

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council, Monday February 14th 2022
At 6.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Public Participation. (see agenda 8g 10/1/22 minutes) Mark Jennings with a report on Slaley Welcomes (meetings Thursday 3/2/22 & 10/2/22). Mark Snowdon, Michael Darrington & David Innes. The chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and gave the floor to Mr. Jennings. Slaley Welcomes is a Government Scheme with support from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, which allows a vulnerable family to settle in the UK. Initial Slaley meeting 40 people interested, second meeting over 50 attended and pledged their support. Through 'Just Giving' have raised £6,000 of the £9,000 needed during first week. Refugees come in all shapes and sizes, the ideas being to match the family with the area on offer. Legal sponsor is 'Citizen UK', a network of volunteers is needed to support the family for a two-year period to get a family onto their feet. Translation, Transport, Accommodation, Welfare, Schooling, Safeguarding, Employment all need to be addressed – lots of back-up is important. Leaflet drop in Slaley & Hexhamshire. Big Hurdle is finding suitable accommodation. Mr Snowdon: Immediate positive response to the idea from people at the meetings. Mr. Innes: Sceptical about the project, from a family that tried to settled in Wick. Mark Jennings has allayed these concerns. Mr. Darrington: Refugees need help and support from many professionals. I have geographical concerns about rural areas. Hexham would be a better location, walk to shops, doctors, education, employment, transport, entertainment etc. A cost/benefit analysis was mentioned. The PC Chairman suggested Pros & Cons of Slaley v Hexham may be a good exercise. Mr. Jennings concluded that the application process is intense, Slaley Welcomes has to show that they can provide a vulnerable family with a springboard into a life in the UK. Cllr I C Stevens asked about the funding if the application was unsuccessful? It would go towards Citizen UK to help a family settle elsewhere. Cllr D J Taylor asked what the group expected from Slaley Parish Council. Mr. Jennings said that information via the parish website would be beneficial. Cllr S C Douglas said that she would be able to add a new heading and post anything they needed. This ended public participation and the four men were thanked for their attendance.

2. Apologies. County Councillor Colin Horncastle.

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

3. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record. None

4. Minutes of January 10th 2022 meeting (circulated pages 1587 – 1590), appendix 1, page 1591, appendix 2, page 1592, appendix 3, page 1593 & appendix 3, page 1594. 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) Email response from Cllr I C Stevens: Agenda item 3** agree, agenda item 10 agree, agenda item 19e agree, agenda item 19f agree to a 6.30 p.m. start for February meeting.
- b) 5b 10/1/22: Cllr J. Storey, Slaley PC Clerk & Kevin Weatherley met at Slaley defibrillator to check the battery. A sample check sheet was given to both men and the battery was showing no signs of power loss. It was agreed that the First Aid instructor be asked to have a look at the machine and the cabinet when he is at Slaley on April 7th.

6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.

Invitation to NCC Climate Change Q&A ZOOM event on Wednesday 19/1/22 – No one attended.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) Update Glen Crossroads – Highways Area manager reported that NCC’s Legal Team were looking at our concerns together with the Highways Programme Team.
- b) Update on reducing village speed to 20 mph. – No update
- c) The holly bushes at Hollybush corner cut down by contractors employed by NCC. Clerk asked for an explanation of how this had happened when the bushes are part of our local history and had been well established in 1715. There is a plaque on the roadside explaining their history with the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion. Email sent to Glen Harrison, CC Colin Horncastle, Guy Opperman MP. Local people are annoyed about the damage. Colin Jewitt has offered to help clear the site of the ivy and try to encourage new holly growth from the original root stock, there needs to be substantial ground clearance. An email arrived from Glen Harrison 4 p.m. NCC had no knowledge of the trees’ protection or the information plaque. Future management of the trees to be looked into. Cllrs J. Storey, I. C Stevens & S C Douglas volunteered to give support at a working party to try and find new growth from original root stock. PC Clerk to contact highways.
- d) Complaint 29/1/22 from family on the Wooley Road that a footpath was blocked by an electric fence. Clerk replied immediately and contacted farmer who said fence had been placed by his shepherd it would be moved away from footpath and signs would be attached at both ends. Family reported 4/2/22 that electric fence had been moved but no signs were attached. Clerk emailed farmer to ask that signs were placed on electric fence and to let the PC know when this happened.
- e) Community playground Weekly Inspector not having a DBS certificate – School has stopped the inspections. Letter to be sent to Cllr G. Sanderson, Leader of NCC asking for a copy of the Policy for the Employment of Playground Inspectors. (*see also agenda item 14*)
- f) The 30-mph sign at Townfoot, Slaley Village, is turning in strong winds making the 30-mph facing the drivers as they leave, rather than as they enter. This is the fourth time it has happened, Storm Arwen in November, then Malick and Corrie two weeks ago and again last night. Members of the public have been climbing onto the wall and turning the sign the correct way. Clerk thinks something must have worked loose and asked Highways to inspect.

8. Correspondence.

Hard copies:

Clerk & Councils Direct February issue.

Northumberland Citizens Advice letter and poster for volunteer opportunities

Email

- a) 11/1/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- b) 12/1/22: NALC Enews includes petition to allow digital meetings
- c) 14/1/22: NCC Climate Change Programme Team – next Q&A event
- d) 18/1/22: RSN Rural Bulletin – rural-urban divide pandemic rebuild plans
- e) 18/1/22: NCC Storm Arwen Review Task & Finish Group- Letter & 5-page review
- f) 18/1/22: Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Fund, £70,000 allocated – PC’s can apply
- g) 20/1/22: NALC Enews
- h) 20/1/22: Lesley Tweddell - NHS Improving Access Survey
- i) 20/1/22: Forestry Commission Area update: Yorkshire and North East
- j) 25/1/22: RSN Rural bulletin
- k) 25/1/22: Alison Peaden - follow up information from Library Briefing
- l) 26/1/22: NALC Member Update includes digital meetings
- m) 27/1/22: Tim Hakim - Healthwatch Northumberland
- n) 28/1/22: NALC Enews
- o) 31/1/22:NCC Communications Storm Malik update.
- p) 2/2/22: RSN (special Edition) APPG Rural Health and Care report.
- q) 3/2/22: RSN Funding Digest
- r) 4/2/22: CAN Enews (11-pages) Northumberland’s solar powered village halls project
- s) 8/2/22: RSN Rural Bulletin – levelling up white paper

- t) 8/2/22: Alison Peaden – Northumberland Libraries – Reading for Wellbeing
- u) 8/2/22: NHS Northumbria Healthcare update
- v) 9/2/22: NALC Enews
- w) 10/2/22: Forestry commission Ecological surveys for woodland creation
- x) 10/2/22: NCC Climate Change Newsletter February issue

9. Financial Report.

- a) January payroll paperwork
- b) Invoices received & paid since January meeting
Problem with School payment incorrect account number – payment in/out, in/out and finally paid
Wel Medical replacement defib pads £64,26
- c) Invoices to be paid
123 Reg £14.39 has to be paid by credit card, attempted to make a bank payment and failed. Melanie Cant paid on our behalf then reimbursement made to Melanie. Melanie suggested we add to the Rocketspark which we can pay by bank transfer. Cllr S C Douglas arranged for the Domain to be transferred to Rocketspark with a £12 one-off payment. This was agreed

10. Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.

- a) PC Letter emailed to 23 separate parish organisations, on January 24th, asking for any plans they had to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee event. A general request was also printed in February's Slaley News. Letter attached as **appendix 1/140222, page 1600**
Ladycross NR planting an oak tree
Slaley WI would like to see a self-catering event – thought best at school or R&C. Take a parish photograph at a set time. Maybe afternoon tea at Hall. Maybe parish royal scarecrow trail.
Slaley R&C think it is a great opportunity for a parish event.
FOSS: Paint 70 stones around the school grounds. Also thought of a Scarecrow Festival.
Church: Flower displays in Church + Local artist to exhibit paintings of flowers and gardens.
It was agreed that a second letter be emailed together with a general article for Slaley News giving a deadline of March 14th. After which time a general group should be established to oversee all the suggestions.
- b) NCC allocated £70,000 to non-profit making voluntary groups **anything we want?**
- c) Jubilee Mugs samples emailed Central Design Ceramics. Cllr D J Taylor does not like commemorative mugs
- d) Jubilee Bench from Fabrications North East. All the Councillors liked the idea of a Jubilee bench (or two) – one at the Commemoration Hall and one elsewhere in the parish.

11. New Planning Applications.

22/00321/FUL: Single storey side extension at rear providing utility room. Deneside, Wooley, Hexham.

NE46 1TY. Applicant Sophie Betts. **No objections.**

21/04771/FUL & 21/04772 LBC: Construction of a garden room, replacement staircase, internal alterations to partitions and walls to ensuete bathrooms and kitchen. Repairs to existing windows and installing secondary glazing. Refurbishment of barn to form fitness room, den and utility room. Re-slating the roofs, repairing floors, stalling rooflights and new stairs. Shield Hall, NE46 1TU. Applicant Gary Hall. **Pending**

21/03782/FUL: Conversion of outbuilding to guest accommodation, East Ridley Hall, Strothers Bank Slaley. Applicants Mr & Mrs Paul Spencer. **Pending**

21/02682/OUT: Resubmission: Outline application for development of up to 3 detached dwellings (all matters reserved) Land west of Rose Cottage, Wooley Road, Hexham, Applicant Mr. A. Garvey. **Pending.** *

*checking on line there are some objections to this application

Decisions from planning

21/02633/FUL: Proposed extension of existing farmhouse into adjacent barn. Woodnook Hill Farm, U8080. NE47 0BW. **Granted.**

21/03241/FUL: Extension of existing garage to provide additional workshop space, store and garage with ancillary self-contained residential annexe accommodation above. Wooley Lodge, Wooley, NE46 1TY. Applicant Geoff Jackson. **Refused**

21/04867/LBC: Re-slating the existing roofs, using salvaged natural slates. Shield Hall (although included in the applications below a stand-alone application for re-slating could save planning delays. **Granted**

12. Social Media Report - Cllr I C Stevens & Slaley Web Page Report - Councillor S.C. Douglas.

Clerk sent an email 5/2/22 after a telephone conversation with the WI treasurer about Slaley PC having a village Facebook allowing other people to post events and news, keeping it free from “nasty” postings and updating as required. Clerk suggested that this should be offered elsewhere as PC was two Councillors down. Clerk explained that the PC web site was very up-to-date - She said no-one looked at web sites anymore people wanted instant news on social media. Cllr J. Storey explained further from the WI point of view. Cllr D J Taylor said she would make contact and explain the PC’s Facebook.

13. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix attached as appendix2/140222, page 1601.

a) The monthly NEAS check list to be completed by Cllr Storey ready for the Clerk to email. The date on the pads in the Defib is November 2023 and date on replacement pads 2024-10. * The new pads were given to the R&C manager to replace and she was asked to dispose of the February 2022 unused pads in the machine.

c) First Aid Training by NEAS was agreed for Thursday April 7th – still vacant places.

14. Update games/play area within school grounds.

a) Correspondence re Weekly Inspector not having a DBS certificate – School has stopped the inspections. CC Colin Horncastle was asked to look into this – no update. Clerk request to ask to see NCC policy about public playground inspectors’ background checks.

b) School roof solar panels damaged during one of the recent storms, panels removed Saturday 12/2/22 and the roof below found to be spongy. Headteacher closed the grounds to the public and asked NCC for an inspection property services. Closure placed on web site and a notice on school gate. No danger to the public reported 14/2/22 after a safety check.

15. Parish Council Vacancies

Any interest IN THE VACANCIES? Two people have semi expressed an interest to Cllr J. Storey.

16. Neighbourhood Plan

At the February PC meeting Sir Michael Darrington volunteered to join the group.

Cllr S C Douglas confirmed they had the funding to begin and the first meeting was February 17th

17. Slaley Parish Plan: Action Plan; Annual Speeding Review.

In February 2021 Cllr D.J. Taylor reported the training has been suspended for new recruits & Cllr S Carson thought the Townhead speed activate unit was faulty. There has been no further news on training and a replacement camera was put on hold due partly to the 20 mph roll out. Cllr D J Taylor agreed to make contact with a member of Northumbria Police.

18. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr DJ Taylor.

Agreed minutes from November 17th 2021 attached as **appendix 3/140222, page 1602.**

Hall bookings are good as tonight’s double booking confirmed. Builders are due to start on second room mid-April, (three weeks later than planned). The hourly rate has been increased by £2 to cover the massive increase in gas and electricity charges. The refurbished paintings are being returned from the Laing Art Gallery on Thursday. Comedy Play on Friday March 4th will record the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian’s Wall

19. AOB

a) Vicky Norton from Northumbria police – a new department for all social groups and offer help for groups or individuals – hexham.npt@northumbria.pnn.police.uk It was agreed that the Clerk make contact and see if PC Norton would be interested in meeting the PC.

b) The Chairman for the March meeting will be Cllr D J Taylor

20. Date for March 2022 meeting:

Monday March 14th

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.