

Minutes from meeting of Slaley Parish Council on Monday November 14th 2022
at 3.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

Discussion with **Cllr Graham Curry about reporting parish concerns to NCC**. Cllr Curry had been emailed a copy of notes from meeting with Glen Sanderson on Monday June 13th when Cllr Sanderson advised that we should report concerns to the Parish & Town Council meetings at County Hall. Cllr Curry represents the Hexham area on the Town & Parish Liaison Working Group which was set up in 2009 when the six-district councils were abolished as the Northumberland Town & Parish Council Charter. The Group was reviewed in 2011, 2014 and 2019. Cllr Curry explained that they still meet on line and there is very little to report to NCC. Cllr Curry will send us a copy of the latest minutes. Without understanding more of the group Slaley PC was unsure it could be of benefit.

1. Public Participation. None

2. Apologies. None.

Present: Councillor I. C. Stevens as Chairman. Councillors S. C. Douglas, J. Storey, D. J. Taylor & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor Colin Horncastle.

3. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record. None

4. Minutes of October 10th 2022 meeting (circulated pages 1662 – 1665), appendix 1, page 1666, appendix 2, page 1667 & appendix 3, page 1668. The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr D. J. Taylor and seconded by Cllr J. Storey. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising.

- a) 5c 10/10/22; 5c 22/9/22; 17d 8/8/22: Request for Townhead Give Way
- b) 5d 10/10/22: Illuminated Sheep named 'Lord Thumberland'. Cllr I S Stevens collected from Hexham Mart 18/10/22 - Cllr D J Taylor photographed the collection. The Sheep will continue to appear throughout venues and events until December 1st.
- c) 9c 10/10/22: Procut replied to email of grass cutting complaint at Townfoot. Trying out a new machine which proved inappropriate for the Townfoot grassed area. Been back and seeded the scalped areas.

6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.

- a) Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire CEG are providing a themed on-line advent calendar – public will soon be asked for a small donation to receive the advent calendar.
- b) Date of next CEG meeting Wednesday February 22nd
- c) NCC Climate Action Northumberland November Update
- d) 15 10/10/22: Cllr S C Douglas confirmed that the Resilience Hub was a joint bid between SCH and Slaley PC. A presentation has taken place and Cllr S C Douglas has the cheque.
- e) Cllr D J Taylor offered spare saplings from the NCC scheme.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) News that Glen Cottage hedge had been cut back to wall height 24/10/22 was received, quickly followed by members of the public emailing their thanks for the perseverance of both PCs in finally achieving safe sight at the crossroads. Healey PC thanked both Andy Olive and his team and Glen Sanderson for their part in the result, this was acknowledged by both. Cllr I C Stevens has thanked the owner of the hedge on behalf of Slaley PC. Colin Horncastle was thanked for his help.
- b) Email to Cllrs 18/10/22 re incident reported of tractors turning into Hillfield Farm entrance needing a wide birth to get the turn. Report to Glen Harrison 18/10/22. Reply from highways 21/10/22 saying NCC generally don't provide 'tractor turning' warning signs unless there have been frequent accidents. They felt the incident was down to poor driving and a sign would be unlikely to have had any effect.

c) Recent village pavement works – letter of complaint from a former councillor and Clerk asked if the contractors could be asked if they did property entrances across the footpath. Then Saturday November 12th work began again early morning – a water main was damaged/burst and flooding down Swang Lane and Flothers Farm – result road closed for part of the day. It has been reported to PC Councillors that more work is programmed for Spring 2023. Clerk to ask for clarification. An explanation from Northumbria Water as to what happened on November 12th to be sought.

d) CC Colin Horncastle gave highlights of NCCs financial problems and redundancies, planning charge increases, strikes and refugees.

8. Correspondence.

Hard copy:

Clerks & Councils Direct November. NCC Consultation on the proposal to extend the duration of a public spaces protection order for the control of dogs Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. Part 4. Comments by 9/12/22.

Email:

- a) 11/10/22: NCT Project Coordinator - Community Resilience Event 29/9/22 - Presentations 1 of 2
- b) 11.10.22: NCT Project Coordinator - Community Resilience Event 29/9/22 - Presentations 2 of 2
- c) 11/10/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- d) 12/10/22: Northumbria Healthcare Stakeholder Update
- e) 12/10/22: Streetworks TTRO Hexham Spook Night
- f) 13/10/22: NCC alterations to the adopted Local Plan re Northumberland Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
- g) 14/10/22: CAN Enews
- h) 14/10/22: NALC Enews
- i) 17/10/22: Streetworks TTRO Hexham Firework Display
- j) 17/10/22: Northumberland SLCC Playground Inspection Training Course
- k) 17/10/22: NCC Iain Hedley – Town, Parish & Community Council Conferences 24/1/23 Hexham Mart * *CC Colin Horncastle recommended this event to the PC although he did not know if it would cover the same format as pre COVID*
- l) 18/10/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- m) 21/10/22: Mark Jennings – update Slaley & Hexhamshire Welcomes
- n) 22/10/22 NALC Enews Planning Locally to Address the Climate Emergency PLACE
- o) 25/10/22: iNorthumberland Digital Digest Autumn 2022
- p) 25/10/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- q) 25/10/22: Streetworks TTRO Corbridge Remembrance Parade.
- r) 25/10/22: Streetworks TTRO Stocksfield Remembrance Parade
- s) 26/10/22: Streetworks TTRO Hexham Remembrance Parade
- t) 28/10/22: CAN Enews
- u) 31/10/22: Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council Chairman offering neighbouring PC's the opportunity to comment on its Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr I C Stevens requested and received a copy of the Plan.
- v) 2/11/22: NCC Licensing Consultation on reviewing Gambling Policy Statement of Principles and Street Trading Policy 2022
- w) 2/11/22: RSN Funding Digest
- x) 3/11/22: Thriving Together Employment Skills & Progression Fair at Ashington
- y) 3/11/22: NALC request for videos for White Ribbon Day
- z) 3/11/22: NCC The Tree Council's Branching Out Fund
- aa) 3/11/22: Invitation to North Pennines AONB Partnership Annual Forum 1/12/22 on line 7 – 9 p.m.
- bb) 8/11/22: RSN Rural Bulletin
- cc) 10/11/22: NALC – Utility Aid – an update on the Energy Bill Relief Scheme
- dd) 10/11/22: Forestry commission Woods for Nature.
- ee) 12/11/22: NALC Enews
- ff) 11/11/22: CAN Enews
- gg) 11/11/22: Glen Sanderson invitation to visit NCCs Recycling Plant at West Sleekburn – forwarded to CEG where two members immediately showed interest. Possibly 4 members of the PC would also be interested.

9. Financial Report.

a) Payroll paperwork November 2022 * Correspondence 14/10/22 of notification of an increase to payroll Services from £46.80 to £51.50 per quarter

b) Invoices received & paid since October meeting

c) Invoices to be paid – annual grants as per 2022/23 Precept

CAN	0,050.00
St. Mary the Virgin churchyard	0,050.00
Great North Air Ambulance	0,200.00
Tynedale Hospice at Home	0,150.00
ADAPT	0,050.00
Ladycross Nature Reserve	0,100.00
Slaley Show	0,500.00
West Northumberland CAB	0,025.00
West Northumberland Food Bank	0,100.00
Whitley Chapel Young Farmers Club	0,100.00
	1,325.00 it was agreed to pay these without alteration
Additional to be awarded	0,175.00 it was agreed that this would remain in funds

d) NCC Local Government Finance Act 1992: Parish Precepts and Council Tax 2023-24 information. Slaley PC Precept for 2023/24 must be received at County Hall finance department by 27/1/23

e) Look at 2023/24 Precept spending.

Income & Expenditure as at November 14th attached **as appendix 1/141122, page 1674.**

First draft Precept with known increases as below **as appendix 2/141122, page 1675.**

(i) Procut Quote for parish grass cutting £1,750.00 (4.4% increase on last season) + Vat – a discussion followed about why certain areas are cut and a suggestion that they are either left to grow or planted with wild flowers and left. Clerk explained requests from parishioners over the years to keep the grassed entrances to the village cut and tidy (Townhead and Townfoot). Or asked to tidy up the mess left by other infrequent contractors (Parks Side) or because the resident is old and unable to undertake maintenance (South Farm). Forming a BMX track on school grounds when community was given access again and the area Track sides needed strimming rather than a lawnmower which would have caused an extra cost for school. Because the BMX track (since converted into a flat footpath) was a community request the PC agreed to cover the cost (school field). The Community have asked the PC to provide grass clearance at these areas. The clerk suggested that before the PC stopped providing the service, the community should be asked if it was still their wish to have these areas cut. The only area the community did not ask to be kept tidy was the parish seat and commemorative stone placed on the B6306 south of Wooley, that was purely a PC decision in 2012.

(ii) TP Jones payroll preparation £51.50 x 4 = £206

f) November Slaley News is asking for someone to step forward and take over the editing, collating, folding and distribution of Slaley News. In addition, the current printers are no longer able to continue. The December/January issue will be the last to be published if no one steps up to take over. Question are the distributors still willing to distribute?

Is anyone willing to cover editing, collating folding and distribution? Cllr I C Stevens said he may be interested depending upon help available, Cllr Stevens confirmed the decision would not be connected to the Parish Council in any shape or form.

The Councillors agreed that Slaley News was a valuable asset to the community and although a copy was available on line on the parish website many people referred to their hard copy. Should the Parish Council cover printing costs? (Hexhamshire Magazine costs £10 per year for 10 issues or £17 if posted. Printed by Robson Print Ltd. Hexham. – lots of advertisements). Cllr I C Stevens to make further enquiries including external printing costs and distribution help.

10. New Planning Applications.

22/03653/LBC: Listed building consent for replacement of rotten single glazed sliding sash windows in the main house with slim-line double glazed timber sliding sash windows. Shield Hall, Hexham. Applicant Mr. G. Hall. **No objections**

22/03017/ADE: Advertisement consent for 8 x pole mounted signs, 13 x Totem signs, 18 x Fascia signs and a 1 x Letter sign. Slaley Hall Hotel, Slaley. Comments by October 24th. **Pending**

22/03124/FUL: Refurbishment of barn to form fitness room, home office, den, shower room and utility room. Installation of roof-lights, stair and formation of new access into main house kitchen. Shield Hall, NE46 1TU. Mr. G. Hall. **Pending**

22/03125/LBC: Listed Building Consent for refurbishment of barn to form fitness room, home office, den, shower room and utility room. Installation of roof-lights, stair and formation of new access into main house kitchen. Shield Hall, NE46 1TU. Mr. G. Hall. **Pending**

22/03125/LBC Listed Building Consent for refurbishment of barn to form fitness room, home office, den, shower room and utility room. Installation of rooflights, stair and formation of new access into main house kitchen. Shield Hall, Slaley. Applicant Mr. G. Hall. **Pending – must be superseded by above.**

Decisions from planning

22/02185/FUL: Creation of single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling. Pry House, Slaley NE47 0BL Applicant Mr. Stephen Percy. **Granted**

11. Social Media Report - Cllr I C Stevens / Cllr D J Taylor & Slaley Web Page Report - Councillor S.C. Douglas.

a) Email from Anne Livesey re PC email account. Cllr D J Taylor confirmed by email 13/10/22 that she has changed password.

12. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix 3/141122, page 1676.

a) The monthly NEAS check list to be completed by Cllr Storey. The date on the pads in the Defib is November 2023 and date on replacement pads 2024-10.

b) The recalled Defib was collected by dpd on 1/11/22 between 10.35 – 11.35. The machine was decommissioned on The Circuit. Defib was returned without notification and what appears to be a three-quarter empty battery. Clerk contacted the help desk at CU Medical who said the battery was OK and we could put the machine back into service – they apologized for the service provided by dpd. It seems from the correspondence that the recall was because the battery was showing full power when it was not. Tracey at R&C also emailed her concerns (12/11/22) so she was forwarded a copy of the CU medical email. The Defib is back in service on The Circuit. It was agreed that Cllr J. Storey would monitor the battery carefully.

13. Update games/play area within school grounds.

Play Inspection Company annual inspection – 40 pages – forwarded a copy to school.

Play Inspection Company annual stock valuation £43,063.97

14. Parish Council Vacancies

Lynda Sale is interested in joining the Parish Council, however, because she works full time is not able to attend the afternoon meetings.

15. Slaley Commemoration Hall Update by Cllr D J Taylor.

Cancelled Open Day will now take place sometime during Village Halls Week 23 – 29 January 2023.

Successful Christmas Fair on November 6th. 100th birthday celebration on December 30th

Several grants being looked into. CC Colin Horncastle suggested Northumberland Communities Together funds especially for people in need.

16. Consideration of a vision and mission for the Parish Council – Cllr D J Taylor emailed (5/11/22) a draft, attached as appendix 4/ 141122, page 1677.

Not all Councillors had read.

17. A proposed dog poo initiative – Update

a) Dorothy Bell verbally reported a dog being walked in front of Parks Side bungalows from a mobility scooter. This information was emailed to Councillors 28/10/22. Dorothy telephoned back on Saturday 12th to say there was now some dog mess near her car, no idea when happened, she was unable to stoop and pick it up. Someone had picked it up before I got there. CC Colin Horncastle reported only five dog-wardens covering the whole of Northumberland. Eleven tickets have been issued during 2022 – the help of the general public in providing times and places is needed.

18. Progressing a regular Parish Council surgery – No further Update

19. AOB

a) 6/11/22 a complaint made re speeding traffic on wrong side of road, at Woodside corner, south of Travellers Rest. Cllr J. Storey reported vehicles reversing out onto the main village street, he thought a note in the Slaley News asking motorists to take care especially this time of year when the sunshine is very low in the sky. Cllr I C Stevens replied that Winter House residents reversed out their drive (or into it) and was aware of the danger – he proposed to mention in his SPC report in Slaley News.

b) BMW 320d parked on the grass verge of the Kellas Road between Holly Cottage and Slaley Hall entrance. PW saw it lunch time Saturday 5/11/22 when all its hazards were flashing. Still there Sunday 6th flashers now stopped. Cllr J. Storey reported to Police, incident number NP-20221105-1200 and again at 15.40 on Tuesday 8/11/22. The vehicle has since been removed.

c) Cllr J. Storey received information at Slaley Community Shop that the mobile post office had failed its MOT the vehicle would be off the road until Monday 14th at earliest. Sandra Innes placed information on Facebook and put a notice inside the Shop.

d) Cllr D J Taylor reported correspondence from Sg Paul Davis – the village speed camera checks are to be relaunched. Vetting is currently taking place for new recruits. Make mention of this in Slaley News with interest being directed to Cllr D J Taylor.

20. Date for of next meeting: Monday December 12th.

Dates for 2023: What date do you want the April meeting? One week later – Monday 17th

January	9 th	
February	13 th	
March	13 th	
April	10 th	(2023 - Easter Monday - Monday April 10th) <u>ALTER TO Monday 17th</u>
May AGM	8 th	Annual Parish Meeting / Annual PC Meeting / Normal monthly
June	12 th	
July	10 th	
August	14 th	
September	11 th	
October	9 th	
November	13 th	
December	11 th	

There being no further business the meeting ended at 5.30 p.m.