Slimbridge Parish Council
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Slimbridge Parish Council Annual Report 2020 / 2021

Welcome to the annual report of Slimbridge Parish Council where you will find details of your Councillors, how the council spent its money and how this expenditure is funded, along with the activities of the council over the past year. Due to the current circumstances of lockdown from Covid-19, the parish meeting will take place this year via Zoom.

The Parish Council meets on the third Monday of every month for a full council meeting in the village hall. Then on the first Monday of every month for planning meetings where there is sufficient business. The public are welcome to attend these meetings and speak in an allotted 10 minutes for a public forum

Your Councillors:

Cllr Philip Garrett (Chairman)	Cllr.phil.garrett@slimbridge-pc.gov.uk	01453 890177
Cllr Steven Tilley (Vice Chair)		
Cllr Pat Cope		
Cllr Elizabeth Ferrigno	Cllr.elizabeth.ferrigno@slimbridge-pc.gov.uk	01453 899866
Cllr John Cullimore	John.cullimore@slimbridge-pc.gov.uk	07808 306812
Cllr Robin Payne		
Cllr Anna Butcher	Cllr.anna.butcher@slimbridge-pc.gov.uk	07971 159145

Projects undertaken and what is coming up:

PARCS: Due to the current Covid-19 situation progress has now slowed down, however funding has been sourced towards the next stage for the amphitheatre. A design has been put together and works should begin this summer.

Playing Field: The Parish Council has purchased CCTV for the Pavilion and playing area. It is hoped this will alleviate the minor issues we were having.

The Patch Car Park was completed during lockdown. Thanks go to the contractor AP Transport who carried out a professional service during this time. Cars can park from 6am until 10pm. The double yellow lines have taken longer than expected due to the number of comments and delays at Highways. We are due to hear the outcome of the consultation very soon.

Defibrillators: Three defibrillators have been installed and are located at the Village Hall, Slimbridge Legion Social Club, and the BT telephone box on Cambridge Village Green. Training sessions will be advertised, as and when possible.

The Local Plan and Wisloe Green: The Parish Council continue to object to the site of Wisloe Green in the revised Local Plan consultations. Wisloe Action Group (WAG) continue to do much work in opposing this too. SPC and WAG are working together on the next stages of consultation due to come out very soon. This will be the final stage to put the parishes case to the inspector. The Parish Council have budgeted to assist with this in terms of any consultations that may need to be carried out to demonstrate points.

Neighbourhood Development Plan: The steering group have made good progress, with a huge response from the recent questionnaires. All information on the NDP is on the website and will continue to be sent out via e-mails and facebook to keep everyone involved.

Highways and Quiet Lanes: The Quiet lanes group have installed the gateways for the parish. We now have 3 Vehicle Activated Signs which are rotated around the village. The group will be gathering evidence to have slower speeds (20mph) on roads throughout the parish. The Parish Council continue to work with Highways on the many issues within the parish that need addressing and will continue to persist with this.

Finance of the Parish Council: The finances and information on the precept can be found on the parish council website at https://slimbridge-pc.gov.uk/finance/. For hard copies please request from the Clerk.

Solar Farm Community Fund: This continues to be received each October with grants being given out in December. To apply for funding please look out for further information and applications are usually received in September / October for consideration. Information on this is available on the website and will be published nearer the time. We do need a new member to be on this panel as one person is replaced each year. If you wish to be involved in this, please let me know and I will put your name 'into a hat' to be drawn at the next public council meeting.

Chairman's report

There have been no major building projects within the parish during the reporting period; applications have mainly been for extensions/minor conversions to existing properties.

The final stage of the footpath along with the bridges to the back entrance of the school from the playing field is now complete and pleased to advise this is being used by children and parents, this project has taken a lot longer than anticipated, primarily due to the pandemic and the additional safety features installed.

The Patch Car Park was completed last year and pleased to advise appears to be reducing parking issues in the road, however this is still subject to the installation of the double yellow lines, where we are awaiting approval of the TRO. The bunds in the car park have been planted with a variety of hedging whips, and I am pleased to advise these appear to

have taken root. It was also planned to plant bulbs etc in the bunds, but unfortunately this again had to be curtailed due to the pandemic; it is however the intention to plant these later in the year. I would like to record the PC thanks and appreciation to Stroud Valley Projects and with the volunteers from the village that assisted in the planting exercise.

The Parish Council has now the availability of 3 -VAS systems and will be installed on a rotational 2 – week basis within the Parish, all locations for the VAS have been approved by GCC Highways.

CCTV has been installed on the Pavilion in the playing field and on the back wall of Slimbridge Social Club, this will enable the play equipment along with the area surrounding the Pavilion to be monitored due to previous damage of equipment and an element of unsocial behaviour.

Working with Slimbridge Social Club and Slimbridge Village Hall Management Committee, the PC have purchased and installed a Defibrillator at each of these locations along with an installation on the "Book Box" on Cambridge Green, these are checked on a weekly basis to ensure they are fully functional in the event they are required.

National Development Plan (NDP) – thank you for completing the NDP questionnaire, the closing date for the returns being the 31 March, the PC is pleased with the response from parishioners. The results have been analysed and the findings will be on the Parish Council website very soon.

Councillors endorsed the Community Advice Panel (CAP) recommendations on this year's Solar fund applications. Councillors look forward to receiving further applications later this year.

There has been a lot of activity throughout the Parish with Gigaclear, causing an element of disruption, the PC are monitoring their workings and reporting any problems that have arisen.

Unfortunately, the current COVID-19 problem will have delays on projects the Parish Council have planned for 2021/22; the parish council will however endeavour to complete as many projects as possible.

Precept – I am pleased to advise councillors were able to make a slight reduction in the precept for this year.

Lastly, I would like to thank councillors and the Parish clerk – Helen, for their support over this reporting period. In addition, there are councillors standing down this year, some who have been on the PC for many years, a special thank you for their support over these years.