

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on Monday 11th August 2014

The annual walk-about was at Ladycross Nature Reserve where Lara & Robin Turner and Joan Jewitt gave a guided walk beginning at 7.15 p.m. Councillors C Brooks, S Dart, N Green & D Allsop + Clerk P. Wilson were shown around the nature reserve and listened as the plans were outlined for the future of the site. The Nature Reserve is run and funded by an ageing group of volunteers. The Councillors asked how they extend their membership and if the local schools were involved. Lara explained that new health and safety rules meant that a covered area with toilet facilities was needed before schools would consider bringing children to the reserve. A regular Newsletter is sent by email to members, events like the Nightjar walks bring in extra revenue. The Councillors felt that the Reserve was in need of many volunteer hours to get it looking like somewhere people would want to spend leisure time. Solar and wind power to the covered area were discussed as was security – the nearby stone quarry is very prone to burglary, both stone and quarry equipment being stolen.

This was followed by a shortened meeting of Slaley Parish Council at 8.45 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Apologies. Councillor I.E. Milburn, D.M. Bell, N. Green & County Councillor Colin Horncastle
Present: Councillor C.A. Brooks in the Chair. Councillors D. Allsop, S. Dart & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson.
Public:None. Northumbria Police: None: Courant Reporter: None. Community Trust: None. Slaley Notes: None.

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

Clerk for the Laydcross Nature Reserve items (5b hard copy & 5a email)
Councillor S Dart for agenda item 4d.

3.Minutes of July Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 994 – 999, appendix 1, page 1000, appendix 2, page 1001, appendix 3, page 1002, appendix 4 page 1003 & appendix 5 page 1004).

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr. D Allsop and seconded by Cllr. C A Brooks. The minutes were dated and signed.

4.Matters Arising.

a) 4c 14/7/14, 4d 9/6/14, 12a 12/5/14: Blocked village drains. Email from Emma Reid (8/8/14) saying bits of tarmac washed down her gravel drive during the downpour of Saturday August 2nd Clerk replied that the village drains were under discussion and copied to Paul Turnbull – immediate response saying he was on annual leave and to forward the correspondence to David Robson and Andy Olive. David Robson replied 11/8/14 to confirm that he would authorise the village sweeper to clean Slaley village this week and that it would clean out the drains opposite the school. Clerk to contact DR and tell him that the R&C car park has had debris washed into it and that the drains north of the Flothers bridge are both blocked which causes flood water and loose road debris to wash down the bank and come to rest on the actual bridge. Mr Dart actually cleaned the bridge of its debris after the August 2nd storm.

Heavy rain prior to August 2nd (Wednesday July 23rd?) Clerk drove down the village and most of the village was running with water only two sections were dry, and the water was gushing out of the drain just below Cllr Green's home just as he said it did.

b) 8z 14/7/14: Hexham Bus Station Engagement Event for Parish Councillors on July 11th Clerk forward a reply which is **attached as appendix 1/110814, page 1009** (see also 5c below)

c) 18 14/7/14: Storage of PC records at Woodhorn reply received July 29th 2014. Records going into the Archive should no longer be required for current use. Alternatively current records could be stored within the Records Management Department (there is a charge for this service). There is no collection service. A copy of the records they would be interested in receiving is **attached as appendix 2/110814, page 1010**.

d) 19b 14/7/14 Public footpath problems. Cllr Green made his report by email on July 19th. Clerk then contacted Neil Dawson who passed the information on to Duncan Lovatt who has taken over the Slaley area. On July 22nd a further report was made by email to Duncan Lovatt who replied on July 29th that NCC is able to provide at least 25% contribution towards the cost of materials and labour. It was recommended to Cllr Dart that her husband get in touch with Duncan Lovatt and establish what help is available for the broken stiles in the fields he rents from South Farm.

5. Correspondence.

Hard copy

- a) NCC joint Northumberland CC & Town and Parish Council meetings Tuesday October 14th at 6 p.m. in Hexham. Venue still to be agreed
- b) Application with accounts from Ladycross Nature Reserve for financial help. Clerk requested an emailed version (without accounts), which is recorded below as 5a. A copy of the 2012 accounts were photocopied for each Councillor. The request for financial help was discussed and it was felt that anything the PC could consider would be a “drop in the ocean” for the amount that was needed to bring the site up to a level where the public could enjoy and participate in the area. Suggestions where the PC might be able to help included moving the container, fencing the perimeter, information stones, footpath definition, log burning heater/water heater. Clerk to ask for estimates.
- c) NCC dated 8/8/14. Future of Hexham Bus Station exhibition at Queen’s Hall, Hexham - Monday 11th August – Friday 15th August. Neither the comments made at the drop-in session on Friday July 11th or the questionnaire answers have been incorporated into the documentation circulated, which is still dated May 2014.

Emails

- a) 17/7/14: Joan Jewitt request for financial assistance at Ladycross Nature Reserve. (*see 5b above*)
- b) 21/7/14: RSN weekly digest
- c) 23/7/14: RSN spotlight on rural health - research on rural ageing population use services to understand their service needs.
- d) 28/7/14: RSN weekly digest
- e) 30-/7/14: Richard Powell LDO booking details for September first annual conference.
- f) 30/7/14: RSN rural crime package (27 pages)
- g) 30/7/14: EFB No 53
- h) 1/8/14: CAN e:News Extra
- i) 1/8/14: CAN E-NEWS
- j) 5/8/14: RSN weekly digest
- k) 4/8/14: Doreen Wright of Tritlington PC requesting information on a community play and sport area on school grounds. Clerk responded to email with a telephone call.
- l) 7/8/14: RSN ROB August.
- m) 7/8/14: Laura Gibson. North Country Leisure, Hexham appoints Darren Lamb as its new Chief Executive.
- n) 7/8/14: NCC Flood & Costal Erosion Risk Manager Local Flood Risk Strategy.
- o) 8/8/14: NALC E-NEWS Issue Number 32 – has updates on filming council meetings. Cllr Dart reported that this had been mentioned at her training event and David Francis has suggested that if and when members of the public decided to record meetings at Slaley the PC should make its own recording as it was possible that the outside recordings could be edited to read differently.

6. Financial Report.

- a) Real Time Information: Thirsk payroll successfully submitted £283.33 payment on July 14th
- b) Cheques to be signed: None.
- c) Interim cheques
Cheque No 530: NALC £5.00 for Cllr Dart’s training. Signed by Cllrs Milburn & Bell

d) Audit arrangements. Audit Date July 21st 2014 so far no correspondence.

7.Current Planning Applications.

14/02051/FUL: Construction of new dwelling east of Treetops, Slaley Village (Rookhope Cottage)

No objections.

14/01672/RENE: Proposed installation of 16 ground mounted photovoltaic panels to generate electricity on land south of Peel Flatt House. Cllr Green asked if the panels would reflect to village properties. Cllrs Bell & Brooks reported that they would not, they absorb light not reflect it.

13/01130/FUL: Retrospective: Extraction system on roof at rear of premises. R&C

Pending

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

Pending

Cllr Allsop reported that a new smaller extraction system was being considered with the authorities and until environmental health and the planning committee could agree the technicalities on the proposal, the old planning applications above were still pending and a new application had not been submitted.

Decisions from planning: None

8.Update games/play area within school grounds. (Annual Inspection Report see agenda item 11c 14/7/14)

a) There were no comments from the report other than those reported below.

b) David Robson who does the weekly inspection reported to the Clerk that he was very concerned about the rolling log – PC Clerk went down to the school to look at the problem and met Eric Anderson who was there doing the annual report on behalf of the school – just before the summer term ended a girl had fallen off the Playdale monkey bars and broken her arm. Eric and the PC Clerk had a good chat and he agreed with the PC Inspector that improvements were needed under the Playdale monkey bars. Eric recommended and sent the details of Darren Brooks who does the Playground repair work for Durham County Council and Gateshead Council. PC Clerk contacted Darren and he met Cllr Brooks and the Clerk at 9 a.m. one Saturday morning.

Basically he agreed with improving the ground under the monkey bars but thought that filling in with top soil and turf plus laying new mats would work better than taking up the old mats digging out the clay, bringing in new topsoil and turf and then relaying the old mats on top. He and Eric also suggested some minor air forking and reseeding patches at the Kompan equipment rather than relaying mats.

The timber used by Playdale is specially treated and has a splinter free 10 year guarantee so as everyone agreed Playdale replacement needs to be used.

The Quote from Playdale for the broken support post 140mm and bearings is £189.13 + £37.83 Vat, the fitting instructions from Playdale also arrived by email. The quote from Playdale for the damaged stepping stone which is 200mm is £51.07 + £10.21 Vat and the quote from TUC Plant Hire the recommended installer which Playdale are also happy with is Monkey bars grassed area £530.00 + Vat and for the wobble and stepping log £140.00 + Vat.

Clerk intend to question the delivery charge £15 + Vat & £25 + Vat – It was thought that one delivery charge would have been sufficient - this could be a mistake and Playdale simply added a delivery charge to both pieces of equipment. The Vat will be claimed back. The School will cover the cost of fencing repairs and Cllr Dart asked if the HDF monies would cover maintenance costs. Clerk to make enquiries.

9.Mobile Post Office Van parking Update.

a) Clerk has spoken with Ernie Coulson who is getting prices for the bollards.

b) M. MacGregor, our solicitor for the land lease at Parks Side has reported that ISOS have agreed the amendments. Mr. MacGregor has asked for our signature accepting the terms and conditions, the cost is estimated at £450 + Vat plus Land Registry fees of £43

10.Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update.

The project marquee on the Show Field was well attended and new people were interested in learning about the project. The archaeology digs for young people created a lot of interest.

11. Village Parking

- a) The Sanger vehicle left on the village footpath for several days whilst the family left the area was reported to the Parish Council. Cllr Allsop tried to have the vehicle moved via the boyfriend of Miss Sanger – this attempt was not successful. A letter was agreed and forwarded to Mr. & Mrs Sanger’s individual email addresses with a hard copy delivered to Jenny Sanger. On the family’s return to the village the vehicle was moved off the footpath onto the road and partially covered the 30mph sign.
- b) Cllr Allsop reported three vehicles on the footpath on Friday August 1st and photographs were taken and circulated to the Councillors. A further email was sent on August 4th reporting that Ann Escritt’s car, which stands on the village street, was written off by an uninsured driver, the driver did not stop however the damaged vehicle was found near Slaley Hall.
- c) Clerk suggested that the PC pay for an insert in the monthly News Sheet and reprint the photographs asking “Is this you?” then asking people to try and get their vehicles and those of their visitors off the village street and into private drives. **It was agreed that the Clerk write a short article for the September issue without printing the photographs.**
- d) An independent complaint of parking on the single track entrance in and out of South Park properties has been received by the Clerk. This is a single track road and there should be no need to request yellow lines. Clerk could find out the cost of yellow lines from NCC Highways.

12.AOB

- a) The Clerk asked, by email, for permission to request that GMS cut the B6306 grass near the entrance into Slaley Showground prior to the Show. GMS strimmed the long grass on Wednesday August 6th.
- b) The owners of the woodland at the junction with High Clear lane telephoned the Clerk (29/7/14) with a complaint that grass was being tipped into their woodland and they wished this to stop. Clerk emailed GMS and requested that if it were his staff putting cut grass into the wood would they please stop. Julian Acton acknowledged the email (30/7/14) and said he would speak to the team who do the Slaley grass cutting.
- c) Mrs Dodds of Shield Hall contacted the Clerk and requested that the Police telephone number on the back page of the monthly News Sheet is altered to 101. Cllr Brooks will attend to this. Mrs Dodds also reported that part of her field wall had been knocked down on the evening of Friday August 8th and the damaged vehicle was found abandoned on Saturday morning and reported to the Police.
- d) A thank you letter to be sent to Billy & Sheila Borthwick for the years they have watered the Jubilee Planters together with a voucher from Hollybush Nursery/Coffee Shop.

13. Date of September 2014 monthly meeting

The second Monday of September is Monday 8th because the Clerk is due to go on holiday on Tuesday 9th, the Councillors agreed to bring the meeting forward to Monday 1st.