



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Slindon
Held at Slindon Coronation Hall, Reynolds Lane, Slindon BN18 0QZ.
On Monday 23 May 2022 at 7 p.m.**

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Councillor Rees as Chair of the Parish Council welcomed those assembled (43 people including all Councillors and Clerk) and shared apologies for absence from Mr John Pegler, Mrs June Pegler, Sally Holmes from Worthing and District Community First Responders and PCSO Caroline Wilson.

2. Approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting 18th March 2019

Councillor Rees signed the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

3. Public Participation (for those on the Electoral Register)

A member of the public acknowledged the efforts of the Parish Council in addressing the flooding in Reynolds Lane last year and suggested that annual maintenance might prove an alternative to further costly engineering works.

4. Reports for the Parish including those from Community Groups and Clubs in the Parish.

The following organisations were represented at the meeting, with PCSO Caroline Wilson providing a report which was read in her absence by the Clerk.

Mark Birkbeck	Head, Slindon College
Reverend Peter Dyson	St. Mary's Church
Andrew Turner-Cross	Tenants Association of the National Trust
Caroline Wilson	Sussex Police - Community Support Officer (Annex A)
Martin Bailey	Slindon Sports Association
Lisa Trownson and Jane Cecil	National Trust
Adam Gill	The Forge
Carolyn Coles	Stonepillow and Knitwits
Niki Adamson	Horticultural Soc, Parish Mag, Neighbourhood Watch
Mike Imms	Coronation Hall (Annex B) and Slindon Life (Annex C)
Simon Mockford	Ranger, South Downs National Park Authority
David Slee	The Village Bus
Phil Berry	Slindon History Society (Annex D) Slindon Trust (Annex E)
Belinda Virno	Parents/Carers and Children Group
Chas Thompson	The Pudding Club
Jan Dymond	The Afternoon Group
Paul Stevens	House martin project

Actions: Feedback was received regarding the surface of the pond path as a potential trip hazard following the pond restoration works and Council members undertook to review the options as a priority.

5. Meeting Close.

The meeting finished at 8.50 p.m. and was followed by refreshments and the opportunity for informal discussions with Councillors and other organisations represented at the meeting.

Jan Rees

Councillor Jan Rees, Chair of Slindon Parish Council

DRAFT

Annex A – A message from Sussex Police

Annual Parish Report 2022

I apologise for not being able to be there in person tonight.

It has been a busy year in the district, with the world getting back to normal after the restrictions of previous years.

The main issue we have been dealing in this parish is car crime – specifically Operation Mini, which is the response to the targeted break-ins to vehicles in beauty spot areas. It is an issue that is affecting the whole of the division, with multiple victims across a wide geographical area. There is intelligence work being done, and targeted patrols being carried out by Neighbourhood Policing and also the Rural Crime Team, but should any of you spot what seems to be any suspicious vehicles or people in any of the local car parks then please do call us.

The need for people to report any incidents is the key for me. As I say so often, I need the reports to justify requests for extra patrols. It may seem a slightly frustrating exercise, and I know 101 can sometimes be slow, but there is also an online reporting form on the Sussex Police website. The reports are how we can build up a picture and you may hold a vital piece of intelligence without realising it. I continue to tailor my patrols around these reports.

I spent a lovely hour with the children of the Slindon Church of England Primary School recently, and spoke at a whole school assembly. The students engaged with a question and answer session brilliantly, and were wonderfully welcoming and well behaved.

On a different subject, something that has become apparent is that the target age range for scams has very much widened recently, with victims just as likely to be from a younger generation as the older members of our community. We all need to be on our guard, and if you ever have any worries about friends or neighbours, please remember I am always happy to come and have a chat.

I can be best contacted on caroline.wilson@sussex.police.uk, and look forward to seeing you all in the coming months.

A message from Sussex Police

Annex B - Coronation Hall

A lot has happened here since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 – I don't need to say anything really – just look around you. I'm inordinately proud of what was achieved by the team during lockdown – this Hall now represents a modest silver lining to the terrible terrible impact of COVID.

Improvements to the Hall continue – within the past few weeks the original WI sign has been reinstated by the entrance to Forge Field and we think it looks much better there, much more imposing than its previous location, hidden in the branches of the oak tree at the front. And tomorrow they should finish off the new outside lighting designed to be more functional as well as improving curb appeal (funded with a Platinum Jubilee grant organised by the Parish Council) – and the new planting donated by the Pudding Club should augment that as well - when we have a date for the actual planting.

Other plans for the coming year include finishing off the stage area with better stage lights, sound system and curtains.

And all this has paid dividends with many more bookings – although that brings its own challenges as it means more work – bookings need managing, more caretaking, more invoicing & etc etc.

Weddings are very lucrative but also high maintenance – the happy couples are often very demanding and weddings can be noisy and we are sensitive to the impact on neighbours. We have a strict 11pm curfew, are getting better at 'vetting' bookings and we will be limiting the number of such bookings to no more than one a month.

The field is being used more as well – and hopefully this great and special asset can achieve its potential.

Our own events programme re-started this year – including, we hope, Joe Cornicks Slindon Cinema planned to re-start in September.

Behind the scenes we have been busy – we have a new Governing Document – until a few weeks back we were working with the original Constitution from 1938 which was woefully out of date in many ways.

And we are battling with a SERIOUS problem over the Land Registry legal title for the Hall which had been wrongly registered to the National Trust. Everyone agrees it's a mistake but correcting that mistake is....complicated, time consuming and expensive.

Financially, we are in a good place with strong reserves and we are more than covering costs – although the 2 years of COVID mean our accounts, are dominated by ‘exceptional items’ in terms of income and expenditure (not to mention weird patterns of activity) so the real trend of underlying financial performance is impossible to judge. And like everyone, the BIG uncertainty we face for the coming year is energy costs, which don’t bear thinking about!

Do come to our AGM on Tuesday 28 June! Finally I want to thank my fellow Trustees and Supporters.

And we’d love it if more people joined the team – either as Trustees, or less formally, by taking part in helping run the Hall as Supporters.

Annex C - [SlindonLife](#)

I’m also Chairman of SlindonLife....and with one very notable exception SlindonLife hasn’t been very active over the past 2 years.

That very notable exception is the ‘round robin email service’, which was set up and is managed and run by SlindonLife (notable Moira Richards). Currently almost 330 people are signed up for it.

It has *always* been jolly useful but during lockdown it was of **enormous** value.

The round robin email news service is perhaps the prime example of the kind of thing that SlindonLife has traditionally done – and that is to take on projects that are needed or wanted, but which don’t fall naturally to other village groups – be that entertainments, parties, creating the orchard & village website etc etc.

Round robin emails aside, there has been precious little scope for that kind of thing during lockdown.

SlindonLife is a formally constituted village organisation formed in 2007 and before this meeting I looked back at that original Constitution and our objectives – and it was an interesting reminder.

Here are 6 original objectives we set ourselves.

1 Organise a Village Market at the Coronation Hall

Well we set up and ran the monthly Farmers Market from 2007 until the Forge opened

2 Organise a range of social events open to all within the community, subject to capacity.

Over the years 2007 to 2019 we certainly did that – concerts, theatre, picnics, parties, Jubilee events etc etc

3 Keeps a central diary to avoid diary clashes dates. Use village notice boards, or sections of existing boards, under a 'Slindon Life' heading and establish a village website.

Well we set up the village website, currently managed by Niki Adamson & Simon Howell and the noticeboard idea morphed into the round robin email news service. The diary co-ordination is one thing that has slipped during the pandemic because there was nothing to clash with anything!

4 Medium term consider a Village Social Club or Community Centre based on an extended Coronation Hall extended to offer club rooms, bar etc

That one hasn't quite happened and perhaps it was too ambitious – but elements of it are still floating around and the Hall now has a premises licence which means we have a village bar facility

5 To support and explore the viability of setting up a Community shop

Et voila we have the Forge which opened 10 years ago. The Forge started out as a SlindonLife project

6 To undertake any other activities that are consistent with the overall purpose of the organisation

Basically that encompasses anything that crops up as a meaningful and viable village need or want.

And by definition one can't predict what those will be.....

Another big change is that other organisations – notably St Mary's and Coronation Hall, have, in a very positive way started to do much more of the kinds of events and activities that used to fall to SlindonLife

So the BIG question is – what is the future for SlindonLife? The round robin email of course, but what else? Or has it run its time?

This isn't the place or time to discuss this, but we'd really appreciate your thoughts on this – maybe chat later or give me a call.

Annex D - The Slindon History Society

The Society was formed some 40 years ago at the instigation of the National Trust and since then has been much involved in collating and researching village history, by our Patron Dr. Andrew Foster our President, Robin Upton and myself.

It remains essential that the Society flourishes and that a fresh group of those able to bring energy and enthusiasm now takes over, as I step down from it.

A meeting has therefore been arranged for Tuesday 5th July at 7.30 in The Coronation Hall to set up a group to continue their interest in village and local history to which all are very welcome.

This will be followed by my power point presentation of Slindon House & Village History which though familiar to many will I hope be of special interest to the many newcomers to the Community

Phil Berry Society Co-ordinator

Annex E - The Slindon Trust

This ancient village Charity dates from Napoleonic Times when a beggar passing through the village died leaving £15 in his pocket which formed the first village charity, which down the years has amalgamated with later village and church charities as their capital dwindled.

In the last 10 years, through generous giving by villagers at the Annual Coffee Morning and a substantial legacies from former Chairman, John Clark, we have been able to maintain our giving to those in need in our Community, despite the impact of the Pandemic.

We are very grateful for the wonderful support we received at our recent Coffee Morning, the first after 3 years because of the Pandemic restrictions.

We are delighted to be joined as Trustees by the Rev. Peter Dyson and Sandra Izard

This is a Registered Charity, responsible to The Charity Commission and a copy of the latest Accounts, kindly checked by Frank Meaby, are with the Clerk for you to see as you wish

Trustees

Rev. Peter Dyson, Anita Redman, Dot Thomas, Karen Coburn, Freda Lloyd
Sue Harrison, Secretary and Phil Berry, Chairman