

## Parish Council Meeting and Slad Society AGM – 11/3/24 at the Woolpack

### Present

Vicky Coupland	Nathan Hodge	John Sproule
Lucy Yarham	Rod Clifford	Jessie Lee
Viv Gosling	Terry Clifford	Mick Free
Andy Dickinson	Jewels Geller	Susan and Adrian Holden
Dick Moore	Pete and Val Sharpe	Dan Chadwick
Judy Moore	Sophie Fitzpatrick	Gary Luff
Paul Yarham	Melinda and Phil Newman	Henry Allsop
Caroline White	Grace Gosling	Tim Horwood
Nick Neville	Chris and John May	Robin Roberts
Ian Coupland	Jackie and Steve Peet	
Andy Cash	Jonathan and Katie Nunn	

### **Parish Council issues – rough notes of questions raised with Andy Cash and Gary Luff**

War Memorial – Precept money/financing. Cleaned 2 days before Armistice day. Query re flowers – budget that council has for maintenance for area. Chris May has oversight. Send invoice into Parish Council

Pathway between Woolpack and Steanbridge entrance – subsidence – all the way to Steanbridge Lane. Potential landslip. Dan Chadwick – Highways have said PH garden would have to be closed while work sorted. Struggling to get a response. HA – Highways currently monitoring erosion rate. AC to talk to Sue Williams – very active (involved in getting Vatch resurfacing sorted), to see what can be done.

Pub - DC Size of PH is just right for current capacity. Fresh food, expensive, but limits numbers. AD pointed out that Woolpack had closed for food today to allow the meeting. HA introduced – very approachable.

Birdlip road closures. When roadwork ongoing, one way system.

Drainage on roads – Sooty Corner/Wades Farm Corner – blocked culvert. AC has reported. AD suggests more people report. Parish Council keep records of where the problems are. TH – ‘pot of money’ for highways? GL – yes, but it doesn’t go very far.

Any scope for mains sewage? Cost implications. JS – suggests that it would open the floodgates for more development. MF – have found that in selling property, has had to upgrade sewage/waste management system. GL – more likely to get funding for sewage works than gas (due to moving away from gas supply). Would need to speak with Severn Trent. AONB – has to be a real reason for development in these areas (includes Slad). MF – can we take forward as an idea? PY – need to consider cost, but doesn’t prevent exploration of it as a potential project.

Sub committee to be set up? AD suggested that the Slad Society could support a poll – (not about politics).

DC- sewage goes into soakaway. Modern sewage includes chemicals etc. – not as environmentally friendly as 600 years ago when this is fit for purpose. Slad Society could facilitate, but not lead.

Speed limits? AC – similar issues in other areas as well. Need to make an application to request a change of speed limit. £15000 to make an application. JN – recording accidents – police attend (only counted if they attend). Abigail took gates away as an action last year – no update on that. AC happy to try and champion something re speed – 30 between Slad and Stroud. AC to chase action from last year's AGM. GL - Application could include 20 mph in Slad, 30 between Slad and Stroud? Action – Speed limit campaign – emails to Andy Cash re this would really help. AC – Police don't like MOPs doing speed checks on roads more than 30 mph – too dangerous. TH – Birdlip to Slad also an issue. Recent accidents – give more leverage

Mounting stone at Birdlip – broken. Broken, and being repaired by Highways. Looking for a new site for it. Needs to be out and visible, but Highways need to move it because it was too dangerous.

Laurie Lee Poetry posts – 3 missing – DM – will be replaced. MF – trying to speak with CEO of Wildlife Trust. Put in for centenary year of Laurie Lee's birth (10 years ago). Mixed feelings re whether they should remain. Volunteer has been checking condition. JL - Maintenance costs money – wildlife trust shouldn't fund indefinitely? Wasn't meant to be a permanent feature. Consultation with Lee family. Money could be spent better elsewhere? LY – auction for remaining posts? JL – Laurie Lee wouldn't have supported – should be a wild valley. Slad Society could facilitate a poll?

Made aware of rogue traders – be aware of people coming door to door. Be aware for older residents.

Looking for a further councillor. Interested parties could contact the Parish Council Clerk. AC meeting once a month, planning meetings once a fortnight. Subcommittees – traffic, every 6 months etc. Prep work in addition. Don't necessarily have to attend every meeting.

## **SLAD SOC AGM**

### Review of recent events –

Easter Egg Hunt – well attended  
Summer barbeque – very well received  
Cider event  
Coronation tea  
Advent bring and share  
Christmas carols  
Generally very well received.

### Financial update

See report

AD – try not to make a loss on the big events. Panto several years ago was very profitable. Are the costs about right – general consensus is that this is fair. Reflected in attendance. Consider family tickets – Society do try to do this. Christmas carols are predominantly a fund raiser for charity. Carols – word is spreading – more people from Stroud. Women’s refuge very grateful for donations.

### Committee Election

All committee members currently happy to continue.  
Motion carried unanimously that the committee can add Susan Holden and Jewels Geller from September onwards  
Motion carried.

### Discussion of events proposed and ideas for this year

Midsummer event  
Slad’s got Talent – straw poll in meeting – limited interest!  
Christmas Carols – better with keyboard.  
Other ideas?  
Helen’s venue – Slad Society can approach. Done it 2x – don’t want to encroach too much. Offer to host barbecue would be welcome.  
Village Ball? Could consider. Support – Generally yes. Would need to consider venue. NH suggesting Woolpack Carpark – not big enough? Tea dance?

### AOB

JS spoke about raising funds for the church to ensure that it can stay alive and part of the community. He explained that there were too many Churches in the Stroud area. AD noted that the Church was the only other community space/building in the village (other than the Woolpack). We don’t have a communal space with sufficient WC’s etc. Currently an architect is compiling ideas and costs. Steve spoke about an extension built on Birdlip Church which came in at about £45k.

JS spoke about a large shop and café in Amberley – made significant amounts of money in one week. They may be able to advise Slad. Discussion around sewage issues – church yard effectively ‘contaminated land’, so more leeway. Current work ongoing is to have bore holes put in to better understand the nature of the site.

LY asked if there would be restrictions on what the church could be used for, or could it be used for anything?

TC – explained that they were at an early stage of investigation. Grants might be available for specific uses. Amberley has a small café in the church itself, then a larger café/shop/public space outside. While the church can be used for events, the participants have to use the Woolpack toilets – not ideal or appropriate.

General consensus that we need both the church and the pub. Need to consider issues around parking – discussion around the use of Tom George's field

Judy Moore asked about updating the map of the village to include house name changes, postcodes etc. AD suggested people send in any amendments to the Slad Society email address.

VC – thanked Sophie F for the donation of the tents, tables, seating, dance floor etc. which can be used for Society events into the future.

Grace G spoke on behalf of the younger generation – suggested a pub quiz, set by the younger generation? Also very keen to try to get the Panto up and running again.