



**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of  
Slaley Parish Council  
Held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.00pm  
In Slaley Commemoration Hall**

---

**Present**

Councillor Anne Livesey (Chair), Councillor Michael Ogle, Councillor Nicole Dean, Councillor Julie Cole (Vice Chair), Councillor Mark Osborne, Councillor Alexia Dawson, & Councillor Colin Horncastle.

**In attendance**

Parish Clerk - Samantha Dalglish,

**Members of Public**

Residents – A Holmes & M Darrington

**1. Welcome and councillor news.**

Councillor Livesey welcomed councillors and residents to the meeting and gave thanks to a very generous donation from a resident that enabled the meetings to be reconvened prior to receiving the precept in April.

**2. Public Participation.**

- M Darrington shared concern with flooding on road between Slaley and Hexham causing damage and potholes. Drainage channel from private farmland flows onto the road.

County Councillor Horncastle will check with NCC and report back.

- M Darrington raised the Slaley Community Shop Welcome Pack be presented on the website to engage the community and strengthen the community

It was agreed to upload to the welcome pack to a dedicated Slaley Community Shop page.

- A Holmes raised planning application being available of the Slaley Community website.

Councillor Dean reassured that a link to local planning applications was now available on the community website.

- A Holmes raised the issue of the state of the 30+ potholes on Coal Road that cause damage to cars, that there is no gully and water is pouring onto the road during heavy rain removing any patch repairs.
- County Councillor Horncastle recommended reporting on Fix My Street. Councillor Livesey will inspect the roads and report on Fix My Street.

→ **Action:** *County Councillor Horncastle will check flooding issues with NCC  
Councillor Livesey will report road damage on Fix My Street*

### **3. Apologies for absence**

None

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

None

### **5. Planning Applications**

**26/00765/VARYCO** - Variation of Conditions 2 (approved plans), 3 (materials) and 4(private use) on approved application 25/03285/FUL in order to reflect the plans submitted of the Monarch internal stables, Woodhouse temporary stables, describe the materials of the level surface and accurately reflect the use of the land at Todburn Steel, Slaley, Hexham, NE47 0DH.

**[Due by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026]**

The council raised no objection to this application.

**26/00851/FUL** - Conversion of barn into residential use. South Farm, Slaley, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 0BQ. **[Due by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026]**

The council raised no objection to this application.

### **6. Minutes of previous meetings**

Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

Minutes were agreed as true copy (*Proposed – Cllr Dean/Seconded Cllr Cole*)

### **7. Matters arising – actions log**

None

### **8. Co-option of councillors**

Residents Mark Osborne and Alexia Dawson were co-opted to Slaley Parish Council

### **9. County Councillor update.**

- **LTP Approved:** The Local Transport Plan (LTP) has been passed. All relevant details relating to Slaley Parish will be forwarded to the Clerk. Recent bad weather has worsened existing utility repairs, and many additional repairs are expected.
- **NCC Local Plan Review:** The NCC Local Plan will be reviewed over the next three years, with adoption expected in 2029. Approximately 34,000 homes are anticipated for Northumberland over 20 years, with housing development continuing to focus on areas with strong transport links. The green belt is no longer safe from development.
- **Budget Reduction:** The budget has been significantly reduced—from £15–18 million per year to £30 million over three years. This reduction is expected to result in further voluntary redundancies.

## 10. Agenda Items.

a. **Wooley Grange Adoption Update** (led by Cllr Livesey)

Councillor Livesey met with David Hunt who confirmed that Stage 1 had been completed but the process had never moved to Stage 2.

→ **Action:** *County Councillor Horncastle will follow up with David Hunt*

b. **Community policing visit update** (led by Parish Clerk)

Councillors agreed that a police visit was unnecessary, but a quarterly report would be required.

→ **Action:** *Councillor Cole will contact Inspector Benson for a rural crime update.*

c. **Assertion 10 – Gov.uk email** (led by Parish Clerk)

The required gov.uk email address has been acquired and is operational. There is no requirement to change to a gov.uk website as there is limitations on content and advertising local events would not be possible.

It was agreed not to change to a gov.uk website and to maintain the current Slaley Community Website.

→ **Action:** *None required.*

d. **End of year accounts** (led by Parish Clerk)

The end of year accounts are currently being collated and will be presented for approval at the May Slaley Parish Council meeting prior to being sent for internal audit.

→ **Action:** *Clerk to put together end of year accounts.*

e. **Scribe accounting system** (led by Clerk)

- To reduce time wastage and to streamline the accounting system, the clerk suggested investigating Scribe Accounting, which allows for simplified account entry and reconciliation. Councillors agreed to the investigation for presentation at the April Parish Council meeting.
- It was agreed that Councillors Livesey, Dean and Dawson would be the councillors with authorisation for the Slaley Parish bank account and viewing authority for the Scribe accounting system if adopted.

*(Proposed – Cllr Livesey/ Seconded – Cllr Dean)*

→ **Action:** *Clerk to investigate cost of Scribe Accounting system  
Clerk to add Councillors Livesey, Dean and Dawson to banking mandate.*

f. **Ground nesting bird signage** (led by Cllr Dean)

- Councillor Dean was informed that a sign in Slaley Forest informing of ground nesting birds had been knocked over.

→ **Action:** *Councillor Osborne will investigate reinstating the sign.*

g. **Grass cutting contract** (led by Cllr Ogle)

- Procuts have presented their grass cutting contract for renewal.

Councillors agreed to continue the contract

(Proposed – Cllr Cole/ Seconded – Cllr Osborne)

→ **Action:** *Clerk to contact Procuts and renew the contract.*

h. **Postal services update** (led by Cllr Livesey)

- Councillor Livesey has been informed that ongoing changes within the postal service, widely reported in the national press, are creating a nationwide issue and impacting the postal system.
- Councillor Livesey advised Councillors to let parishioners know if postal service enquiries arise.

→ **Action:** *None Required.*

i. **Insurance Renewal – Not on agenda in correspondence** (led by Parish Clerk)

- An insurance pre-renewal questionnaire has been received by the clerk which will be completed once the accounts have been finalised.
- Councillor Dean agreed to investigate additional insurance quotes

→ **Action:** *Clerk to complete pre-renewal questionnaire when possible and forward to Councillor Dean to assist in obtaining insurance renewal quotes.*

## 11. Correspondence

- 1.1 – Pre-renewal questionnaire – reviewed in agenda items
- 1.2 – Reviewed in public participation
- 1.4 – Advisory only.

## 12. Finances (led by Parish Clerk)

- Finances accepted as true record.

(Proposed – Cllr Livesey /Seconded – Cllr Dean)

### 13. Agenda Items for 20<sup>th</sup> April meeting agenda

- Wooley Grange adoption update
- Rural Crime report
- Bank Mandate
- Scribe Accounting System
- Ground nesting bird sign update
- Confirm meeting dates for 2026/2027 financial year.

### 14. Private session/ confidential items

None

### 15. Any Other Business

- The parish council was informed that a log had been removed without permission from the Slaley Community Playground. The school is requesting the cost of replacement of the log. The Parish Council currently does not have the funds to replace the log and did not authorise the removal.
- It was agreed that the playground inspector would be contacted to perform an additional inspection and the Councillor Dean would contact the school to inform them of the council decision.
- The Clerk suggested approaching the police service about the 'Cuppa with a Coppa' programme.
- A request has been made to allow local businesses to advertise on the Parish website and in the *Slaley News*; however, concerns were raised about potential liability for the Parish Council if advertised businesses fail to meet expected standards. Councillor Dawson will investigate the extent of this liability in relation to hosting such advertisements on the Community webpage.

→ **Action:** *Councillor Dean to email the school to advise of the council decision.  
Clerk to email the playground inspector to request an additional visit.  
Clerk to contact the police service about Cuppa with a Coppa.  
Councillor Dawson to investigate liability.*

### 16. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm (Commemoration Hall) unless otherwise advised

***There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.36 pm***