

Because of the Coronavirus a meeting of Slaley Parish Council on Monday December 14th 2020 was administered by ZOOM video connection.

1. Public Participation.

One member of Slaley Community Trust informed the Parish Council that they had no copy of The Constitution and had not held meetings for a considerable number of years. They had used the Trust to purchase the Rose and Crown and set up Slaley Community Assets Ltd and the purchase of Slaley Village Shop and set up Slaley Community Shop Ltd. The CT bank was undertaking a safeguarding review and had no authenticity of the present signatures (Officers) and would not consider closing the account and transferring the money. It was explained that the CT only met as and when there were burning issues to discuss. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary had an informal discussion and decided to close the bank account and hand over the money to a likeminded organisation (the Parish Council). There were various questions asked – if the money is transferred to the PC how do you see it being administered? The PC Chairman said that if the money came into the PC it would not be transferred back at a later date that was money laundering. The Dissolution of the Assets in The Constitution is clearly detailed – a couple of the Councillors explained the consequences. Eventually it was agreed and the part U of the constitution document would be emailed to the CT Officers – a public virtual AGM of the Community Trust would need to be called, the accounts presented and agreed and a resolution agreed to close Slaley Community Trust and the assets transferred to Slaley Parish Council. In the mean-time sight of the recent minutes and the annual accounts would be appreciated by members of the PC, these would be placed on the web bringing the annual CT business into the public domain.

2. Apologies.

Taking part were: Councillor A.M. Livesey as Chairman. Councillors S. Carson, S. C. Douglas, I. C. Stevens, J. Storey, D. J. Taylor & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor Colin Horncastle.
Public: David Allsop

3. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record. Cllr. J. Storey, as the PC representative on the Better Broadband at The Glen Area, will remain able to report as per his dispensation to speak on agenda items 5a. Cllr I.C. Stevens as a Director of Slaley Community Shop, will remain able to report as per his dispensation to speak during the discussions of Public Participation.

4. Minutes of November 9th 2020 meeting (circulated pages 1493 – 1496) & appendix 1, page 1497.

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr S. C. Douglas and seconded by Cllr J. Storey. All the Councillors present at the meeting agreed that the Clerk should sign the minutes.

5. Matters Arising.

a) 6a 9/11/20; 5a 14/10/20; 1 & 5a 14/9/20; 5a 10/8/20; 14a 13/7/20: Improved Broadband around The Glen area – article in Hexham Courant 3/12/20 explained the £200m scheme with North-East based IT and telecoms company Rymote. Clerk forwarded the information to the group and A Colbourne confirmed he had registered with the company. The PC was also asked if it could ask NCC what the delay was. Carol Hessey replied by email 11/12/20 with an iNorthumberland Winter update containing a reminder about the Vouchers ending 31/3/2021 – sent to Andy Colbourne who immediately emailed Gill Cowell who replied that Openreach are revising their quote this month. Cllr J Storey thought that the PC may needed to become more involved. CC Colin Horncastle agreed that a parish driven application was likely to succeed and recommended getting in touch with Mike Robinson of Barns who has recently provided a supply in the Allen Valleys and North Tyne.

b) 10g 9/11/20: West Northumberland Food Bank report by Cllr S.Carson. The account details would be emailed to the PC clerk and it was agreed to award an immediate £100 grant.

6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.

The group met via a ZOOM connection on November 25th. Cllr SC Douglas and DJ Taylor will discuss a trail period of a wheelie bin at Trygill. The cost of the dog waste bins in 2016 was bin £120. Locking Post £30 & Vat £30. Clerk to get prices for 2021 and the Councillors to discuss in January. The councillors did not share the FC Manager's concerns that a waste bin would necessarily encourage fly tipping. Sub-committee held a Zoom meeting with Craig Lonsdale of Karbon Homes when an agreement to plant fruit trees at Parks Side was reached. The 8 oak saplings – 4 will be planted at the school hopefully recorded in the Hexham Courant. If the group are successful in obtaining some land for a large community-orchard they could be looking to Slaley Community Trust for backing and financial help. However, permission for 5 fruit trees at Parks Side has been granted, the position agreed, it now remains for the fruit trees to be purchased and planted.

7.Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

a) Update Glen Crossroads after Robin McCartney made his report and safety measures were to be agreed at County Hall. *Note:* Healey Parish Councillors were not happy with the lack of information between 6/11/20 and its meeting on 2/12/20 in light of correspondence 8k below, therefore Cllr PJ Cain was resending to Paul Jones, his previous September email highlighting position of vehicles in road to see traffic approaching from the north and asking who would be dealing with such enquiries. CC Horncastle said design and plans to address safety measures was not a quick process. The PC Clerk reminded CC Horncastle that the summer 2017 safety measures did not address the problem and read out the October 2017 Parish News report. Three and a half years later and the local community is still waiting. It was pointed out that NCC has legal responsibilities and the fact that we have now been asked not to report to officers but to send all reports to a central point. Mr. McCartney is new and has many proprieties to address. CC SC Douglas informed the PC that if in February 2021 we are still not happy with the situation we can place temporary traffic lights until action is taken.

b) Cllr S Carson reported that his requests for updates to Glen Harrison had gone unanswered. Clerk reminded Cllr Carson of the new contact arrangement see 8k below.

c) 8b 9/11/20: Update on reducing village speed to 20 mph after visit from Robin McCartney. Mr McCartney had not made any decisions yet.

8.Correspondence.

Telephone call: a) Clerk received a telephone call (28/11/20) complaining about horse droppings left on the village footpath, with a request to be made through Slaley News asking horse riders to clean up after their horses if they foul the footpaths – this was emailed to the Councillors. Cllr IC Stevens actually removed the horse droppings. This led to more correspondence about our village footpath in general and the number of vehicles that park on the footpath forcing humans to walk out onto the road. It was agreed that a report in Slaley News was needed reminding people to clean up after their dog and put it in one of the many bins. To avoid parking on the footpaths making pedestrians walk on the road and a reminder that since 1920's it is illegal for horses to ride the footpath.

b) Clerk received a telephone call from Blanchland PC Chairman, Michael Kennedy, asking if a reply had been received from David Brookes regarding the damage done to the BOAT network. (5c 12/10/20 & 17c 14/9/20). An email request was made. DB replied 8/12/20 that closures are only possible with the support of the motor vehicle user groups and availability of funding. No quick fixes he reported.

Hard copies: Elan City specially offers – Radar speed sign from £3,999

Email

a).10/11/20: RSN Rural Bulletin

b) 10/11/20: Tynedale Hospice at Home grant aid request

c) 10/11/20: GNAA News

d) 11/11/20: Streetworks TTRO Greymere Hill to Whittonstall

e) 12/11/20: Streetworks TTRO Allensford to Wallish Walls

f) 12/11/20: Mark Marchant of Greener Miles Running Ltd.,

g) 13/11/20: CAN AGM on line

h) 16/11/20: NHS Northumbria Healthcare Update

- i) 17/11/20: RSN Rural Bulletin
- j) 17/11/20: NALC Enews
- k) 20/11/20: Paul Jones Service Director Local Services all highway reports to a central point.
- l) 23/11/20: NHS Northumbria Healthcare Update
- m) 24/11/20: RSN Rural Bulletin
- n) 25/11/20: NALC Member Update- briefings for Clerks ref 6 May 2021 elections
- o) 25/11/20: Streetworks TTRO market Place Hexham
- p) 25/11/20: NHS Northumbria Healthcare Update.
- q) 25/11/20: Streetworks TTRO Market Street Hexham to Cowgarth Footway
- r) 27/11/20: CAN Local Restrictions from 2/12/10
- s) 31/11/20: NHS Northumbria Healthcare Update.
- t) 1/12/20: RSN Rural Bulletin
- u) 2/12/20: RSN Monthly Funding Bulletin
- v) 2/12/20: NALC Enews
- w) 3/12/20: GNAA December news
- x) 8/12/20: RSN Rural Bulletin
- y) 8/12/20: Health Watch Northumberland – a message from Chair, David Thompson.
- z) 8/12/20 NALC launches a new guide on community business – 9,000 community business’s across England with asset of £890m.
- aa) 9/12/20 Sport Tynedale nominations for sport in West Northumberland during COVID-19 Pandemic
- ab) 10/12/20: NCC COVID Community Champions
- ac) 11/12.20: Forestry Commission - information on tree planting

9. Financial Report.

a: TP Jones & Co LLP. Employers Summary November & December + quarterly statement.

b Invoices received & paid since November meeting; None.

c) Invoices to be paid.

Clerk’s salary October – December £1,082.79

HMRC Tax on salary October – December £10.20

West Northumberland Food Bank (see 5b above) £100.00

d) Thank you emails received for grants – circulated

e) Editor of Slaley News telephoned the Clerk to see if funds could be provided for a Christmas gift for the person who prints Slaley News FOC. After discussion it was agreed that the PC does not provide funds for a third party to purchase a ‘thank you’. There was concern about the nature of the printing being kept out of the public domain and it was finally agreed that the PC would purchase a bottle of wine from Slaley Community Shop, attached a simple thank you card from the Parish Council and drop it off to Jim Bail to forward.

10. Planning Applications.

20/03374/FUL: Detached garage at The Granary, Townfoot, Slaley. Applicant Mr & Mrs T. Matthews.

Pending

20/01925/FUL: Conversion of two small barns on the grounds of Quarry House to 1 No ancillary store and 1 No annexe. Quarry House Slaley, Simon & Vicky Young.

Pending.

20/03003/FUL: Installation of a summerhouse and a pent roof log lap shed in the rear garden of Cedar Lodge, Slaley NE47 0AD. Applicant Colin Washington

Pending

Decisions from Planning:

11. Social Media Report - Councillor A.M. Livesey & Slaley Web Page Report - Councillor S.C. Douglas.

Cllr AM Livesey is finding the Facebook work inconvenient at present. Cllr IC Sevens volunteered to take over. Cllr J Storey told Cllr SC Douglas that the parish web site presents nicely.

12. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix 1/141220 page 1502

Cllr J. Storey has carried out the weekly inspections and the Defib is working as expected. The monthly NEAS check list was completed by Cllr Storey and the Clerk emailed to NEAS. Clerk asked Cllr Storey to check the expiry date of the pads.

13. Update games/play area within school grounds.

a) Weekly inspections for November received and forwarded to headteacher with a copy to Cllr I.C. Stevens. There were no issues causing concern.

14. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr DJ Taylor.

Agreed minutes of September 16th 2020 attached as appendix 2/141220, page 1503.

Cllr DJ Taylor said the Hall remained open for individual sport (table tennis) or education/training. The various grant requests in the pipeline – restoration of the paintings. Furlough of the caretaker. Phase two of the 100 years programme. + the Lantern which has an internal extractor fan from the days of smoking indoors. Historic Property Restoration have been out and assessed the work - scaffolding both inside and outside the building will be needed and the War Memorial Trust have offered 75% of the costs if a decision is made by 31/12/2020. Would the Parish Council cover the remaining 25%? At the time of the meeting the quote was not received. The Councillors said they would like to support the Lantern work

Fundraising includes a Silent Auction on line through Jumblebee April 1st – 14th. Collating donations into lots. Marketing once the auction goes live will be vital.

Parish Wander Sunday July 11th 2020 – posters now in circulation

15. Precept

Consider Precept for 2021/22 – a start was made. Clerk to contact GMS for a grass cutting price during 2021

16. Advertising Policy update What role the PC has with regard to what can and cannot be advertised in the parish.

Cllr DJ Taylor requested at the August meeting. This has fallen off the radar and should be considered in 2021.

17. AOB

a) Clerk attended a ZOOM 8/12/2020, 2- hour briefing entitled Clerks Election Briefing ran by Stephen Rickitt, lasted just one hour. The process will begin in January. Even a none-contested election will require all the standing Councillors to complete an application form have it proposed by a member of the parish and seconded and include the relevant Electoral roll numbers. Clerk will be able to request a copy of the 2020 Electoral Roll for this purpose. All signatures will have to be wet signatures. The whole 17 pages then must be delivered by hand to an office in Hexham, during April - as yet not identified. Election day will include County Councillors and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Apparently, PC's will be expected to pay a percentage of the Polling Station costs. Purdah was discussed and the need to postpone early May meetings, editorials in magazines or public meetings when staffing and the way forward can-not be officially known until the elections results are announced.

2017 elections were recorded as agenda item 13 from the minutes of 10/4/2017 for anyone interested.

b) Cllr IC Stevens had been asked for the PC password to access one of the NALC correspondence emails. The PC thought this must have been a glitch as asking for Password was not normal. Cllr Stevens to invent his own and report back.

18. Date of January 2021 meeting: Monday January 11th.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 21.31.