

# Slaley Parish Council

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2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

I hereby give notice that **the Meeting of Slaley Parish Council** will be held on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024** in the **Community Room, Slaley Commemoration Hall, at 5.30pm.** to which you are summoned for the transaction of the following business.

Signed: *Samantha Dalglish*  
(Clerk to Slaley Parish Council)

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Public Participation**
- 3. Short Address by County Councillor Colin Horncastle**
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
- 5. Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024**
  - a. Approval of minutes
  - b. Review of actions
  - c. Matters arising

## 6. Correspondence of significant note

*(Councillors are reminded that all Council related email correspondence can be viewed at [slaleypc@gmail.com](mailto:slaleypc@gmail.com))*

- **From: A Member of the Parish** – two emails (dated 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> June) from a resident, referencing the June 10<sup>th</sup> minutes, and the discussion regarding the ‘Integrity of the Parish’. The resident is critical of the Parish Council’s choice of wording, in particular the words ‘normalise,’ ‘de-escalate,’ and ‘historical’ within the draft minutes. Councillor Stevens responded on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2024 and received a third email in response (dated 25<sup>th</sup> June), with thoughts on ways to move forward.
- **From: Highways Program** – received an email (dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024) from the Highways Program Regarding involvement in the Local Capital Plan Programme 2025-2026. Agenda item f. allows the Councillors to discuss this issue further.
- **From: Mrs P Wilson/Elm Marketing** – received an email from Mrs P Wilson (dated 21<sup>st</sup> June) regarding an invoice for Rocketspark web hosting that keeps getting sent to Mrs Wilson for payment, even though no money is owed as Elm Marketing no longer maintains the website. The Clerk sent an email (dated 21<sup>st</sup> June), and two letters to the two physical addresses listed on the invoice (dated 28<sup>th</sup> June), when no response was received.
- **To: The Planning Team at Northumberland County Council** – in support of concerns raised by some residents regarding prior-approval planning applications (24/01632-24/01633/AGTRES) for the change of use of two agricultural buildings to residential dwelling at South Farm, Slaley, an email (dated 18<sup>th</sup> June) was sent to the planning team at Northumberland County Council, and also to the residents that attended the Slaley Parish Council meeting of June 10<sup>th</sup> 2024.
- **From: Members of the Parish** – Residents sent emails (dated 19<sup>th</sup> June) to thank Slaley Parish Council for time spent researching the issue, and for submitting an objection to the planning team in support of their concerns about prior-approval planning applications (24/01632-24/01633/AGTRES) for South Farm, Slaley.
- **From: Councillor Horncastle** – Received email (dated 12<sup>th</sup> June) from Councillor Horncastle with a response from Kate Blyth from the planning team at Northumberland County Council, providing information regarding the prior-approval planning applications (24/01632-24/01633/AGTRES) for South Farm, Slaley.

- **To/From: Councillor John Riddle** – Following on from an email sent to Councillor Riddle on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 about the sub-standard state of Coal Road (minuted item 3 of 11/03/2024; minuted item 3 of 08/04/2024; minuted item 3 of 13/05/2024), Councillor Stevens asked for a response from Councillor Riddle on 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. Councillor Riddle responded on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, indicating that he couldn't locate the original email and that he was away on holiday currently and forwarded Councillor Stevens email to Paul Jones – Head of Highways, and Andrew Olive – Western Area Highways manager. Andrew Olive responded on 13<sup>th</sup> June, indicating that he was also away, but would be in touch on his return.

A further response was received from Councillor John Riddle (11<sup>th</sup> June), indicating he would be willing to attend a Parish meeting and meet Councillors on site at Coal Road to discuss any issues. The Parish Clerk emailed Councillor Riddle (21<sup>st</sup> June) to invite him to a Parish meeting but has yet to receive a response.

- **From: A Member of the Parish** – email from Mrs Robson (28<sup>th</sup> June 2024) volunteering for the Northumbria Police Speed Watch Initiative. Mrs Robson expressed her concern about resident safety around cars speeding through the village and cars parked on the pavement forcing residents to use the road. She asked for the issue to be added to the next Slaley Parish Council meeting agenda. The Parish Clerk responded to acknowledge Mrs Robson's email (28<sup>th</sup> June). The Parish Clerk sent a second email (2<sup>nd</sup> July) to provide relevant information to Mrs Robson and to invite her to attend the upcoming Parish Council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2024.

## **7. Approaches Made to Councillors directly**

### **a. Correspondence**

None

### **b. Personal**

None

## 8. New Items

a. **Review of Outstanding Actions Pre-10th June 2024** (led by Cllr Stevens)

Review and update of actions log.

b. **The Integrity of the Parish Council** (led by Cllr Stevens)

Review of the ongoing concerns held by some, of the stance taken by the Parish Council upon being made aware of the unlawful activity of a member of the community.

c. **Removal of the Playground Equipment** (led by Cllr Stevens)

At the Parish Council meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024, as an AOB item (minute 12.a), Councillors received a request from the Headteacher and Governors at Slayey First School to support the removal of the large climbing frame in the Community Play Area, on health and safety grounds. This agenda item allows Councillors to discuss this issue in full and review updated information.

d. **Parish Plan Update** (led by Cllr Stevens)

Issue captured from the Parish Council's Yearly Planner

e. **Play Area Community Agreement Review** (led by Cllr Stevens)

Issue captured from the Parish Councils Yearly Planner.

The following is the current wording setting out the contract the community has with the Northumberland County Council for the use of the school field as a Community Play Area.

*'The land is the property of the County Council. As a community, we have negotiated its use outside of school hours as a play area. This is conditional on it, or the equipment in it, not being abused.*

*If you or your children are going to use this wonderful space, please bear the following in mind:*

- *All persons use the area at their own risk,*
- *The area must only be used for its intended purpose,*
- *In the interests of safety, please do not bring dogs, glass or alcohol into the area,*
- *The use of this space as a community asset is dependent upon it being kept in good condition by those using it,*
- *There is no first aid kit on site,*
- *This is a no smoking site.'*

- f. **Integrated Transport Programme priorities for the forthcoming year** *(led by Cllr Stevens)*  
Issue captured from the Parish Councils Yearly Planner.
- g. **The Neighbourhood Plan** *(led Cllr Stevens)*
- Councillor Stevens to provide an update on progress in relation to rejuvenating activity around the Plan, including information supplied by Locality.
  - The Parish Clerk to provide information on the Neighbourhood Planning Grant Application, and the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (PGSA) digital mapping resource.
- h. **Parish Walkabout** *(led by Cllr Stevens)*  
Councillor Stevens to explore the appetite amongst Councillors for a Parish walkabout in August.
- i. **Parish Website** *(led by the Parish Clerk)*  
This agenda item affords the Parish Clerk the opportunity to provide an overview of the changes she has been making to the Parish website.
- j. **Requests for links or postings on the Parish Website** *(led by Cllr Stevens)*  
Occasionally requests are made by third parties for links or advertisements to be posted on the Parish website (the latest being to advertise a Chamber Music Festival in Corbridge). No mechanism appears to exist in relation to managing such requests. Through discussion, this agenda item looks to address this issue.
- k. **Grants and Donations** *(led by Cllr Stevens)*  
Whilst the Parish Council has a well-documented grants policy, ad hoc requests are received occasionally, the latest being from the Citizens Advice Bureau. Additionally, there are some charities that the Council may wish to contribute to outside the grants policy. The Parish Council has no formal policy to determine this process. Through discussion, this agenda item looks to address this issue.
- l. **Annual Parish Event** *(led by Cllr Stevens)*  
Update on the Annual Parish Event overview drawn up by Councillor Stevens
- m. **Parish Council Drop-in Events** *(led by Cllr Stevens)*  
Update on the 'drop-in' event that took place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June. The next is scheduled for Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July.

## 9. Planning Applications

- **Planning Notification:** Certificate of Lawful Development for an existing use -The Old School House has been an independent residential dwelling since 2004.
  - **Proposal:** The application submits that The Old School House has been used as a single residential unit since 1995. It is submitted that the length of time of this use (Class C3(a)) exceeds the four-year and ten-year limits for the Local Planning Authority to take enforcement action under Section 171B of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990). Slaley Parish Council was not asked for consultation.
  - **Current status:** Permission granted 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## 10. Finances *(led by Cllr Taylor)*

- a. Current account overview
- b. Instant Online interest account
- c. Financial Overview of Council funds – in-depth exploration of spend against budget.

## 11. Any Other Business/Urgent Matters

*Only items received by the Chair of the Parish Council at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting will be considered.*

None as of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.

## 12. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August at Commemoration Hall at 5.30pm.