

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 16th April 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Apologies. None

Present: Councillor I.C. Hancock in the Chair. Councillors L. Norris, C. A. Brooks, A. S. Robson, D. Allsop, S. Davison & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor Colin W Horncastle (for part of meeting). Public. None. Northumbria Police: None. Courant Reporter: Rosalind Saul. Slaley Notes: None. Community Trust: None

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

County Councillor CW Horncastle for agenda item10

3.Minutes of March Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 771 – 775 + appendix 1, page 776, appendix 2 page 777, appendix 3 page 778, appendix 4 page 779, appendix 5 page 780 & appendix 6 page 781.

Proposed a true record by Cllr L Norris and seconded by Cllr CA Brooks. The minutes were dated and signed.

4.Matters Arising.

a) 5 12/3/12 Public Participation- Dog Fouling down High Clear Lane. No names have been provided to the Clerk for a PC name and shame exercise.

b) 8d 12/3/12 Northumberland Age UK – Handyman in the West of the County – Cllr Robson telephoned and asked about prices. Apparently there are no set prices; a price is given when individual people or groups have a list of requirements. For example to clean out the gutters on a medium sized house the cost is £40. There is more information on the web site.

c) 8f 12/3/12 Clerk wrote to ask Tynedale Sports Council for a copy of their accounts. Nothing has been received.

d) 14 12/3/12. Annual Risk Assessment. Clerk sent an email on 13/3/12 informing the Councillors that the play and sport facilities should be included in the Assessment. A request for ideas was made. **Clerk provided a draft example and it was accepted.**

e) 16 13/3/12. BOATs update. Further to the concerns of Dr. Graham, his wife Harriett, contacted the Clerk by email on March 18th for more information on the use of High Clear lane by recreational vehicles. Slaley PC Chairman drafted a reply detailing the PC's understanding of the status of the lane and the reason why environmental objections are not a consideration at this stage. When the status was confirmed then Mrs Graham's offer to organise a group to monitor the lane and keep a diary recording danger, misuse, environmental impact etc which could then go towards a request for a TRO. The letter was amended slightly and then posted to Mrs Graham.

f) 17 12/3/12. The pack for a new Parish Council Councillor was received by the Clerk and delivered to Cllr Allsop. The pack was completed and returned to the Clerk.

g) 18a 12/3/12 Ladycross Stone for a Parish sign on the B6306 near the PC seat. Richard Hayes, Highways Manager met the Clerk at the site on Friday March 23rd. (Emailed Councillors with time and date once agreed) The position for the stone was agreed on site. Ladycross has not delivered the stone to the site. Trevor Golightly recently had a close bereavement and Billy Hall has declined doing the inscription. He felt a monumental sculptor was required and suggested Barry Coleman.

The Councillors agreed to the updated proposals.

h) 18b 12/3/12. Localism Act and the Opportunity of Neighbourhood Planning on 14/3/12 attended by Cllr Hancock and Clerk. **Report:** During the three-hour presentation it was established that the purpose of Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) is to regulate land use changes and these changes must

conform with the Government's Sustainability Proposals and also with the County Strategic Plans. The cost of a NP is estimated at £40k (most of this voluntary in-kind work by parish or town councils) and with a £17k cost to the County Council for county planning staff work. The planners felt that existing procedures met most requirements of PC and Town Councils could be provided through normal channels and a Parish Plan covered most non-land use changes. The handout consisted of the CPRE booklet "How to Shape where you live: a guide to Neighbourhood Planning" and a copy of the 53 slides was also given out. Slide 51 confirmed that NP's are basically land use plans while slide 52 concluded that NCC and NNPA have a limited staff capacity to support NPs. Given the proposed funding to County Councils for processing NPs, only a very few could be in process at a given time. The CC recommends that PCs wait for the outcome of the current trials in the county.

5.Public Participation. None.

6.Community Trust Report

- a) CT AGM was held on Thursday April 12th.
- b) Email received April 11th reporting that a Jubilee Street Party would be held at Slaley First School on June 3rd. Volunteers are welcome.
- c) Mg Weatherley emailed the annual CT accounts.
- d) Cllr Brooks, who is one of three co-editors of the monthly newsletter, informed the PC that the CT is looking into different printing of the Newsletter. Improved quality will incur increased costs and Cllr Brooks asked if the PC would be willing to consider providing a grant towards costs. It was generally agreed that this would be a reasonable use of PC funds if an application was made..

7.Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) The second speed unit has been ordered. Final details of an installation date were not to hand.
- b) The CC was asked for a report for the Annual Public Meeting in May.
- d) The CC asked Slaley PC for a copy of its annual highways report.

8.Correspondence.

Hard copy

- a) Adapt trip to Dobbie's Garden Centre Carlisle 10/4/12. Arrived 8/4/12 so copied and given to Slaley Village Shop.
- b) Request from Whitley Chapel YFC to help with £2,000 shortfall after reaching the National Pantomime Finals in Torquay. Circulated to Healey & Slaley Councillors. Healey provided a grant of £100. The Slaley PC Grants Policy indicates that a balance sheet is needed, however some Councillors felt that this was a special circumstance. Clerk had requested a balance by telephone from the YFC' Chairman's mother – this had not been received. Clerk to ask in writing for a balance sheet. If a suitable balance sheet arrives then the Councillors agreed in principle to award a grant of £250.00.
- c) Andy Clarke of NCC Housing Needs Assessment draft report circulated by email on 2/4/12.
- d) Andy Rutherford NCC: Asks the PC to identify plots of CC owned land on which they can plant trees (emailed this request). Slaley did not know of any land.
- c) NFU request for applications to be County Crime Fighter. Awards competition went on line 14/3/12 Financial prizes to help fund anti-crime initiatives. Noted.
- d) Jubilee advertising leaflet. Hard copy of CAN news (also by email 2/4/12), NCC Posters /Booklets parking enforcement.

Emails:

- a) 13/3/12: Rt. Hon Eric Pickles MP Communities & Local Government - Bandstand Marathon.
- b) 19/3/12 Weekly Digest 19th March.
- c) 20/3/12: RFB No 11.
- d) 21/3/12: Caroline Ashby - Local Government Act 1972 gives a wide range of powers to spend on HM Queen Elizabeth Jubilee.
- e) 26/3/12: RSN weekly digest
- f) 26/3/12: Richard Hayes - fundamental changes to Highways & Neighbourhood Service . (4 pages)
- g) 26/3/12: Carrol Hessey - Northumberland Update Connecting communities through broadband.
- h) 26/3/12: Northumberland LINK e-newsletter
- i) 27/3/12: Lesley Bennett NCC: Standards Committee 2/4/12
- j) 30/3/12: RFB No 12
- k) 30/3/12: NALC E:news March 2012
- l) 30/3/12: Carrol Hessey - NCC charges for provision of additional grit bins.
- m) 30/3/12: Kirsten Francis, NCC – Community Chest applications – give views and win an iPad.
- n) 30/3/12: Monica Gibbs - Invitation from Riding Mill PC to watch the Olympics Torch relay (Clerk unable to open). Cllr Brooks to write something in the news sheet about this invitation.
- o) 2/4/12: Mike Bird NCC West Area meeting correct address.
- p) 2/4/12: CAN News.
- q) 2/4/12: Whittonstall Action Group March update.
- r) 5/4/12: RSN Rural Opportunities Bulletin April 2012 (6 pages).
- s) 5/4/12: Matthew Bewick: Community Games - forwarded to Councillors + CT members.
- t) 12/4/12: RSN New Digest 10/4.
- u) 12/4/12: Sarah Hudson - Traffic Safety: Questionnaire re permanent NO STOPPING order on extended School Zig Zag road markings. **Clerk made several statements by email. Chairman also circulated his concerns.** After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would draft a reply and circulate to Councillors and the School. County Councillor Horncastle volunteered to telephone Sarah Hudson and seek clarification.
- v) 13/4/12: Steve Shaw of Local Works asking for our support by writing to our local MP re Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Act of 2010. After discussion it was agreed to write to Guy Opperman for his opinion.
- w) 14/4/12: Hexham Courant Diamond Jubilee Supplement – advertising rates, pictorial round-up – also circulated to CT.
- x) 14/4/12: Switchover news No 7 – Information packs delivered 27/4/12. Circulation included News sheet editors.
- y) 16/4/12: RSN weekly digest 16/4/12.

9.Financial Report.

- a) Cheques to be signed
 - Cheque No GMS 6 months cutting 4 parish grassed areas £288.00
 - GMS 6 months cutting Bike track on school field £180 = total £468.00Proposed by Cllr. L. Norris and seconded by Cllr. A. Allsop, the cheque was signed
- b) The repayment of the Groundworks NE £600 (less the £100 Vat) remains outstanding. The CT Treasurer is waiting for confirmation from CL that the amount is to be paid from the CT funds in preference to the grant money.
- c) Balance Sheet as at March 31st circulated and attached as **appendix 1/160412, page 787**
- d) Bank statement as at March 28th £4,007.57

- e) Notification that the first half of the 2012/13 Precept was paid into the account.
- f) Audit Date: 27th July 2012. Display Notice 11/6/12 – 24/6/12. Records available to public 25/6/2012 – 20/7/2012.

10.Current Planning Applications.

On line only: 12/00877/Ful Townfoot Farm Bungalow proposed garage extension and utility room to rear. **Councillors had looked on line and had no objections.**

12/00147/FUL Replace an extant permission to extend the time for implementation of 20081147 – construction of two-storey detached dwelling. Tree Tops. **Pending**

11/02682/FUL Replacement of existing garage door on west elevation of workshop with two windows and new chimney. Rose Cottage. Wooley **Withdrawn.**

12/00076/FUL Conversion of outbuilding to form annex to house with bedroom, bathroom and living space. West Ridley Hall. **Withdrawn**

11.Update games/play area within school grounds:

- a) Clerk requested a copy of the February and March school inspection sheets from Lauren Smith.
- b) Funding are now in place for the second phase of equipment. It is understood that the project manager is currently working in the south and unable to oversee anything immediately.

12.Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update

- a) Greg Finch has organised a Dukesfield Dropbox for the people recording the parish registers or old documents relating to the Smelting Process at Dukesfield.

13.Public Transport Report

- a) Report in from Ian Coe saying the addition two services between Hexham and Slaley Hall would be cut from May because of poor use. This information was circulated by email on 20/3/2012 to Councillors and Slaley Notes & News Sheet editors.
- b) Explanation from Ian Coe included cost per individual on the cut routes, emailed 28/3/12 to Chairman and Clerk then was circulated generally on 30/3/2012. **Unfortunately the user numbers are not sufficient to warrant the extra service. The Councillors felt there was nothing more they could do.**

14.Parish Plan: Action Plan April Update

Draft circulated by email and attached as appendix 2/160412, page 788

15.Parish Plan: Annual Litter Pick

- a) The Annual Litter Pick was agreed for Sunday April 29th Clerk to organise a Prize for the most unusual item collected, produce Posters and get the date into the Notes and Newsletter.
- b) NCC Keith Gray: correspondence on Environmental Clean Up. Clerk to arrange the collection of Litter Pick bags from the Commemoration Hall car park.

16.Request Annual Reports for Annual Public Meeting in May (Chairman's; County Councillor's, BOATs Committee; Representative on the Commemoration Hall Committee & Highways)

The highway reports to be received by the Clerk as soon as they are ready.

17.BOATs update.

- a) Slaley Parish List of Streets – DMMO (No 7) 2010 BOAT Numbers 33,34,36,37. Slaley is to

have a public inquiry on May 9 2012 re No 37 (West Burnside – Blue Gables) because user groups have objected to the downgraded status. Recent correspondence is recommending No 36 (The Cleugh) be a bridleway and No 34 (High Clear) to become a BOAT with varying widths apparently corresponding to its current dimensions. No decision has been received about No 33 (Peth Foot).

b) Letter dated 19/3/12 from D. Brookes. Slaley Forest & Blanchland Moor Experimental Traffic Regulation order made permanent with a review in 12 months time.

c) The Newcastle Journal reported on March 28th that off-road bikers in County Durham who persist in riding illegally risk having their machines seized and crushed. The police warning followed a rise in the number of reports across County Durham about the anti-social use of off-road and quad bikes.

Easter Friday 2012 (April 6th) Newcastle Journal had the front page headlines “Cattle grid row leaves taxpayers footing the bill”. This concerned a complaint by Mr Alan Kind about the absence of a horse gate alongside a cattle grid on a bridleway (not BOAT). The High Court found in his favour and according to the article his barrister was trying to reclaim his costs from NCC. BBC4 (Wednesday April 11th 2012) meanwhile repeated the hour long documentary in the Peak District National Park where the increased use of off-road vehicles on the area’s green lanes has angered many residents of local villages.

18.AOB

a) Julie from VMS reported corrosion on the connector was the problem causing the speed unit to flash indiscriminately and that it had been repaired. Cllr. Norris thought it flashed incorrectly again on Sunday morning. Everyone to check.

b) Clerk reported to Northumbria Police a speeding vehicle in the village on 27/3/2012.

c) Dog Fouling has been reported over the East holidays near Parks Side bungalows and outside the school, but the offenders have not been identified.

d) Although the road in question is outside Slaley parish, councillors thought the CC should be informed that the edges of the road going down into the Linnels Bridge are crumbling away and in urgent need or repair.

e) Cllr Robson has been asked if the PC was intending to give any memento of the Diamond Jubilee for the children. Cllr Norris said she would like the PC to plant a tree somewhere to record the occasion. Cllr Hanocck reminded the meeting that the PC was paying for the Ladycross stone to be placed near the parish seat on the B6306 and paying for its inscription as a permanent reminder of the occasion.

19. Date of May monthly meeting (also the Annual Parish Meeting and the PC AGM)

Monday May 14th.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.