



**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of
Slaley Parish Council
Held on Monday 15th September 2025 at 7.00pm
In Slaley Commemoration Hall**

Present

Councillor Julie Cole, Councillor Michael Ogle, Councillor Nicole Dean, Councillor Colin Horncastle.

In attendance

Parish Clerk - Samantha Dalglish.

Members of Public

Residents – Michael Elphick, Mark Osbourne

1. Apologies for Absence.

Councillor Anne Livesey

2. Public Participation.

- M Elphick – none at this time
- Mark Osborne raised issue with the blocked and overflowing drains on the main street between the pub and the shop.

→ **Action:** *Councillor Colin Horncastle will follow this up with contacts at NCC*

3. Short Address by County Councillor Colin Horncastle.

Local Issues;

- Wooley Grange Adoption – A reply has been received from Highways. They are reviewing the documents currently.
- Slaley Hall – Update from the EPA – the stream is now running clear. The property is under new management, and any potential overflow is regularly monitored and better managed.
- Traffic Calming Measures – Traffic calming measures are being looked into.

County wide:

- Budget - NCC have two sources of income; Council Tax and Government Settlement and are 1.9 million short.
 - They have saved £20 million by offering voluntary redundancy to help with savings.
 - They won't make a reduction in the highways budget, and more road repairs are continuing.
- Council Performance – NCC is carrying on quite nicely
 - There is a mixed bunch of new councillors – some paper candidates but internal administration issues are being addressed.
 - Food recycling programs are starting in the South East of the County due to the greater population.

- There is a shortage of bin collection wagons, and they are breaking down so some bin rounds might be missed while the issue is addressed.
- New schools are opening at Berwick and Amble

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 – None

6. **Correspondence of significant note.**

- From: Local Transport Plan – email (dated 01/09/2025) LTP Capital Programme Information – see under Agenda Items.
- From: Public Rights of Way – email (dated 18/08/2025) Review of Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way Informal pre-order consultation – see under Agenda Items.

7. **Agenda Items.**

a. **Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme** (*led by Cllr Cole*)

- Councillors agreed to put LTP on the website and Facebook to received feedback from the local community.
- Current suggestion for inclusion are;
 - The west end of North Road, off the B6306 in from Hexham has no drainage and floods completely. Vision is limited until you hit either water or ice.
 - Barriers at either end of the Bywell behind Blue Gables Farm as motorbikes keep tearing it up
- The potholes on Cole Road were mentioned but can't be included in the LTP.
(*Proposed – Cllr Dean / Seconded – Cllr Cole*)

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to email Mark Mathers at NCC to follow up on pothole issue. Cllr Dean to put LTP on the website and Facebook to receive community suggestions.*

b. **Public Rights of Way Review** (*led by Parish Clerk*)

- Councillors agreed to put the Public Rights of Way Review on the website and Facebook to receive information from the community that might help with the review.
(*Proposed – Cllr Dean/ Seconded – Cllr Cole*)

→ **Action:** *Cllr Dean to put Public Rights of Way Review on the website and Facebook.*

c. **Survey and Meeting Accessibility** (led by Cllr Dean)

- Slaley Shop put out a survey about what the community would like to happen in the shop.
- Cllr Dean suggested a similar council survey for engagement with the local community – how to communicate with council
- All councillors agreed with the concept.
(Proposed – Cllr Cole / Seconded – Cllr Ogle)

→ **Action:** *Cllr Dean will create a survey form for engagement with the local community, to be approved at the next meeting.*

d. **Community Policing Visit Update** (led by Cllr Cole)

- The police visit has been postponed until December due to conflicting appointments.
- Our rural policing officer, Auriol Bruce, has suggested contacting the Protect Slaley Forest Group representative, J Rogers from Raw Green about issues within Slaley Forest.
- Councillors requested that a crime report be sent prior to the visit due to the delay in meeting.
(Proposed – Cllr Cole / Seconded – Cllr Dean)

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish will contact A Bruce to request crime report and confirm meeting in December.
Cllr Cole to contact J Rogers at Raw Green to request information about Slaley Forest Protection.*

e. **Bywell Chair's Meeting** (led by Cllr Cole)

- Bywell Chair's Meeting is on the 16th September so this item is pushed to the next Agenda.

→ **Action:** *None required*

f. **Wooley Grange Adoption Update** (led by Parish Clerk for Cllr Livesey)

- A reply has been received from the Highways departments and they are currently reviewing the documentation.

→ **Action:** *None required.*

g. **Grass Cutting Contract** (led by Cllr Parish Clerk)

- Grass cutting contract expires in March with the last bill due in October.
- Councillors have agreed to investigate alternative grass cutting service providers.

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to contact grass cutting contractors to obtain quotes*

h. **Wooley Grange Defibrillator Update** (*led by Parish Clerk for Parish Clerk*)

- Cllr Livesey approached additional residents at Wooley who agreed to contribute alongside Wooley Grange Residents – The total cost looks to be £1200 which would require 12 households to contribute £150 each..
- Cllr Livesey made an application to the British Heart Foundation on 1st September to the Community Fund which supplies free defibrillators to such organisations as Parish Council.
- Cllr Livesey will provide further update at October meeting.

→ **Action:** *None Required.*

8. **Planning Applications.**

- **Planning Decision Notification:** 25/02438/LBC – Listed Building Consent for installation of 10 solar panels and air source heat pump to rear of property – Drapers Cottage – **GRANTED**
- **Planning Decision Notification:** 25/02448/FUL – Installation of 10 solar panels and air source heat pump – Drapers Cottage – **GRANTED**

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

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

10. **Any Other Business**

- To reduce costs, Councillors discussed reducing meeting frequency to lower the rate of pay required to the Clerk during the time without an active Precept.
 - Parish Clerk will check rate of pay and contract to estimate the possible savings.
 - Pushed to next meeting for more detailed discussion.
- Email received from Slaley Community Shop requesting repainting of Loading Bay in front of the shop to inform visitors that it is not a permanent parking space.
- A caravan situated in Slaley Forest has been towed further into the forest.
- Mark Osborne was accepted by all Councillors as a co-opted member of the Council.
(*Proposed – Cllr Dean/Seconded – Cllr Ogle*)

→ **Action:** *S Dalglish to email Greg Gavin at NCC to initiate the repainting of the loading bay area outside of the community shop.*
S Dalglish to investigate pay estimate based on reduced meeting frequency.
J Cole to email Protect Slaley Forest Group to investigate the caravan that was towed further into Slaley Forest.

11. **Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 20th October at 7pm (Commemoration Hall)

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.20pm