

**Minutes of Slaley Parish Council, Monday July 11th 2011,
in Slaley Commemoration Hall.**

1. Apologies. Councillors A.S. Robson & M Palmer.

Present: Councillor I.C. Hancock in the Chair. Councillors, C. A. Brooks, L. Norris, S. Davison & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor Colin W Horncastle for part of meeting.

Public: Margaret Weatherley & Keith Robson. 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.

County Councillor for agenda item 10.

3. Minutes of June Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 697 – 701 + appendix 1, page 702 & appendix 2, page 703)

Proposed as a true record by Cllr. C Brooks and seconded by Cllr. L. Norris. The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising.

a) 14/13/6/11: Bus Shelter - Clerk has spoken with Dick Phillips and reported that the section 50 licence (£300) may not be needed if MR and Paul from Street Works are happy with highway safety after a site meeting and TG has his own insurance for working on the highway.

b) 14 13/6/11: Bus shelter – relocating into Slaley village was reported within the PC report in the July & August Newsletter. Clerk instructed to write to immediate neighbours informing them of the proposed site. Councillors wished to check the letter before it was sent.

5. Public Participation.

Slaley Commemoration Hall, Treasurer, Margaret Weatherley, made a presentation to the Councillors requesting they reconsider their decision not to give the running costs grant to the Commemoration Hall. Two handouts (**attached as appendix 1&2/110711 , pages 709 & 710**) were presented and explained showing Parish Council grants since 1991. A detailed record of Hall improvements made possible through fund raising since 1991 was provided. Projected accounts without the PC grant were talked through with the rising costs of utilities being a real problem. It was also reported that the increased hire charges are causing genuine hardship to the various local organisations which regularly use the Hall and many have indicated that they may need to look elsewhere for a venue unless a reduced hourly rate can be agreed. Mrs Weatherley continued to explain that her participation in the WNCBC has shown that most parish councils supported their community buildings with an annual grant towards running costs, she personally felt that a grant from the PC was a fair way of supporting the Slaley parish community building with each ratepayer donating £1.62 per year towards running costs. What would the PC grant be used for was asked? For running costs - specifically to offset the rising utility charges - last year a loss of £800 was recorded. The Chairman thanked Mrs Weatherley and said the Councillors were being more vigorous as to how grants were donated. Mrs Weatherley questioned raising money for grants through the Precept and then not spending that money on grants. A third member of the Public asked if this decision was based on the assumption that more calls would be made on the PC's funds. The Chairman requested that the matter be made an agenda item in August.

6. Community Trust Report

(i) CT Report circulated by e-mail 8/7/11 comments from Cllr Hancock circulated by email –A lengthy discussion followed regarding insurance, weekly inspections of equipment, annual inspection, maintenance of school grounds etc. Circumstances differ outside of school hours to use of community equipment by school children in school hours. Without knowing the facts confusion reigned although it was generally agreed that the grounds **and the new equipment** should not be insured twice. Cllr Brooks offered to make enquiries from a Newbrough School Governor of her acquaintance. Cllr Hancock and the Clerk have a meeting at school on 13/7/11 with the Headteacher and the insurance and maintenance question can be raised then.

a) The CT is investigating whether the £500 for School grounds damage is given to the PC.

Held in abeyance.

b) Planning Fee of £170 for the sports and play equipment on the school field/ playground.

The Councillors agreed to pay half of this if a full planning application is needed

(ii) Draft letter to concerned neighbours circulated by email 8/7/11

a) Cllr Hancock suggests additional wording at end of third paragraph (page 1) to include “which is also on school premises”. Also on last page, first paragraph, to insert between facilities and Insurance “Frequent and regular safety inspections of all play equipment is mandatory. There will be an inspection scheme carried out by qualified experts” **There were no other suggestions, a copy of Cllr Hancock’s suggestions was given to CL.**

b) Page 1, third paragraph, it is reported that there will be two contact numbers made available to neighbours, so that they can contact someone with concerns rather than having to approach people on the grounds themselves. Catherine Lincoln has indicated she will be one of the contacts. **Councillor Hancock volunteered to have his name included as the Parish Council second contact for evenings, weekends and school holidays.**

c) The Councillors agreed to the Community Trust taking over the Parish Plan: Action Plan Parish Council produced “Where to Buy Locally” leaflet. The CT intends to provide a hard copy to each household in the parish.

d) The Community Trust planters formerly at Townhead entrance to the village. The Parish Council was asked if it would add them to its insurance policy and seek health and safety guidance from highways staff. The Community Trust will maintain the planters. **No decision was made.** (See October 11th 2010 minutes agenda item 6, page 643)

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

a) West Area Planning Enforcement Officer, Vicky Crofton – Clerk to forward copy of Slaley Hall Holiday Villa occupancy details request to her.

b) Chairman of Newbrough Parish Council is a School Governor, CC Horncastle to make contact and ask how insurance and maintenance contracts works.

c) Several meetings on local transport priorities.

8. Correspondence.

Hard Copy:

a) NCC Planning Training Event for Parish Councils change of venue for June 29th from Bywell to Riding Mill Parish Hall.

b) NCC Joint Meeting of NCC and Parish/Town Councils – October 2011 – Hexham Tuesday 11/10/11 venue to be confirmed.

- c) Northumberland Age UK, formerly Age Concern Northumberland, letter + Information days poster & Questionnaire. No-one wished to complete the questionnaire.
- d) NCC magazine Northumberland News – from July a quarterly electronic version available.
- e) CAN News July 2011 issue (contains a photograph of the Stocksfield 1971 Community Plan).
- f) Sovereign Playgrounds is looking for a new site for a playground for marketing purposes. Equipment would be provided at reduced prices.
- g) Clerk & Councils Direct July 2011; Prince's Trust; NHS Talking Therapies in Northumberland 10 x A4 folded cards. Wybone street furniture catalogue, Dorman hazard warning signs catalogue. CPRE Overview Summer 2011.

E-mails:

- a) 15/6/11: RSN weekly digest June 15
- b) 17/6/11 Andrew Skelton SOS Group, Office Equipment (photocopiers) free to PCs for minimal monthly rental
- c) 23/6/11 Sue Andrew: A potential sustainability group for the far west Tyne – meetings at Haltwhistle in July.
- d) 24/6/11 Fields in Trust June 2011.
- e) 24/6/11 Gareth Davies – Meeting about future services at Hexham Hospital 7/7/11 at Hexham Hospital Education Room 6 p.m.
- f) 23/6/11 CAN e:News Extra 4 pages
- g) 28/6/11: RFB No 22 & 23
- h) 30/6/11: RSN weekly digest 28/6/11
- i) 1/7/11: Zen internet newsletter
- j) 4/7/11: RSN weekly digest 4/7/11
- k) 4/7/11: Fields in Trust - SITA Trust Fund officially open
- l) 4/7/11 RFB No 24 – page 4 of 18 is the SITA Trust funding opportunities
- m) 5/7/11 NCC Jonathan Nicholson – Planning Training Event Follow Up – Slaley is number 33 is recorded as having 2 Nursery (Little Badgers & Toddlers), 1 First Shool, a general store & Post Office, (mobile is classes as a PO) 1 Church, 2 Community Building, (Clerk telephoned JN and told him we have 2 churches – Methodist and St. Mary's & 1 community building) a bus service less than every 60 minutes, Broadband.
- n) 5/7/11: NCC Gareth Davies, West Area Committee 12/7/11 at Wylam
- o) 9/7/11: RFB No 25 two different grants for Queen Elizabeth 11 Fields in Trust campaign – Major Works Fund and Volunteer Support Fund
- p) 11/7/11: RSN weekly digest for July 11th
- q) 11/7/11: Vicki Braithwaite – New Play equipment circulated + CL.

9. Financial Report. Including Audit Arrangements.

- a) Cheque None
- b) Interim Cheques: None
- c) Audit date July 22nd 2011. Internal audit satisfactorily carried out by M. Weatherley. Records Available to Public 20 June – 15 July

10. Current Planning Applications.

11/01333/FUL: Conservatory to rear. Primrose Cottage, Colpitts. No objections.

20110117: Subdivision of dwelling into 2 with construction of new porch. Installation of photovoltaic solar panels to roof & separate driveway. Fernwood Hse, West W/foot. **Pending**

Decisions from Planning Authority. None

11. Update netted games/play area within school grounds.

- a) Damage to Little Badgers storage shed on Tuesday July 5th was reported to PC Clerk together with previous minor damage to the junior play fencing and school wheelie bins being used as trampolines. A request for parents to encourage children to respect the school premises has been given to Slaley Notes for publication on July 15th.
- b) Community Policy – Newbrough First School no longer has the membership cards. Both Newbrough and Whittonstall school grounds have a community play area and the Clerks at both schools have been contacted. The suggestion was made by Whittonstall School that the Northumbria Police Community Policy was used as a basis for our Slaley Police and this has been requested but not received from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. Draft membership policy tabled.
- c) Newbrough relied upon the CCTV for discouraging antisocial behaviour within the school grounds. The Chairman and Clerk contacted a local installation firm for anticipated cost of a system at Slaley School. David Swanson is meeting the Headteacher, ICH & PW on Wednesday morning. **Depending upon costs the Councillors agreed in principle to covering the installation of this preventative measure of the new equipment on the school field.**

12. Report by Cllr Hancock & Clerk on planning training on June 29th

- a) Clerk's notes emailed and **attached as appendix 3/110711, page 711**

13. Parish Celebration for Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee June 2012

- a) Golden Jubilee June 2002: National Golden Jubilee Theme was lit beacons. PC minutes 11/3/2002 page 10 and Annual Parish Minutes May 2002 page 17. Public meetings 25/2/2002 & 4/3/2002 afternoon children's tea party followed by a bring your own food BBQ to Rose & Crown with local entertainment. Parish Council purchased Jubilee Mugs and Cllr Norris presented to children between 6.30 – 7 p.m. at the Saturday 1st evening tea party behind the Rose & Crown and again on Sunday June 2 at Commemoration Hall between 4 – 5 p.m. Also a grant of £50 was made for the Jubilee braziers which became the planters at Parkside.
- b) Silver Jubilee 1977: PC minutes:- February 21st 1977 Report on Sports Festival "The Clerk reported that a Management Committee had been set up combining Blanchland, Hexhamshire/Slaley. A timetable of events had been drawn up. Many local events had been arranged to assist with selecting the representative team. It was agreed by 3 votes to 1 to underwrite the event to the tune of £7. Jubilee Celebrations it was agreed to hold a meeting in the Commemoration Hall on Thursday 3rd March at 7 p.m. to form a committee to organise the celebrations. All organizations and interested public to be invited. 16th May 1977 Jubilee celebrations – "Inter-village sports. The Clerk reported that Slaley was in the lead at this stage and confident that it would maintain this." Annual Parish Meeting 17/5/1977 – Chairman's Report: -"He congratulated the village as a whole for the excellent efforts in the Jubilee Celebrations and congratulated the Sports Festival Team on winning the salver."
- c) Clerk pointed out that the National Diamond Jubilee theme is the Fields in Trust campaign to protect 2,012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities across the country as a permanent living legacy of this great event (see 8d, 8k, 8l & 8o emails). **The Councillors were unsure of how we could participate in protecting a green space at Slaley.**

d) CL volunteered to make a request in the Slaley Notes for interested parties to form a Jubilee Committee

14. Parish Plan, Action Plan July Update

Changes were made to the draft circulated and attached as appendix 4/110711, page 712.

15. Route for August 2011 walk about

It was decided not to hold the annual walk-about in 2011.

16. Report from meeting on 22/6/11 by representative on the Commemoration Hall committee. (copy of agreed minutes of May 25th circulated and attached as appendix 5/110711, page 713.

There were no questions asked about the minutes or the June meeting. Friday December 3rd has been booked for a Panto –rhyme performance suitable for the whole family.

17. AOB

a) Shotley LQ Clerk, Marian Green, contacted Clerk by email regarding how the new 689 bus service is affecting the Whittonstall residents and asking the review date.

b) Stocksfield PC is trying to get its own telephone line – personal credit rating of the clerk is checked and any future change of clerk will result in a new business account having to be established.

c) The facilities and services board near Slaley telephone kiosk has a damaged portion approximately the size of a 50p. The Councillors to look and decide if a replacement needs to be ordered.

d) Large pothole on B6306 north-bound carriageway, north west of Lawn House and Jameson's Well.

e) Clerk to ask about grass verge cutting. One side of the U8081 cut damaging the other.

f) A copy of a letter sent to Mrs V Jewitt from the Department of Transport. Some interesting statements in the letter which can be quoted when the service review takes place later this year. The use of public transport in the County Plan is "a very green issue".

g) The possibility of bringing forward the September meeting by one week, of holding it one week later was discussed. It was agreed that Monday September 5th would be possible if Cllr Brooks could chair the meeting.

h) Rosalind Saul was asked about a news item which appeared in the Hexham Courant three weeks after the report was made and the content was out of date. Rosalind explained that the article had been written but held until space was available.

18. BOATs update.

No report.

19. Date of August monthly meeting.

Monday August 8th

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.