

**Because of the Coronavirus a meeting of Slaley Parish Council on Monday  
June 8th 2020 at 7.30 p.m. was administered by  
ZOOM video connection.**

**1. Public Participation.** None requested to take part.

**2. Apologies. Taking part were:** Councillor R.W.H. Hutchinson as Chairman. Councillors S. Carson, S. C. Douglas, A.M. Livesey, J. Storey, D. J. Taylor & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor C Horncastle 8 p.m. – 8.20 p.m.

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

**4. Minutes of May 11th 2020 meeting (circulated pages 1447 – 1450). Appendix 1, page 1451.**

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr. A.M. Livesey 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) 7d 11/5/20, Coal Road/ South Drive into Slaley Hall – obstructions have been removed.

**6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.**

a) Further meetings have been cancelled until restrictions are lifted due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

b) Cllr D.J. Taylor reported on information gathered on an electric charging point for possible positioning at the Commemoration Hall. Cost in the region of £5,000 to install with regular maintenance costs. Grants of £350 towards installation are available. Although NCC are looking to install several FOC they are looking at tourist attractions like Blanchland. The idea was discussed, why is it needed? Already one at the Rose & Crown, is a second of benefit to anyone? This is something that the Environmental group can discuss when they next meet.

**7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor**

a) Fly Tipping on U8078 reported to NCC Highways 29/5/20 & acknowledged to be uplifted by Forest England. Also reported by Cllr J. Storey 7/6/20 with a photograph. Cllr J Storey asked about a rescheduled litter pick – the general opinion was that the grass verges were currently too long and could pose a Health and Safety risk.

b) A request from Healey Cllr J. Smith for the meeting with road safety officer Neil Snowdon to be rescheduled – Clerk sent email request 1/6/20. Cllr J. Storey also requested a meeting. Cllr D.J. Taylor reported a near miss on Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> as she drove home north to south and a vehicle pulled out from the east Lead Road unable to see her approaching. Cllr J Storey offered to email a third request.

c) Further report from a Wooley resident regarding lamping in early hours of 8/6/20. Cllr A.M. Livesey reported to Northumbria Police. Police reply indicating 2 proactive operations organized in the area.

d) CC C Horncastle reported that lamping is not a problem in the Allendale/Catton area probably because of the very active gamekeepers. NCC grants during COVID-19 restrictions have been much appreciated by the people of Northumberland.

e) Cllr S. Carson queried the resurfacing work from Linnels bridge, Linnels farm or Linnels bank top (all have been reported) to Wooley road junction – Why (when Dipton Cut was resurfaced after the drain repair in the bottom during 2018) was this section due a resurface when the road between Slaley Townhead and Wooley had many patches and pothole repairs? CC Horncastle said that resurfacing was officer led - repairs met a criteria and could be instigated when a road “*failed the friction test*”, he would however ask the question.

f) NCC’S local planning committee are not meeting. Most planning applications are being delegated to planning officers for determination, there is a massive backlog of applications. Only very large applications are being considered via video meetings. Slaley Councillors questioned the Risks associated with this

process – was proper scrutiny being given to the applications. CC Horncastle replied that the normal consultations were still taking place.

## **8. Correspondence.**

**Hard copies.** CPRE Newsletter

### **Emails:**

- aa) NALC coronavirus updates throughout the month
- a) 12/5/20: RSN Rural Bulletin
- b) 12/5/20: NALC Enews
- c) 13/5/20: NALC Enews
- d) 13/5/20: NALC extends deadline on dementia research
- e) 14/5/20: NHS Northumbria Healthcare Stakeholder update
- f) 15/5/20: CAN re-opening village hall – guidance
- g) 19/5/20: RSN Rural Bulletin
- h) 20/5/20: NCC Local services – reopening car parks
- i) 21/5/20: NALC Enews
- j) 22/5/20: CAN- National Innovation Centre for Rural Enterprise launched
- k) 26/5/20: Streetworks TTRO Cow lane Corbridge 12 months Miller Homes development
- l) 26/5/20: NALC Enews
- m) 27/5/20: RSN Rural Bulletin
- n) 28/5/20: NALC Member Update
- o) 29/5/20: CAN – Help for unemployed in rural Northumberland.
- p) 1/6/20: GNAA Update
- q) 2/6/20: RSN Rural Bulletin

## **9. Financial Report.**

- a) TP Jones & Co LLP. Employers Summary May 2020
- b) Invoices received from Slaley First School re Playdale improvements. £1,357.23 as agreed 13c February 10th minutes. School paid £7,326.67. Clerk needs to establish if the payment is to be made to Slaley School or the LEA or Playdale. The payment was agreed by the Councillors.
- c) Lloyds On-line banking: Authentication card arrived and the ordered third Pin.
- d) PKF Littlejohn re external audit (AGAR). Emailed the electronic copy and a message came back saying wet signatures were required, hard copies posted to Chairman with a SAE back to Clerk to be scanned and resent.
- e) Confirmation of the dates of the period for the Exercise of Public Rights: Mon 15/6/20 – Fri 24/7/20. This can be undertaken in Lawn House garden if warm and sunny or in the Summer House if wet. – all social distancing undertaken
- f) Insurance Email confirmation from Came & Co circulated 29/5/20

## **10. New Planning Applications.**

No new applications, however Slaley Community Shop contacted the PC in the spirit of co-operation to establish its local reaction to the removal of a wooden building and a garden shed to be replaced with something similar – as yet no formal planning application. The Councillors did not see anything particularly wrong but advised that the Shop management should take advice from a planning officer before proceeding. Comments have been made about the banner Community Shop sign currently tied on the front of the building – apparently the former sign was rotten and the Councillors assumed the banner was temporary.

**18/01524/LISTED:** Alleged breach Solar Panels have been installed to the South face of the converted garage roof of the building Church View, Slaley Applicant Mr. S. Best. 6-week appeal 23/3/20 **Pending**  
**20/00227/FUL:** Construction of two storey side extension. Peel Flatt House, Slaley NE47 0DL. Applicant Mr. & Mrs. Saunders. **Pending**

**Decisions from Planning:** None

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

Facebook page is linked to the Rose & Crown, Cllr AM Livesey reported that recent changes have been made. Having a separate Facebook page was discussed – the outcome was that people would not read two. Cllr S C Douglas said there was very little traffic to the website despite the updates of wildlife photographs and work at the Commemoration Hall. Cllr D J Taylor who is currently producing a monthly quiz in the Slaley News suggested a July quiz based on information on the website – that should get people looking and was considered a good idea.

### **12. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix 1/080620, page 1456.**

Cllr J. Storey has reported that he has carried out the weekly inspections and that the Defib is working as expected. The monthly NEAS check list completed by Cllr Storey was emailed by the Clerk.

### **13. Update games/play area within school grounds.**

a) Playdale installed replacement equipment during May – see PC contribution 9b above  
b) Email from headteacher 20/5/20 detailing first phase of reopening the First School from June 1st.  
c) Email 21/5/20 from DH Neighbourhood Services re restart play & sport equipment weekly inspections. Clerk circulated to Councillors and consulted with DB, Slaley Headteacher. It was agreed that the weekly inspections should resume with the school receiving an alert on day or inspection before access by inspector is undertaken. Even though the equipment is closed to the public Slaley PC still has a duty of care.

### **14. Slaley Parish Plan Annual Dog Fouling Review**

2019 & early part of 2020 recorded some progress with educating the public to take responsibility for the waste produced by their dog/pet. Slaley Community Shop has a supply of green waste bags and the First School children had a visit from a member of NCC staff, who explained about taking care of pets. Cllr D J Taylor had walked down the village recently and was aware of a small number of heaps. Cllr S Carson also reported that the manicured entrance into High Clear House often sported a dog's calling card despite the dog waste bin being a few yards further down the lane. Cllr D.J Taylor suggested standing outside Slaley Community Shop and handing out the green waste bags to people walking with dogs. PC Clerk suggested a FREE green waste bag inside each July issue of Slaley News asking residents to "*Please be considerate when walking your dog in the village*" and either use the bag or hand it to a neighbour who does have a dog. Cllr D.J. Taylor said there were several bags of dog waste in the Commemoration Hall bin and wondered why that was used rather than the bin at Swang lane end.

### **15. Slaley Parish Plan Annual Heritage Review.**

Updated report attached as appendix 2/080620, page 1457. There were no additions or comments to the draft.

### **16. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr DJ Taylor**

a) Attached the approved minutes from March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting attached as appendix 3/080620, page 1458.  
b) Email circulated 4/6/2020 with an update plan for new toilets in line with COVID-19 restrictions – infra red taps x 5 = £950. The Trustees decided against WC sensors due to high maintenance costs. Environmentally friendly heating boiler £616 extra. The Councillors agreed to cover the additional £950 for the infra-red taps however, they were keen to support solar thermal panels which would supply hot water and this would have an impact on the type of boiler the Hall installed. Cllr D.J. Taylor to check with KD the project manager.  
c) Cllr D.J. Taylor explained that all the grants obtained so far are for Phase 1 (toilet and storage areas) Fundraising for Phase 2 begins this week with scheduled Zoom meetings and several fundraising ideas being prepared.

### **17. AOB**

- a) Resident from South Farm Cottage telephoned PC Clerk and asked why the village grass outside South Farm was not being cut as per previous years. Clerk contact GMS who have re-added to their list
- b) Any activity at Townfoot Caravan Park during the COVID-19 restrictions was queried. Cllr R.W.H. Hutchinson reminded the Councillors that it was private land and out of the Council remit. The occupancy regulations of Springhouse Caravan Park were requested. The Clerk explained that the park was open 11 months of the year, closed during February. Springhouse had drainage, water, electricity, an office, shop and a live-in grounds-man for the 99 caravans on the site – there are also private dwellings on the road between the U8078 and the caravan park.

**18. Date of July 2020 meeting:** Monday July 13th would in all probability be via Zoom again it was unlikely that the Commemoration Hall would be ready for meetings by then even if the COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed.

There being no further business the Zoom meeting ended at 20.50.