

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 9th January 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Apologies. S Davison

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

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

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

None

3. Minutes of December Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 745 – 749 + appendix 1, page 750, appendix 2 page 751 & appendix 3 page 572.

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

4. Matters Arising.

a) 4a 12/12/11, 4g 14/11/11, 9u 10/10/11 Registration of the PC as an employer – Further correspondence received and the on-line instructions to record a nil return.

b) 4b 12/12/11, appendix 1/12/11, 7c 14/11/11 Grit heaps requested by email on 19/12/11 and supplied. Parks Side replacement salt bin now received.

c) 8l (email) 12/12/11 NCC Public Transport Strategy 2011-16 Consultation draft – Cllr Hancock read and verbally reported. A written report **attached as appendix 1/090112, page 758.**

d) 11k 12/12/11 Spare 11 copies of the agreement for use of the school field have been given to the PC Clerk. One will be laminated and placed inside the PC notice board and there will also be a copy on the web. A reminder to parish residents has been requested through Slaley Notes to retain this agreement sheet. CAB asked for Neighbourhood Police email address to send a copy to them.

e) 12 12/12/11: Slaley PC comments on the draft Charter acknowledged by John Cooper.

f) 14 12/12/11: Precept 2012 –13 updated cost £702 for rotation of speed camera. Received by email from VMS 15/12/2011. Explanation requested and received. Councillors agreed that the increased cost could not be justified and that the unit should no longer be rotated. Cost of a second unit requested. Information circulated by email. Question is the Townhead site better than the Townfoot? Statement from the Clerk as a parishioner; if the unit slows one vehicle that has the potential of hurting a child or old person then the sign is worth every penny spent. **Email received from County Councillor Horncastle 6/1/2012 indicating that he would be willing to provide a second sign for the village through his small schemes grant. Clerk to speak with CC Horncastle. Currently the present sign is sometimes flashing unnecessarily – Clerk to speak with VMS to ascertain the cause.**

g) 18f 12/12/11 Replacement village information board has been delivered to Mr Byron and will be delivered to the Clerk in the immediate future.

h) 18g 12/12/11 14/12/11: Further information on the Middlesbrough Young Offenders' Scheme. Young male salesmen were in the Slaley area again on 14/12/11. Middlesbrough Young Offenders Service Manager, Sandra Mitchell, assured our parishioner that there was no such scheme. Our local Police were informed of this and after several visits and telephone calls reported that the young men buy their own stock so are only affiliated to the YOS. The local Police have asked that they be informed when the young salesmen are next in the area as they would like to speak with them directly.

5. Public Participation.

None.

6. Community Trust Report

Catherine Lincoln reported that the CT was meeting later in the month when hopefully a new secretary would be appointed.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

Clerk to telephone CC re flashing unit.

8. Correspondence.

Hard Copy

- a) Hexham Courant offering free space in Tynedale Visitor - emailed see agenda item 12.
- b) CAN news 60 the birthday – Booking Form for: An introduction to planning - Hexham Wednesday 25/1/12 & Localism Act and the Opportunities of Neighbourhood Planning - Hexham Wednesday 14th March. Both 6.30 – 9 p.m. FREE. Attendance will be Cllr Hancock on March 14th. Clerk both dates.
- c) NCC Highways - Advice & Guidance on Northumberland Snow Squads
- d) Invoice from NCC re payment for empty dog and litter bin £662.24 - Clerk telephoned Barbara Young on 01434 652407 for an explanation. *See June 2011 minutes agenda item 12 when Roger Styring, Susi Goncu, David Hunt joined Cllr Hancock to discuss Developing Local Service Partnership. According to Susi Goncu's report of the meeting "Cllr Styring reiterated that NCC litter bins would be handed over to parish councils and will continue to empty them free as that is their statutory duty".*
- e) NCC Housing Needs Assessment Postal Survey – Posters, copy of questionnaire and the request to encourage residents to complete the survey.
- f) NALC Campaign to Protect Rural England Planning explained 70-page booklet.
- g) Clerks & Councils Direct

Emails

- a) 14/12/11: NCC Composite Traffic Regulation Orders – Amendments 2012.
- b) 19/12/11: Greg Finch inviting interested members of Slaley PC to a meeting at Whitley Chapel on 19/1/12 to heard about the Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches project.
- c) 20/12/11: North'ld LINK - GP out of hours service research.
- d) 20/12/11: RSN weekly digest 19/12/11
- e) 20/12/11: Historic Towns Forum Newsletter
- f) 20/12/11: Tyne Tees – switchover news
- g) 20/12/11: CAN News
- h) 20/12/11: RFB No 48
- i) 22/12/11: CAN Royal Garden Party open to PC Chairmen to apply.
- j) 22/12/11: NALC Additional Grit Bins information. Send to CL for inclusion in Slaley Notes. Some off-street hamlets/groups off houses may be interested in financing their own bin e.g. Townhead; Townfoot; South Park, Wooley Grange, Slaley Park, Peel Flatt, East Woodfoot, West Woofoot.
- k) 27/12/11: RSN weekly digest
- l) 27/12/11: RFB No 49
- m) 28/12/11: Connect4change – Strengthening support for older people through volunteering.
- n) 28/12/11: West North'ld Sport & Physical Activity Alliance meeting Hexham 24/1/12.
- o) 30/12/11: RFB No 50
- p) 30/12/11: NCC Area Committee West meeting Hexham, 10/1/12 at 6p.m.

- q) 3/1/12: Consultation to improve Equality in Northumberland: Working with you to set our Equality Objectives for 2012-16.
- r) 3/1/12: CAN Young People in our Communities Conference 23/2/2012
- s) 3/1/12: Government Training Inc. Security Handbooks & Guides.
- t) 3/1/12: NORTH – Northern Rural Housing Week 27/1 – 3/2/2012.
- u) 3/1/12: Northumbria Police Authority (NPA) Stakeholder briefing Issue 1 (4 page document detailing “An Effective Transition to the new Police Governance Structure in Northumberland”).
- v) 3/1/12: RSN weekly digest.
- w) 4/1/12: North’ld Wildlife Trust -Lowlands & Coast Local Nature Partnership event.
- x) 4/1/12: Carrol Hessey, West Area highways range of projects up to March 2012 Traffic Signs & Ditch Digging. **Sites identified after heavy rain include Moorland, Townfoot, Shield Hall corner.**
- y) 6/1/12: North’ld LINK meeting 11/1/12 at Wooler – Clinical Commissioning Group.
- z) 6/1/12: North’ld Clinical Commissioning Group engagement event, Hexham 17/1/12.
- aa) 6/1/12: West Area Committee meeting Tuesday 10/1/12 at Hexham.
- ab 7/1/12: RFB No 1
- ac) 9/1/12: RSN weekly digest
- ad) 9/1/12: NORTH- Conference in Durham 10/2/12 - £110 for non-members.

9. Financial Report.

- a) Direct debit payment £57.46 to Zen Internet Ltd.
- b) Cheques to be signed
 - Cheque No 455 Webfusion for Domain registration for 2 years £5.78
 - 456 Grant Air Ambulance
 - 457 Grant CAN
 - 458 Grant St. Mary’s Churchyard Maintenance
- Proposed by Cllr. Brooks and seconded by Cllr. Robson the cheques were signed
- c) Bank statement as at 30/12/11 £6,357.95
- d) Brought forward from December awaiting clarification from Susi Goncu - Possible transfer to the PC of the £500 awarded by Tynedale Council to the CT for emergency repairs to the school building when the school grounds were opened to the public in May 2006. Still waiting to hear from Susi Goncu about this.

10. Current Planning Applications.

None

Outstanding applications or decisions on NCC web site

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

11/02610/FUL Construction of photovoltaic array. East Ridley Hall – **Permitted. Decision notice received.**

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:

Date and arrangements for official opening.

- a) Emails from C.L/ during December regarding surplus funds (bicycle track came in cheaper than its quote). Requesting permission from the funding bodies to use these remaining funds for further equipment. E.g. outdoor table-tennis table with associated cabinet for equipment, tennis posts and net and a second ball wall.

- b) Email:13/12/11 from Cllr Brooks confirming that the Ground Works invoice was to be repaid to the PC after the grant was received. (see minutes of Special Meeting 22/11/10) This was questioned under 9f when the CT had presented a £500 cheque to the PC which was understood to be the original NCC contingency fund stipulated by the LEA when the school grounds were opened to the public in May 2006. Depending upon final funds this £500 could be repaid to the PC.
- c) Email: 16/12/11 from Paul Turnbull – confusion over pieces of equipment for weekly check. Cllr Hancock telephoned school and said the May 2006 Playdale equipment should be checked alongside the new and the PC had agreed to cover this cost.
- d) Email 16/12/11 from Stewart Murrell re NCC inspector improvements. Dodwells returning on Monday 19/12/11 to action any remediation work before 23/12.
- e) Catherine Lincoln made a verbal report: Eric Anderson doing the LEA inspection today. Stewart Murrell speaking with Dodwell Brothers about fabricating something to make a new goal mouth. The school willow dragon will be taken down. Remaining funding should provide an additional three items of equipment. Official opening will now NOT take place mid January as reported under agenda item 11f 12/12/11, but later in the year when all the pieces of equipment are in place.
- f) Cllr Brooks reported that the gates leading to the bicycle track are difficult to open which could force children to use the wrong entrance gate on their cycles. **Clerk to ask if these could be made easier to open.**

12. Slaley entry into the 2012 Tynedale Visitor – 2011 text emailed to Councillors 15/12/2011
 15/12/11: Hexham Courant text for Tynedale Visitor. Changes were made Clerk to retype and circulate prior to sending.

13. Policy for awarding Grants. Draft circulated by Cllr Hancock for adoption

Amended. Cllr Hancock to re-circulate for approval then Clerk to forward to local organisations that have not received a grant from the PC during the past two-years. It was agreed to award three grants GNA, CAN & St. Mary's Churchyard (see 9b above). **Attached as appendix 2/090112, page 759.**

14. Precept

- a) Copy of draft Precept as agreed at December meeting appendix 4/121211 circulated.
- b) Copy of quote from VMS to move speed between poles £702 (includes Vat of £117) Price increase is due to hire of cherry picker for the day + labour. The initial price was a rotation programme for NCC over a number of sites. (Discussed at 4d above)
- c) Copy of grass cutting quote from Alex Evison received. No reply from GMS (agenda item 11d 12/12/11).
- d) A final Precept of £8,325.00 was agreed for 2012/13 **attached as appendix 3/090112, page 760.**

15. Diamond Jubilee June 2012. Deferred from December meeting.

After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Hancock reply that as a public body the Parish Council could not spend public money employing a third party to provide a flower arrangement for the proposed St. Mary's Flower Festival.

16. BOATs update.

- a) 16b 12/12/11: The revised PC reply to the ETRO November Review was circulated by email, approved and attached to these minutes **as appendix 4/090112, page 761.**
- b) 16c 12/12/11 Local Inquiry 9/5/2012 in Slaley Commemoration Hall. Cllr. Hancock to seek advice from T.W-A and LS on the best way to proceed with this as the Enclosure wording on the Blue Gables route is slightly different to that of our other green lanes. Andrew Stewart of West

Ridley Hall contacted the Clerk about the history of this claim on the green lane. He is very concerned about the safety of his young family sharing the lane with motorised vehicles and has written to the inspector recording this. David Brookes contact details were provided to him.

- c) Copy of Blanchland PC ETRO Review reply received by the BOATs Joint Committee.
- d) Hexhamshire Public Inquiry decision was recorded in the Hexham Courant of 6/1/12 entitled "Trail Bikers Overruled".

17. Parish Council Councillor Vacancy.

- a) Confirmation from Mick Miller at County Hall that no interest has been shown to fill the post of Slaley Parish Councillor. Advice on filling the post was also provided
- b) Cllr Hancock downloaded and circulated information on filling a Casual vacancy in the office of a Parish Councillor.
- c) There has been no expression of interest and it was agreed that the vacancy be mentioned in the Slaley News Sheet again.

18. January Parish Plan, Action Plan Update.

Circulated and amended copy attached as appendix 5/090112, page 762.

19. AOB

- a) Parish Council 2012 meeting dates confirmed to Commemoration Hall booking clerk as second Monday of each month apart from April when April 9th is Easter Monday. Councillors agreed to **change to Monday 16th April.**
- b) Thank You for support from David Pitt, Pennine Journey Project (see June 13th 2011 minutes agenda item 4d). Highways have agreed to way-mark the route and Ordnance Survey will record in OS Landranger and Explorer maps.
- c) Email from Carroll Hessey re a 7/4/11 report about a blocked drain – was it still a problem? Clerk to check.
- d) Cllr Norris reported the random filling of pot holes on the U8081 over two days. Why were some filled and others (large) not. **Clerk to request an explanation.**
- e) Michael Elphick emailed 20/12/2011 an eight page documents entitled "Slaley website Documentation". Cllr Hancock to read and liaise with ME. The document **attached as appendix 6/090112, page 763.**
- f) Email 9/1/12 from Cllr Davison saying vehicles parking on footpaths were still causing a problem (see 4h 14/11/11, 15b 10/10/11). After discussion it was agreed that the Neighbourhood Police Team be asked to keep an eye on footpath parking. If necessary would the Police have a quiet word with offenders.
- g) Michael Elphick informed the Clerk by telephone that he had made alterations to the November minutes on the web site and asked the Councillors to check

20. Date of February monthly meeting.

Monday February 13th

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10 p.m.