

Minutes of an Emergency Annual General Meeting to elect a Chairman & Vice Chair at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall, followed by the minutes of Slaley Parish Council on Monday December 13th 2021 in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

Emergency AGM

1. Election of Chairman:
2. Election of Vice-Chairman

The proposal is for each Councillors to take the Chair for a month until such time as the two vacancies are filled.

Beginning with the current Vice Chair, Cllr I C Stevens, becoming Chairman for December and going in alphabetical order Cllr S C Douglas Vice Chair.

January 2022 Cllr S C Douglas Chairman with Cllr J. Storey Vice Chair.

February 2022 Cllr J. Storey Chairman with Cllr D J Taylor Vice Chair.

March 2022 Cllr D J Taylor Chairman with Cllr I. C. Stevens Vice Chair etc.

This system proposed by Cllr I. C. Stevens.

Seconded by Cllr S. C. Douglas.

There were no objections therefore this system will continue until the AGM in MAY 2022

Main meeting

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.

Dispensation Form allowing Cllr I C Stevens (Slaley School Governor) to take part and vote on agenda item 5a.

Dispensation Form allowing Cllr D J Taylor (Slaley PC Representative on Slaley Commemoration Hall) to take part and vote on agenda item 7d.

Dispensation Forms allowing Cllrs S C Douglas & IC Stevens (Slaley Commemoration Hall Trustees) to take part and vote on agenda item 7d.

4. Minutes of November 8th 2021 meeting (circulated pages 1573 – 1576), appendix 1, page 1577 & appendix 2, page 1578. The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr D J Taylor and seconded by Cllr S C Douglas. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising.

- a) 1(iii) 8/11/21: School Governor, C. Lincoln was told the PC would discuss help with funding for tree removal (*see 12/7/21 minutes agenda 11b School has a quote of £648.00 from TC Tree Services and is asking if the PC would make a contribution*). Cllr IC Stevens reminded the Councillors of the background to this. CC C. Horncastle checked during the meeting and confirmed that it was not NCC policy to pay for removal of trees on school grounds, therefore Slaley First School would have to pay for their removal. Cllr IC Stevens proposed that the PC covered the full £648 tree felling and removal costs. With reluctance this was agreed although Cllr J. Storey did not support the payment and suggested that NCC should amend its Policy.
- b) 7e 8/11/21 Christine Ellison accident on C265 not Lead Road. PC Clerk met with Christine to establish accident location. It was Healey parish not Slaley. Reported to Highways asking if traffic calming was possible. Report acknowledged by Highways.

6. Tackling Climate Change at Parish Level.

- a) CEG took delivery of 60 Native Harvest trees on November 17th, 50 given to Ladycross Nature Reserve, 5 were planted at Slaley School and 4 at Slaley Community Shop. PW got a crab apple
- b) Cllr S.C. Douglas is investigating a parish response to NCC's intention to make Northumberland a net-zero County by 2030 and hopes to present in January.
- c) NCC Climate Change Newsletter emailed 10/12/22 – some good recycling suggestions for the festive season.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) Update Glen Crossroads – improvement consultation due soon from the LTP programme.
- b) Update on reducing village speed to 20 mph. – Slaley will hopefully be one village in the 2022 rollout.
- c) Storm Arwen and the hardship caused by prolonged loss of electricity and water. Loss of water at Slaley - Sir Michael Darrington reported talks with Northumbrian Water. Once electricity was returned the reduced strength of Electrical Power was insufficient to pump the water from Shield Hall to Moorgair. A large generator was sourced and was then able to pump Slaley’s supply to Moorgair – this is temporary until the electrical repair is permanent. CC C. Horncastle reported that Glen Sanderson Leader of NCC is in talks with Northern Powergrid and its inadequate on-line/call-centre information, apparently, they gave false information twice daily causing incorrect action to be taken by others. Workers on the ground however were excellent under sometimes very dangerous conditions. The Water Board were woefully prepared for the storm – generators needed service before they would work and there was insufficient fuel to make them work. NCC declared a “major incident” on Thursday and the army was called in, not to help emergency services but to knock on doors and deliver food/help to those still without power. The enquiry into what went wrong, despite several days of weather warnings of the impending storm, will provide a Blue Print for the future.
- d) Healey Parish Council asking if Slaley Commemoration Hall could become an ‘Emergency Welfare Hub’ with an on-site generator? Cllr IC Stevens suggested we wait and see what the NCC Blue Print contains then discuss in February.
- e) Three blocked drains on C265 outside Burnside Cottage and another on C270 eastbound, outside the gate onto the lane to Healey Mill, reported to NCC Highways.

8. Correspondence.

Telephone:

Telephone call from free food van 11.15 a.m. 6/12/21 for parishioners still without power. PC Clerk did NOT know who these people were. Further issues when people on Lead Road and at Holly Hill were told the van was at Rye Hill. Lead Road resident also telephoned the PC Clerk to ask why no support from the PC had been offered when several families had been without power since the evening of November 26th (10 days). Most of the homes did have small generators, however this identified the need to have something in place for future problems. NCC Blue Print will help and will be discussed at the February 2022 meeting.

Hard copies:

Clerk & Councils Direct November issue

Email

- a) 9/11/21: RSN Rural bulletin
- b) 9/11/21: Forestry Commission Woodland Officer Employment opportunities
- c) 12/11/21: CAN community-led housing festival
- d) 12/11/21: NALC Enews
- e) 16/11/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- f) 18/11/21: Register Request Forms
- g) 23/11/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- h) 23/11/21: NALC Enews
- i) 30/11/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- j) 30/11/21: NCC Neil Bradley – help for vulnerable residents still without power from Storm Arwen. Healey PC reported one resident. Slaley Councillors did not report any – this turned out to be far from the truth.
- k) 1/12/21: RSN Funding Bulletin
- l) 2/12/21: NALC Enews
- m) 7/12/21: RSN Rural Bulletin
- n) 8/12/21: Northern Powergrid Special Bulletin ‘Restored Power’ (received every 12 hours from storm)
- o) 8/12/21: NALC Enews (includes statement from Glen Sanderson)
- p) 9/12/21: NCC Caroline Matthews short fostering film

- q) 9/12/21: NALC Member Update
- r) 9/12/21: Forestry Commission – damage by Storm Arwen
- s) 10/12/21: CAN ENews – Storm Arwen includes Emergency Rest Centres
- t) 12/12/21: NCC Final update on Storm Arwen and Barra
- u) 11/12/21: Northern Powergrid Compensation and Reimbursement following Storm Arwen emailed to a selection of people identified (in agenda 8 telephone above) to make sure they had the necessary information
- v) 12/12/21: Transport North East asking for letter of support for 73 new zero emission buses in the North East. Clerk to complete on behalf of Slaley PC.

9. Financial Report.

- a) TP Jones. December payroll paperwork & paperwork for October - December
- b) Invoices received & paid since November meeting
- c) Invoices to be paid
Slaley Commemoration Hall WiFi October – December 3 x £26.40 = £79.20
Slaley Commemoration Hall meeting venue Sept – Dec 2021 £75.00
Clerk’s salary October - December 2021 £1,128.99
Clerk’s salary tax to HMRC £21.00
Slaley First School removal of trees £648 (*see agenda item 5a above*)
- d) ‘Thank you’, emails & letters from Grant recipients.
- e) Bank statement to November 11th 2021

10. Precept for 2022/23 draft attached as appendix 1/131221, page 1584

Expected increases were made to Insurance & Grass cutting. Cllrs I C Stevens & J.Storey said they would repair the bottom hinge on the right-hand door of the PC notice board.

Awarded increases were made to the Clerk’s salary of £200 and to the annual grants of £175 the exact individual amounts would be confirmed at the January meeting.

11. New Planning Applications.

21/04771/Ful & 21/04772 LBC: Construction of a garden room, replacement staircase, internal alterations to partitions and walls to ensuite bathrooms and kitchen. Repairs to existing windows and installing secondary glazing. Refurbishment of barn to form fitness room, den and utility room. Reslating the roofs, repairing floors, stalling rooflights and new stairs. Shield Hall, NE46 1TU. Applicant Gary Hall. **No objections**

* Cllr IC Stevens received an email 17/11/21 from Emperor Developments about a Housing Needs Assessment for Slaley. Update from Cllr IC Stevens.

21/03782/FUL: Conversion of outbuilding to guest accommodation, East Ridley Hall, Strothers Bank Slaley. Applicants Mr & Mrs Paul Spencer. **Pending**

21/03241/FUL: Extension of existing garage to provide additional workshop space, store and garage with ancillary self-contained residential annexe accommodation above. Wooley Lodge, Wooley, NE46 1TY. Applicant Geoff Jackson. **Pending**

21/03340/FUL: Extensions to the rear, including removal of existing porch/conservatory. The Coach House, East Woodfoot. Applicants Mr & Mrs Allanson. – **Pending**

21/02633/FUL: Proposed extension of existing farmhouse into adjacent barn. Woodnook Hill Farm, U8080. NE47 0BW. Councillors emailed comments by August 5th. **Pending.**

21/02682/OUT: Resubmission: Outline application for development of up to 3 detached dwellings (all matters reserved) Land west of Rose Cottage, Wooley Road, Hexham, Applicant Mr. A. Garvey. **Pending.**

Decisions from planning

21/02859/FUL: Proposed Garden Room extension to the rear of the property and removal of a modern porch to the north elevation revealing the original door opening. Church View, Slaley. NE470AD. Mr. Best

21/02860/LBC: Proposed Garden Room (as above) **Refused.**

12. Social Media Report - Cllrs I C Stevens D J Taylor. Slaley Web Page Report - Councillor S.C. Douglas.

Cllr D. Taylor tried to use Facebook 27/11/21, during the first day without power or water, that The Bay Trees Burger Van was serving hot food at Slaley Commemoration Hall – emailed Mrs. A.M. Livesey for help, two different login details were provided. **This remains a PROBLEM and has done since it was first set up and shared with the Rose and Crown.** After discussion it was decided that a new Facebook page should be set up which could send

around information quickly. Cllr D. Taylor reported that the problem with a new service was that the former followers would be lost.

13. Defibrillator Update– Monthly check list attached as appendix attached as appendix 2/131221, page 1585.

- a) The monthly NEAS check list was completed by Cllr Storey ready for the Clerk to email. The date on the pads in the Defib is February 2022 and date on replacement pads 2023-11. Cllr J. Storey is concerned about a flashing red light and wonders if a new cabinet is needed. PC Clerk thought a new battery might be required – check on the battery’s age.
- b) Email from The Circuit 4/12/21 that the ambulance service recorded that someone was sent for the Defib and asking that it was checked. Clerk contacted Cllr J Storey and the Rose and Crown. A check was made by Cllr Storey and Kevin Weatherley the machine was in its cabinet and the pads were in place. Clerk logged in and reported the Defib back in service.
- c) 12b 8/11/21; 12b 11/10/21; 12b 13/9/21; 12 9/8/21: First Aid Training by NEAS was agreed for Thursday April 7th

14. Update games/play area within school grounds.

- a) Weekly inspection reports received for November and forwarded to school & Cllr I C Stevens.

15. Parish Council Vacancies

Email from Elections Office 29/11/21 informing the PC that they could co-opt someone onto the Council. No interest shown from anyone. Cllr S C Douglas to make the vacancy prominent on the web site. PC Clerk thought about making a humorous poem about the vacancy.

16. Neighbourhood Plan

- a) Report by Cllr S.C. Douglas from ZOOM meeting on November 12th with Sarah Brannigan (Slaley’s designated Link Officer). A report will be made for January 2022 meeting. There had been no expressions of interest from the request to join a Steering Group made in the December/January Slaley News. Cllr S C Douglas suggested that the NP could be joined with the Climate Change Action Plan and the issues addressed together. Cllr I C Stevens proposed that the Neighbourhood Plan was kept separate, this was agreed.
- b) CEG member Lynda Sale forwarded an email with information on The Rural Design Centre Innovation Project which is working with village development trusts and organisations moving towards becoming net carbon Zero

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

- a) Approved minutes from September 15th, attached **as appendix 3/131221, page1586.** The Trustees have secured a £12,000 loan to make sure sufficient funds are available to complete the build. Builder has been instructed to start work in the new year. Fundraising will continue - to cover internal fittings, possible green energy (solar panels on roof to help generate power and the need to borrow less money. The three day *‘Cribs from around the World’* exhibition was held during Storm Arwen. Most of the time the Hall was without heating or water – therefore income had not been as high as expected. The hot street food provided by The Bay Trees Gourmet Burger van had not been as well supported as anticipated, especially considering that everyone was without power. The Bay Trees returned to Slaley on Wednesday December 8th at 5.30 p.m. The Food Van seemed to be really busy and had five customers waiting at 6.10 p.m. (one had been pre-ordered) people should be encouraged to use the telephone number to pre-order (078100 30428)

18. AOB

Cllr I C Stevens said that Slaley First School was considering the purchase of a Polly Tunnel 12ft x15ft or 20ft x12ft for the children to grow vegetables in and wished to bring this to the PCs notice. No objections were raised.

19. Date for 2022 meetings:

January	10 th	
February	14 th	
March	14 th	
April	11 th	(2022 - Easter Monday - Monday April 18th)
May	AGM 9 th	Annual Parish Meeting / Annual PC Meeting / Normal monthly
June	13 th	

July	11th
August	8 th
September	12 th
October	10th
November	14 th
December	12 th

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.