

Slaley Commemoration Hall Management Committee

Minutes of Slaley Commemoration Hall Management Committee on Wednesday March 16th 2022
in Slaley Commemoration Hall at 7.30 p.m.

1. Apologies Helen Savage. **Present** Rosaleen Doonan, Stella Douglas, Michael Elphick, Carol Ferguson, Catherine Myers, Margaret Rowell, Janeen Smith, Ian Stevens, Debra Taylor & Pat Wilson. The Chairman reported the sad death on Saturday February 19th 2022 of Bobby Johnson, long-time supporter of Slaley Commemoration Hall. The committee held a minute's silence in memory of Bobby. Catherine Myers was welcomed to her first meeting.

2. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday January 19th 2022, attached as pages 105 - 108 with appendix 1, page 109, appendix 2, page 110 & appendix 3, page 111. The minutes were proposed as a true record by Stella Douglas and seconded by Carol Ferguson the minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising.

a) The **Paintings of Charles Samuel and Agnes Mona Hunting** refurbished by staff at the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle, were returned and rehung in Slaley Commemoration Hall on Friday 18th February 2022. Thanks go to Trustee, Debra Taylor who got the grant for the work, arranged for their collection from the Hall, visited the Laing, made decisions about the refurbishment and replacement glass. Arranged for their transportation home and rehung-inside the Hall. Thanks to Debra we have a photographic history of the paintings being taken down, inside the Laing and being returned. Ana Flynn from the Laing has agreed to give a talk about the restoration on 26/9/22 at the History group. Letter from Richard Hunting congratulating and offering members of the Hunting family to join our 100-year celebration. Surplus grant money can be used for Ana's travel expenses in September and a copy of the unfolded, full-length paintings.

b) 12 19/1/22: **Finance & Reserve's Policy** Deferred from January. SD explained how the COIF funds could replace the F&R Policy. It was agreed to close the F&R Policy.

c) 16b 19/1/22: Painting brought to January market for a three-month display at Hall was declined, although it was displayed throughout the market inside the foyer.

4. Correspondence

20/1/22: Ann Wright emailed to say outside lights had been left on. Not seen during laylight sunshine.

21/1/22: CAN Village Hall week 24-30 January

24/1/22: CAN 'Do Something Different Celebration' on line 2 p.m. PW attended

17/2/22: PW emailed information on Strawberry Banners suggesting we need something similar for the quarterly Artisan Markets. Slaley PC paid for 2 banners & 1 feather flag January 2019 £388.80. SD to email Market logo and ask for prices

21/2/22: SCH secretary asked if anyone had made a grant application towards new curtains to the Community Chest (email to committee of 21/12/21 gave suggestion). CF found the grants application process very difficult to navigate through.

4/3/22: WNCBC Bulletin Energy-CAN Scheme etc.

8/3/22: Sarah Hallberg – COVID Briefing (last for the moment)

5. Financial Report – SD (attached as appendix 1/160322), page 116

a) 19/2/22: RD emailed Trustees to inform them that the sub-committee had looked at the price increase for electricity and gas with the result that the hourly rate had been increased by £2 per hour from March 1st 2022. Price had gone up by £1,000 this equates to £20 per week or £84 extra each month. The hourly rates will be reviewed once the second meeting room is completed.

b) NCC Omicron Hospitality and leisure Grant – SD successfully awarded £2,667.

c) The attached Financial Report was explained and questions answered

6. Bookings Report - SD

- a) Email 18/2/22: Hexham Book Festival wanting to hire chairs June 10-19th. The 2018 hire charge remains at 40p per chair on the web site. Not heard back if the chairs are needed.
- b) Email 24/2/22: Sub Committee raised the hourly charge by £2 from March 1st
- c) Reminder: full day First Aid Course includes how to use a defibrillator Thursday April 7th 2022. 1 place left.

7. Emergency Welfare Hub (also known as Emergency Rest Centres *see CAN email of 10/12/21*)

Solar powered Community buildings ZOOM meeting on Wednesday 16/2/22 at 2 p.m. attended by RD, DT, PW, HS & SD. Liz Gray from Rural Design Centre emailed a link to the session 17/2/22. CAN offer is too futuristic SCH is looking for something now. There are no capital grants for generators or help with solar panels, storage batteries etc. SD thought a short-term solution was needed where basic warmth and somewhere to boil a kettle or pan could be offered. CF and MR spoke of isolation outside the village where people did not know that the village had regained power and water. RD thought a Parish Council led “Tree of Help” should overcome the uncertainties.

8. Phase Two of Centenary Improvements

SCH officials and Kevin Doonan had a meeting 14th February at 11 a.m. when a price increase for the stone was advised. We agreed to go with the revised price of £116,030.04. Builders are expected to begin April 25th. They will bring their own welfare facilities and the hall should function as normal. The committee acknowledged that because of world-wide fuel shortages due to the Russia invasion of Ukraine causing the massive increase in transport costs there would be a knock-on effect to our final invoice.

9. Caretakers Report – ICS (attached as appendix 2/160322), page 117.

- 20/1/22: Caretaker emailed photographs of toilet flooring – this concern added to the snagging list.
- b) Caretaker’s report – NDAS posters destroyed in removal process. PW to contact NDAS and question who stuck to toilet doors without permission. Whilst everyone agreed the content was important and inside a safe toilet was a good place to have this information a better system to display needs to be researched - DT to undertake.
- c) Green-indicator LED in emergency fire exit near The Den. PW to contact Electrician Albert Scott.

10. Building maintenance

- a) PW emailed committee 1/3/22 re cooker and a button missing from setting the timer. IS replied by email and gave a copy of his inset to ‘Using the Cooker manual’. ME (Film Club) replied by email do not use the timer. MR replied that cooker works without timer. RD tried to order the button part or service the cooker 9/3/22. RD asked when the cooker was purchased? Annual Report of May 2009 states the kitchen refurbishment was completed successfully. RD ordered two new cooker buttons from Belling and a full cooker clean by Hadrian.
- b) PW reported by email 3/3/22 all outside lights not working at Healey PC meeting 2/3/22: Caretaker mended. Thank You.
- c) Jon Storey reported the drain at the front door blocked during Bobby Johnson memorial tea 7/3/22 at 2.31p.m. PW contacted caretaker who again cleared (see report)
- d) 10c 19/1/22; 10f 17/11/21: Martin Kennedy, roofer, does intend to re-roof the north section of the toilet block. Martin quoted £1,170 to do the work (May 19th2021 minutes agenda item 8a(i)). He will also address the issue of the broken soffit board near the outside store. Pressure of work is to blame.
- e) PAT testing done 22/2/22 Kettle failed. RD bought new kettle at Hexham
- f) Slaley Show complaint form Internet not working (working day after when Caretaker tested – WiFi Instructions been removed from Wall – DT to replace) Heating took too long (see agenda 12 below). Acoustics are dreadful (committee asked if they had any ideas to address this -none other than to wait for the smaller room to be completed)

11. Fundraising Phase Two (attached as appendix 3/160322), page 118.

- a) Fourth Artisan Indoor Market on Wednesday April 27th. Kevin Doonan kindly offered to print A3 & A2 Market posters for the large signs at each end of the village. MR & CM were unable to help with teas at the April market.
- b) Fire and Dough mobile Pizza Van have confirmed the fourth Wednesday of each month during 2022
- c) Gone to the Wall performance March 4th of HW190 Celebrations. £484.51 profit. Thank you letters to Terry Douglas for sourcing recipe and ingredients for Beef Stew. Also, to CF for providing the Veggie Stew.
- d) 11c 19/1/22, 15b 17/11/21: Karen Melvin & Claudia Sacher have an exhibition at Gibside entitled 'Breath of my Garden' they also have a 'Large and Small' exhibition in London. They were asked if their 'Large and Small' exhibition could be displayed inside SCH over a weekend in Spring. First dates suggested in April not convenient. RD & PW met Karen via ZOOM to discuss. Second dates suggested Friday May 13th – Sunday May 15th are free on the web calendar. (see separate page). There were many questions about this event. Food and art in the same room being one. Outside marquees being another. Raffle and or tombola prizes being a third. Home cooked catering a fourth. There were no offers of help with catering over the three days of the event.
- e) Slaley Wander Sunday June 12th – Karen Melvin doing lots of different designs for newspaper adverts. RD & PW had a meeting with a taxi firm at 9 a.m. to discuss a shuttle service at the Wander. Insurance is proving slightly different from the 2016 event.

12. Heating in Hall.

PW emailed a request from RD on 1/3/22 asking how comfortable the Hall is once the heating has been running for 30 minutes and what the outside weather conditions are.

CF replied – chilly when open up at 9a.m. on a Monday.

ME replied that most people expect to be able to remove their outer clothing as they do at home. Jean is sensitive to the cold.

PW cold at Healey PC on Wed 2/3/22 – damp and cold outside. Radiators warmed up by 30 minutes but did not give out any heat to warm the air. Even PW kept coat on.

RD explained a HIVE system. Normally a joint water and heating remote aid. One person able to turn up heating remotely. British gas would need to come out and then a gas registered plumber would install.

PW spoken with Steve Moody Boiler Maintenance about this. Moody's will price a system up for us.

Moody's warned that the system needs people who are savvy with their mobile phone to activate it. IS has used HIVE in the past and said that the knob would still be able to adjust the temperature once inside the building. It was agreed that any new addition could wait until the new room was completed and be operational by late Autumn.

13. Northumberland Village Hall Heritage Project

Denis Lumley will begin again in June

14. How can the Hall be more environmentally aware / climate friendly?

This is work in progress – replacing cleaning products, light bulbs etc as needed

15. Queen Elizabeth 11 Platinum Jubilee

a) Slaley PC Letter emailed to 23 separate parish organisations, on January 24th, asking for any plans they had to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee event. A general request was also printed in February's Slaley News.

Ladycross NR planting an oak tree

Slaley WI would like to see a self-catering event – thought best at school or R&C. Take a parish photograph at a set time. Maybe afternoon tea at Hall. Maybe parish royal scarecrow trail.

Slaley R&C think it is a great opportunity for a parish event.

FOSS: Paint 70 stones around the school grounds. Also thought of a Scarecrow Festival.

Church: Flower displays in Church + Local artist to exhibit paintings of flowers and gardens.

NCC allocated £70,000 to non-profit making voluntary groups.

Slaley Parish Council: Jubilee Mugs samples emailed Central Design Ceramics.

Jubilee Bench from Fabrications North East. All the Councillors liked the idea of a Jubilee bench (or two) – one at the Commemoration Hall and one elsewhere in the parish.

b) A Second PC Letter sent to the 23 organisations asking for update by March 14th

Slaley Show: A Royal theme to the show and competitions.

Film Club: show a comedy film about Rex the Queen's Top Dog who ends up in a London dog's home.

Healey Parish Council considering an Installation of some kind. Iron artwork (Philip Hubbuck). Tree Sculpture A wooden 'something'. A kissing gate at a popular footpath entrance. Commemorative Mugs for children was also suggested. Hope that Healey residents could join in any Slaley celebration/party event.

St. Mary's Church: Flower displays in Church – ask local organisations to provide window displays + Local artists to exhibit paintings of flowers and gardens. Jubilee weekend and Wander Sunday.

Local History Group has agreed to provide a window display at St. Mary's for the Jubilee weekend.

A lengthy discussion about this agenda item followed. Many Trustees unhappy with the Parish Council's lack of leadership in organising a parish celebration. DT explained the funding the PC was offering. Article went live on the web site 'today' explaining the offer, ME had already completed the form requesting £50 to help with costs associating with showing a film about the Queen's Corgi. The open meeting on Saturday April 9th at 11 a.m. facilitated by Cllr Ian Stevens aimed to establish if there was a common theme where groups could work together. PW asked the meeting did the people of the parish actually want an event to encompass everyone? Hopefully the open meeting on 9/4/22 would answer that question. Some members of the management committee were unable to attend, therefore IS asked that their hopes and ideas for a community event be emailed to him so that they could be included in any discussion.

16. Any other business

a) Slaley Parish Council is considering the weekend of April 9th/10th for the Annual Litter Pick – could the litter be stored at the west wall of the commemoration Hall as usual? This was agreed.

b) Complaints about the smell from the dishwasher. DT thought it was probably not used sufficiently. PW to make a red sign on the door saying 'Keep dishwasher door open'.

c) RD asked if she purchase a new Union Jack – this was agreed.

d) MR asked about bunting was there still some in the cupboard? There was. Could Slaley Show borrow the bunting? This was agreed.

17. Maintenance Log Book – internal completion only.

Electric metre readings: 14512.8 & 8204.6

Page 1: Emergency Door outside the Den warped in frame – difficult to open and close – what action to take?

Outside door into outside storage area (former gents toilet) is functional – on snagging list

Page 3: Disabled toilet – only a short flush – action

Page 5: No sanitiser is toilet 5. The Den needs a tidy.

18. Date of 2022 meetings: May 18th (AGM); July 20th; September 21st; November 16th 2022

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.