksands. Cllr Crossett will be presenting at this.

"Lets Talk Together" meetings have been advised, and will be in three parts.

The first part will be where the public can visit partner stalls and discuss concerns and pick up leaflets.

The second part will be where the concerns are collated and feedback given. The third part will be the Police advising what initiatives will be undertaken going forward.

Both Cllr Gammons and Cllr Stay will be standing for re-election at May's Local Council Elections.

Cllr Stay confirmed that we can still set priorities for the Police authority based on local needs.

Cllr Stay reported that the required Government cuts in next Years Budget has been set at 7.5%.

A large section of the Budget cannot be touched as it affects areas of spend that can not be reduced. This makes the impact even greater on the remaining areas of spend.

The meeting felt that Central Bedfordshire Council services performed extremely well in the recent spell of bad weather. Waste collection was good in view of the challenges of bad weather and Bank Holidays.

10/11/151 Date of Next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be **Monday 7th February 2011 at 7.30pm**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 8.40 pm

Signed.....
Chair

Date.....

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

Appendix A

Cheques for Payment January 2011

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cheq Num.</u>
Slip End Parish Council	Movement of funds to the Co-Op Bank	£24,700-00	001153
HM Revenue & Customs	PAYE and NI for Oct-Dec 2010	£799-11	100001
A Prothero	Contract Gardening Dec 2010	£354-38	100002
P.Segal	Clerks salary Dec 2010	£650-30	100003
P.Segal	Clerks Expenses Dec 2010	£109-63	100004
Bedfordshire Police	Rent-a-Cop fee	£562-95	100005