

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on Monday March 13th 2023  
at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

**1. Public Participation.**

Steven Whittaker, Slaley Hall Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort General Manager, attended the meeting to hear what concerns the public have with the new Sign No N7 directing traffic onto the U8080 to a new car park. (Planning application 22/03017/ADE). The U8080 is a designated BOAT (Byway Open to All traffic) and as such sees recreational motorised vehicles using this stretch of highway. Buggies also share this stretch on route to their holiday accommodation. Mr. K. Bates and Mr. C Bates also took part in this discussion. Mr. Whittaker has been GM since December 2022 and he understood that traffic has been using the U8080 for five years, there was no increase in traffic expected only new signage. Time Holiday accommodation are not providing buggies from later this month. Maintenance vehicles will be asked to avoid the U8080 whenever possible. CC Horncastle asked if the Bates family were reassured by the discussion. They replied that they were and left. Cllr J. Storey then spoke about the contamination of the burn previously reported and the proposed new sewerage works. Mr Whittaker said the improvement works proposed by Northumbrian Water were in excess of £1m and that a way forward was under discussion which included the possibility of installing a new pipeline to the existing Northumbria Water plant at a cost of around £300K. Maintenance checks night and morning for any problems. Litter on the Consett road outside the main entrance to Slaley Hall looks untidy and help when the parish has its Litter Pick would be appreciated. Relationship between Slaley Hall and the parish has not been strong in the recent years, it would be good if former good will could be encouraged. Notification when large firework displays are planned would be beneficial and appreciated by the owners of nervous cattle and horses. Brown tourist sign on the north bound carriageway several metres before Slaley Hall entrance was damaged several years ago and has not been replaced. Clerk to check on this. The savings expected from the current planning application for a new power unit will significantly reduce electricity and heating costs. Mr Whittaker was thanked for his time and the chairman hoped for a closer working relationship going forward.

**2. Apologies.**

Councillor I. C. Stevens as Chairman. Councillors S. C. Douglas, L. Sale, J Storey, D. J. Taylor & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor Colin Horncastle

**3. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.** Cllr D.J. Taylor for Slaley Hall U8080 discussion.

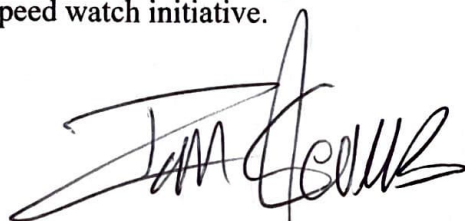
**4. Minutes of February 13th 2023 meeting (circulated pages 1685 – 1688), appendix 1, page 1689, & appendix 2, page 1690.**

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr S. C. Douglas and seconded by Cllr J Storey. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman

**5. Matters Arising.**

a) 5c 13/2/23; 18b 9/1/23: Coronation of King Charles 111, Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2023. Mentioned in March Slaley News & sent out via email 14/2/23 to St. Mary's, Shop, Commemoration Hall, School, W.I. & Rose & Crown. Lots of independent village events are being considered. The special NCC fund is oversubscribed. Cllr L Sale would like a community event where people talk to their fellow parishioners. A majority of Councillors liked the concept of a community event. Cllr I.C. Stevens agreed to look at possible options

b) 10a 13/2/23; 17a 12/12/22: Cllr D J Taylor replied with a personal visit to the couple who reported speeding village traffic being a danger. Cllr D.J. Taylor has contacted the highways department and asked that the workmen to take a look at the Townhead sign when they come to fit the 20mph signs. She will also nudge the police contact to progress the speed watch initiative.

 13/04/23



## 6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.

- a) NCC Climate Change March 2023
- b) Cllr D J Taylor is asking if Slaley PC insurance will cover two CEG events. Open garden at Holly Hill Cottage, Slaley on 17th June and a verge survey across the three parishes during May with a training event in Whitley Chapel village hall. Retiring Clerk suggested that James Brown the PCs account handler at Gallaghers be contacted by Cllr D.J. Taylor and the details discussed. The insurance details arrived by email 13/5/22. The Wander insurance cover was first discussed 14/3/22 agenda item 18b. Cllr D.J. Taylor was given permission to investigate further.

## 7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) Reply from Michael McMonagle, 20 mph programmed for March 20th.
- b) CC C Horncastle provided information on NCC's budget, the council's property estate situation and staff restructuring plans.

## 8. Correspondence.

### Hard copy:

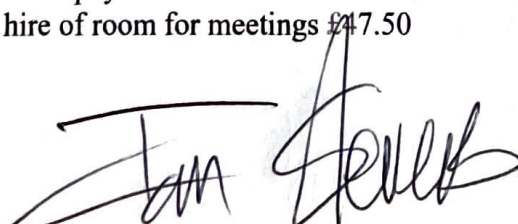
Official Documents: NCC Notice of Revocation of Tree Preservation Order. East Woodfoot, Slaley. A copy of the Revocation Order, the plan to the original order, for reference purposes and the Notice of Revocation. Given to Cllr I C Stevens for safe storage at Parish Council Office  
Clerks & Councils Direct March

### Email:

- a) 14/2/23: RSN Rural Bulletin
- b) 15/2/23: Forestry Commission launch and woodland creation event at Redcar
- c) 15/2/23: Northumbria Healthcare Stakeholder Update
- d) 15/2/23: Northern Powergrid: We're aware and watching a weather front (Storm Otto) Updates ever day then every few hours as the storm arrived.
- e) 17/2/23: CAN Enews
- f) 17/2/23: NCC Climate Change Team funding opportunities
- g) 21/2/23: RSN Rural Bulletin
- h) 21/2/23: Tracy Aitken NCC & Wheels hosting 3 events at Newbiggin Sports & Community Centre
- i) 23/2/23: NCC Elections Office leaflet regarding Voter ID
- j) 23/2/23: Forestry Commission February Update
- k) 23/2/23: NCC Cultural Services Filming Friendly Seminar at NCC 10/3/23
- l) 27/2/23: Will Wearmouth asking number of PC notice boards for a none-political contact poster. Clerk replied one each parish.
- m) 28/2/23: RSN Rural Bulletin
- n) 1/3/23: RSN Funding Digest.
- o) 3/3/23: CAN Enews
- p) 6/3/23: NCC Cultural Services Filming Friendly Seminar RSVP brought forward to 9 a.m. 8/3/23.
- q) 6/3/23: J. Wilson reply to Slaley News article re village grass cutting.
- r) 8/3/23: Northern Powergrid warning of snow and ice from 7 a.m. 9/3/23 to 2 p.m. 10/3/23
- s) 13/3/23: Nicola Wardle NCC spring clean.

## 9. Financial Report.

- a) Payroll paperwork:
- b) Invoices received & paid since February meeting  
Slaley Commemoration Hall grant towards batteries for solar caption £1,600  
The Hextol Foundation Slaley News March invoice for £61.00
- c) Invoices to be paid –  
Cllr I C Stevens for illuminated sheep expenditure £50.00 awarded (actual £59.98)  
Slaley Commemoration Hall WiFi payments £101.55  
Slaley Commemoration Hall hire of room for meetings £17.50

 13/04/23



TP Jones & Co LLP payroll preparation January – March £51.50

Clerk's salary January – March

Clerk's salary Tax element – January – March

Clerk's annual expenditure.

NCC Weekly inspections

d) Contract with Procut Grounds Maintenance ends March 2023. Renewal contract estimate emailed 2/3/23.

e) Lloyds Bank statement February 27<sup>th</sup> Total £14,389.98

f) An expenditure to date sheet was tabled and year end payments by 31/3/23 explained. **Attached as appendix 1/130323, page 1695??**

#### **10. Annual Asset & Investment Register. Attached as appendix 2/130323, page 1696.**

Old seat on B6306 taken out and two new Platinum Jubilee commemorative seats included.

#### **11. New Planning Applications.**

**23/00751/FUL:** Replacement and minor enlargement of existing front entrance porch structure. Burnside Cottage, Lead Road, Slaley NE47 0BN. No objections.

**22/04738/FUL:** Installation of combined heat and power container unit. Slaley Hall Hotel, Slaley. NE47 0BX – No objections.

- Email from Vicky Young to Cllr I C Stevens re proposed notice board in front garden of Slaley Community Shop to stand proud of the stone wall. Following professional advice Cllr I.C. Stevens replied that planning permission was required for such a sign.

**22/04091/CLPROP:** Proposed Use for continued use of land as a caravan site without any restrictions on the layout, type, size and external colour/finish of the caravans for up to a maximum of 30 caravans at any one time. Townfoot Caravan Park, Slaley. Applicant Mr. G. Miller. Comments by 28/12/22. Case Officer Neil Armstrong. **Pending.** CC Colin Horncastle confirmed that the site had not been registered as a camp for travellers which was something Cllr I C Stevens had been approached about.

#### **Decisions from planning**

#### **12. Social Media Report - Cllr I C Stevens / Cllr D J Taylor & Slaley Web Page Report - Councillor S.C. Douglas.**

Cllr D J Taylor has made a structured update of the parish web site.

#### **13. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix 3/130323, page 1697**

a) The monthly NEAS check list was completed by Cllr Storey. The date on the pads in the Defib is November 2023 and date on replacement pads 2024-10. Box of Defib information handed over to Cllr J. Storey by Clerk.

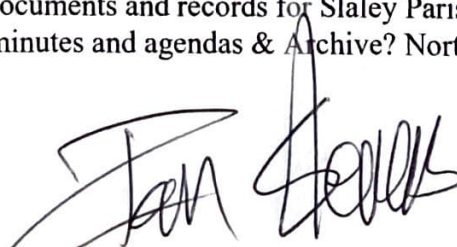
#### **14. Update games/play area within school grounds.**

Weekly inspection report for February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup> \* Heavy snow at Slaley at 8.57 Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>, burst pipe at School, so only staff present and no-one saw the inspection taking place – written to Geoff Cairns asking for clarification.

#### **15. Parish Council Vacancy No Update.**

#### **16. Parish Council Clerk**

- Address for Slaley Parish Council from April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the home of the current Chairman.
- Telephone number for Slaley Parish Council from April 1<sup>st</sup> will be the mobile of the current Chairman.
- Email address for Slaley Parish Council from April 1<sup>st</sup>. will be the email address of the current Chairman. Details: Winter House, Slaley, Hexham. NE47 0AA. Telephone 073955 66997, Email: iancstevensmbepc@gamil.com
- Storage of legal papers, documents and records for Slaley Parish Council from April 1<sup>st</sup> as per guidance from NALC. Web site for minutes and agendas & Archive? Northumberland Records Office for archived

 13/04/23

material. Certificate for insurance against liability for employees (40 years) Title deeds, contracts, agreements etc (Indefinite). Vat records Paid invoices etc. 6 years Asked NALC for any update on the Retention and Storage of PC documents – present legal requirements dates from 2014. Several items were given to Cllr I C Stevens at the meeting – details of the 25-year lease for the mobile post office standing at Parks Side. Legal papers for the Millennium Feature at Parks Side. Annual play and sport inspection report (hard copy). A list of documents will be provided for those given to Northumberland Records Office at Woodhorn. The current year's hard copy agendas, minutes and appendix will be retained at the Parish Council Office as will Audit papers.

\*Email from Cllr I C Stevens 4/3/23 Parish Council address, telephone and email as per his personal details

\* Email from Cllr S C Douglas 7/3/23 requesting invoices to [slaleyipc@gmail.com](mailto:slaleyipc@gmail.com) where she will pick up.

This is also quoted on the Slaley web site. Clarification explained at a , b & c above..

d) Interviews with applicants for position of Parish Clerk will be led by Cllr I C Stevens and Cllr L Sale..

**17. Addition to Parish Council Policies.** This item was deferred to a future meeting.

**18. Annual Risk Assessment (circulated a copy of 2022/23) attached as appendix 4/130323, page 1698.**

This needs rewriting in light of Clerk's resignation and new contact information and PC storage of documents. *See agenda 16d* above. Cllr I C Stevens is currently rewriting and will circulate for comment.

**19. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr D J Taylor.**

Currently problems with the roof and the heating.

**20. AOB**

a) Wheelie bin at Dipton Cut damaged report received 10/3/23. Cllr I.C. Stevens took photographs of damaged bin lid and locking post which have been forwarded on to Geoff Cairns (11/3/23) asking for a price for replacement locking post and replacement lid.

b) Cllr I.C. Stevens asked for a list of contacts - NCC contacts were updated and circulated by email 25/1/23 by Ian Hedley in a document entitled Who's Who

**21. Date for of next meeting:** Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>

There being no further business a presentation was made to retiring Clerk Pat Wilson and the meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.



13/04/23