



**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of
Slaley Parish Council
Held on Monday 17th November 2025 at 7.00pm
In Slaley Commemoration Hall**

Present

Councillor Anne Livesey (Chair), Councillor Michael Ogle, Councillor Nicole Dean, Councillor Julie Cole (Vice Chair), Councillor Colin Horncastle.

In attendance

Parish Clerk - Samantha Dalglish, Proposed Councillor Mark Osbourne, Proposed Councillor Alexia Dawson.

Members of Public

Residents – M Elphick, S & D Elphick, D & R Dryden, L Harris, C Crowther, J & A Iverson & C Lincoln.

1. Apologies for Absence.

None

2. Public Participation.

- Residents raised several concerns regarding the South Farm development, including the proximity of vehicle access to existing housing, the width of the proposed driveway, visibility at the access point, general safety issues, the overall scale of the proposed buildings, and the plan to erect a 6-ft fence that would obstruct views.
- Cllr Livesey advised residents to submit their concerns directly to NCC through the planning application process, ensuring that planning officers are made aware of any relevant safety or development issues.
- In recognition of the potential benefits that additional residents may bring to the Parish, the Parish Council has decided not to submit an objection or comment on the South Farm development at this stage.
- S & D Elphick asked if the Townfoot Caravan Park was opening for business.
- M Elphick asked about printing the Christmas edition of the Slaley News in colour, which was approved.

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to research Townfoot Caravan Park's business situation.*

3. Short Address by County Councillor Colin Horncastle.

Local Issues;

- The County Council is urgently revising the February budget and needs to identify £20 million in savings.
- NCC is considering voluntary redundancies and seeking to reduce costs through more efficient procurement.
- NCC has partnered with Simply Recycling, and new bins will be introduced next year to separate paper and plastics.

4. Declarations of Interests.

None

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

- a) Minutes were agreed as true copy (*Proposed – Cllr Dean /Seconded Cllr Ogle*)
- b) Review of actions log – See Appendix A
- c) Matters Arising;
 - a. Gully on the Main street has been drained.

6. Correspondence of significant note.

- From: Local Transport Plan – email (dated 30/09/2025) LTP Workshop Presentation Slides
- From: Slaley Community Shop – email (dated 30/09/2025) forward of information about grants offered by the Slaley Community Shop.

7. Agenda Items.

- a. Precept Review (*led by Parish Clerk*)
 - If M Weatherley agrees, the Councillors appointed her for the yearly audit in 2026.
 - If M Weatherley is not available, S Saunders will be appointed.
 - The Precept was agreed and the precept request will be forwarded to NCC (*Proposed – Cllr Livesey / Seconded Cllr Cole*)

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to contact M Weatherley*
S Dalglish to forward precept request to NCC

- b. **Joe Morris Meeting Update** (*led by Cllr Livesey*)
 - MP Morris raised the issue of rural crime with the home office minister and is looking at funding for rural crime prevention.
 - The precept issue and performance of NCC was raised with MP Morris but Cllr Livesey is unsure if any action will be taken.

→ **Action:** *None required*

c. **Community Governance Review** (led by Parish Clerk)

- Community Governance Review was completed.

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to forward Community Governance Review to NCC*

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

- Main problem with the adoption appears to be the legal team
- There are 3 parts; Stage 1 is done, Stage 2 was never completed and the committees don't exist anymore.
- Suggestion of move to Stage 3 so now waiting on the legal team.

→ **Action:** *None required.*

e. **Rural Crime Update** (led by Cllr Livesey)

- Rural Crime was raised with Joe Morris MP
- Have been advised that there is an increased presence by Farm Watch which is encouraging.

f. **Community Policing Visit Update** (led by Parish Clerk)

- Meeting cancelled as no meeting will be held in December.

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to advise A Bruce that no meeting is needed at this time.*

g. **Power Cuts in Slaley Visit** (led by Cllr Livesey)

- Residents have raised concerns over ongoing power cuts.
- Cllr Horncastle indicated that capacity is an issue.
- Parish Council is aware that Northern Power are constantly updating but will consider writing a letter to Northern Power in the new year if power cuts are excessive over winter.

→ **Action:** *None at this stage*

h. **Play Area Update** (led by Cllr Parish Clerk)

- NCC have asked if they can reduce their visits.

(Proposed – Cllr Cole / Seconded – Cllr Livesey)

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to contact NCC to reduce Play area visits*

i. **Hexham & Budget Corporate Priorities Meeting** (led by Parish Clerk)

- Glen Sanderson was not available, so meeting was hosted by County Councillor Nicholas Oliver.
- Nothing to advise as no issues with Slaley were raised at the meeting

→ **Action:** *None Required.*

j. **Budget Update** (led by Parish Clerk)

- Parish Clerk has estimated that the budget will be under at the end of December, with three – four months before the April precept instalment is received.
- Possible solution is that reduced meetings are held from December until March with only minimal unpaid duties by Parish Clerk in response to emails.
- No decisions can be made during that period, with all decisions deferred to April's meeting when the AGM will need to be called and the full year accounts reconciled for internal audit.
- Only direct expense will be paid during that time, and the Parish Clerk will work only essential hours and calculate her pay due, to be paid with her suspended expenses out of the April Precept.
- Councillors agreed to no formal meetings of the Parish Council in December and January, with potential meetings in February and/or March to finalise the year.

(Proposed – Cllr Livesey / Seconded – Cllr Cole)

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to add notice to Parish website detailing the decision.
S Dalglish to submit VAT rebate to date.*

8. **Planning Applications.**

- **Planning Application:** 19/09/25 - 25/03285/FUL – Demolition of two sheds and erection of free-standing, self-contained stable block – Todburn Steel, Slaley – **No observation required**
- **Planning Decision Notification:** 02/10/25 - 25/01128/FUL – Change of use of granary building and adjoining garage to dwelling house – South Farm – **GRANTED**
- **Planning Decision Notification:** 02/10/25 - 25/01129/LBC – Listed building consent for planning application 25/01128/FUL – South Farm – **GRANTED**
- **Planning Application:** 08/10/25 - 25/03530/LBC – Listed building consent for conversion of Dutch Barn into residential property – South Farm, Slaley – **No observation required.**
- **Planning Decision Notification:** 17/10/25 - 25/02854/FUL – Conversion of Dutch Barn into residential property and additional stone barn into residential use – South Farm – **GRANTED**
- **Planning Application:** 20/10/25 - 25/03759/FUL – Redevelopment of existing dwelling including two-storey side extension to West elevation – Deneside Wooley – **No observation required.**
- **Planning Application:** 21/10/25 - 25/03759/FUL Amended– Redevelopment of existing dwelling including two-storey side extension to West elevation – Deneside Wooley – **No observation required.**
- **Planning Application:** 22/10/25 - 25/03795/FUL – Removal of existing attached out-building and detached garage and construction of single storey extension – 8 South Park, Slaley – **No observation required.**
- **Planning Application:** 27/10/25 - 25/03566/FUL – New vehicular crossing from C275 across highway verge to boundary of South Farm garden – South Farm, Slaley – **No observation submitted.**

- **Planning Application:** 04/11/25 - 25/03860/FUL – Conversion of redundant agricultural barn into two semi-detached dwelling houses with integrated garaging and associated gardens. – South Farm, Slaley – **No observation submitted.**

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

- Finances accepted as true record.
(Proposed – Cllr Livesey /Seconded – Cllr Dean)

10. **Any Other Business**

- A Dawson introduction to Parish Council as potential co-opted councillor. A Dawson received relevant paperwork to be completed and returned.
- Defibrillator Discussion – Wooley Defibrillator – Application for grant was refused so looking at purchase options with residents supporting the purchase.
- Notice of Consultation – Dog Control in Public Spaces – Protection Order.
- A resident has requested that advertisement for Christmas events be promoted on the Slaley Community Page which was agreed.
- Cllr Dean shared the survey results which coincided with current operations.

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to respond to resident and gather Christmas notifications.*

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 16th February 2026 at 7pm (Commemoration Hall) unless otherwise advised

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.15pm