

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 14th November 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Apologies. Councillors M. Palmer & S Davison.

Present: Councillor I.C. Hancock in the Chair. Councillor, L. Norris, C. A. Brooks, A.S. Robson & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor Colin W Horncastle.

Public. None. Northumbria Police: None: Courant Reporter: Apologies Rosalind Saul. Slaley Notes None. Community Trust: Catherine Lincoln for part of meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

Cllr I C Hancock for agenda item 4a

CC Horncastle for agenda item 10

3. Minutes of October Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 726 – 731 + appendix 1, page 732, appendix 2 page 733) Proposed as a true record by Cllr. L. Norris and seconded by Cllr... CA Brooks. The minutes were approved and signed

4. Matters Arising.

a) 5a 10/10/11 Bus Shelter. Clerk contacted Ladycross and the Nature Reserve agreed to take the shelter in its current state of repair and cover the cost of transportation from T Golightly & Ladycross. The Shelter is now placed in its new position within the Nature Reserve.

b) 5b 10/10/11 Parkside Stone. After a discussion with Ladycross it was established that the stone was still available. It was an unusual shape of approximately 1 square metre. Consent from highways has been requested from Mel Richardson only to discover that Mr. Richardson has left. His replacement is Richard Hayes who unfortunately is currently out of the office.

c) 5c 10/10/11 Planning decisions. Report of meeting with Margaret Telfer circulated by email on 11/10/11.

d) 5h Updated Bus service. Cllr Hancock sent a letter to NCC, which resulted in a telephone call, and apology letter and a supply of 689 Timetables with links from Go North East, these were given to Slaley Village Shop and one was placed inside the PC notice board.

e) 9b 10/10/11: Boundary Commission letter agreed and sent. Acknowledged by email see agenda item 8l below.

f) 9q 10/10/11: Service delivery – confusion over grass cutting. Clerk confirmed by email that additional grass cuts were not required. Requested a parish verge cut prior to Slaley Show and asked for clarification on the 10-13 cuts. The reply from David Hunt confirmed that the 10-13 cuts were for amenity grass within residential areas and not the highway verge. The B6306 is a strategic route and is normally cut mid June and mid September – cutting for specific events would add cost and inefficiency to the operation.

g) 9u 10/10/11 Registration of the PC as an employer. Clerk consulted HMRC in London – Tried to register on line but needed a PAYE reference. The Tax Office has advised Mandy Charlton (Hexhamshire) & Alice Ellison (Blanchland) not to complete until February 2012. Agreed to follow this advice.

h) 15b Parking on public footpaths. A reminder not to park on public footpaths has been given through Slaley Notes. Cllr Hancock has also written something for the December news sheet. Clerk has had an unofficial word with the owners of Oaklea who are currently looking into making a hard standing area outside their home to park the vehicles because the grassed area has been badly damaged. Parked vehicles on the footpath outside Ashlea have not caused a problem

during daylight hours for young children getting to and from school. Because the school is on the north side of the village most parents cross to the north footpath for safety. The south footpath ends at the Rose & Crown car park and is used by parents, school transport etc during school time and patrons of the Inn therefore it is a very dangerous path to be walking on. The grandmother of the owners of the rented Ashlea has been asked unofficially if the vehicles could be moved slightly off the footpath either onto the grass or onto the road. If this is taken further the footpath parking at Parks Side will also have to be addressed as will the footpath parking at Village hall events. Should we be looking to ask the CC for funding to hard surface the grassed area near Oaklea and Ashlea as we did for No 9 South Park in 2000. For safety reasons where should all these vehicles park? Councillor Horncastle advised “give and take” – while footpath parking is illegal but highway safety has to be taken into account. Slaley like many villages has outgrown its space and parking is a problem. He advised having a word with our Neighbourhood Policeman who could have a quiet word with all offenders. Cllr Hancock to put something into the News Sheet.

5. Public Participation.

None.

6. Community Trust Report

CT meeting is Tuesday November 15th.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) The County Councillor small schemes grants have traditionally been for capital only however, there is consideration being given to incorporating revenue schemes.
- b) Copy of Slaley PC letter to the Boundary Commission given to CC Horncastle who has a meeting with the Commission on Tuesday 15th.
- c) The new West Area Highways Manager, Richard Hayes, is keen to meet Parish Councils in his patch. The BOATs Sub Committee of Monday November 28th was suggested as a possibility.
- d) NCC has held 485 meetings open to the public.
- e) Salt heaps are currently being placed on the highway verges. Councillors to check there is sufficient throughout the parish for the December meeting.
- f) Local contracts for help during periods of bad weather are not yet in place due to difficulties with the tendering process.

8. Correspondence.

Hard copies

- a) NCC Mobile Library Service £50,000 budget reduction consultation - Questionnaires were sent out to users followed by a six-week public consultation from 21/11/11. As a user, the Clerk's aunt was sent 2 questionnaires with SAEs, at a cost to the council tax-payer of £1.08p. Each PC got a single sheet A4 letter in an A4 window envelope postage 44p. The PC considered this an unnecessary expense in view of the savings having to be made. An email letter to PC's and the questionnaire delivered in the library van would have been cost effective. Further information: the Slaley mobile library is programmed for a three-week service. Over the past 12 months a twelve-week service has happened more than once due to bad weather, staff illness and breakdown of the van. Users were advised by telephone about this. Eventually after **a sixteen**

week period without service an ordinary white van arrived with books stored in cardboard boxes in the back. Readers stood at the back of the van (in the rain) to choose books. A new mobile library vehicle is now in operation but at the last visit Slaley users were told that it will be six weeks before the mobile library returns.

b) NCC Delivering local services from April 2012 hard copy postage 55p. Received an email version 4/10/11 see agenda item 9q 10/10/11

c) Clerk & Councils Direct, War Memorials Trust Bulletin No 51, Tynedale Hospice at Home Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2011, NALC AGM 22/10/11, CAN AGM 3/11/11, North Pennines News Autumn/Winter 2011, Nat West banking changes, Lloyds TSB banking changes, Littlethorpe Bus Shelters leaflet, St. Mary's Parish Church, Slaley "In Remembrance" World War 1 1914 – 1918 leaflet.

Emails

a) 11/10/11: NCC Local Councils Charter Consultation informed by email- circulated hard copy. **(Make a December agenda item)**

17/10/11 Mike Bird Access to Democracy Event 24/11/11

b) 17/10/11: RFB No 39 + Reminder Village SOS competition

c) 17/10/11: CAN e:News Extra

d) 22/10/11: Neil Gilholm request to trade in Slaley parish. Circulated. Response from 5 Councillors. Two felt he should be given permission three were concerned on the impact this could have on the village shop. A reply was sent and acknowledge. *See 8x below*

e) 27/10/11: A complaint from a resident about cold calling from young offenders (from Middlesbrough) getting back to work by selling household goods from a hold all, who become aggressive when no sale was made. One of the parishioners went onto the web site where she found a YOS warning over bogus salesmen. Clerk telephoned Cleveland Police who suggested local people should be informed. Neighbourhood Police team unavailable, so report was made to HQ. Eventually after some 24 hours a WPC telephoned Clerk back for more information. We were given an incident number 360-27/10/11. Two telephone numbers were given to the Police and the reason why neither reported directly to the police was explained.

f) 27/10/11: RSN weekly digest 24/10/11

g) 27/10/11: CAN any photographs for CAN AGM?

h) 27/10/11: Came & Co Autumn News

i) 27/10/11 RFB No 40 (see page 5 Sport England Iconic Facilities Fund)

j) 31/10/11 RSN weekly digest

k) RSB No 41 (£50M for VCS Sector in England)

l) 1/11/11 Boundary Commission Reference number BCE/IP/006031

m) 6/11/11 NALC estimated 12/13 subscriptions, AGM minutes + brief resume of NALC.

n) 7/11/11: NCC Mick Miller – Polling District and Polling Place Review – No change for Slaley

o) 7/11/11: RFB No 42 (see page 1 Heritage grants over £1m)

p) 8/11/11: NCC Planning, Jonathan Nicholson Core Strategy Progress towards Issues & Options on web from Monday 14/11/11.

q) 8/11/11: Gary Campbell Community Planning Workshop 9/12/11 Laing Gallery.

r) 9/11/11: Louise Currie – CAN – BOSS Easy Accounts Training £40.0010 a.m. – 12 noon 13/12/11 at Stannington.

s) 9/11/11: NCC Rachel Gagliano – Rough Sleepers in the parish?

t) 9/11/11: Will Smith copy of Whittonstall Action Group Business Survey – information only.

- u) 10/11/11: Jeannie Abdelnoor - Broken style near Juliet's wood. Reported to NCC. Neil Dawson coming out to see - contacted Jeannie direct who then reported a further 2 in a poor state opposite Sandybraes.
- v) 13/11/11: RSN Neighbourhood Planning online survey.
- w) 14/11/11: CAN News
- x) 14/11/11: RSN weekly digest 14/11/11 *See article on "The government calling on Parish Councils to safeguard village shops and pubs". See 8d above.*
- y) NALC 2 meetings on Saturday 19/11/11 Paper E brought to attention – planning issues associated with the NCC Draft Charter. (Because of size the accompanying documents have not been emailed.)

9. Financial Report.

a) Cheques to be signed

Cheque No 448 Alex Evison October grass cut £97.80 **If we wish him to tender for 2012 please request before end of December. Clerk to provide tender information.**

Cheque No 449 JT & EF Glightly repairs to bus shelter £291.24

Cheque No 450 Michale Elphick setting up new web site £200.00

Cheque No 451 Damaged cheque.

Cheque No 452 P Wilson – three months salary £750.00

Proposed by Cllr. L. Norris and seconded by Cllr. A S Robson the cheques were signed.

b) Interim payments - None

10. Current Planning Applications.

It appears that construction work is currently underway at Low House & Broomy Hill either of which has planning permission known to the PC.

11/02610/FUL Construction of photovoltaic array. East Ridley Hall – **Not returned**

11/02682/FUL Replacement of existing garage door on west elevation of workshop with two windows and new chimney. Rose Cottage. Wooley * See email circulated from neighbour.

Not returned – Clerk to request immediate return from missing Councillors. It was agreed that the PC's reply understanding that a neighbour had concerns that the workshop could with a future change of use application become residential.

Outstanding applications or decisions on NCC web site

11/01333/FUL: Conservatory to rear. Primrose Cottage, Colpitts. **Pending.**

11/01208/CLPROP: Certificate of lawfulness for proposed single storey extension to provide living room, kitchen, porch and also installation of solar panels. Trygill Farm Cottage.

11/02250/FUL: Conversion of attached double garage to living accommodation. Pry Cottage **Granted.**

11. Update games/play area within school grounds:

a) Notes from meeting on Thursday 3/11/11 between Mrs D Ross, Cllr IC Hancock & David Hunt & Sam Talbot of NCC circulated and **attached as an appendix. 1/141111, page740.**

Cllr Hancock explained the 5 areas still to be finalised

(1) Maintenance of the school grounds around the new equipment - the Councillors agreed it would be most beneficial if the PC repaid the extra costs to the School who has a contract with GMS.

(2) Annual inspection of equipment - the Councillors agreed it would be most beneficial if the

PC repaid the extra costs (if any) to the School, to include a pre-inspection before opening the new facilities for use.

(3) Weekly inspection of the equipment - the Councillors agreed that the PC should have a Service Level Agreement with NCC for doing this. A quotation from David Hunt is awaited. with the cost.

(4) Public Liability outside of school hours - the Councillors agreed it would be most beneficial if the PC repaid the extra costs (if any) to the School. Nicola Johnson of NCC has been asked to determine what changes to the school's current cover would be necessary and what this would cost.

(5) Equipment Insurance – David Hunt explained that NCC's approach for its own play areas had been to have a contingency sum in the budget for equipment damage. Cllr Hancock has spoken with Riding Mill (Broomhaugh) PC Clerk who confirmed that the PC has their own equipment insurance. However, Broomhaugh PC does own the playground and the equipment. In light of the recent reported damage to play equipment at Riding Mill by three 15 year old youths with axes the Councillors felt it prudent to keep a small sum in the Precept for equipment repairs and to investigate the possibility and cost of insurance- Nicola Johnson is investigating.

b). Draft Community Policy (see 5f 10/10/11) for circulation in December newsletter **attached as appendix 2/141111, Page 741**. Slight alterations to be made. Telephone numbers to be added. The local Community Police Officer should be contacted for his input/approval. It was decided that Slaley School should be asked to photocopy the CP for insertion into the December /January newsletter.

c) Emails from CL with updates on progress dated 24/10/11, 2/11/11 & 10/11/11 Work due to start on Wednesday November 16th. CL to inform immediate neighbours.

d) Press release from CL going into Slaley Notes on November 18th

e) Correspondence from Cllr Hancock dated 11/11/11 re insurance and inspections

f) Email 14/11/11 from CL with wording for the information sign to be placed within the school grounds. Cllr Hancock to rewrite, check wording with school, check position of sign within the school grounds (freestanding / on a wall?) then inform Clerk who will get a price from 'Topsign' at Hexham, circulate the quote for agreement then order the sign.

g) The official opening of the site was briefly discussed however without anything on the site it was felt better left until the December meeting. Official openings are often after the actual opening. Again it was felt important to have the Community Police Officer in attendance at such an event.

12. Policy for awarding Grants.

A draft Policy was tabled taken from the various Councillor comments. Councillors need time to digest this material and reach an agreement. **To be a December agenda item.**

13. Report from meeting on 12/10/11 by the PC representative on the Commemoration Hall Management committee.

a) Copy of agreed minutes of August 24th circulated and **attached as appendix 3/141111. Page 742.**

b) Copy of the Consortium Newsletter October 2011 circulated by email 18/10/11 to note the Financial Survey undertaken to establish the dependence upon grants for running costs.

Attached as appendix 4/141111. Page 743.

There were no further questions. A reminder of the December panto for December 2nd was made.

14. Consider Precept Spending

a) Correspondence from NCC Steve Mason re 2012/12 Precept to be received no later than 24/1/2012. Also provided is an estimate of costs for Parish Council Elections 2013 held in May 2013. (distributed at meeting) **Precept to be a December agenda item.**

b) Balance sheet as at November 2011 circulated by email **attached as appendix 5/141111.**
Page 744.

15. BOATs update.

a) Meeting on November 28th

b) Press article on 11/11/11 re “Public Inquiry looks at lane’s history”.

c) The damage to an existing forestry track was reported on BOAT No 47. The purpose made track off the B6306 south of Trygill remains OK it is when the BOAT joins the old forestry track before crossing the U8078 north of Ladycross that the damage is occurring. Large potholes filled with water, vehicles damaging the track verges as they skirt the deeper potholes, resulting in mud being deposited onto the track. This is making passage difficult for other users and the NCC will need to spend more money on making it safe again for all users.

16. AOB.

a) VMS requested the speed sign to be moved to the Townfoot pole

b) Cllr M Palmer has tendered her resignation as a Councillor. Cllr Hancock to invite interested parishioners for the post until the next election in May 2013 through the News Sheet.

17. Date of December monthly meeting.

Monday December 12th

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.55 p.m.