

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on Monday August 8th 2022 at 8 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

Councillors S.C. Douglas, D.J. Taylor & J. Storey met at Trygill entrance to Slaley Forest at 7 p.m. to look at damage to the BOATs network. Walking up the B6306, theft of the west side stone wall coping stones was evident in several places this causes the remainder of the wall to eventually collapse. The burnt-out wooden gate on the east side of the highway together with a scared section of wooden fencing, apparently this was caused through a careless driver throwing a cigarette out of his window on a dry spell two years ago. Turning into the BOAT the evidence was clear that two-wheeled vehicles are bypassing the barrier closing off the BOAT. Closer inspection indicated that the barrier itself had been rammed, had bent inwards and damaged the locking device therefore it was no longer locked. Cllr J. Storey took photographs of this and the subsequent sections of damage. Despite this being the hottest, driest summer since the 1950s there were ten deep pools on the BOAT indicating that damage has been done to the water table or to natural springs. At several of the deep-pools vehicles have driven away from the pools and onto the forestry land causing deep ruts. The route is quite a challenge for horse-riders, walkers and cyclists, but totally impassable for families with young children in buggies. Returning to the Trygill entrance into Slaley Forest tracks through the trees made by motorcycles were also recorded – not content with the mess on the BOAT, users are making their own routes through Forestry Commission plantations. The new Trygill wheelie bin is two-thirds full.

1. Public Participation. None

2. Apologies. None

Present: Councillor I. C. Stevens as Chairman. Councillors S. C. Douglas, J. Storey, D. J. Taylor & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson.

3. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record. Councillors I. C. Stevens, S. C. Douglas, D. J. Taylor & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson for agenda item 16b.

4. Minutes of July 11th 2022 meeting (circulated pages 1640 – 1644), appendix 1, page 1645, appendix 2, page 1646, appendix 3, page 1647 & appendix 4 1648. The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr S. C. Douglas and seconded by Cllr D. J. Taylor. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising.

a) 5a 11/7/22; 5a 13/6/22; 5c 9/5/22; 10c 11/4/22; 15/3/22: Seat replaced on B6306, photographs taken and displayed on web site and notice boards. Cllrs I.C. Stevens & J. Storey also fitted the two wheelie bins at Dipton Cut and Trygill. Cllr J. Storey had prompted the Clerk to inform the refuse collection staff that these bins were now in situ and would need to be added to the fortnightly emptying schedule.

b) 5b 11/7/22; 5b 13/6/22; 17 9/5/22; Follow up from joint meeting with Cllr Glen Sanderson – Cllr D.J. Taylor contacted Cllr Graham Curry who represents the Hexham group of councils on the Town & Parish Council Liaison Group. Cllr Curry was free for both our August and September meetings. Booked for and accepted September 12th meeting. Clerk to invite members of Healey PC to this meeting.

c) 22 11/7/22 Cllr I.C. Stevens to report on his Invitation to Kim McGuinness to come out to Slaley PC and give a talk on Rural Crime. Email acknowledged but not responded with a reply.

d) 8 11/7/22: Queen's Hall Arts Centre Illuminated Sheep – a visual arts trail across Northumberland to celebrate the arrival of the Lindisfarne Gospels in autumn 2022. Cllr I.C. Stevens received a confirmation email 4/8/22. The remaining three Councillors confirmed their support to this project

6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.

Next CEG meeting Wednesday August 17th.

Cllr D.J. Taylor asked if Slaley PC would declare a Parish Emergency. This was last requested on August 9th 2021 meeting, agenda item 6 when there were conflicting views, further discussions took place on 13/9/21 meeting agenda item 6 & 8l. Cllr I.C. Stevens requested more time to read about this before making a decision. To be discussed at the September 2022 meeting.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) Update Glen Crossroads – CC. Horncastle to report on the joint meeting he was arranging (7a 11/7/22).
- (i) the meeting has not happened – Cllr I.C. Stevens to request an update.
 - (ii) Glen Cottage hedge trimmed Thursday 14/11/22 (reported by Healey PC), Friday July 15th Mrs J. Cain was almost side swiped at the crossroads, the trimming has made no difference. This was reported by email to Andy Olive and Glen Sanderson. Andy Olive replied that one of his team would look and see if the request from NCC had been complied with. No reply from Andy Olive.
 - (iii) The recommended alterations to the improvements identified to Horncastle have not been implemented – the new signs say 40 mph which is much too fast. Cllr I.C. Stevens request an explanation.
- b) Update on reducing village speed to 20 mph – Cllr I.C. Stevens has written to CC C. Horncastle requesting an update on the extent of the speed restrictions through the village – response awaited. This will allow the PC to co-ordinate the replacement of the speed sign at Townhead and inform the community of the upcoming restriction.
- c) Cllr J. Storey emailed 22/7/22 Glen Harrison re gullies on the Lead Road – one still blocked from 5 years ago when it was damaged by Openreach work. Acknowledged by Highways. Cllr J. Storey thinks the blockage now has a covering of several mm of tarmac – he will contact highways for an update.

8. Correspondence.

Hard copy:

Emails:

- a) 14/7/22: NALC Enews.
- b) 14/7/22: Forestry Commission Extreme Fire Risk Notice- in light of continued dry, hot, weather, it was agreed that each Councillor would print off and position one of the notices at an area close to their home. Cllr I.C. Stevens would print for the village notice boards and the Clerk would laminate two for the new wheelie bins at Dipton Cut and Trygill.
- c) 18/7/22: Streetworks TTRO Lead Road Slaley
- d) 19/7/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- e) 21/7/22: CAN Enews
- f) 21/7/22: Streetworks TTRO West Minsteracres to high Acton Mill Ruins.
- g) 25/7/22: Hexham Town Council offer for place on Coronavirus Risk Assessment Training
- h) 26/7/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- i) 28/7/22: Northumbria Healthcare Update
- j) 29/7/22: NALC Member Update
- k) 29/7/22: Wm Wearmouth – Northern Powergrid Community Funding
- l) 29.7.22: Forestry Commission July Newsletter
- m) 1/8/22: Streetworks TTRO Eastgate, Hexham
- n) 2/8/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- o) 3/8/33: RSN Funding Digest
- p) 5/8/22: NALC Member Update
- q) 5/8/22: CAN Enews – Graeme Popay will take over from Stephen Rickitt as Chief officer of NALC

9. Financial Report.

- a) Payroll paperwork July 2022
- b) Invoices received & paid since May meeting
SCH hire of room for SPC meetings April, May & June £75.00
Seat on B6306 £439.00 repaid to Cllr I.C. Stevens
- c) Invoices to be paid: None identified at meeting

d) PKF Littlejohn acknowledged the notification of exemption.

10. New Planning Applications.

22/02185/FUL: Creation of single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling. Pry House, Slaley NE47 0BL Applicant Mr. Stephen Percy. Comments by 13/7/22. **Pending**

22/02275/FUL: Erection of a garden room to the west elevation. Shield Hall, Slaley, NE46 1TU. Mr. G. Hall. **Pending**

22/02276/LBC: Erection of a garden room to the west elevation. Shield Hall, Slaley, NE46 1TU. Mr. G. Hall. **Pending**

22/01133/FUL: Single storey extension. Ashton Byre, Townfoot, Slaley NE47 0BQ. Mark Baldwin. **Pending**

Decisions from planning

22/01617/FUL: Construction of single storey extension to South elevation. Hillfield House, Slaley. Applicant Daniel Armstrong. **Granted**

*Seen in the Hexham Courant: Slaley. Messrs Metcalf, certificate of lawful development - proposed single storey rear utility extension to the north elevation and internal staircase. Palm Strothers. Ref: 22/02356/CLPROP. The PC did not need to be consulted.

11. Social Media Report - Cllr I C Stevens / Cllr D J Taylor & Slaley Web Page Report - Councillor S.C. Douglas. No Update.

12. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix attached as appendix 1/080822, page 1653.

a) The monthly NEAS check list has been completed by Cllr Storey. The date on the pads in the Defib is November 2023 and date on replacement pads 2024-10.

b) The Circuit are asking for more information as some Defib models have been recalled.

13. Update games/play area within school grounds.

a) June weekly Inspections received and forward to school. No defects received.

b) School closed to public for the seven weeks of the school holidays. Clerk to cancel weekly inspections.

14. Parish Council Vacancies

Cllr I.C. Stevens produced several posters about PC business and displayed throughout the village (*see agenda 16 & 17 11/7/22*). Still no firm interest.

15. Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr D.J. Taylor to write and report all future plans on hold until January 2023. Remove from PC agendas until 2023.

16. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr D.J. Taylor.

Meeting Wednesday July 20th, when minutes of May 18th were approved and attached to this meeting as **appendix 2/080822, page 1654**

a) An update of the building work was reported – additional items keep cropping up needing extra funds – solar panels going onto the roof, double doors leading out to the north grassed area and batteries to store the generated power. Members of the management committee were able to look inside the new build earlier and they were happy with the size and the alterations made since building work began.

b) Cllr I.C. Stevens received an email from Mrs R. Doonan, the Chair of SCH management committee detailing a grant application to cover the solar panels and batteries at £16,000 the grant making body is requesting confirmation of community involvement with a 10% PC grant. (*see declaration of interests, agenda item 3*). The Councillors asked themselves, is this something the people of this parish would agree with? is this something everyone in the parish will benefit from? The consensus was that it would be; especially if normal power were to fail as it did in November 2021 when Storm Arwen struck. These

changes would make the Hall an Emergency Hub for the people of the parish who found themselves without power. Taking a vote all four Councillors voted in favor of the £1,600 grant. Cllr I.C. Stevens to reply to Mrs Doonan.

c) Cllr S.C. Douglas asked for a meeting between Slaley PC, Helen Hines (NCC Contingency Team) Guy Opperman MP & Mrs R. Doonan. Initial conversation between the MP and Cllr S.C. Douglas had indicated that the Northern Powergrid grants would provide free cabling for the Emergency Hub work. It was agreed that such a meeting should be additional to the monthly PC business meeting. Cllr S.C. Douglas to suggest the following September dates. Tuesday 6th; 13th or 20th. Thursday 8th, 15th or 22nd.

17. AOB

a) September is the month when the Facilities and Services are reviewed, therefore a reminder needs to go into the Slaley News and website that the entries into the Slaley Business Directory are up for updating.

b) Email from a resident at Wooley regarding the letter box having a honey-bee problem. PO delivery men aware and they had covered in a yellow box. Cllr J. Storey involved bee experts and the swarm was removed 7/8/22.

c) Cllr D.J. Taylor suggested that the PC ZOOM contract should be ended. Clerk explained it was her personal contract not the PC, although the PC did pay one-third of the contract price during COVID restrictions.

d) Cllr D.J. Taylor queried the state of the giveaway sign at Townhead. Clerk to contact highways. *Clerk checked after the meeting and this dates back to February 8th 2021 meeting agenda item 7d)*

18. Date of next meeting

Monday September 12th.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.21 p.m.