



Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Slaley Parish Council Held on Monday 16th June 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. Healey Parish Clerk & Commemoration Hall Secretary – Pat Wilson.

Resident – M Elphick

1. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor Colin Horncastle

2. Public Participation.

Resident Mr Elphick spoke regarding advertising within the Slaley News.

- The Travellers Rest have requested a full-page advertisement in Slaley News.

Decision:

- Council agreed to implement monthly ‘business spotlight’ policy allowing one local business per month to advertise for free.
- Subsequent advertisements from the same business within 12 months would require a small payment.
- The policy aims to support local business while managing a potential flood of requests.
- The Rose and Crown is acknowledged as a community-owned club with a different status.

(Proposed: Cllr Livesey/Seconded: Cllr Ogle.)

→ **Action:** *Local Business Spotlight Policy to be included in Advertising Policy. (see actions log)*

3. Short Address by County Councillor Colin Horncastle.

Cllr Horncastle was absent due to a family illness. The Slaley Parish Council send Cllr Horncastle their thoughts and best wishes during this sad time. In his absence, Cllr Horncastle sent the following update regarding the sewerage leakage at Slaley Hall;

‘I have been in discussions with the Environment Agency regarding the Slaley Hall watercourse problem. They are obviously very guarded about what they can tell me, but a Live Investigation is underway. They are monitoring the situation, and, at the moment, contamination levels are within legal limits. I have been asked to contact them again in mid-July for an update. They are taking the matter seriously and will do everything they can to make sure it doesn’t happen again. At this stage they can’t say too much in case it prejudices any action.’

4. Declarations of Interests.

None

5. Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 21st May 2025.

- a) Minutes were agreed as true copy (*Proposed – Cllr Livesey/Seconded Cllr Ogle*)
- b) Review of actions log – See Appendix A
- c) Matters Arising
 - a. Confusion over defibrillator control at Rose and Crown - parish council retains responsibility. Need to clarify current maintenance arrangements. Weekly testing is required for audit purposes and duty of care compliance. Location number on defibrillator is smudged and needs updating. Discussion about additional defibrillators needed in Wooley area for three-minute accessibility. Funding previously obtained for Rose and Crown defibrillator, investigate options for more units.

→ **Action:** *Councillor Cole to contact Rose & Crown about defibrillator care (see actions log)*

- b. Progress needed on road safety mirror installation. Mirror is vital to improve visibility at Glen Crossroads. Clerk couldn't get hold of the owner. Permission is required from the owner for mirror placement. Cllr Dean offered to visit the owner to gain permission.

→ **Action:** *Councillor Dean to visit the owner to gain permission
Parish Clerk to source new mirror for the crossroads (see actions log)*

- c. Need for two additional councillors identified. Councillor Ogle contacted potential candidates: one is dealing with a family illness, another is interested. New Councillors will be required to go through the panel interview process.

→ **Action:** *Councillor Ogle to continue contact with potential co-option candidates (see actions log)*

- d. School Playground update and issues. Councillor Dean met with the Head of school, who is open to community collaboration and PR opportunities, and the following issues were identified:
 - The current playground must remain in situ for 10 years due to s106 funding requirements however there is concern that the tall equipment at the back is inappropriate for younger school age range children.
 - The head is interested in additional wooden outdoor classroom/community structure with available s106 funding.
 - The sign for safe usage is missing and additional age-appropriate signage has been suggested for safety warnings.
 - Confirmation from NCC on commencement of the inspections is required.
 - Head of School requested playground inspections be also sent to her.

- The school have requested the emergency access code for the village hall in case of emergencies and evacuation.

→ **Action:** *Parish Clerk to retrieve the missing sign and source new safety sign
Councillor Dean to ask Head of School to research wooden structures
Councillor Dean to confirm continuing inspections with NCC
Parish Clerk to request Commemoration Hall access codes for the school (see actions log)*

6. Correspondence of significant note.

- Gallagher's Insurance Broker's
 - The insurance renewal was noted by the council.
- Corbridge Chamber Music Festival
 - The council agreed to support advertising and promotion of the Corbridge Chamber Music Festival within the Parish.

7. Agenda Items.

- Risk Assessment Review** (led by Cllr Livesey)
 - Updates were made to the Risk Assessment Review in line with current expected conditions
(Proposed – Cllr Livesey/Seconded – Cllr Dean)
- Financial Policy Review** (led by Cllr Livesey)
 - Adopted by the Slaye Parish Council on 19th June 2025
- Additional Policy Reviews** (led by Parish Clerk)
 - All policies except Standing Orders were agreed.

→ **Action:** *Parish Clerk to investigate Clerk emergency powers in NALC standing orders & include update sheet within document (see actions log)*

- Year End Accounts** (led by Parish Clerk)
 - Year End Accounts held in audit with M Weatherley.
- Annual Return and AGAR** (led by Parish Clerk)
 - Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) pending completion.

f. **Precept Review** (led by Parish Clerk)

- Council agreed to 15% precept increase from £13400 to £15410 (in line with standard increase for councils)
- Increase necessary to cover rising costs and maintain services.
- Speed sign repair not included in the budget – may request access to Cllr Horncastle's member allowance to assist with the repair.

(Proposed – Cllr Cole/Seconded – Cllr Dean)

→ **Action:** *Parish Clerk to submit Precept request to NCC (see actions log)*

g. **Review of Clerk's contract** (led by Parish Clerk)

- Clerk's contract will be amended and pushed to the next agenda to review

(Proposed – Cllr Livesey/Seconded – Cllr Dean)

→ **Action:** *Parish Clerk to prepare updated contract (see actions log)*

h. **Website Content and local organisation collaboration** (led by Cllr Livesey)

Pat Wilson (Healey Parish Council Clerk & Commemoration Hall Secretary) in attendance.

- Councillor Dean to take over website editing with monthly update schedule.
- Pat Wilson to contact Elm Marketing to resolve billing issues.
- Commemoration Hall and Healey Parish Council to contribute £100 each towards increased website costs.

(Proposed – Cllr Cole/Seconded – Cllr Ogle)

i. **Web Presence** (led by Cllr Dean)

- Councillor Dean to continue maintenance and updates through Facebook group 'Slaley News and Views'

(Proposed – Cllr Livesey/Seconded – Cllr Ogle)

j. **Wooley Grange Highway Network Adoption** (led by Cllr Livesey)

- Pushed to August Agenda due to absence of Councillor Horncastle

8. Planning Applications.

Planning Decision Notification:

Refusal - 25/01612/FUL – Deneside Wooley First Floor Extension and Dormer.

9. Finances (led by Parish Clerk)

- Finances accepted as true record.

(Proposed – Cllr Livesey/Seconded – Cllr Cole)

10. Any Other Business

Environmental concerns

- Parish communication from L Kellett regarding Ash dieback tree which is marked with red dot for 4+ years with no action from NCC. The tree poses a risk to property if it falls and repeated emails to council have gone unanswered.
- Verge maintenance needed at the King Caravan Park area.

→ **Action:** *Parish Clerk to contact Duncan Lovatt to check the area for environmental concerns (see actions log)
Parish Clerk to check with Procuts about the areas they cover in their maintenance contract.*

Community Projects

- R Wilson enquired about the Neighbourhood Plan
- Slaley Show requested grant funding for wooden benches

Council agreed that grant applications are on hold until the Precept funding is secured.

→ **Action:** *Councillor Cole to contact R Wilson regarding the stalled Neighbourhood Plan to ask if she would like to be involved in its reinstatement (see actions log)*

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 21st July at 7pm (Commemoration Hall)

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

