

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 8th April 2013 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Apologies. Councillors D. Allsop, T. Henderson & A. S. Robson. County Councillor Colin Horncastle

Present: Councillor I.C. Hancock in the Chair. Councillors C. A. Brooks & L. Norris. Clerk Mrs. P. Wilson. Public: None. Northumbria Police: None. Courant Reporter: None. Slaley Notes: None. Community Trust: None.

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

None.

3. Minutes of March Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 858 – 862 + appendix 1, page 863, appendix 2 page 864, appendix 3 page 865, appendix 4 page 866, appendix 5 page 867 & appendix 6 page 868).

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

4. Matters Arising.

- a) 4a 11/3/13: Mobile Post Office. Telephone call from Martin Nichol on Monday March 18th to say no service because operator ill, still no service at Slaley on Wednesday March 20th.
- b) 4d 11/3/13. 13 11/2/13: Second speed unit was installed week commencing March 18th. VMS were contacted regarding the old sign not working. VMS no longer have the contract. Stefan Bell at County Hall put Clerk in touch with Karen Bibby & Harry Newbould of Unipartdorman who have been asked to look at the sign and give a quote for repairs. Alternatively, if the repair is expensive, we could be offered to go on their rotation system.

5. Public Participation.

None

6. Community Trust Report

None

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

None

8. Correspondence.

Hard copy

- a) Healey Parish Council thanking Slaley PC for allowing a joint response to the Core Strategy Preferred Options.
- b) Northumberland Healthcare Supplement
- c) CAN Spring Conference

Email:

- a) 15/3/13: NALC E-NEWS
- b) 18/3/13: RSN weekly digest March 18th
- c) 18/3/13: Explore North Pennines web launch.
- d) 18/3/13: Tamara Gilbert EFB No 38
- e) 21/3/13: RSN Twitter Account.
- f) 22/3/13: Mick Miller Election timetable information placed on Slaley, Healey & Minsteracres notice boards.
- g) 25/3/13: Tamara Gilbert EFB No 39

- h) 25/3/13: RSN weekly digest 25/3/13
- i) 26/3/13: Gareth Davies Changes to the planning system attached to NCC letter entitled “Public access”.
- j) 28/3/13: Mike Bird - West Area meeting April 9th Wylam
- k) 30/3/13: CAN news Spring issue
- l) 6/4/13: Mike Bird - Parish Council Elections – Nominations List
- m) 8/4/13: RSN weekly digest 8/4/12

9. Financial Report & Audit Arrangements

- a) Cheques to be signed
No 488 Annual Clerk’s expenditure £292.78
No 489 Northumberland County Council for play area inspections Jan – March £133.38
No 490 GMS six months of grass cutting £480.00
Proposed by Cllr L. Norris and seconded by Cllr CA Brooks the cheques were signed
- b) Balance sheet as at March 31st **attached as appendix 1/080413m page 872**
- c) Bank statement as at March 19th
- d) BDO Audit date July 22nd. Internal Audit & Display notices June 10th – 23rd. Records available to the public June 24th – July 19th.
- e) A resolution was passed to enable Councillor Hancock to sign the audit papers once they are completed.

10. Current Planning Applications.

13/00577/FUL: Construction of new porch and two storey extension. Winter House, Village.

No objections

12/02784/FUL Change of use of land, including outbuildings, to residential use. West Ridley Hall. Dr. A Sewart. Councillors had no objection to land use change but concerns over the current building and what changes will be made to it to become residential under permitted development.

Pending

12/03599/FUL: Construction of two storey agricultural workers dwelling - land west of Dipton Foot Farm House, Slaley.

Pending

12/03467/VARYCO: Variation of condition 5 of planning permission 20110117 Installation of UPVC windows. Fernwood House, West Woodfoot.

Pending.

12/03280/FUL: Construction of a new two storey dwelling with garage in replacement of the existing out buildings adjacent to West Orchard House, Slaley.

Pending.

Decisions from planning:

12/02866/FUL: Conversion of conservatory to kitchen and associated external works. Mallard Cottage. West Woodfoot.

Permitted.

11. Update games/play area within school grounds:

Slaley School Clerk has now taken over the ordering and installation of the additional equipment. She has confirmed the available HDFs £1,619 from Val Knowles.

12. Parish & Northumberland Council elections on May 2nd

- a) Only two Councillors have put their names forward for election. Therefore the parish council will no longer have a quorum. Clerk emailed David Francis regarding the legality of a two councillor Parish Council. DF provided Emergency Procedure guidelines – the old council continues in office until 4 days after the election (May 5th)
- b) Point 4 v suggests that the chairman of the old council remains in office until a successor can lawfully be appointed.

c) Email on March 27th from David Francis providing the ‘declaration of acceptance’ and ‘register of members financial and other interests’ forms.

d) Mick Miller emailed today confirming that Cllr Brooks and Allsop are elected unopposed however another election date will be called after May 2nd when hopefully candidates will come forward.

d) The Councillors passed a resolution delegating responsibility for all parish council matters that can lawfully be so delegated to the clerk of the council to take effect from May 5th until such time as the parish council is again quorate. (see also agenda item 9e above)

13. Parish Plan – Annual Highways Report.

Discussed as agenda item 14 on 11/3/13: Confirmation from Carrol Hessey & Amanda Cryer that the best way to report highway problems is by email to Ask@northumberland.gov.uk and possibly have a quarterly meeting with Andy Olive. Ross Bullerwell has been headhunted and is leaving.

14. Parish Plan – Annual Litter Pick.

It was agreed to discontinue this annual event as most people seem uninterested in clearing away the litter dropped by other people.

15. Parish Plan – Action Plan April Update. Attached as appendix 2/080413, page 873

Note: It was agreed that the Clerk purchase something to the value of £10 as a raffle prize for the forthcoming Commemoration Hall fundraising Murder Mystery. The Councillors (although two are not standing for re-election) agreed to look at the school play area usage when the evenings become a little warmer. They will report back to the Council

16. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update

The HLF application was successful. Next Steering Group meeting is April 30th. The start of the project will not begin until match funding is received. If there is a shortfall Cllr Hancock, who will continue to represent Slaley PC after his retirement as a Councillor, will need to request a grant from Slaley Parish Council.

17. BOATS update.

Espershields Public hearing at Slaley on Tuesday April 16th

18. AOB

None

19. Date of May monthly meeting. Annual Parish Council Meeting & Annual Public meeting.

The monthly meeting is booked for Monday May 13th. However until there is a quorum the Annual Parish Council Meeting & Annual Public meeting can not be held. The May date will be retained for the moment until it is established if there are any parishioners who are interested.

Councillor Hancock ended the meeting by thanking Councillor Norris for her many years of service to the Parish Council since she joined in May 1999.

The Clerk also thanked Councillor Norris, Councillor Hancock (joined April 2005) and Councillor Robson (not present) (joined May 2003) for the time they had given to the parish.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9 p.m.