

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 12th August 2013 8.15 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

The annual walk-about this year was in the village. The Councillors looked at the kitchen extraction system on the roof at the rear of the R&C. The Councillors agreed it was a bit of an eyesore and if left on for any length of time could cause disturbance to neighbours. Apparently in the past neighbours had an agreement with previous tenants that the fan was switched off by 10 p.m. It was also noted that the village highway drain was blocked, the drain near Laburnum Lodge was filled to overflowing with all manner of chippings and weeds. Councillors also looked at the recommended improvements to the community play area. The rotten stepping stone was not considered dangerous but needs to be watched for further deterioration. The broken wire on the three-log ramp was removed and turned upside down as this was considered very dangerous. The damaged back drop for the Early Years wooden climber, although not our responsibility, was indeed considered dangerous and should be replaced immediately – Clerk to report this to the Headteacher. However, the rubber matting that the inspector said should be lifted and re-laid was not considered necessary. Cllr Green was asked to read the report and make a suggestion as to why uplifting and relaying was not necessary. The damage to the corner of the basket ball stand will only get worse if left for the winter rain to get inside. The suggestion of metal corners was made. Clerk to speak to David Robson (the weekly inspector) about this idea. Finally the Councillors looked at the grassed area to the north of the mobile post office signal box and agreed that PC ownership of this section would provide a solution to the cable problem.

1. Apologies. Councillor C.E.M. Goldring & County Councillor CW Horncastle.

Present: Councillor C.A. Brooks in the Chair. Councillors D.M. Bell, I.E. Milburn, & N. Green & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson.

Public: None. Northumbria Police: None: Courant Reporter: None. Community Trust: None.

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

None.

3. Minutes of July Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 882 – 885 + appendix 1, page 886, appendix 2 page 887, appendix 3, page 888 & appendix 4 page 889).

The Minutes were proposed a true record by Cllr. N. Green and seconded by Cllr. E.M. Milburn. The minutes were dated and signed.

4. Matters Arising.

a) 4b 8/7/13; 12a APM 1/7/13: Isos contract for grass cutting outside Parks Side bungalows. Ovingham and Ovington PC replied that they were also much happier with the standard this year. **It was agreed that Slaley Councillors monitor for the rest of the season.**

b) 12 8/7/13: Helen Dorman confirmed receipt of our updated Services and Facilities audit.

c) 17a 8/7/13: The suggestion to the Hall Management Committee that one or both of the grassed areas would be better done away with and converted into much needed parking space received a reply from Margaret Weatherley explaining that unless grants become available it is well outside the reach of the committee at the moment. Mr. Hull was happy to continue cutting the grass this year. The quote from GMS for 2014 season was £85 for the initial cut and removal of grass followed by £30 for each subsequent cut.

d) 19c 8/7/13: Overhanging trees and shrubs reported through Slaley notes and a letter sent to Slaley House and Stanegarth. Stanegarth has cut back its branches, Slaley House has not. **It was agreed that the Clerk send a second letter to Slaley House.**

e) Action Plan Update July: Cookie Policy – Cllr. Goldring circulated a sample cookie policy, which was accepted by the Councillors, and then forwarded to Michael Elphick. However ME informed the PC Chairman that no decision has been made due to other commitments.

5. Correspondence.

Hard copy.

a) Leaflet from FP on the electric car offer for 18 months for £100 per month. This information circulated to Councillors by email (see 5e below).

b) NCC offer of further posters in the “Don’t stand for it” campaign against dog fouling.

c) Campaign to Protect Rural England Summer magazine; Sovereign Stock Clearance Sale of wooden play ground equipment.

Email:

a) 17/7/13: Louise Currie: NALC new Councillor training at Hexham Community Centre 3/9/13 6 – 8 p.m. Councillors D Bell, N Green & E Milburn are attending. Cheque for £15 written.

b) 22/7/13: Northumbria Healthcare: Liverpool Care Pathway Review. Cllr Milburn felt that we should wait until recommendations were made and agreed.

c) 25/7/13: NCC Carrol Hessey: Amended Highways & Neighbourhood Services Contacts. Paul Turnbull is our contact.

d) 25/7/13: RSN: Spotlight on the Heart of the village.

e) 28/7/13: Electric car information as described to the Clerk by FP who had attended a launch meeting. Reply from Chairman indicating that it was 10 cars in one area not 10 people sharing one car. Clerk checked this with FP who confirmed that her first report had been mistaken.

f) 29/7/13: RSN weekly digest 15/7/13, 22/7/13 & 29/7/13

g) 29/7/13: Christopher Harland: Heritage Lottery Fund’s new First World War Programme opens and is aimed at getting communities to mark the centenary of the First World War. Copied to Ian Hancock as it may be of interest to the Local History Group.

h) 5/8/13: CAN e:NEWS

i) 7/8/13: RSN Rural Opportunities Bulletin August

j) James of NEWMP: WW1 Centenary newsletter (also copied to Ian Hancock)

k) RSN weekly digests for 5/8/13 & 12/8/13

6. Financial Report. Especially the none-return of Councillor signatory forms

a) Cheques to be signed

No 494 NALC 3 x £5 new councilor training £15

No 495 NCC play area inspections April – June £133.38

Proposed by Cllr. N. Green and seconded by Cllr. DM Bell the cheques were signed.

b) BDO external auditors audit date was July 22nd. The forms were forward by the due date so far there has been no correspondence.

c) New signatory forms were distributed to the Councillors. Councillors Milburn, Bell & Green have undertaken their registration and returned to the Clerk. **Cllrs Goldring and Allsop have not completed and returned their forms and were unable to sign the final form at the meeting - it was decided to send as completed therefore for the foreseeable future Cllrs Goldring and Allsop can not sign any cheques.**

d) Lloyds TSB booklet entitled “Changes to the terms and conditions of your Business accounts”.

7. Current Planning Applications.

13/01297/FUL: New build detached dwelling with detached garage/store on land south west of St. Mary’s Church. Slaley. **Pending.**

13/01300/FUL: Construction of two detached dwellings and one detached garage/store on land to north east of Slaley House. **Pending**

*13/01130/FUL: Retrospective: Extraction system on roof at rear of premises.

Pending

*13/01131/LBC: Retrospective: Listed Building Consent: Extraction system on roof at rear of premises.

Pending

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

Pending

** **Hearing on June 19 at 6 p.m.**

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:

8. Mobile Post Office Van Parking Update

a) Ian Iley (Post Office) met PC Clerk, Cllr D Allsop & Cllr D Bell on Wednesday July 10th at 9 a.m. to look at options. Report was circulated by email & **attached as appendix 1/120813, page 894.**

b) Clerk spoke with Kath Heard of Isos Housing and a letter was drafted requesting transfer of ownership of the front section of grass at Parks side then a hard standing can be made. Copy **attached as appendix 2/120813, page 895.**

d) CC Colin Horncastle was asked to speak with planning about any planning requirements and to highways about change of use. Clerk to contact CC Horncastle for an update and if not satisfactory to speak with planning and highways directly.

9. Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme 2014 –15.

NCC forwarded the carried forward requests – the Councillors agreed to look at the parish highways and report any new priorities for agreement at the September meeting.

10. Community Play & Sport Update

a) 11a 8/7/13 The Clerk drafted a new community agreement then circulate for approval to School, Northumbria Police, CT members & Councillors. Police changed the contact telephone number. A final draft was agreed and a new laminated copy place in the PC notice board and inside the village shop and a copy given to ME for replacement on the parish web site. The school has not confirmed its approval of the new policy. Clerk to write to Head teacher and say that the PC intends to include the new policy with the October News letter therefore any alterations must be received by return otherwise the text will be as seen.

b) 11d 8/7/13: Equipment weekly inspections David Robson confirmed he had replaced the correct Kompan bolt.

c) Inspection by The Play Inspection Company Ltd. Report circulated by email on 25/7/13.

d) Email to GMS re low branches on the BMX track and strimming around the wooden climbing posts wearing them away. We agreed to monitor the rotting post.

e) Email to Dodwells asking them to remove the broken wire on the three pole jump on the BMX track. Fill the space at the new basket junior ball nets. Security flooring at all the equipment needs uplifting and relaying. **–No reply. Cllr Green felt the relaying of the flooring was not necessary he felt that the grass should be allowed to grow through. Cllr Green to check the report from The Play Inspection Company and report back to the Clerk.**

Telephone call to Stewart Bell also asking for a price to uplift the security flooring and replay.
No reply.

f) MW of the Commemoration Hall Trustees circulated a request to allow the former Youth Klub tennis equipment be stored in the new community storage unit at the school. Waiting for the key holder to return from holiday.

11. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update.

The Committee held classes and hosted an exhibition on the Show Field. It was attended by many people and accommodated 30 people comfortably throughout the hours between 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

12. AOB

a) Email to GMS asking them to trim the area between the Slaley sign and the cut section at the Millennium seat on the B6306 before the Show. This was done.

b) Email to Police regarding Neighbourhood Watch in the parish. Clerk has since spoken with Community Support Officer N. Heslop who thought that reports should come in from us and then the reports in turn are circulated via email. This did not happen with the night-time youth offenders from Middlesborough. The Councillors thought that the NP automatically emailed with details of people/ vehicles etc to be aware of. This did not happen either. There were also reports of people claiming to be Jehovah's Witnesses on the Wooley road on a sunny Thursday afternoon in July and of thieves storing equipment at Townfoot caravan park neither of which was reported by email. Also knocking on windows at 3 a.m. at the home of single women has been reported locally, yet nothing comes in from the Police.

c) Email to 'Ask at Northumberland' about removing lower branches of tree at South Farm, Slaley. This was done and then John Alderson, Tree & Woodland Officer, emailed 25/7/13 reporting that he would arrange an inspection and report any recommended work. Clerk replied to Mr. Alderson that the work was done.

13. Date of September monthly meeting

The September date has been altered to the first Monday in the month it is now September 2nd

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.