

## **Because of the Coronavirus a meeting of Slaley Parish Council on Monday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 was administered by ZOOM video connection.**

Declaration of Acceptance of Office circulated by email for Signature - Councillors un-opposed at elections on May 6<sup>th</sup>. All Councillors verbally accepted and the declaration forms will be signed at the June meeting.

**1. Public Participation.** None.

**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.

**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 5a

**4. Minutes of April 12th 2021 meeting (circulated pages 1521 – 1523), appendix 1, page 1524 & appendix 2, page 1525.** 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) 5b 12/4/21; 5b 15/3/21; 5b 8/2/21; 5b 11/1/21; 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. Email 27/4/21 from Gillian Cowell asking if group made a decision about Openreach quote. AH replied 28/4/21 not in a position to go ahead. GC replied re top up voucher scheme plus offer to send out a mail shout to remaining addresses on list. AH accepted this as the way forward.
- b) Report from Litter Pick weekend of May 1st/2<sup>nd</sup>, 12 families signed the Risk Assessment and a bottle of wine was presented as the prize for the most unusual item collected – a bed pan. Cllr A.M. Livesey thought the Litter Pick worked better over two days and many more people took part without completing the Risk Assessment. A wayside Litter Wheelie Bin was proposed for the Dipton Cut layby (southbound carriageway of the B6306) This was generally accepted. Clerk to request a good second hand as ordered for Trygill.
- c) 8q 12/4/21: Tidy around the village parish seat and replacement litter bin (near the letter box). Pressure washed the area and seat. Weeded the path and edged the grass. Clerk asked highways about an official tractor turning sign – no reply received at meeting. **New litter bin to be agreed – Cllr J. Storey preferred a compass litter bin – details to be forwarded to Clerk.** Cllr S.C. Douglas proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs K.Stevens who helped Cllrs J Storey and I.C. Stevens – this was endorsed by all the Councillors. Loss of footpath by overgrown village grass was discussed – Stella to thank villagers who keep their village grassed areas cut back.
- d) 16b 12/4/21: Slaley Business Directory – request for updated entries in the May issue of Slaley News, Slaley Notes and Slaley web site – one new request from web site received from a Fourstones lady who has a tableware hire business. All new listings to be presented for the June meeting.

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

A letter has been sent to the MP about the lack of National grants for carbon free heating and electric cars. Group meets on Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

- a) Update Glen Crossroads – No update.
- b) Update on reducing village speed to 20 mph. – No update.
- c) Blockage under the road inspected by Glen Harrison, SC, Clerk – heavy rain Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> coming up under the field wall and running down field also bubbling up the road and running down Swan lane. Reported this problem 11/8/2019 (minutes 7b 13/8/2019) – Cllr S Carson & Clerk met Glen Harrison on site Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 who said it would be placed on a programme of work – then went to visit flooding area north of Woodnook Hill (minutes 7a 9/9/2019). Clerk reported 8/5/21.

## **8. Correspondence.**

### **Telephone call:**

ProCut reported flooding at Parks Side 26/4/21. Residents at number twelve telephoned Clark after Karbon Homes said 'not their problem'. PC Clerk telephoned Northumbrian Water to investigate – discovered that the pipe to the field trough over the wall from Parks Side was leaking – they could not mend because it was private land. No answer on the telephone to Scotts of Townfoot and no answer at the house. Therefore, the PC Clerk dropped a letter into the field owners' door reporting the leak. NW telephoned 29/4/21 to ask if leak was mended. Clerk was unable to say, therefore NW to contact the owner directly and get the leak repaired. – Copy of letter emailed to PC Chairman. Cllr S Carson reported seeing the repair work being undertaken.

### **Hard copies:**

Clerk & Councils Direct May issue

### **Email**

- a) 13/4/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- b) 14/4/21: NCC return of result of uncontested Parish Councillor election.
- c) 15/4/21: NALC Enews
- e) 16/4/21: NALC Member update
- f) 16/4/21: GNAA News – 26 incidents over Easter bank holiday
- g) 20/4/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- h) 21/4/21: NALC Enews
- i) 22/4/21: Carole Beswick-Lisle Northumberland Respect Campaign.
- j) 22/4/21: Streetworks TTRO amendment Woolley bank to Espersfield junction.
- k) 27/4/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- l) 28/4/21: NALC Enews – Digital meetings case in High court
- m) 28/4/21: (p.m.) NALC Enews – Digital meetings to stop
- n) 30/4/21: CAN Employment Hubs are open
- o) 4/5/21: NCC Community Tennis Courts Audit – Clerk replied with school grounds.
- p) 4/5/21: NALC Member Update
- q) 5/5/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- r) 5/5/21: Ann Atkinson – Northumberland VCS Assemble state of the sector survey
- s) 5/5/21: North East Ambulance Service training facility moving to Dukesway Court, Team Valley.
- t) 5/5/21: Anne Atkinson – West Northumberland food partnership
- u) 6/5/21: RSN Funding Bulletin
- v) 6/5/21: NALC Member Update
- w) 10/5/21: Iain Hedley – Local Authority Treescape Fund. Cllr IC Stevens & Cllr SC Douglas to confer over possible planting space to the rear of Slaley Community Shop.

## **9. Financial Report.**

- a) TP Jones & Co LLP. April payroll paperwork
- b) Invoices received & paid since April meeting
- 19/4/21: Slaley Commemoration Hall 2020 venue bookings lost though Pandemic given as a grant £250.00
- 19/4/21: NALC subscription and national affiliation fee £174.05
- 21/4/21 Procut Grounds Maintenance Ltd., first half of season grass cutting £976.20
- 29/4/21: IC Stevens Restoration Teak Oil for PC Seat £39.95
- 3/5/21: Rocketspark web hosting £192.00
- 3/5/21: Came & Co insurance £784.02
- 3/5/21: SCH WiFi Apl – Sept £158.40
- c) Came and Company acknowledged payment of insurance £784.02 and emailed (5/5/21) new Policy.

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

**21/01098/FUL:** Extend to south elevation of kitchen/dining to accommodate garage and utility area. Raise roof over kitchen/dining to accommodate new bedroom; ensuite, walk-in wardrobe and cinema room; Extend existing first floor balcony to the west elevation. 19 Slaley Park, Slaley NE47 0BG. Mr. Peter Bigg. Neighbours spoken to the Parish Council with their concerns. PC looked at the past history of the property and overall site. A letter of objections was agreed and sent.

**21/00956/FUL:** Demolition of existing kitchen extension and replacement upon the same footprint and foundations to include a pitched roof. Internal alterations to create one dwelling and creation of new centrally located front door on north elevation. Orchard House, Slaley, NE47 0AA. Mr. Hodges. **Pending.**

**21/00729/FUL Demolition of garage and construction of a two storey side extension. Police House, Slaley**  
**Pending.**

**Decisions from planning**

**21/00115/FUL:** Erection of conservatory to the rear. Park View, Slaley. NE47 0BQ - **Refused**

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

Cllr A M Livesey reported that Facebook came into its own during the litter pick with many people sharing information. Cllr SC Douglas highlighted the comments in her annual report and ended with the web site was a serious resource.

**12. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix 1/120421 page 1537.**

Cllr J. Storey reported that he had carried out the weekly inspections and that the Defib was working as expected. The monthly NEAS check list was emailed by the Clerk. Cllr J. Storey checked the pads and the date is February 2022. NEAS was asked about condensation inside the cabinet and they recommended cleaning the seals but though it could be the difference between dipping nighttime temperatures and soring day time highs this spring.

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

Inspection sheets for March and April received and emailed to Headteacher with a copy to Cllr IC Stevens. There were no identified problems.

**14. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr DJ Taylor.**

Indoor market proposal update – Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup> 2. – 6.30 p.m.

Outside Vans Gin and Tonia, Fire and Dough Pizza and The Wooley Van have all confirmed, Charity Stalls are confirmed as Slaley School + The Community Environmental Group.

The Risk Assessment and first draft Business Plan was circulated to the Councillors. Cllr S Carson was concerned that Reason View was being considered for parking because that area was for the residents and may not be available to them on return from work if the area was being used by market vehicles. This comment was noted.

Cllr D.J. Taylor asked the Councillors if they would fund the £80 Hall Hire for 28/7/21. This was agreed.

Cllr D.J Taylor explained the financial situation the Hall now finds itself, very few grants are available to raise the ever-escalating costs of the new build. The Management Committee will need to take stock in autumn and possibly consider a loan with the backing of the Parish Council.

Cllr D.J Taylor went on to explain her approach to Slaley Community Trust for funding to transport the Paintings from the Hall to be renovated.

**15. Audit arrangements:** Completed AGAR forwarded to Councillors by email

- a) The Councillors agreed that section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 is signed - page 5.
- b) The Councillors agreed that section 2 Accounting Statement 2020/21 is signed - page 6.
- c) The Councillors agreed the Certificate of Exemption -Chairman ed page 3.
- d) Internal Audit – Colin Washington was suggested as someone who could audit the AGAR.

**16. AOB**

- a) Cllr S Carson said he was now sure that the Speed unit at Townhead was not working. Clerk to arrange to have it checked.
- b) Cllr I.C. Stevens had reported dog fouling on the footpath between Slaley Church and Slaley Community Shop – this turned out to be from a badger not a domestic dog.
- c) Cllr I.C. Stevens asked about styles over field fences where dogs were unable to jump over. Styles of this type are the responsibility of the landowners.
- d) Cllr S Carson said the village was in need of the sweeper. Cllr I.C. Stevens said the last time he saw the sweeper the village was filled with vehicles especially around the school. Councillors asked if this could be given a time slot then the public be asked to keep vehicles off the highway.
- e) Cllr I.C. Stevens reminded the Councillors about their meeting with the CO of Northumberland ALC and his suggestion that the Parish Council forms a ‘Community Sub-committee’ to take different groups and projects forward.

**17. Date of June 2021 meeting:** Monday June 14th. – the Councillors hoped this would be held at the Hall

There being no further business the meeting ended at 20.30