

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on  
Monday 14th July 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall

**1. Apologies.** Councillor S. Dart & County Councillor Colin Horncastle

**Present:** Councillor C.A. Brooks in the Chair. Councillors I.E. Milburn, D.M. Bell, D. Allsop, N. Green, & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson.

Public:None. Northumbria Police: None. Courant Reporter: None. Community Trust: None. Slaley Notes: None.

**2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.**

Cllrs D. Allsop & N. Green for agenda item 13

**3. Minutes of June Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 986 – 990, appendix 1, page 991, appendix 2, page 992 & appendix 3, page 993).**

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr. D. Bell and seconded by Cllr. E. Milburn. The minutes were dated and signed.

**4. Matters Arising.**

a) 4a 9/6/14, APM 12/5/14: Forestry Commission made further alterations to the report, these are attached as **appendix 1/140714, page 1000**

b) 4b 9/6/14; 4e 12/5/14; 18b 14/4/14: Reply from Isos Housing re grass cutting issues, basically Isos hold monthly meetings to discuss grounds maintenance problems they have a contract manager and employ an independent grounds maintenance specialist to deal with grounds maintenance issues. However they gave us a telephone number for residents to telephone if there is a problem and that is 0300 300 1505. Cllr Bell has given this number to all the residents at Parks Side and asked them to telephone when they are not happy with the latest grass cut. The grass was cut today, July 14<sup>th</sup>, and once again it is left in a mess. The Courant of July 11<sup>th</sup> reported that County Councillor Alan Sharp confirmed, at Haydon PC meeting, that he'd held positive discussions with Ground Force regarding cut grass left lying. He hoped we would all see improvements.

c) 4d 9/6/14, 12a 12/5/14: Blocked village drains. After a couple of cancelled visits Paul Turnbull eventually walked the village with Chairman Cllr C Brooks & Clerk, P Wilson on 9/7/14 the survey report is attached as **appendix 2/140714, page 1001** Basically if a vehicle is parked over a drain when the gully cleaner comes into the village it is not cleaned out, apparently each drain is cleaned out individually. There appears to be a big discrepancy in the depth and size of the drains and until we are able to see all the drains after a successful clean we cannot say with any certainty if this is true, or not. Certainly Cllr Green disagrees that the drain outside Greenways is recorded as OK. A clean of the village street is vital before more debris finds its way into the drains. According to PT the village should have four sweeps each year. The PC Clerk feels we need to keep a record of this and we will need the help of the public to report when this takes place. The school sign was difficult to see because of overhanging branches at Southlea and branches from the beech trees were encroaching onto the highway at Beech Trees, initially the PC will ask if these branches can be cut back. PT also indicated that changes in the highways management are once again under discussion and he briefly described "*Partnership Sharing*" whereby a group of PCs employ someone to work on highway problems, NCC would cover employment, pension and equipment however the associated costs would also filter down to the PCs. Apparently Corbridge PC is interested. Slaley Clerk has contacted Corbridge Clerk and also Hexhamshire Chairman, Gill Whatmough, to see if Corbridge would be interested in partnering with us smaller Councils for possibly 1 day per fortnight or 2 days per month. Corbridge PC Chairman Maurice Hodgson discussed this at the Hexham Bus Station event and said the

idea first came about from the East Tynedale Community Forum. He would respond to us after reading the email.

d) 8i 9/4/14 Possible loss of Adapt bus from Blanchland on a Tuesday. Blanchland PC replied (June 10<sup>th</sup>) that they were willing to subscribe £200 per annum towards the Adapt bus. Ian Coe extended the consultation time to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Clerk asked Hexhamshire for their comments and Slaley Councillors for any further comments by June 28<sup>th</sup>. There was no further feedback.

## **5. Public Participation.**

None.

## **6. Community Trust Report**

A report of the meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss faster broadband provision was circulated by email firstly on July 10<sup>th</sup> and then an updated version by Michael Elphick was circulated July 13<sup>th</sup>, both attached as **appendix 3/140714, page 1002.**

## **7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor:**

None.

## **8. Correspondence.**

### **Hard copy**

a) The Lieutenancy of Northumberland invitation to Chairman of PC to service of Commemoration to mark the outbreak of WW1 at Hexham Abbey on Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Circulated to Cllr Brooks & Warde-Aldam.

b) Tourism in the North Pennines Questionnaire, Clerks & Councils Direct July 2014, CAN news, Elections office – The way we register to vote has changed - leaflets and poster.

### **Emails:**

a) 10/6/14: Serena Clifford: Invitation to FC training course at York June 24/25<sup>th</sup> for £100.

b) 12/6/14: RSN RVS fuel poverty.

c) 16/6/14: RSN weekly digest.

d) 16/6/14: Forestry Commission Green Grants Scheme just got bigger – route of TransPennine Express Stations.

e) 16/6/14: Caroline Clough, Federation of Northumberland Trusts including Allenheads Trust Ltd

f) 24/6/14: Locality Development Officers - Reminder of July meetings.

g) 24/6/14: RSN rural housing questionnaire.

h) 24/6/14: Further changes to the Core Strategy timetable as a result of population projections released.

i) 24/6/14: Correspondence forwarded by Cllr Monica Anderton regarding the Openness of Local Government bodies (5 pages) and the use of filming PC discussions and showing immediately after the meeting. *This was briefly discussed with j & k below and the danger of reporting one side of a debate does not necessarily record the views of the combined PC and its final decision.*

j) 24/6/14: A second email on Draft regulations: Openness of Local Government Body meetings by NALC (7 pages)

k) 24/6/14: Public Sector Executive Online: Local Government secretary, Eric Pickles, has called for the immediate withdrawal of the guidance.

l) 24/6/14: RSN weekly digest.

m) 24/6/14: NALC E-NEWS – moving documents on their website.

n) 24/6/14: Steve Shaw Local Works- Empowering PCs to sell electricity – does not affect Slaley until it owns some land

o) 25/6/14: NP AONB E-newsletter June 2014 - Annual review (4 pages).

- p) 25/6/14: RSN spotlight on young people in rural areas.
- q) 30/6/14: RSN weekly digest.
- r) 30/6/14: Northumberland Community Development Network (basic digital skills – *note that almost 16% of the population in Northumberland have never used a computer – see 8ae below*).
- s). 30/6/14: Invitation to PC Chairman from The Lord Lieutenant to attend the commemorative service in Hexham Abbey on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- t) 1/7/14: Nichola Turnbull West Area meeting July 8<sup>th</sup> at Prudhoe.
- u) 2/7/14: RSN ROB.
- v) 2/7/14: Richard Powell LDO meeting at Bardon Mill on July 10<sup>th</sup> rearranged to July 24<sup>th</sup>
- w) 2/7/14: Sue Andrews New Councillors Training. **Cllr Dart may be interested.**
- x) 3/7/14: RSN Rural Housing Spotlight
- y) 7/7/14: RSN weekly digest.
- z) 7/7/14: Hexham Bus Station Engagement Event Parish Councillors 10 a.m. to midday on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Brooks and the PC Clerk attended. It appeared from the exhibition and what was said that Loosing Hill has already been chosen because NCC cannot raise the money to purchase the redundant buildings around the current bus station. The Dysart Group pre application exhibition, using the existing bus station all the old buildings and the Ropery, was also available to view. Whilst we were there, members of Corbridge, Hexham town and Haydon Bridge Councils were unanimous in their objections. The excess pedestrians exiting and entering the proposed bus station will cause traffic back logs in every direction. A new road lay out has not been considered but some took on board that changes would need to be made. One chap who remarked that Hexham Fire Engine is not called out that often so we should not consider its new site at the back of the hospital or its impact on the proposed new bus station. Young mothers with children or elderly people having additional walking to the town centre and carrying shopping back to the bus was not considered either. We have a new feedback form, which asks four questions these were discussed and the PC Clerk to forward a response from the parish. The Councillors were encouraged to complete their own reply on line.
- aa) 7/7/14: Kieran McCarthy – reminder the BBC needs a house swap volunteer.
- ab) 9/7/14: Richard Powell: LDOs First Northumberland Town and Parish Council Parish Conference on September 25<sup>th</sup> at Morpeth lasting 3 hours. Anyone wishing to attend should reply.
- ac) 9/7/14: RSN – rural broadband
- ad) 14/7/14: RSN weekly digest.
- ae) 14/7/14: Myra Jamieson Know Northumberland Bulletin 12 – page 10 states that 15.9% of adults over the age of 16 have never used the internet in Northumberland. That equates to approximately 100 at Slaley & 25 at Healey. It was agreed that most would not be interested in getting connected.
- af) 14/7/14: NALC E-News July
- ag) 14/7/14: CAN News Summer edition
- ah) 14/7/14: Sue Andrew: ACRE has received £1.4m from BLF for its Village SOS – survey to complete.
- ai) 14/7/14: Invitation to Clerk who has attended twice before to the Northumbria Police Workshop at Prudhoe on 18/9/14. Clerk is unable to attend. **No-one wished or was able to take her place.**

## 9. Financial Report.

- a) Real Time Information: Thirsk payroll successfully submitted £300.00 payment on June 14<sup>th</sup>
- b) Cheques to be signed:
- Cheque No 525 Thirsk Payroll £39.00 for 3 months @ £13.00 per month payroll preparation.
- Cheque No 526 P. Wilson salary April, May, June £850.00
- Cheque No 527: NCC weekly sport & play inspections April – June. £177.84
- Cheque No 528 Northumberland ALC annual subs £116.21
- Cheque No 529 Play Inspection Company –school sport & play annual inspection. £71.94

- c) Section 2, Annual Governance Statement as approved on March 10<sup>th</sup> was signed and dated by the Chairman.
- d) Bank statement: balance as at May 28<sup>th</sup> £7,542.03
- e) Audit arrangements. Notice displayed and internal Audit successfully carried out 9/6/14 – 22/6/14. Records are available to public 23/6/14 – 18/7/14. Audit Date July 21<sup>st</sup> 2014.

### 10. Current Planning Applications.

**14/01672/RENE:** Proposed installation of 16 ground mounted photovoltaic panels to generate electricity on land south of Peel Flatt House. Cllr Green asked if the panels would reflect to village properties. Cllrs Bell & Brooks reported that they would not, they absorb light not reflect it.

**01608/NONMAT** Courant: Robin Chute, non-material amendment relating to planning permission 12/00147/FUL (Application to replace an exant planning permission in order to extend the time limit for implementation – planning application 20081147 Construction of one two storey detached dwelling) Amendment relates to a revised access development with highways and a reduced footprint at Tree Tops.

**The PC has still not received notification of this.**

**13/01130/FUL:** Retrospective: Extraction system on roof at rear of premises. R&C **Pending**

**13/01131/LBC:** Retrospective: Listed Building Consent: Extraction system on roof at rear of premises. R&C **Pending**

#### Decisions from planning:

**12/03599/FUL:** Construction of two storey agricultural workers dwelling - land west of Dipton Foot Farm House, Slaley. **Granted**

**14/01435/CLPROP:** Certificate of lawful development for the proposed erection of a single storey extension to the north of the existing dwelling against a retaining wall. Glen Cottage, Slaley. **Granted.**

**13/03822/VARYCO:** Variation to condition 2 (to carry out development in accordance to plans) and 7 (rainwater goods to be painted black painted cast iron or aluminum fixed directly to the walls) of application 13/01297/FUL – land north west of St. Mary’s Church. **Granted.**

### 11.Update games/play area within school grounds.

a) Weekly inspections forward to school week 20 (15/5/14) – 27 (3/7/14) there were no reported problems.

b) School informed the PC that Eric Anderson the CC inspector is also undertaking a playground inspection on Tuesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Clerk has spoken to Ms Jackson about the need for having two inspections and she volunteered to check but she thought that the school inspection was to cover the equipment during school hours and the PC inspection was for the general public out of school hours. There has been an incident when a pupil fell off the climbing frame and broke her arm.

c) The 24 page report from The Play Inspection Company inspection came in by email late today. **PC Clerk to circulate and the report will be discussed as an agenda item at the August meeting.**

### 12.Mobile Post Office Van parking Update.

a) Mobile Post Office van battery inverter not holding its charge - Thursday July 1st Engineer called out.

b) An updated site plan was received by Gibson Solicitors from Isos Solicitors and a meeting to discuss the lease took place on Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>. Cllr Brooks & the PC Clerk attended. Slight amendments were proposed and will be presented to Isos for consideration. One thing that was discussed was keeping unauthorised vehicles off the parking area or using the hard surface as a turning area for school buses etc and it was suggested that removable or drop bollards be included in the design. The agreed quote will have to be contacted again for the price increase associated with the cost of the bollards – providing Isos do not object. Cllr Green warned the PC that some of the bollard

underground cups fill up with water and eventually rust resulting in motion problems. Number, rather than key, security feature was also recommended.

### **13.Outdoor Advertising.**

- a) The Sandwich Board placed at the Townhead junction advertising the Rose & Crown family BBQ remained at Townhead after the event and was altered to read “Food served daily and B&B at the R&C”. The PC Clerk telephoned Cllr Allsop to ask why this information was at Townhead and if there was a reason to let the PC know. Cllr Allsop’s email reply was circulated. In view of the adopted OA Policy, and that Townhead was well outside the R&C curtilage, the PC Chairman asked that the Board be removed. Cllr Allsop requested clarification on other advertising signs in the parish.
- b) The official AA yellow signs advertising holiday homes for sale at Springhouse are dotted around the area, these have planning permission and staff at Springhouse have confirmed that the holiday homes signs will remain over the holiday period and the two smaller white directional signs will be removed.
- c) The Sandwich board outside the current car park stone wall at The Travellers Rest was also questioned by Cllr Allsop. After discussions the overriding opinion was that it may be on the highway side of the current boundary wall but to all intents and purposes it was still within the curtilage of the Travellers Rest, similar to the ice cream sign at Slaley Village Shop.
- d) Small private advertising boards attached to parish properties e.g. “eggs for sale” at Stanegarth, again the overriding opinion was that providing they do not obstruct passage along the footpaths for pedestrians they are permitted.
- e) The Clerk had a telephone call from the residents at 9 South Park complaining about the planning application folders attached to the telegraph poles outside Slaley House. The Clerk explained that these application notices remain in place until the building work is completed and the final inspection is agreed then the building inspector removes the notices.

### **14.Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update.**

A third set of archaeology digs are currently taking place. The DSG have drawings to discuss for how best to preserve the wheel pit (with the landlords approval). There will be an exhibition on Slaley Show Field in August.

### **15.Parish Plan: Action Plan July 2014 update.**

Circulated, and approved without alterations and attached as **appendix 4/140714, page 1003**

### **16.Parish Walk-about for August meeting.**

A list of the walk about sites was circulated and is attached as **appendix 5/140714, page 1004**  
It was agreed that the footpath from the U8078 to Springhouse and the Caravan Park would be the area for the August walk about. Time and vehicle sharing to be agreed nearer the August meeting date.

### **17.Integrated Transport Priorities for forthcoming year 2015/16.**

Correspondence arrived and Councillors notified by email on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Councillors had no further areas of concern to be included.

### **18. Safe deposit and storage of PC records.**

A copy of the records stored at the home of the Clerk has been forwarded to Woodhorn to ask for their interest and how they would like to receive the minutes – in their present Lever Arch Files or in deposit boxes.

### **19.AOB**

- a) Clerk received a telephone call on June 12<sup>th</sup> from a farmer about a dead tree overhanging the B6306 and breaking through the stone wall. Clerk contacted Paul Turnbull (highways). The NCC Tree Officer looked at the tree and reported its danger to Mrs Watson at North Cottage, High Clear (June 30). Mr. Watson had the tree removed during the first week of July.
- b) Email from Penny Bliss to Chairman about public footpath stiles and the responsibility for same. The PC is being asked if it could encourage landowners to maintain stiles? The PC is not certain which stiles on footpaths 12, 13 and 14 are causing concern between the Lead Road and the Village. Cllr Green volunteered to walk the three footpaths and report back to the PC. No 12 South Farm via The Pry to Sandybraes. No 13 Granary Steps (opposite school) to Combhills. No 14 Cautley Cottage via The Strothers to Well House.
- c) Emails from Cllr Bell regarding the watering of the Jubilee Planters at Parkside. Basically Sheila & Billy Borthwick who have watered the planters for a number of years, now find they are unable to do this on a daily basis due to ill health. Dorothy has organised a rota to do the watering. It is: Monday – Pat Wilson; Tuesday - Jason & Jeannie Abdelnoor; Wednesday – Reg Urwin; Thursday – Dorothy Bell; Friday – Billy Mitchinson; Saturday – Cyril Chapman; Sunday – Peter Barker. Adam Scott stopped and asked Pat what she was doing on Monday July 7<sup>th</sup> and said he would gladly water them when he was at Brian Rowell's if we ever needed extra help. Cllr Green also said he could help out if needed.
- d) Notice in Hexham Courant Slaley & Healey BOAT Nos 16 and 40 (south east corner of Winnows Hill plantation east of B6306) + some forest tracks closed from July 1<sup>st</sup> for 6 months for tree felling. Also A68 Kiln Pit Hill to Scales Cross (mid section) speed restriction to 10 mph 5/6/14 – 5/9/14 to repair land slip. Councillors alerted by email dated June 14th

## **20. Date of August 2014 monthly meeting**

Monday August 11<sup>th</sup>. Time to be agreed nearer the meeting. Possible apologies received from Cllrs Bell & Milburn.