

# Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on Monday January 10th 2022 by ZOOM

## 1. Public Participation.

## 2. Apologies. Councillor I. C. Stevens.

**Present:** Councillor S. C. Douglas as Chairman. Councillors J. Storey & D. J. Taylor & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor Colin Horncastle.

## 3. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record. None

\* Because there were only three Councillors present no decision could be made unless Cllr I C Stevens confirmed his comments by email to the Clerk.

\*\* During the changing Chairman rota, it was suggested that the Councillor who was chairing the monthly meeting should be Chairman during the month of that meeting. Three Councillors agree to this. **Cllr I C Stevens be asked for his comment.**

**4. Minutes of December 13th 2021 meeting (circulated pages 1579 – 1583), appendix 1, page 1584, appendix 2, page 1585 & appendix 3, page 1586.** The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr D. J. Taylor and seconded by Cllr J. Storey. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Clerk.

## 5. Matters Arising.

a) Tree removal grant to Slaley School - thank you email from the Headteacher.

b) Defibrillator battery enquiry. The defibrillator was purchased 2015, by 2018 we needed a new battery £167.94), moving on to 2021 (another 3 years) and Cllr J Storey thinks there may be a problem. *See agenda 13.* Clerk & Cllr J. Storey to meet at Defibrillator and check.

## 6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.

No update.

## 7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

a) Update Glen Crossroads – design stage Cllr S C Douglas asked if we could be given a date when the proposed design was ready for inspection and comment.

b) Update on reducing village speed to 20 mph. – Cllr S C Douglas asked if we could be given a date when the speed reduction was likely.

c) The Parish Councillors were warned about having a ZOOM meeting when it has not been recommended by Central Government. We are simply working from home as recommended was the reply. *See 8k.*

d) NCC budget - no service cuts. 2% increase plus a further 1% is the highest increase without an enquiry.

e) Local Plan passed by the Inspector it will soon be in use. All planning applications will be considered from the same set of Policies (apart from individual local policies in NPs)

## 8. Correspondence.

### Hard copies:

Clerk & Councils Direct January issue

### Email

a) 14/12/21: RSN Rural Bulletin

b) 16/12/21: NALC Enews

c) 17/12/21: NALC Member Update

d) 17/12/21: NCC Community Chest Scheme next deadline 14/1/22

e) 22/12/21: Yorkshire & Northeast Forestry Commission – Storm Arwen Update

f) 30/12/21: Guy Opperman -Storm Arwen public meetings- Cllr S C Douglas posted on the web & Clerk circulated to those know to have been without power and asked to inform neighbours without-email.

g) 31/12/21: Clerk informed the Councillors of an invitation to a as yet unknown date or venue meeting, called by Trudie Jennings to offer accommodation to a refugee family. Cllr S C Douglas reminded Clerk of CC Colin Horncastle's comments on housing families near facilities and back-up. No further news.

- h) 5/1/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- i) 5/1/22: NALC includes survey asking if PCs happy with communication with NCC. Clerk to ask if Cllr I C Stevens completed, if not Cllr S C Douglas volunteered to do so.
- j) 6/1/22: RSN Funding Bulletin
- k) 7/1/22: NALC Enews 7/1/22 – contains information on permitted digital meetings.
- l) 10/1/22: West Northumberland VCS network meeting by ZOOMN 27/1/22 at 10 a.m.

### 9. Financial Report.

- a) January payroll paperwork received from TP Jones
- b) Invoices received & paid since November meeting. None
- c) Invoices to be paid  
TP Jones & Co: payroll preparation October – December £46.80  
Fire Aid Training £683.00 (once bank details have been confirmed)  
Replace February 22 Defibrillator pads
- d) Income & Expenditure at January 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 attached as **appendix 1/100122, page 1591**

### 10. Precept for 2022/23 final draft attached as appendix 2 /100122, page 1592

Cllr S C Douglas proposed that Councillors start to discuss the Precept at their June meeting rather than November. Three Councillors agree to this. **Cllr I C Stevens be asked for his comment.**

### 11. Planning Applications.

**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. **No objections**

**21/04771/FUL & 21/04772 LBC:** Construction of a garden room, replacement staircase, internal alterations to partitions and walls to ensue 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. **No objections**

\* Cllr IC Stevens received an email 17/11/21 from Emperor Developments about a Housing Needs Assessment for Slaley. Update from Cllr IC Stevens.

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

**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. **Pending**

**21/02633/FUL:** Proposed extension of existing farmhouse into adjacent barn. Woodnook Hill Farm, U8080. NE47 0BW. Councillors emailed comments by August 5<sup>th</sup>. **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

**21/03340/FUL:** Extensions to the rear, including removal of existing porch/conservatory. The Coach House, East Woodfoot. Applicants Mr & Mrs Allanson. – **Granted**

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

Cllr D J Taylor reported improved access for parish Facebook account. Cllr S C Douglas said web interest was slow.

### 13. Defibrillator Update – Monthly check list attached as appendix attached as appendix 3/100122, page 1593.

- a) The monthly NEAS check list was completed by Cllr Storey and emailed to Clerk. The date on the pads in the Defib is February 2022 and date on replacement pads 2023-11.
- c) First Aid Training by NEAS was agreed for Thursday April 7<sup>th</sup>
- d) The orange/red light on the cabinet window may indicate temperatures below 5C. Clerk and Cllr S. Storey to meet at Machine and go through some tests.

### 14. Update games/play area within school grounds.

- a) Weekly inspection reports received for December and forwarded to school.

b) At this point Linda Gaines, an NCC Education Officer, joined the meeting to give some background to the question of schools having to pay to have their unhealthy trees removed rather than the County Council. In 1988 the Education Reform Act gave a budget to schools, money delegated to a formula to cover budget headings and this includes grounds maintenance which in turn would cover the safety of trees around the school. The budget issues are covered by the Governing body which is split into sub-committees of which there is a Finance Committee. It is the role of the Finance Committee to allocate necessary funding to each budget headings. In emergencies like the position Slaley found itself in with the unexpected removal of unhealthy trees, schools would normally turn to their PTA to fund the unbudgeted costs. Linda was thanked for her time.

## 15. Parish Council Vacancies

No interest IN THE VACANCIES?

Resend the 'Vacancy Poem' written in December to Cllr S C Douglas and give a copy for the February Slaley News.

## 16. Neighbourhood Plan

a) Neighbourhood Planning Update issue 7 December 2021 circulated by email

b) Interest in joining a Steering Group appeared on page 4 of November Slaley News and again on page 6 of the double December/January issue. The request has also appeared twice in Slaley Notes on November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 23<sup>rd</sup>. CC Colin Horncastle has agreed to be Executive Consultant. Cllr S C Douglas presented a draft Steering Group Personnel Graph and said she was drafting a questionnaire to go out in the February Slaley News. Cllr J Storey was asked if he would be manager responsible for co-ordinating resilience. CC C Horncastle suggested appointing a planning consultant because a NP was all about planning policies not technical issues. Stakeholders from the parish were needed to join the Councillors in a Steering Group. Cllr J. Storey was asking if he would approach people to join the group during February, his month as Chairman.

c) Cllr S C Douglas emailed PC members 29/12/21 asking for permission to bid for funding to start process of developing a NP. The three remaining Councillors agreed this by email.

## 17. Slaley Parish Plan; Action Plan - January 2022 update

Draft circulated and attached as appendix 4/100122, page 1594.

There was a discussion about changes to the holiday timeshare accommodation at Slaley Hall (as recorded in 'K') Cllr D J Taylor suspected that if further timeshare properties were built, as agreed in the 1990's, any new timeshare building could cause some concern with residents of 'owned' properties on the estate.

## 18. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr DJ Taylor.

Next management meeting January 19<sup>th</sup>

Next Artisan Market Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup>

New Key Safe fitted. Spate of children's parties booked. Concern over projected power costs.

## 19. AOB

a) Large branch wind-blown from Townfoot garden lying at corner with Riding Mill road reported to highways 3/1/22 and on the Police web site (Reference number: TUS2200103017) then when it started to snow telephoned the Police on 999. Police telephoned 17.00 hours lost in village, talked them down and they found the branch. Moved onto grass and highway eventually removed the branch on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>.

b) Another posting of "Hi Neighbour" was received by hard copy through the mail delivery. Offering a free app. The letter asked the recipient to download an app and enter a code. Clerk was contacted and asked about this. **Last received October 2018 see minutes of October 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 agenda item 8b (correspondence).** After discussion it was agreed that the **PC could say that it was an American company and nothing to do with the Parish Council.**

c) The second Parish Wander will take place on Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>. this will also celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth 11. Slaley School is taking part with an art exhibition.

d) The Clerk asked "Does the Parish Council wish to mark the Platinum Jubilee event in some way? e.g. by providing each child at the school a commemorative mug or coin or providing a number of 'Queen Elizabeth Roses' to be planted at various parish points? Cllr S C Douglas suggested each child being given a tree to plant as part of the Queen's woodland project, or possibly one central tree somewhere known as the Platinum Tree.

Where this tree could be planted was asked. Clerk explained the village trees planted to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897.

e) Cllr D J Taylor wondered if a combined event celebrating Queen Elizabeth's 70 years on the throne, 1900 years of Hadrian's Wall and the Commemoration Hall's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary was possible? Cllr D J Taylor asked what the role of the Parish Council was in these events? Commemorative mugs were "old hat". Cllr J. Storey humorously felt that a 'royal game' for the X-box would be more appreciated today. What were other parish organisations doing?

**2012 Diamond Jubilee** - The Community Trust organized Shared Afternoon Tea with fancy dress and Best Hat competition on school grounds. Evening BBQ at R&C. Three-day Flower Festival at St. Mary's with strawberry teas.

**2002 Golden Jubilee** – Two-day history exhibition in Hall + refreshments. Saturday - Community Picnic followed by BBQ. Sunday - St. Mary's jubilee Service. Slaley Parish Council presentation of Mugs for children during picnic on Saturday and exhibition at Hall on Sunday. Slaley PC paid £422 from China Cave at Newcastle for the China Mugs.

**The Platinum Jubilee parish celebration and/or memorial to be placed on the February agenda.** Three Councillors agree to this. **Cllr I C Stevens be asked for his comment.**

f) Cllr I C Stevens has asked by email if the date of the February meeting could be altered. An alternative time was proposed rather than change the preferred date.

**20. Date for February 2022 meeting:**

Monday February 14<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 21.27