

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on Monday December 12th 2022
at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. **Public Participation.** Mr. D. Watts. Mrs. L. Sale.

2. **Apologies.** County Councillor Colin Horncastle.

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.** - None.

4. **Minutes of November 14th 2022 meeting (circulated pages 1662 – 1665), appendix 1, page 1666, appendix 2, page 1667 & appendix 3, page 1668.** The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr D. J. Taylor and seconded by Cllr S. C. Douglas. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

5. **Matters Arising.**

a) Discussion with Cllr G. Curry- copy of minutes received and circulated 16/11/22 @ 10.21 & again @10.28, then 17/11/22 @ 10.15. Email from Cllr Curry 12/12/22 asking if help is still needed. Clerk to reply and report no current problems.

b) 5a 14/11/22; 5c 10/10/22; 5c 22/9/22: 17d 8/8/22: New Townhead Give Way sign in place.

c) 16 14/11/22: Consideration of a vision and mission for the Parish Council. Cllr J. Storey to read.

d) 17 14/11/22: A proposed dog poo initiative – Article in December/January Slaley News seems to have made a difference and there appears to be a reduction of dog fouling in the village.

e) 18 14/11/22: Progressing a regular Parish Council surgery – idea to hold informal meetings to engage the community during 2023.

6. **Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.**

a) Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire CEGs themed on-line advent calendar had interested many people and has raised £260.00.

b) Date of next CEG meeting Wednesday February 22nd

c) NCC Climate Action Northumberland December Update.

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

a) Recent village pavement works – Reply from GH at highways 15/11/22. Then 4/12/22 a resident from the Hillfield Farm entrance has asked why the section between the highway and the footpath has not been filled. Clerk contacted highways to ask. Reply – yes this is highways owned, highways manager will look at what is needed for 2023.

b) Trygill bin not emptied. Cllr J. Storey reported 29/11/22 reference no 101008105969. Forestry Commission manager emailed 1/12/22 reporting bin overflowing and rubbish lying on the ground, unsightly and waste spreading across the gateway by wind and animals. A watching brief will be kept and if unsightly conditions continue a re-assessment of the bin at this location will be made. Overflowing Tuesday 6/12/22 Clerk sent e mail to recycling officer asking for bins to be emptied. Was emptied – Clerk suggested the need to remind especially Christmas week. Cllr J. Storey suggested a second bin because the bin was so well used. Cllr I C Stevens suggested using one of unused Slaley Commemoration Hall bins. Clerk informed the Councillors that there is a process to go through with NCC and the Forestry Commission before any bins are placed anywhere

c) Flooding at Glen crossroads 17/11/22 Cllr J. Storey reference no 101008087687. Clerk reported flooding at Townfoot. Work undertaken 18/11/22. Cllr J. Storey said the drain north of Woodnook Farm was still in need of repairs.

8. **Correspondence.**

Hard copy:

Clerks & Councils Direct December.

Email:

- a) 15/11/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- b) 17/11/22: Publishing the 2022 Electoral Register.
- c) 17/11/22: NCC, Sarah Long, Community Preparedness following from Community resilience event – Cllr SC Douglas reported that this training was mainly for Urban areas and it had been suggested to her that Slaley had its own training on site once the batteries were installed at SCH.
- d) 18/11/22: Town, Parish & Community Council Conference Booking Form. Hexham Mart January 24th 2023. Clerk & Cllr SC Douglas will attend this.
- e) 18/11/22: NCC Warm Spaces network
- f) 22/11/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- g) 25/11/22: NCC, Iain Hedley Community Chest Scheme deadline 13/1/23
- h) 25/11/22: CAN Enews
- i) 28/11/22: NCC Head of Planning & Housing – consultation (28/22/22 – 13/1/23) on Publication of draft Minerals & Waste Development Plan Document
- j) 29/11/22: RSN Rural bulletin
- k) 29/11/22: CAN Warm Hub Coordinator
- l) 30/11/22: Forestry Commission November News
- m) 1/12/22: Sarah Long reminder (see c above and answer) deadline 5 p.m. December 8th.
- n) 2/12/22: NALC December Enews
- o) 2/12/22: ECO green - try a new approach – dog fouling dispensing stations
- p) 6/12/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- q) 6/12/22: NALC December Enews
- r) 6/12/22: NCC Planning Luke Dixon. Enforcement Strategy Consultation ends January 6th 2023.
- s) 7/12/22: RSN Funding Digest
- t) 9/12/22: CAN Enews

9. Financial Report.

- a) Payroll paperwork November 2022
- b) Invoices received & paid since November meeting
The Play Inspection Company £87.54
- c) Invoices to be paid –
Cllr I C Stevens was asked to order the outside Jubilee commemorative seat for SCH.
The Councillors decided NOT to order the replacement speed activated camera at Townhead. Cllr D.J. Taylor will re-ask for the present activated sign to be repaired.
- d) Thank you emails for grants copies were available to view.
- e) Notification of external auditor appointment.
- f) Income Healey PC paid £50 for providing space on web site for Healey PC minutes etc.

10) Agree 2023/24 Precept spending.

Income & Expenditure as at December 12th attached as **appendix 1/121222, page 1673.**

First draft Precept with known increases as below as **appendix 2/121222, page 1674.**

- (i) Procut Quote for parish grass cutting £1,750.00 (4.4% increase on last season) + Vat. Cllr D.J. Taylor to meet with contractor and discuss increased prices. Cllr I C Stevens reported that the school had agreed that they did not need any help with grass strimming from the parish council.
- (ii) TP Jones payroll preparation £51.50 x 4 = £206

The Councillors questioned the need for an annual agreement between the school, the police, the parish council and the public for community use of the school field. It was suggested that a personal copy in the 300-parish circulation for Slaley News was not needed. Instead, it was suggested, the agreement shown on the web site was sufficient. The Clerk strongly disagreed with this suggestion. The Councillors questioned the grants and why certain organisations were awarded grants. The Clerk explained that most forwarded requests for grant funding to the parish council throughout the year, although some did not e.g. Hexham

Food Bank (something requested by a former Councillor). Slaley Show (something requested by Cllr S C Douglas) from now on all applications would be forwarded to the Councillors for them to keep their own file on applications. Due to time constraints (this item was taken as the last at the meeting). Councillors felt uncomfortable about grant allocation without a fuller discussion. To accommodate precept timelines Councillors agreed to meet offline to discuss emerging issues and agree any changes before the Chairman left to go holiday and while still quorate.

11. New Planning Applications.

22/04439/FUL: Proposed rear porch replacement, 4 Fell Cottages, Slaley, NE47 0BU. **No objections.**

22/04460/VARYCO: variation of condition 2 (approved plans) 3 (materials) and 4 (timber cladding) on approved application 22/01617/FUL in order to change materials and flat roof size (flat roof to be changed to include overhang using proposed GRP, wall materials to be changed to use stone to match existing (stone removed from opening to be used to construct pillars to match main house) and windows to side elevation of extension to be changed in size. Hillfield House, Slaley. **No objections.**

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.

Recent planning history: 18/01622: 18/01625/OUT: 18/01622/VARYCO together with the PC's replies and those of concerned neighbours was tabled for discussion. Google earth photographs were looked at and the closed notice attached to the entrance gate. A copy of the 19/4/1990 licence which was attached to the toilet block window on 28th August 2018 was presented and discussion by a present neighbour. It was agreed that the PC have no objection to the caravan site opening as detailed in its license 1st March – 31st October each year. The map supplied with the CLPROP is out of date, the farm buildings being sold and developed by Folden Ltd. Planning applications from April 1990 apply. In 2004 the Townfoot Farmhouse was sold further altering Townfoot land. Mr Thomas Brian Rowell who owned the licence moved into Viewlands (two bungalows from the former Farmhouse and renamed Townfoot). Mr T.B. Rowell continued to own and oversee the caravan site until ill health caused him to move into Parks Side bungalows in 2014. At some point between 2014 and 2017 Brian sold the caravan site to Mr. G. Miller. Brian died 11/8/2021. There was activity on the site Monday 29th March 2021, diggers on site etc. Email Planning Enforcement Officer to check if any planning permissions had been granted. Alex Campbell checked the site and reported back 31/3/21 that some trees had been removed - (recorded April 12th 2021 minutes agenda 10 decisions from planning). The concerns expressed by the Parish Council in 2018 are still relevant today and there is no evidence in the current correspondence of how these are to be addressed and public protection guidelines guaranteed. Reply was circulated for agreement and emailed to planning by 28/12/22.

22/03653/LBC: Listed building consent for replacement of rotten single glazed sliding sash windows in the main house with slim-line double glazed timber sliding sash windows. Shield Hall, Hexham. Applicant Mr. G. Hall. **Pending**

Decisions from planning

22/03017/ADE: Advertisement consent for 8 x pole mounted signs, 13 x Totem signs, 18 x Fascia signs and a 1 x Letter sign. Slaley Hall Hotel, Slaley. Comments by October 24th. **Granted**

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

13. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix 3/121222, page 1675.

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.

b) Cllr J. Storey reported a different machine received at Rose and Crown and placed into the cabinet and our Defib taken into the Rose & Crown. Photographs taken show the second machine as serial number 249 and the PC owned machine is 429. Clerk explained that this must be a mix-up with a second

'recalled' Defib being delivered to Slaley in error. Clerk to contact CU medical and or WEL medical for an explanation and ask the Rose and Crown to make sure our machine is available for use inside the cabinet.

14. Update games/play area within school grounds.

a) Weekly checks 27/10/22; 4/11/22: 11/11/22: 17/11/22 & 25/11/22 – no problems reported emailed copy to school.

b) Clerk emailed 30/11/22 some interesting newspaper articles to give background to community use of school field and how the sport and play equipment was funded.

15. Parish Council Vacancies

Lynda Sale is interest in joining the Parish Council, although concerned that she may not be able to commit the necessary time. Mrs. Sale gave some background information of her working life and her personal interests. It was agreed that Mrs. Sale would attend as a member of the public until she was sure that her time would allow her to take the role of a Councillor.

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

Batteries and their delayed delivery despite having the necessary funds.

100-year party on December 30th will be a thank you to everyone who has helped.

Year 101 has been suggested by Cllr D.J. Taylor that the management committee concentrate on marketing SCH to make it a successful business with outgoings covered by incomings.

17. AOB

a) Email to Cllr D J Taylor from a member of the village after reading the article in Slaley News about reintroducing the speed gun checks, his concerns about speeding traffic and the danger to people in the village. Cllr D.J. Taylor to reply.

b) Cllr J. Storey reported that Slaley W.I would like to plant a tree in the village to mark its 100-year birthday. Village trees are now regularly cut back by Northern Powergrid as they affect overhead power cables. Mrs Dorothy Bell has requested by telephone on behalf of residents that the WI tree at Parks Side be cut down because it makes residents windows and vehicles greasy and fills their front gardens with leaves. Clerk advised her to speak with Karbon Homes about this, the Parish Council can not go onto private land and cut down trees.

c) Cllr J. Storey reported that Slaley W.I. would like to make a contribution towards a new Notice Board – somewhere they could place their notices. They would like their name on the notice board to reflect their financial input. Clerk explained that the Parish Council notice board had certain government obligations e.g. national, regional and local elections, any public service announcements etc. Cllr S.C. Douglas volunteered to send the W.I. notice board information. Whilst Slaley PC notice board is in need of repair, sharing ownership was not something previously considered.

d) Cllr J. Storey reported that a new group of people have restarted the Protecting Slaley Forest Group. Leading this time around is Ted Liddle and Juliet Rogers from Hexhamshire. They held a meeting on December 5th and Cllr J. Storey emailed notes from the meeting at 19.39 to members of the Parish Council. The management plan is to close all the Slaley BOATs for two years.

e) Sir Michael Darrington offered his assistance to the Neighbourhood Plan Group via a Councillor.

f) Cllr I.C. Stevens reminded Cllr J. Storey that as Vice-chair he would be chairing the January meeting, although no decisions could be made until four councillors were able to agree.

18. Date for of next meeting: Monday January 9th 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.01 p.m.