

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council, Monday 11th March 2019  
at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall

**1. Public Participation.**

**Andy Dean of Community Action Northumberland** presented an up-to-date Housing Needs Survey. The 2004 HNS undertaken by Rural Housing Enabler, Monica Burns, for the Parish Council was out of date. Government grants to undertake HNS were explained as was recent surveys and the data which was extracted from them. An HNS may not address what is needed in a parish for example the survey goes to individual houses not to businesses (like Slaley Hall Hotel and Golf Course, Lord Crewe Arms Hotel (Blanchland) Healey Barnes Wedding Venue and Healey Hall accommodation for 32 people (Healey) Close House Nursing Home (Whitley Chapel) where people might be working and wish to live more locally. Therefore, it would be important to have drop in sessions and speak to people at the various business premises to see if staff were looking for homes. Response to an HNS is always better when targeted locally. Different sections of a current HNS survey were looked at – if the answer is No to question 5 that would be the answer needed to trigger a local affordable housing planning application. Q11 meanwhile relies upon data from the NCC homefinder – the majority of people looking for an affordable home in Slaley are not registered with homefinder therefore the data is unreliable. We were shown the analysed report from the surveys and one in particular showed the vast majority of people needed a two-bedroomed bungalow – indicating an aging population wanting to downsize. The cost without a Government grant to produce an HNS would be £3,500 undertaken by CAN. Once completed the information from an HNS rapidly goes out of date and is valid for little longer than twelve - eighteen months. As in 2004 when the Parish Council worked with Vicky Law the present Councillors were advised to include a Local Lettings Policy in the 106 agreement of any planning permission.

Reaston View's seven affordable houses was led by Slaley Parish Council. Two Castles was the chosen Social Landlord and once filled there have been no changes to the seven houses because the residents all have a close connection to the parish. Andy was thanked for his presentation and he offered CAN to undertake Slaley's HNS if the Parish Council wished to take it any further.

The Councillors agreed that an HNS would help the Parish Council to see if houses were needed therefore the PC has an interest in getting it done and it should support a **small donation** towards the costs. Cllr S.C. Douglas felt that she and her husband could do the analysis without any great problem and the Councillors present generally felt that a local HNS with drop in sessions from the business community would provide a more balanced idea of need. The decision was made to discuss again with a full council and to try and establish if further affordable houses were likely to be applied for.

**2.Apologies.** Councillors D. J. Taylor & A. M. Livesey.

**Present:** Councillor R.W.H. Hutchinson in the Chair. Councillors S. Carson, S. C. Douglas, & J. Storey. Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor Colin Horncastle. Public:

**3.Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.** Councillor R.W.H. Hutchinson for agenda item 14.

**4. Minutes of February 11th 2019 meeting (pages 1356 – 1359 and appendix 1 page 1360).** The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr. S. C. Douglas and seconded by Cllr S. Carson. The minutes were then signed and dated.

## **5.Matters Arising.**

- a) 11/2/19: Bog Hall Burn pollution – Cllr RWH Hutchinson contacted the Environment Agency regarding these reports. Cllr Hutchinson was told that they had been logged as a minor incident and not to take any further action. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr J. Storey would request a site visit every time a complaint was made, this should be backed up with photographs and other evidence. Cllr Storey's partner has registered with the Tyne Rivers Trust and will use the Bog Hall Burn as part of her project.
- b) 15/2/19: Cllr J. Storey signed the Acceptance of Office and provide the Register of Members interests.

## **6. Community Trust Update.** No Update.

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

- a) Clerk email fly tipping in Slaley Forest 25/2/19 - Reply collect Friday 1/3/19
- b) Further fly tipping on Wooley road U8089 reported by Cllr A.M. Livesey. Paul Turnbull Environmental Enforcement Officer confirmed uplifting these items.
- c) Northumbria Police email 25/2/19 – nuisance motorcycles & 4x4s – day of action request for volunteers. Cllr J. Storey volunteered. Hexhamshire damage photographs received and forward to NP. Email report from NP a total of 20 vehicles were stopped and two males were issued with a warning regarding defective number plates. Clerk was leading a walk at Nature Reserve and reported a very quiet Sunday afternoon compared to normal. Cllr Storey had been stationed at Trygill entrance and reported that the BBC and recorded part of the day's activities and the result would be broadcast on BBC 1 during September.
- d) Cllr J. Storey requested replacement hotel signs/ traffic calming from east at Slaley Hall entrance. Replacement Wooley road sign also needed.

## **8.Correspondence.**

**Hard copies** Winter Services leaflets 24 leaflets received late February with a postage of £2.72 – Clerk to express that this is not a good use of reduced NCC funding; Clerks & Councils Direct March; LCR catalogue; Healthwatch Northumberland - Annual Survey 2019 letter and poster.

### **Emails:**

- a) 13/2/19: NALC Enews
- b) 16/2/19: Northumberland Pride -letter integration of LGBT into rural communities two Councillors think that a small donation would be appropriate. Clerk to find grants policy and circulate.
- c) 19/2/19: RSN Rural Bulletin 19th
- d) 25/2/19: Streetworks TTRO West Road/ Leazes Cres, Hexham
- e) 26/2/19: RSN Rural Bulletin 26<sup>th</sup>
- f) 26/2/19: Streetworks TTRO Barley Lodge to Barley Hill Jcn
- g) 28/2/19: Northumberland & Newcastle Society and CPRE NE representations on the draft NLP.
- h) 28/2/19: CAN Northumberland Village Halls Heritage Project – your views wanted
- i) 5/3/19: RSN Rural Bulletin
- j) 5/3/19: NCC Tynedale Local Area meeting 12/3/19 at Hexham House.
- k) 5/3/19: Endurance Rally, Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> , 105 Vintage cars leaving Slaley Hall Hotel for Hexham Filling Station from 7 a.m. over a two-hour period.
- l) 6/3/19: RSN Monthly Bulletin & Funding Digest

- m) 6/3/19: NALC Member Update – Hacking
- n) 6/3/19: NALC Enews 6/3/19
- o) 6/3/19: N&N Society, Jackie Salmon more on wind turbines and the local development plan.
- p) 7/3/19: NALC Training – LG Ombudsman team, Social media, village greens etc.
- q) 6/3/19: Streetworks TTRO Collingwood Drive Hexham
- r) 11/3/19: Streetworks TTRO Swallowship Hill Jcn to Dipton House Jcn.
- s) 11/3/19: Ageing Well event 12/4/19 Wentworth Leisure Centre – sent to Carol Ferguson & Commemoration Hall Management Committee to see if they want a stall at the event.

## **9. Financial Report.**

- a) Real Time Information: TP Jones & Co LLP. Employers Summary February 2019
- b) Cheques to be signed – None
- c) Lloyds bank signatory form has now been updated successfully.
- d) Lloyds bank statement February has not been received.

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

**19/00733/LBC:** Listed Building Consent: Replace a mezzanine baustrade with a partition wall. Old Farm, East Woodfoot, Slaley. Applicant Mrs Beliz Sewart. **No objections**

**19/00505/FUL:** Proposed two storey rear extension, 3 Agricultural Cottages, Hillcrest, Slaley. Applicant Mr. & Mrs Douglas. **Object to a double storey extension as it causes loss of light and overshadowing to the adjoining semidetached property.**

**19/00174/FUL:** Proposed replacement of existing timber stable block with new timber block on different footprint. Land south west of Peel Flatt Hose. Applicant Mr & Mrs Bell.

**Pending.**

**18/01622/VARYCO:** Town Foot Caravan Park. Further alterations and amendments.

**Pending**

**Decisions from Planning:** None

## **11. Slaley Web Page Report from Cllr Livesey.**

- a) Email from web page via Cllr A.M. Livesey 23/2/19 from Derek Canning LLB (HONS) asking who deals with Data Protection Act. Clerk replied to Mr. Canning 25/2/19 – no further correspondence.
- b) Cllr S.C. Douglas been working with Melanie Cant on the new Slaley Show web page and several out-of-date or incorrect items of information identified on the Slaley web page. Cllr Douglas confirmed with Cllr A.M. Livesey that she would work with Melanie to update where necessary.
- c) The loss of the Slaley News printing contract was discussed with Cllr S C Douglas wondering if a mail chimp circulation would be of benefit? The storage of personal emails for the mail chimp circulation was questioned. Clerk to contact Jim Bailey to ask about alternative printing costs because the Parish Council would consider paying more than they have been paying for such an important parish asset.

## **12. Defibrillator Update**

Mr. N. Green reported that he had carried out the weekly inspections and that the Defib is working as expected.

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

- a) Inspections sheets 1- 5 emailed to school and acknowledged.

b) New windows and door being fitted during Easter Holidays - School recommends that public access is stopped during the holidays. Northumbria Police Lee Davison confirmed that unless the area was fenced off the area needs to be closed for the duration of works. Clerk to ask the school if there is any chance the field could be kept open with the works fenced off. However, because of child protection the Councillors reluctantly agreed that the grounds would best be closed to the community while workmen were on site. It is the School's responsibility to tell the public. The new Councillors were made aware of the Community Agreement. Renewed every year and circulated with the Slaley News.

#### **14. Slaley Community PV Project**

- a) Email from TEC 17/2/19: RCEF final report & Infratec Ltd technical report
- b) Email from Cllr Hutchinson 19/2/19: incorrect field has been used for the PV array.
- c) Letter from TEC dated 19/2/19 re Incorrect Site identification for RCEF PV Project Feasibility Study
- d) Email from TEC 25/2/19 asking what response to letter – statement for WRAP
- e) Clerk replied by email 25/2/19 that the Councillors would like a statement for WRAP
- f) Email from TEC saying that WRAP have asked for something from the PC confirming that they are happy with the outcome and that an email saying the issue has been discussed and the PC is happy with the resolution. WRAP have also asked that something is added to the RCEF report TEC to add a brief appendix.
- g) Email from Pam Golding at WRAP asking for an end of project report with copy invoices, cheques, bank statements etc. Cllr RWH Hutchinson and the Clerk agree a reply.

**15. Annual Asset & Investment Register- accepted and attached as appendix 1/110319, page 1365.**

**16. Annual Risk Assessment - accepted and attached as appendix 2/110319, page 1366.**

#### **17. AOB**

- a) Litter around Slaley Hall entrance Cllr J. Storey to report ( email reply from Cllr Taylor saying she will discuss with SH management when the PC Littler Pick is organized)
- b) Mobile Post Office no service Wednesday 6/3/19. A member of the public is proposing that the batteries were losing power one month before the breakdown and that Stocksfield Post Office did not act on that information. They are asking if the PC can complain. Clerk to telephone martin at Stocksfield for an update.
- c) New Councillor Training – Clerk to ask Steven Rickitt.
- d) Clearance of a copse of trees and groundworks for three new houses, west of Slaley House, caused a lot of mud on the road. A complaint was made to the contractors by a near neighbor and the road was cleaned. Cllr RWH Hutchinson to have a word with the builder.

**18. Date of April 2019 meeting: Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.