

Because of the Coronavirus a meeting of Slaley Parish Council on Monday January 11th 2021 was administered by ZOOM video connection.

1. Public Participation.

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 December 14th 2020 meeting (circulated pages 1498 – 1501), appendix 1, page 1502 & appendix 2, page 1503. The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr. J. Storey and seconded by Cllr. S. C. Douglas. All the Councillors present at the meeting agreed that the Clerk should sign the minutes.

5. Matters Arising.

a) 1 14/12/20: CT Secretary emailed PC Councillors at 23.39 hours, on 14/12/20 with a copy of CT shop public meeting minutes 3/8/16; CT Fundraising meeting minutes 27/4/2015; CT AGM minutes 21/11/2013 + Slaley News article ‘*Your village needs you*’ from 2015. PC clerk forwarded an email to the CT Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary detailing what had been agreed at the December PC meeting and requesting that an AGM was held as a matter of urgency, the letter included the Dissolution details from the 2005 Constitution. CT Secretary (DA) followed this on 15/12/2020 to PC Chairman & Clerk only with an overview of the 2019/2020 accounts with a request for a copy of the full Constitution. The full Constitution was emailed. Cllr SC Douglas offered to advertise the AGM in the notes and the web site. Cllr Douglas received an email reply on 22.12.20 informing her that “*we don’t think it is feasible to hold a CT AGM in current circumstances within the timescale nominated by the bank. Consequently, we are seeking alternative arrangements to those proposed to the PC to safeguard the CT’s funds for the future benefit of residents of the parish*”. The Councillors to request an update and ask specifically what has happened to the funds.

b) 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. Update from Gillian Cowell 18/12/20 – Openreach still working on quote, the system pulled addresses from other exchanges need to be removed manually. On holiday until 4/1/2021. CC C Horncastle gave Clerk B4RN (Broadband for Rural Northumberland) contact details to pass on. B4RN successful connected the Allen Valleys. Mike Robinson 01434 685592 & 07973 228465. These details were emailed to Andy Colbourne.

6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.

The group met via ZOOM on January 6th when the main topic for discussion was Recycling. Cllr DJ Taylor reported that the group had criticism with NCCs recycling programme when compared to other northern regions (Durham, Cumbria & Scotland) and intended joining the January online Forum led by Glen Sanderson. Gill & Andy Haydon of Slaley Community Shop are very active with recycle – printer ink cartridges will be recycled with GNAA and a quarterly collection with the Tetras Cycle will see everyday items like toothpaste tubes, crisp packets etc. being recycled.

An update on the cost of a used wheel bin for Trygill entrance into Slaley Forest has been requested from Adam Keen at NCC.

Craig Lonsdale of Karbon Homes has agreed to the five fruit trees being planted at Parks Side and KH will cover the cost although they wish the payment to be made directly to Slaley PC.

Cllr SC Douglas asked if the PC had any objections with recycling information being placed on the web site – there were none.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) Update Glen Crossroads – NCC manager Robin McCarthy discussed with Glen Harrison and intends to have a face to face with Mr. Murrell. Clerk gave contact details to CC Colin Horncastle.
- b) Update on reducing village speed to 20 mph. No update – Officers only returned to work after Christmas holidays.
- c) Cllr J Storey emailed a photograph of 2 white vans in Slaley forest thought to contain off roading quads or motorcycles. Photograph forwarded to Police who attended the scene and enforced the COVID restrictions.
- d) Cllr S Carson asked about the high visibility markers, he would like to see them reintroduced into our new tarmac, he feels they are necessary to keep traffic on the right side of the highway.
- e) Cllr S Carson reported strangers arriving by car and sledging in the fields around the village (2 cars of 2 adults and 2 children each = 8 humans in total). Police 101 were telephoned caller advised to report on line, this was done. Police arrived and spoke with the two families. CC C. Horncastle reported a similar incident in Catton the families skiing in Catton, lived in Newcastle – they received a fine.

8. Correspondence.

Telephone call:

- a) 15/12/20: Keith Dyson at Church Close reported the public footpath sign broken off at ground level. Reported to Neil Dawson and his colleague Tim Fish collected 15/12/20.
- b) Jill Lumley asked if dog bin could be moved along wall and the style onto the footpath removed? Clerk recommended this was NOT undertaken. John Mullholland requested that the small dog waste bin was removed. **Question** do the Councillors think this smaller bin could be repositioned at Trygill entrance to Slaley Forest (see agenda item 6 14/12/20). Cllr IC Stevens confirmed he and several other people use the style, it was agreed that the style was a much safer option into the field than agricultural gates. Cllr IC Stevens offered to remove the small dog bin. Clerk would collect and see if it was a better idea for Trygill.
- c) Footpath 12 is blocked onto the Lead Road by a tied-up gate – apparently a road traffic accident was responsible for damaging the style and fencing – the hole made stockproof by fixing an un-opening gate. Clerk emailed and telephoned landowner asking if footpaths officer had been informed – No reply at time of meeting. Cllr J. Storey said the damage had been done about 10 days previously. Cllr SC Douglas reminded meeting that the family were front line workers and would be working long days fighting the virus. Wait 48 hours before speaking to footpaths’ officers.

Hard copies:

- a) The Doonans were walking on Boxing Day when they encountered 15/20 people with guns and dogs from the Dukesfield, Boxing Day shoot. They were not socially distanced and asked if this is currently allowed. Cllr AM Livesey thought that the new restrictions for outside sports like golf and shooting did not come into force until much later in December.
- b) Clerks & Councils Direct January 2021

Email

- a) 15/12/20: Northumbria Healthcare Stakeholder Update – COVID-19
- b) 15/12/20: RSN Rural Bulletin
- c) 15/12/20: NALC Enews
- d) 15/12/20: Streetworks. TTRO Eastgate, Hexham.
- e) 16/12/20: NALC Member update
- f) 17/12/20: NALC Member update – elections May 6th
- g) 17/12/20: NALC Update Postage increase - Letter 1st 85p, 2nd 66p
- h) 23/12/20: RSN Rural Bulletin
- i) 4/1/21: NHS Stakeholder Update
- j) 5/1/21: NALC Coronavirus updates
- k) 6/1/21: RSN Funding Digest
- l) 7/1/21: NALC Member Update
- m) 7/1/21: Streetworks TTRO West Road/Peth Head Link, Hexham
- n) 11/1/21: Northumbria Healthcare Stakeholder Update – COVID-19
- o) 11/1/21: ZOOM meeting 21/1/21 at 11 a.m. West Food Partnership also sent to Environment Group.
- p) 11/1/21: Iain Hedley NCC. Webinar 21/1/21 9/30 – 11 a.m.

9. Financial Report.

a) TP Jones & Co LLP. Employers Summary January 2021

b Invoices received & paid since December meeting

Thank You for printing Slaley News (see agenda 9e 14/12/20) £14.95 from Slaley Community Shop repaid to Slaley PC Clerk * Slaley News Editors thanked the PC for recognition of the printer's generosity in producing the News free and gratis and confirmed that the printing is dealt with directly by the owner of the company and the transaction is sanctioned and provided by him personally. A request was made for Uplifting content for the February issue the Editors feel the need for something happy.

TP Jones & Co LLP payroll preparation October - December 2020 £46.80

c) Invoices to be paid - 123 Reg renewal £14.39 sent to Cllr SC Douglas

d) The VAT claim for 2019/20 of £605.93 has been received.

10. New Planning Applications.

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. Cllr AM Livesey emailed some comments 17/12/20 and the Clerk provided PC background to the two previous planning applications. Comments were requested by 5/1/21. The Councillors acknowledged the rejection of the two-storey initial planning application and the reasons for the rejection from both officers and neighbours. The amended single-storey application of July 2020 which was granted. Taking consideration of the concerns of neighbours and the planning officers' decision on the single storey extension the Councillors object to the development of an attic first floor in this latest 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.

Decisions from Planning:

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

Granted

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

a) Cllr J Storey emailed a report of barbed wire across a Forest track 22/12/20. Clerk telephoned V(H)J for more information. It appears the report was several days old and had been reported to the Police although no action had been taken. PC Clerk emailed FC manager and NCC, Rights of Way officers' David Brookes & Neil Dawson. Richard Gilchrist the FC Slaley forest manager emailed back and said he had attended an incident on Lord Allendale's land several days before the PC's report. Cllr CM Livesey email V(H)J 23/12/20 and asked for a link to the Facebook where these reports are being recorded – this has now been tracked down and Cllr AM Livesey receives posts as they are circulated. It is mainly used to explain what is happening with the Pyramid of Care, the Shop and the Rose & Crown.

12. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix 1/110121, page 1508

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.

13. Update games/play area within school grounds.

a) December weekly inspections received and forward to school & Cllr IC Stevens. Cllr S. Carson suggested that the play area should be closed to children at weekends. Cllr IC Stevens confirmed the School had no plans to prohibit young people from using the school grounds over the weekends. Cllr A.M. Livesey suggested the PC take guidance from the Government – if and when playgrounds are closed then the PC will follow the guidance.

14. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr DJ Taylor.

Cllr DJ Taylor reported that the Hall remained closed for general use. Grant applications for Phase Two were ongoing and the County Councillor confirmed he would expect further funding requests. Parish fund-raising continues with the SCH 200 club, the April Silent Auction and the July Parish Wander.

15. Precept attached as appendix 2/110121, page 1509.

Agree Precept for 2021/22. After a private discussion the Clerk's salary was increased by £228.

Cllr J Storey suggested a grant to the farming community – Clerk researched RABI, CFN, NFU Farming Help & Addington Fund – contacted Baynes family for advice. Suggested talking to Hexham NFU. Cllr J. Storey also suggested Whitley Chapel Young Farmers Club. It was generally agreed that £100 would be allocated for something related to farming.

It was agreed to keep the precept at £12,762

The £240 allocated to cover meeting costs has not been used in this financial year when the Council has met by ZOOM. It was agreed to allocate the money to the Commemoration Hall towards general expenditure – insurance etc.

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. Cllr SC Douglas has posted a draft and a link on the website. The Councillors will look and report to enable Cllr SC Douglas to create a new Policy for discussion in February.

17. Slaley Parish Plan; Action Plan January 2021 Update. Attached as appendix 3/110121, page 1510.

The Action Plan template was last updated July 17th 2017, before that 2012 & 2008 and several headings are no longer relevant – Methodist Chapel, Community Trust, Solar scheme at Low House, Youth Club, School consultation in West Northumberland. The Clerk suggested it would be a good idea to have a meeting and update the template. The Councillors were asked if they wished to continue supporting the Parish Plan of 2004. Generally, they felt that the actions focused decisions taken by the Council and Cllr AM Livesey though it gave a joined-up approach which was important for the parish to move forward. Cllr AM Livesey said she would be happy to represent the PC on a Parish Plan Action Plan Template review meeting?

18. AOB

a) Cllr S Carson proposed we should have a litter bin at the Millennium Seat at Townhead. PC Clerk explained the Glasdon Litter Bin provided in January 2005 (cost £172.57). The metal pole remains at the site. The wind blew the lid off and the bin filled with water eventually being removed when no longer fit for purpose. Cllr S. Carson said he was prepared to empty if the bin was replaced. Clerk to circulate some designs for consideration.

b) Cllr S Carson asked if a replacement Give Way sign could be ordered for Townhead. He has washed the current one but the reflective coating has worn off. Clerk to order.

c) Cllr IC Stevens asked why the PC notice board is empty apart from old curled business cards? COVID-19 is the answer normally the Notice board is full of posters. The Clerk said there should be a PC Poster in. Yes, but can we put something in like the Wander asked Cllr IC Stevens? Cllr SD Douglas to provide a Recycling poster. Cllr DJ Taylor had ideas and the Clerk to provide a Wander poster.

19. Date of February 2021 meeting: Monday February 8th.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 21.11 hours