

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on  
Monday 12th December 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

**Apologies.** None.

**Present:** Councillor I.C. Hancock in the Chair. Councillors L. Norris, C. A. Brooks, A.S. Robson, S Davison & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor None.

**Public.** None. Northumbria Police: PC Dougie Kidd. Courant Reporter: Apologies Rosalind Saul. Slaley Notes None. Community Trust: Catherine Lincoln for part of meeting.

**2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.**

None

**3. Minutes of November Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 734 – 739 + appendix 1, page 740, appendix 2 page 741, appendix 3 page 742, appendix 4 page 743 & appendix 5 page 744)** Proposed as a true record by Cllr. L. Norris and seconded by Cllr. CA Brooks. The minutes were approved and signed.

**4. Matters Arising.**

a) 4g 14/11/11, 9u 10/10/11 Registration of the PC as an employer. Correspondence from PC Insurers, Came & Co, prompted the registration to happen immediately rather than next year. Application Case number 8962425. Employer PAYE reference 120/KA66015 Payment Booklet has arrived but not as yet read.

b) 7c 14/11/11 West Area Highways Manager, Richard Hayes, met Parish Councils at the BOATs Sub Committee meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Each PC had comments to make, in addition to pot holes in its own parish. Report of those discussions **attached as appendix 1/121211, page 750**. The water that is coming to the surface between Townfoot and Swangs Lane, has been inspected by NCC Highways and they think it is a water board problem.

**5. Public Participation.**

a) PC D Kidd informed the meeting that there was a new National non-emergency telephone number to get in touch with the Police. 101. The number we had used on our Play area notice and news-sheet was a more direct telephone number, which may also be about to change.

b) PC Kidd outlined “Community Watch”, still at the drawing board stage. If adopted would work along the same lines as ‘Neighbourhood Watch’ and ‘Farm Watch’ with a newsletter being sent to email addresses when a community worry was identified (e.g. door to door salesmen legitimate and illegitimate). **The Parish Council was very supportive of this imitative and would help in getting involvement from people of Slaley parish.**

**6. Community Trust Report**

Catherine Lincoln made a verbal report. CT looking into community purchasing of heating fuel. CT providing funding to move the old ‘Teasdale’ headstone from the west wall of the church into the church porch. CL has relinquished her post as CT Secretary and is taking over the role of Commemoration Hall Secretary.

**7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor**

None.

## 8. Correspondence.

- a) NCC 'Highway Service in Winter' publication letter and leaflet.
- b) NCC Northumberland Local Development Framework: Northumberland Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation December 2011 letter & CD. Cllr Hancock read and reported a response by email. Councillors to read and report any alterations by 16<sup>th</sup> then the reply will be sent.
- c) Tynedale Sports Council invitation to annual awards evening 5/12/11 –Informed by email 23/11/11
- d) Adapt trip to Metro Centre on Thursday 22nd December at £10. Photocopied and left 2 copies with Slaley Shop for interested parties.
- e) Local Works Help save the Sustainable Communities Act – financial aid request.
- f) Christmas card from Guy Opperman thanking us for our support in fighting the Boundary Changes.
- g) Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation letter and leaflets. NatWest banking Information. CAN News October 2011 (previously sent by email). NCC 'Don't bin it, Bring it ' posters and leaflets for display

## Emails

- a) 21/11/11: RSF B Nos 43 & 44
- b) 21/11/11: Northumberland Wildlife Trust – Local Nature Partnership.
- c) 21/11/11: Christine Hanley reminder to vote for Hexham River Hydro.
- d) 21/11/11: Digital switchover in the Tyne Tees region September 12<sup>th</sup> BBC and September 26<sup>th</sup> remaining channels 2012.
- e) 22/11/11: Connect 4 Change
- f) 22/11/11: NCC Unemployment Update Alcan Closure Announcement.
- g) NCC Local leaders for Community into London for 2012.
- h) 1/12/11: Rural Energy Champions meeting 10/12/11
- i) 30/11/11: NALC E-news reminder to allocate funds in precept for the 2013 elections.
- j) 5/12/11: RFB No 46
- k) 5/12/11: Forestry Commission Regional Update No 21
- l) 6/12/11: NCC Public Transport Strategy 2011-16 Consultation Draft (78 pages – see second last paragraph on page 26 for the Hexham and Consett service). **Cllr Hancock will read and report back.**
- m) 6/12/11: Mike Bird West Area meeting 13/12/11 at Corbridge.
- n) 12/12/11: The Journal of Local Planning – The Localism Act is here.
- o) 12/12/11: David Francis – Local referendums where a council is looking to increase its Council tax greater than a defined amount under The Localism Act 2011
- p) 12/12/11: RFB No 47
- q) 12/12/11: RSN weekly digest 12/12/11
- r) 12/12/11: NCC Caroline Bruce – NCC budget papers on line by 30/12/11.

## 9. Financial Report.

- a) Cheques to be signed

Cheque No      453 NCC Play Area Public Liability Insurance £100.00

454 Topsigns 2 Play Area signs for Slaley School £240.00

Proposed by Cllr. L. Norris and seconded by Cllr AS Robson the cheques were signed.

- b) Interim payments - None
- c) Income Cheque for £50.00 from Healey PC for web space rent.
- d) Direct debit notification for Zen Internet hosting £57.46 by 30/12/11
- e) Possible transfer to the PC of the £500 awarded by TC to the CT in response to a request by the LEA for repairs to the school building when the school grounds were opened to the public in May 2006. Letter sent to Susi Goncu for clarification on the use for these funds and a possible extension of their use to cover the entire play area.
- f) Cllr Brooks questioned if the £500 was the repayment to the PC of the Ground Works invoice (Less the 20% Vat). Cllr Brooks volunteered to locate the minutes where the PC agreed to cover the Ground Works invoice, repayable when the school received the 'HDF Funding'.

## **10. Current Planning Applications.**

None

### **Outstanding applications or decisions on NCC web site**

**11/01333/FUL:** Conservatory to rear. Primrose Cottage, Colpitts. **Permitted.**

**11/02610/FUL** Construction of photovoltaic array. East Ridley Hall – **Pending**

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

## **11. Update games/play area within school grounds:**

- a) Numerous email correspondence between CL, SM & PC as the sport and play area neared completion.
- b) 'Topsign' produced two new signs and fitted to school building and fence. It would appear that the telephone number used may need changing if Northumbria Police change their internal telephone numbers.
- c) David Hunt from Environmental Services will undertake a twice-weekly inspection of the play and sport facilities. 9 items at 95 per item = £8.55 x 2 = £17.10 x 52 weeks £889.20 (next winter when the novelty of the new equipment has worn off this could be reduced to a once weekly inspection increasing to twice weekly during the lighter evenings. 'Playdale' 2006 equipment 5 pieces. (6) New Multi Goal. (7) Play yard because this is used to access all the equipment. (8) Climbing frame and safety surface (9) Bicycle track. Paul Turnbull and David Robson did a check of the site on Friday December 9<sup>th</sup> and they identified several areas that need attention before the site is officially opened. This was emailed on 9/12/11.
- d) Grounds people (Julian Acton from GMS) were also seen on Friday 9/12/11 and they have agreed to trim around the new bicycle track for an additional £300 per annual.
- e) Clerk has spoken with Neighbourhood Police Team about a Police presence on the school field after dark – the email complain from a neighbour was read to the meeting. PC Kidd confirmed that the Police are checking around the school whenever possible.
- f) CL is arranging an official opening sometime in mid January with the school children being the openers. Stella Dougals who organised the Playdale equipment on behalf of FOSS will be asked as will everyone who has had an input into the new equipment. PC Kidd confirmed that a NPT member would be available to join the official photograph for the opening of the Sport and Play area.
- g) CL reported that the school is discussing the removal of the willow dragon as its branches have become dangerous. The willow dragon site would be a good position for an outdoor table

tennis table. Prices, consent from school and funders needs to be confirmed before action is taken on this.

h) Cllr Hanock has spoken with Mrs Ross and she is keen to retain the agreed tennis facility though the school staff could not undertake the erection and removal of the posts and nets. The need to remove and store the net, posts, bats and balls was discussed and the school was not averse to a small metal/wooden cabinet being placed on the grassed area near the equipment wooden huts, purely for storage of tennis equipment. A local rota may need to be established for the setting up and taking down of any tennis equipment, however, it would seem more sensible if the tennis players tidied away the equipment after use.

i) CL produced an up to date balance sheet of the Sport and Play Area.

j) Cllr Hancock has spoken to neighbours at Laburnum Lodge about screening trellis between the school hedge and Laburnum Lodge. The residents of LL to get two quotations for the work if this wish to carry the project further and Cllr Hancock told the meeting that the PC would be required to cover any cost.

k) School printed 300 copies of the agreement for use of the school field. These were distributed within the December 2011/January 2012 News Sheet. PW asked about spare copies there are 10. CL volunteered to ask Michael Elphick to have the document printed on the web site and CAB was asked to forward a copy to Dougie Kidd for the Neighbourhood Police Team. When the school invoices the PC for the photocopying it should be a very small amount therefore the Clerk will pay cash and include it in her annual expenditure.

## **12. The Charter**

Cllr. Hancock read and reported a response (incorporating the responses made by Councillors during circulation) circulated by email. Councillors to read and report any alterations by 16<sup>th</sup> then the reply will be sent.

## **13. Policy for awarding Grants.**

The draft Policy was discussed and amended. Cllr. Hancock will redraft and circulate by email. Councillors to read and report any alterations.

## **14. Precept**

**School Grounds:** GMS strimming £300. Environmental Services twice weekly inspection £889.20

Certain expenditures are still needed for this (parish grass cutting quote (forward tender details to GSM) Play and Sport equipment insurance. Annual play and sport equipment inspection, Clerk's salary)

Provision for paying grants was also discussed. £2,100.00 was allocated in the Precept for 10/11 with only £270.00 being paid. (leaving a carried forward of £1,830.00 grant allocation) No allocation was made in the Precept for 11/12. To-date £300.00 has been awarded to Slaley Commemoration Hall leaving a grant carried forward of £1,530.00.

## **15. Diamond Jubilee June 2012**

a) Cllr. Hancock received an invitation from St. Mary's Church as Slaley Church is planning to hold a flower festival for the Jubilee. The invitation is for the PC to submit a flower based exhibit. **Is there anyone on the PC who can arrange flowers or would the Councillors**

**consider paying someone through the Precept to arrange a floral contribution towards St. Mary's Flower Festival? To be discussed again in January.**

#### **16. BOATs update.**

- a) Report from meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>. **Attached as appendix 2/121211, page 751.** The 4 parishes considered the overall response to the experimental TRO and will broadly reply that the evidence suggests limited success whilst supporting the individual parish replies. Therefore the only option is for permanent TROs on the routes. Jon Williams retired on December 3<sup>rd</sup> therefore for the time being we are without a representative from the Lord Crewe Estates on the committee. It was reported in the Hexham Courant of 9/12/11 that the new agent is Smiths Gore
- b) Slaley PC response to the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order Review November 2011. A draft reply was tabled and amended for re-circulation. **Attached as appendix 3/121211, page 752.**
- c) Correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate: DMMO (No8) 2010. BOAT No 37. (West Ridley Hall – Blue Gables) Local Inquiry held at 10 a.m. on 9/5/2012 in Slaley Commemoration Hall. Cllr. Hancock to seek advice from T.W-A and LS on this.

#### **17. Parish Council Councillor Vacancy.**

- a) Resignation from M. Palmer received 29/11/11
- b) Official NCC Councillor vacancy forms completed. One placed on PC notice board the other sent to County Hall. The official timescale is 14 days after which if there has been no application or request for an election the Councillors are eligible to co-op someone.

#### **18. AOB**

- a) Clerk received a report that the 2.55 at Townhead Consett to Hexham service has been altered to 3.30 p.m. Email sent to Ian Coe to ask if this is correct. It would seem this was an exceptional event.
- b) Complaints to Clerk about untreated roads on Tuesday December 6<sup>th</sup>. An email was sent to Highways requesting salt heaps. Also to the Slaley Notes editors asking for a reminder that the Wooley Road, the Riding Mill Road and the Lead Road do not get treated.
- c) Email sent to highways 8/12/11 requesting a replacement yellow salt/grit bin for Parks Side bungalows. It is smashed and the pensioners are trying the lid on with string. Case reference number 101001282860.
- d) More problems with access to the Slaley web page reported to Mr. Elphick by Cllr. A Robson (see agenda item 15a of October 10<sup>th</sup> minutes). ME replied that he had amended the Meetings and Minutes page and asked if that had rectified the problem. Cllr. Robson confirmed that the problem had been rectified.
- e) Fly Tipping on the Shire Road BOAT reported to BD on 24/11/11. Neil Dawson replied 1/12/11 that it would be collected in the next few days. See Hexham Courant letter from Holly Hill resident Paula Diggle of 9/12/11.
- f) Reply to Mr. Elphick from Marcus Byron re replacement sign (see agenda item 4b & 13a 5/9/11 minutes) the replacement is due the second week of December.
- g) Young offenders again selling in Slaley Village 29/11/11 during darkness. Complaint made to Police who have replied that although legal a request will be made that future visits to Slaley are made during daylight hours. PC D Kidd confirmed that these young callers were legitimate.

**19. Date of January monthly meeting.**  
Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2012