

Because of the Coronavirus a meeting of Slaley Parish Council on Monday February 8th 2021 was administered by ZOOM video connection.

1. Public Participation. None

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.

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 5b

4. Minutes of January 11th 2021 meeting (circulated pages 1504 – 1507), appendix 1, page 1508, appendix 2, page 1509 & appendix 3, page 1510. The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr. D. J. Taylor and seconded by Cllr S. Carson. All the Councillors present at the meeting agreed that the Clerk should sign the minutes.

5. Matters Arising.

a) 5a 11/1/21; 5a & 14/12/20: Transfer of Community Trust funds. Several emails between the PC Chairman and the CT Secretary resulted from the PC's request to know why there would be no AGM, what had happened to the CT funds and the future of the Trust. A synopsis was emailed to all members of the Council by the Chairman on January 18th. The future of the CT was also discussed at the reconvened Steering Group meeting (see also agenda item 17). Several people offered at, or after, the meeting to take part in making a virtual meeting quorate. Cllr SC Douglas explained that a CT could be run by a Parish Council as a totally independent part of the Council/Meeting with its own bank account and agenda. Two Councillors were in favour of walking away and starting a new organization. The Clerk felt that starting a new organization during a Pandemic would be difficult and time consuming when the vehicle already exists - all it needs in the short term is a new Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. It was agreed that Cllr A.M. Livesey would telephone the CT Secretary and ask if a meeting could be held online to appoint a new committee. Cllr AM Livesey to report back to the Councillors and if needed a short ZOOM meeting to discuss the outcome.

b) 5b 11/1/21; 5a 14/12/20; 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. Notices have been placed on telegraph poles alerting people that new poles are to be fitted, two between Burnside Cottage and Woodnook Hill junction. Andy Colbourne in correspondence with Gillian Cowell. The group is still waiting for a revised quotation.

c) 8c (Telephone call) 11/1/21: Footpath 12 – contact was made with landowner 12/1/21 and the correct story was reported of an RTA on October 25th – no registration details of the vehicles were available for the police. Clerk contacted Footpaths Officers 12/1/21 and asked as the landowners were front line hospital workers could the County repair. The fencing was repaired and a usable gate onto the Lead Road was fitted. The complainant sent a thank you email on January 23rd.

6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.

The cost of Five Fruit trees to be planted at Parks Side as Phase-one of our Community Orchard has been awarded by Karbon Homes. However, KH wished to pay the money into the bank account of a recognised organisation. Slaley Parish Council was chosen. The grant acceptance form was completed by SPC Clerk and returned. £150.50 will be paid into the SPC bank account. Clerk confirmed the money was received on February 5th. The fruit trees have also arrived and currently stored at Hollybush. Cllr J Storey offered young horse chestnut trees to the group.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

a) Update Glen Crossroads apparently since 11/1/21 Mr. McCarthy has /has not consulted with Neil Snowdon/ Mr. Murrell– no update.

- b) Update on reducing village speed to 20 mph – no update
- c) Cllr J. Storey reported flooding on Lead Road north of Woodnook Hill to Glen crossroads 21/1/21. Case reference No 101006980560. Highways Manager Glen Harrison replied by email 25/1/21 that a gully wagon was in area and would inspect the drain. Cllr J Storey said there was still a problem after recent heavy rain – he has been told by local farmer that the Openreach work several years ago caused the underground obstruction.
- d) A new ‘give way’ sign at Townhead is ordered and acknowledged by GH at Highways.
- e) Despite the gully sucker being out in Slaley village 25/1/21 part of the village drain network is still blocked Cllr S Carson said water came to the surface around Hillfield entrance and over the drain at the Old Barn which remains blocked.
- f) Cllr S.Carson was asked if the reply from Highways regarding his safety concerns at Dipton Cut was satisfactory. Cllr S Carson reported that he had received the same reply as in March last year.
- g) Cllr AM Livesey asked why the Police & Crime Commissioner election detail envelopes containing a return SAE were sent in triplicate to individuals in the same household – this was not good use of public money.
- h) Cllr AM Livesey remarked that one of the concerns coming out of the reconvened Action Plan meeting was the lack of public transport for young people to get home after taking part in after school activities.
- i) The Councillors were given an indication of the County Council budget for 2021/22. Council tax would rise. Hexham long-stay car parking was discussed and the anticipated highway deterioration due to flooding, frost and frequent snow falls.
- j) The County Councillor recommended that we continue to contact Glen Harrison or Andy Olive when we have highway problems and not go through the recommended email for service improvement as detailed by email on November 20th 2020 (*agenda item 8k December 14th 2020 minutes*).

8. Correspondence.

Telephone call:

Hard copies:

Northumberland Citizens Advice asking for a Donation to CA Northumberland – leaving no bank details for a direct payment. Considering we sent a donation in November a hand written posted copy seems an old fashioned, totally inappropriate, waste of money during a Pandemic.

Email

- a) 12/1/21: RSN Rural Bulletin.
- b) 12/1/21: Forestry Commission Y&NE Stakeholder update webinar information.
- c) 13/1/21: NALC Member Update
- d) 14/1/21: NALC Enews
- e) 14/1/21: NALC Coronavirus updates (this represents all throughout the month)
- f) 14/1/21: GNAA January 2021 news
- g) 15/1/21: Online Arthritis Support for parish residents. NE & Y.
- h) 15/1/21: NALC Member update
- i) 18/1/21: NCC Private Sector Housing Strategy for Northumberland consultation 18 Jan – 14 Feb Councillors to read and report at meeting any comments to be considered as part of the final strategy development. There were no suggestions proposed.
- j) 18/1/21: NCC - Local Elections Arrangements.
- k) 19/1/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- l) 20/1/21: NALC Enews
- m) 20/1/21: Healthwatch Northumberland – get ready for your Covid-19 Vaccination.
- n) 20/1/21: Cllr I Stevens (Slaley PC) asked about notices from 8m above being placed into our notice board. A reply was emailed from PC Clerk that anyone can place information, however, PC business takes priority.
- o) 22/1/21: CAN Village Halls Week - on line FREE ZOOM events
- p) 21/1/21: NALC Enews
- q) 25/1/21: NHS Stakeholder Update
- r) 26/1/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- s) 27/1/21: NALC Enews
- t) 27/1/21: NCC Contact details for monitoring officer now email only. monitoringofficer@northumberland.gov.uk
- u) 28/1/21: John Harris offering his website of Fantastic Walks in Northumberland. Forwarded to Slaley News.

- v) 29/1/21: Beadnell Parish Council requested information on Slaley's playground arrangements, cost of insurance, weekly inspections etc. Slaley PC Clerk replied and was thanked by Beadnell's PC Clerk.
- w) 1/2/21: Rape Crisis Tyneside & Northumberland training on line.
- x) 2/2/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- y) 3/2/21: RSN Funding Bulletin
- z) 4/2/21: Healthwatch Northumberland Research Project.
- aa) 5/2/21: CAN Enews
- ab) 5/2/21: NALC – statement on Handforth PC meeting going viral
- ac) 8/2/21: NALC Member Update

9. Financial Report.

- a) TP Jones & Co LLP. Employers Summary January 2021
- b) Invoices received & paid since January meeting
123 Reg Domain name £14.39 Paid by Melanie Cant and repaid by bank transfer.
- c) Invoices to be paid
Hollybush Nursery £101.00 for fruit trees – paid on line.
- d) Income received-grant from Karbon Homes for 5 fruit trees £150. 50.

10. New Planning Applications.

21/00115/FUL: Erection of conservatory to the rear. Park View, Slaley. NE47 0BQ. Application Mr. C. Oakley.
No objections

20/03995/VARYCO: Variation of condition 2 pursuant to planning permission 20/00227/FUL in order to substitute new plans and elevations Peel Flatt, Slaley. NE47 0DL. Mr & Mrs Saunders. **Pending** * Cllr A.M. Livesey received emails from the applicant questioning the PC comments and asking if they could be withdrawn. Cllr Livesey replied by email explaining the reasoning behind the decision made to the planning application.

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.**

20/04251/FUL: Although not in Slaley parish, this application in Corbridge parish, does affect all of Slaley who travel to Hexham and Corbridge by the B6306.

Demolition of existing sawmill buildings and development of 2no residential dwellings including studio and garage, car parking, private garden areas, and other ancillary works.

The area currently used as the reclamation area is not included but the office where he operates from is.

It seems that they intend to use the present entrance on the corner of the historic holly bushes. Slaley Councillors asked that a letter be sent asking that the local business of Hollybush Nursery & Café together with support staff housing is protected especially with the proposed shared access off the B6306.

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

An online meeting between Cllrs AM Livesey, D.T. Taylor & I.C. Stevens to discuss Facebook is arranged. Cllr SC Douglas is continually updating the web site.

12. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix 1/090221 page 1515

Cllr J. Storey reported he had carried out the weekly inspections and that the Defib was working as expected. The monthly check list was emailed by the Clerk to NEAS. Cllr J. Storey checked the pads and the date is February 2022. Cllr J Storey asked about the cabinet upgrade. Clerk to ask NEAS.

13. Update games/play area within school grounds.

January inspection sheets received and emailed to Headteacher with a copy to Cllr IC Stevens.

14. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr DJ Taylor.

Update of Management Committee meeting held on January 20th 2021. Cllr DJ Taylor reported the grant applications, success of some. NCC support while the Hall is unused. Current fundraising SCH 200 club – people still able to purchase numbers. Silent Auction – looking for unusual lots – Cllr SC Douglas explained “experience lots” guided walks; travel to North-east holiday travel destinations etc.

Copy of approved minutes from November 2020 **attached as appendix 2/080221, page 1516**

15. Slaley Parish Plan; Action Plan – Annual Speeding Review

a) Cllr D.J. Taylor reported that approximately 90% of drivers are within the 30mph through the village, the remaining drivers often drive between 40-45 mph. Unfortunately, the training has been suspended for new recruits.

Cllr S Carson thought the Townhead speed activate unit was only working intermittently. The Clerk only saw it flashing when vehicles were speeding. Cllr S Carson to look and see if there is any dirt on the workings.

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 2020 meeting. In January 2021 the Councillors agreed to look on line and suggest alterations to Cllr S C Douglas who will report at meeting. No suggested improvements were made.

17. Slaley Parish Plan; Action Plan; Updating the Template Meeting.

a) new draft template circulated by email - **attached as appendix 3/080221, page 1517**

b) Steering Group Discussion held on 4/2/21 – Notes & Action Plan draft template tabled. Several new parish improvements were highlighted and will need to be considered either by the PC, through a sub-committee or lead by individuals. Karl Beckett has volunteered to organise an online survey for teenagers to take forwards their forum type meeting. Karl would also like to be involved in a business support network. And has asked to make contact with Cllr A.M. Livesey.

PC Clerk asked Cllr IC Stevens about mental health and social wellbeing in the parish – is there something as a PC we should be considering? Cllr Stevens explained that there is **no form of signposting** for people who may need help. Notices on the PC notice board, on the parish web site (Cllr SC Douglas to work with Cllr IC Stevens on that). Also, a simple article for the Slaley News - Cllr IC Stevens to write that.

Meanwhile Cllr A M Livesey is a trained Police and Crime Commissioner's Champion for Domestic Abuse and Violence. Angela, Annie and Ani were given as examples: Clerk got examples on line see below.

More over 65s are encouraged to 'Ask Annie' for help - it is an integrated mobility service.

Meanwhile if you go to a pharmacy counter and ask for "Ani" you will be taken to a safe space where you can be put in touch with the Police.

Alternatively, if you in a bar, or similar environment and ask for Angela you are saying you are under threat of sexual assault or in an uncomfortable situation.

c) Slaley News editor, Jim Bailey, has indicated his wish for any new groups to use the News platform to keep people informed.

18. AOB

a) PC Clerk asked (agenda item 18b October 12th 2020 minutes) if the PC insurance could be used to cover the Parish Wander in 2021. UK-Stackhouse (Came and Co) have replied with many concerns about hosting the event during the Pandemic. Fortunately, the event has been postponed until summer 2022. A thank to Mark Alexander has been sent by email.

b) Slaley PC Clerk had a telephone call 8/2/21 from the driver of the Mobile Post Office who was due at Slaley - for his own safety he had decided not to come to Slaley in the snow. He was told that the roads were clear and the gritter and plough has been out regularly. Unfortunately, he could not be persuaded to change his mind. He hoped to be back on Wednesday and had left a message with Dorothy Bell at Parks Side. Councillors were annoyed about this because the traffic was moving freely.

c) Cllr IC Stevens reported that the brackets were rusted onto the small dog waste bin post and could not be removed without damaging the whole bin. Cllr J Storey thought he may have a bracket cutter which would work.

19. Date of March 2021 meeting: Monday March 8th. – Apologies from both Cllrs AM Livesey & DJ Taylor for this meeting – we will change to either March 1st or 15th to be determined when instructions for May elections are received. There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.52 p.m.