

**Minutes of Slaley Parish Council, Monday March 14th 2011,  
in Slaley Commemoration Hall.**

1. **Apologies.** Councillor S. Davison & A. S. Robson.

**Present:** Councillor I.C. Hancock in the Chair. Councillors L. Norris, C. A. Brooks, M. Palmer & Clerk P. Wilson. County Councillor: Colin W Horncastle. Public: Vera Jewitt. Courant Reporter: Rosalind Saul. Slaley Notes: Michael Elphick. Community Trust: Catherine Lincoln. Northumbria Police: None

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

CC Horncastle for agenda item 10.

**3. Minutes of February Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 668-674 + appendix 1 page 675 & appendix 2 page 676)**

Proposed as a true record by Cllr. L. Norris and seconded by Cllr. C A Brooks. The minutes were approved and signed.

**4. Matters Arising.**

a) 10 14/2/11: Planning reply – permitted development – applications under permitted development appear on the weekly lists published on the Council’s website. Parish Councils are not consulted.

b) 14 a 14/2/11: Slaley PC’s concerns with the Hoodsclouse Opencast Mine have been acknowledged by NCC.

c) 14 14/2/11: Report from The 6 Rural Parishes Community Forum meeting on Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup>, (not official minutes) circulated by email and attached as **appendix 1/140311, page 682**

d) 14 14/2/11: See above report a request for a joint evening meeting of Blanchland, Healey, Slaley & Shotley LQ has been made and acknowledge with the reply that dates will soon be arranged.

e) 15 14/2/11: Forestry Commission Consultation event cancelled although much concern is still voiced due to government cuts and reduction in funding for our forests.

f) 16 14/2/11: Annual Speeding review – Speed sign move to Townhead pole was carried out week commencing March 7<sup>th</sup>.

g) 18 14/2/11: The Commemoration Hall Management Committee was disappointed that the Parish Council did not wish to appoint an elected Councillor onto the Committee of Trustees. Mrs Wilson can represent the Parish Council but concern was verbally expressed that not being an elected Councillor she would not be able to represent the parish and speak freely at a PC meeting. However, it was pointed out that any PC nominee on the Hall Committee, being a trustee of the Hall, has a prejudicial interest and for that reason can not speak on Hall matters at PC meetings.

h) 19c 14/2/11: Nightingale School van parked in Slaley village. Although no reply has been received to the PC letter the van, since half-term, has parked in the Rose & Crown car park

**5. Public Participation.**

The Clerk as a Trustee of the CHMC, and the suggested PC representative, alerted the PC of the forthcoming questionnaire regarding Hall improvements. It was important that everyone was encouraged to complete the questionnaire.

## 6. Community Trust Report

The verbal report concerned the play area see agenda item 11

## 7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) Councillor Horncastle has spoken with the family at Dipton Foot Farm about a farm-workers dwelling.
- b) Pot hole situation is poor throughout Northumberland – new machine – expensive to run. This area has a new engineer.
- c) Small scheme grants are to continue.
- d) Work is proceeding on the County LDF.
- e) Funding for Community Forums cut.
- f) Locality Officers reduced.

## 8. Correspondence.

### Hard copy:

- a) BDO Audit Briefing Winter 2011. Audit packs will be issued in April. Note changes to Fixed Assets. We need to consider these changes when discussing agenda item 12 below.
- b) Tynedale Hospice at Home, Newsletter February 2011.
- c) NCC Environmental Clean Up – Litter Pick equipment form + 3 x A3 Posters + Litter organizing a clean up 16-page booklet + Litter and the Law a guide for the public 20-page booklet. Cost £1.30 to send.
- d) Adapt trips March – May – information given to Slaley notes & News sheet editors.
- e) NCC Diversion of Public Footpath No 10 (circulating)
- f) Wicksteed Flexi Swing advertising leaflet.
- g) Hexham Ramblers letter to Chair asking for help from Slaley residents in monitoring the routes as identified in the Hexham Courant of March 4<sup>th</sup>. **Cllr Hancock's reply was tabled.**
- h) Clerks and Councils Direct March issue
- i) Letter & A5 4-page booklet from Val Knowles on Housing Developer Funds
- j) Play Practice launches new Playground Funding Support Services – letter and 2-page information leaflet.
- k) NCC Statement of Licensing Policy for Sex Establishments – Consultation on Draft Policy – 8 weeks 11.3.11 – 8.5.11

### E-mails:

- a) 18/2/11: Lynne Nelson –Public Services Alliance request for support at a Rally on 23/2/11
- b) 18/2/11: RSN – Re-launch of the RSN website.
- c) 19/2/11: RSF bulletin No 7
- d) 19/2/11: Lucy Phillips, Forestry Commission – confirmation of public consultation event - Cancelled.
- e) 2/3/11: Chris Bowden – Localism Bill
- f) 2/3/11: NORTH: Northern Voice included a 4-page newsletter.
- g) 2/3/11: RSF Bulletin No 8
- h) 4/3/11: RSF Bulletin No 9 + a 12-page Northumberland Funding Event on 30/3/11 at Choppington.
- i) 4/3/11: Katie Pringle, North Tyneside PCT: Launch of national consultation on children's congenital heart services. The consultation is not provided with statistics to make a well reasoned reply
- j) 4/3/11: Katie Pringle, North Tyneside PCT: Alistair Blair, lead GP for the Northumberland Commissioning Consortium. On 28/2/11 the Northumberland Consortium became one of the government's pathfinder GP consortia. We will be kept informed of progress as health care

responsibilities are discussed. A 5-page update enclosed.

- k) 4/3/11: HMRC Guidance on the employment status of Parish Clerks. Each council must register its Clerk as an employee and deduct PAYE and NIC. Cllr AS Robson, an accountant, will draft a reply.
- l) 4/3/11: Norman Dunn, NALC Development Officer – PAYE for Local Council Clerks Update. In the past part-time, low-paid clerks were able to declare their earned income on an end-of-year, self-assessment income tax return. This will no longer be permissible. However there is the suggestion that we wait a little longer as conflicting information has been received from the local tax-office.
- m) 7/3/11: Weekly Rural Digest – information on reduction of bus services nationally (see agenda item 15 below)
- n) 8/3/11: Mike Bird – West Area Committee meeting 15/3/11 at Haltwhistle.
- o) 9/3/11: Came & Co insurance Spring Newsletter Litter Pick Risk Assessment
- p) 10/3/11: RSF Bulletin No 10
- q) 11/3/11: NCC Paddy Gascoigne ‘Alternative Vote Referendum’ information
- r) 14/3/11: invitation to Choral Evensong on 10/4/11 to mark the closing of Tynedale Magistrates Court (1840 – March 2011)
- s) 14/3/11: RSN weekly news.

## 9. Financial Report.

a) Cheques to be signed.

Cheque No 432	Slaley Commemoration Hall meeting	£101.50
Cheque No 433	Clerk’s salary October 2010 – March 2011	£1,500.00
	Clerk’s annual expenses including advert	£306.63
	BOATs annual expenditure quarter share	£16.43 = £1,823.06

Proposed by Cllr and seconded by Cllr, the cheques were signed.

b) Balance Sheet attached as **appendix 2/140311, page 683**

c) Interim Cheques: None

d) Internal Audit: It was agreed to ask Margaret Weatherley to undertake the internal audit

## 10. Current Planning Applications.

**20110107:** Demolition of existing garage & construction of single-storey rear extension. Oaklea, Main Street

**No objections**

**20101040:** Part retrospective (raised timber structure to north elevation) and alterations and extensions to property including alterations to roof including 2 dormers and reformation of conservatory. Moorland View, Lead Road. **Rainwater & drainage should be given careful consideration.**

**20100585:** Double garage to south elevation at 52 Slaley Park Pending

**Decisions from Planning Authority.** None

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

a) PC Clerk: email circulated 17/2/11 from Monster Play packages.

b) Email from CL 19/2/11 re meeting at School 2p.m. 9/3/2011 – Catherine reported that ideas were discussed - wall with basket ball nets – perimeter bicycle track with mounds – tennis net across play area. Ideas presented by early April when a further meeting will be called. S Murrell will get 2 quotes for work. Planning assistance - CC Horncastle volunteering to organise a meeting with Jenny Green for assessment of planning guidelines. He suggested an application for funding through the HDF should be made quickly. Any shortfall could be assisted through his small schemes grant.

c) see 8i above (Letter & A5 4-page booklet from Val Knowles on Housing Developer Funds)

## **12. Slaley Web Page Update.**

- a) 2/3/11 email – Michael provided Terms of service for Zen Internet
- b) Chair & Clerk several telephone calls to try and cancel the Webfusion account. Finally a successful cancellation by telephone was followed by several more emails the latest on 7/3/11 said the account had been passed to the debt collection agency. Clerk to re telephone Webfusion,
- c) Michael reported 127 visits per day compared to 67 in 2008.
- d) Cllr Brooks questioned the front page articles. A. This was governed by the latest postings.

**13. Annual Risk Assessment** circulated by email and attached as **appendix 3/140311, page 684**  
Need to include a Risk Assessment for a Litter Pick.

**14. Annual Asset & Investment Register** circulated by email and attached as **appendix 4/140311, page 685**

To be reduced to cost prices.

## **15. Review of the annual governance statement.**

This is page 3 of Risk Assessment – could be altered when Audit papers arrive.

## **16. Loss of Local Bus Service 870 from Consett – Hexham – Evidence of hardship especially for High School students.**

- a) Completed questionnaire at Shop, which showed a cross section of the public using this service. E-mails from parents with two or more children needing the public service to assist with school times.
- b) Report from Healey PC High School pupils do use the service from at least 2 families for school, leisure and work reasons. Staff at Minsteracres Retreat Center also use the service on a daily basis.
- c) Confusion over the Clerk's comments on QEHS being closed during the school day resulting in why lower & upper sixth form high school pupils need the public service arose. School ends at 2.15 on alternate Tuesdays, but school buses operate at the normal time.
- d) Mrs Jewitt wished to record the hardship she and many other parishioners would experience if the service were to be reduced to one journey each day.
- e) CC Horncastle reported a Working Group set up to look at rural transport. Ian Coe is leading the discussions and CH would put our concerns to the group.
- f) The ADAPT Dial-a-Ride Blanchland-Hexham service on Tuesdays calls at Slaley - information will be published again in the Parish News.

## **17. Annual Highways Report**

Copy of the 2010 template circulated alterations made and agreed Text to be available for presentation to the public at the AGM in May. Two resurfacing areas (C270 & C265 ) are classified as phase 4 & 5 which are near the top of the NCC works programme.

## **18. AOB**

- a) Report that a member of the public was walking his dog in Lord Allendale's woodland in Slaley Forest. He was approached by a man with a gun who explained that the woodland was private. This has led to confusion over which land is Forestry Commission with open access and which land belongs to Lord Allendale and private. Clerk contacted LA's agent who is willing to discuss more signs if needed. **Cllr Hancock to write something for the monthly News Sheet.**

- b) Reported 10/3/11 by email the village sweeper damaged the surface outside Slaley village Shop. The Wards dashed outside and stamped the tar back into the hole. Email acknowledge by NCC and said repair would be undertaken quickly. (not done 14/3/11)
- c) Stocksfield PO telephoned Clerk tonight at 4.15 p.m. to say Post Van delayed after a breakdown but should be at Slaley for 5.30 p.m. Slaley Shop alerted and a message left with the Urwins at No 12 and the Borthwicks at No 1.
- d) Date of Annual litter Pick: Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup>. Advertise. Clerk to purchase a Prize for the most unusual object.

**19. BOATs update.**

- a) Confirmation that AVAG has passed the second hurdle of the EU complaints procedure. By request from MK the correspondence was also passed to Russell Stephenson & CC Anne Dale. Cllr Hancock of Slaley downloaded the Case quoted C-418/04, Commission v Ireland.
- b) Slaley PC withdrew its objections to DMMO's 5, 6, 7 & 8. This was reported in the HC.
- c) Healey PC is waiting for an update on the Espershields proposed Restricted Byway.

**20. Date of April 2011 meeting.**

Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.