



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Slaley Parish Council Held on Monday 21st July 2025 at 7.00pm In Slaley Commemoration Hall

Present

Councillor Anne Livesey, Councillor Julie Cole, Councillor Michael Ogle, Councillor Nicole Dean.

In attendance

Parish Clerk - Samantha Dalglish.

Members of Public

Resident – M Elphick

1. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor Colin Horncastle

2. Public Participation.

None

3. Short Address by County Councillor Colin Horncastle.

Absent

4. Declarations of Interests.

None

5. Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 16th June 2025.

- a) Minutes were agreed as true copy (*Proposed – Cllr Ogle/Seconded Cllr Livesey*)
- b) Review of actions log – See Appendix A
- c) Matters Arising

a. Cllr Ogle agreed to become additional guardian for the defibrillator; newsletter article planned to educate residents on defibrillator location and usage.

b. Glen Crossroads mirror came in under budget; Clerk will order mirror for installation.

→ **Action:** *Parish Clerk to order new road mirror (see actions log)*

6. Correspondence of significant note.

- From: Joe Morris MP – email (dated 16/07/2025) response to email to NCC Finance Manager
 - Response was noted by the council and addressed in Agenda Item 7.a.

- From Gillian Caisley – email (dated 16/07/2025) reply regarding precept funding and substitute Council Tax Notice under Regulation 25
 - Addressed in Agenda Item 7.a.

7. Agenda Items.

a. **Precept application update** *(led by Cllr Livesey & Parish Clerk)*

- Northumberland County Council offered a Precept loan option with interest and one-year repayment terms, which the Parish Council rejected
- The current budget allows coverage of essential costs only
- Clerk agreed to suspend her work from home, phone and internet allowances until the Precept issue is rectified; Travel allowance will continue due to the need to travel to Slaley for meetings.
- Cllr Livesey contacted Joe Morris MP who responded, showing interest in supporting the Parish Council's precept funding issue; Cllr Livesey will continue correspondence.
- Due to Northumberland County Council's administrative error, the clerk submitted a Regulation 25 request to Gillian Caisley for substituted billing to rectify NCC's error and release the Precept; A response was received explaining that NCC would need to investigate the options and respond within 7 days. That response is still forthcoming.

→ **Action:** *Parish Clerk and Cllr Livesey to continue correspondence with Joe Morris MP and Gillian Caisley regarding the Precept (see actions log)*

b. **S106 funding for additional playground equipment** *(led by Parish Clerk)*

- Head of Slaley First School is seeking funding for additional playground equipment and exploring outdoor classroom concepts
- £2923 in S106 funding is available for Slaley and/or Hexhamshire playground/recreation equipment; Application guidance and forms were passed to Cllr Dean to provide to the Head of Slaley First School to apply.
- The current playground step needs replacement which will cost £90 for the plastic component and bolt. Can easily be installed; Clerk will order the components required.

→ **Action:** *Parish Clerk to order play area replacement step components (see actions log)*

c. **Community Play Area usage and guidance** *(led by Parish Clerk & Cllr Dean)*

- Community Use signage requires review and updating.
- Additional signage request rescinded as not necessary.

→ **Action:** *Cllr Dean to review and update play area usage guidance (see actions log)*

d. **Parish Website Update** (led by Cllr Dean)

- Cllr Dean's progress with updating the Parish website with improved imagery and functionality has been restricted by locked areas; requires Elm Marketing to unlock restricted areas.
- Due to time constraints, Cllr Dean proposed a quarterly update system for community groups and businesses to send through their notices.
- Cllr Dean suggested business advertising fees at £25 annually for listing on the website and is currently contacting businesses to confirm if they are still current and operational.
- Cllr Dean investigated website hosting with costs ranging from £500 to £5,000 with website redesign; potential for free hosting also being explored.
- Clerk informed council that a 'Gov.uk' website requirement will be enforced in 2026; research on content restrictions will need to be investigated for compliance.

(Proposed Cllr Livesey/Seconded Cllr Cole)

→ **Action:** *Cllr Dean to continue website updates & contact with local businesses.
Cllr Livesey to contact Elm Marketing to unlock locked sections of the Parish Website
Parish Clerk to investigate legal compliance for gov.uk websites
Parish Clerk to create invoice system for business website advertisement
(see actions log)*

8. **Planning Applications.**

- **Planning Decision Notification:** 24/044242/LBC - Appeal against refusal at Church View – response from Parish Council can be considered.

→ **Action:** **NO ACTION REQUIRED**

- **Certificate of Lawful Development:** 25/02328/CLEXIS – Meadow Rise - Change of use from existing garage to support worker accommodation. – no response/comment required.

→ **Action:** **NO ACTION REQUIRED**

- **Listed Building Consent:** 25/02438/LBC – For installation of 10 Solar Panels on Drapers Cottage – response from Parish Council can be considered.

→ **Action:** **NO OBJECTION – Clerk to respond to NCC (see actions log)**

9. **Finances (led by Parish Clerk)**

- Finances accepted as true record.

(Proposed – Cllr Livesey/Seconded – Cllr Cole)

- Further discussion on expense reduction and revenue raising options.

- The Commemoration Hall and Healey Parish Council contributed £100 each to the Slaley Parish Website for their regular use of the site.
- It was agreed that funding options will be investigated, including fundraising activities such as community events.
- It was agreed to reduce the monthly meetings from 2.5 hours to 2 hours to save £100 annually.

(Proposed – Cllr Livesey/Seconded – Cllr Ogle)

→ **Action:** *Parish Clerk will investigate funding options available to local councils
Parish Clerk will reduce the Parish Council meeting hours with the Commemoration Hall. (see actions log)*

10. Any Other Business

Wooley Road Adoption

- Cllr Livesey has been given contact information for representative at the Highways Departments and will contact him for progress on the Wooley Road Adoption.

Town Foot Caravan Park

- Community concern about potential issues base on previous planning battles; site is showing concrete pads installed but no caravans present; Land registry search to be conducts to confirm current ownership and development status.

Parish Council Chairs Meeting

- Bywell Parish Council Chairwoman has reached out to all Parishes to organise a meeting between Chairs to discuss ongoing concerns with NCC's disinterest in parish liaison and support; Cllr Livesey has agreed to attend, and Clerk will provide contact details.

Community Policing and Crime Prevention

- Councillors have noticed an increased police presence within the Parish and would like to request a meeting with the rural crime officer for the area and regular crime statistics for Parish awareness; Clerk will contact Police liaison for report and meeting.

(Proposed Cllr Livesey/Seconded Cllr Cole)

→ **Action:** *Cllr Livesey to contact Highways Department at NCC
Cllr Dean to search land registry for Town Foot Caravan Park details
Cllr Livesey to contact Bywell Parish Council Chairwoman
Parish Clerk to contact Police Liaison for meeting and local crime statistics. (see actions log)*

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 18th August at 7pm (Commemoration Hall)

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9pm