

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 13th July 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall

1. Public Participation.

a) Parent Governor at Slaley First School, Karl Beckett, was invited to give an indication to the Parish Council of the problems facing the school with funding shortfalls for the school windows. Mr. Beckett explained that he was personally decorating the windows in an attempt to stabilise them from further deterioration then the aim was ultimately that they be replaced with new windows when funding allows. Mr. Beckett explained that the School has a very limited Capital budget. The Governors have a sinking fund of approximately £5,000 per annum. The PC Chairman explained that the Parish Council has no capital it raises its funds through the Community Charge and it would be wrong for the PC to obtain capital funding for the school to replace its windows. The Councillors suggested that the Governors write to the local MP who can put pressure on the LEA to provide more funding, Cllr RWH Hutchinson offered to email Guy Opperman's London email address. The County Councillor's small schemes budget was also suggested and the power of the press should never be underestimated. If, as the Clerk said, the Courant Reporter was interested in making an editorial about the state of the school windows it could only be beneficial to the cause. (Slaley Parish Council had commented upon the school windows in the minutes of December 9th 2013, agenda item 17e, page 924 (see Slaley web site), and on the Parish Plan: Action Plan Update of January 2014, New issues c ii). Cllr N. Green commented upon the solar panels on the school roof especially over weekends and the summer holidays and asked where the money generated from the panels was being used and suggested that the Governors should request that this income is put back into the maintenance of the building.

b) Members of the public who have reported their concern over the height of Rookhope Cottage have come in person and by telephone to the PC Clerk and the PC Chairman. A copy of the typed letter sent by Sir M. & Lady P. Darrington and the hand written letter by Mr. & Mrs. S. Band have been circulated. A draft reply was circulated by the Clerk and the Chairman circulated a guideline of planning considerations. The public asked "what is the role of the Parish Council in planning control?" It was explained that PCs are not statutory consultees but in Northumberland are consulted on planning applications. One member of the public had looked on the planning web site and discovered that Slaley PC had not made objections to two buildings in the village that in her opinion "have a negative effect on the village". It was explained that when the PC has no objections then there is no reason for a report to be placed on the planning web site. That decision however is reported in the PC minutes and is available on www.slaley.org.uk "Did the PC not consider that the size of Ashtree House extension and the total size of Rookhope Cottage was too large, high etc." was asked. Planning applications are drawn to scale and it is difficult for some people to envisage how this scale will transfer into a building on the site. Cllr Green explained that the plans for Rookhope Cottage did not record the Cottage being as high as it has been built and that is why there is a new planning application to vary the height. The PC has a very limited list of material considerations it can use against a planning application and emotional reasons are not planning reasons. The planning officers have the ultimate responsibility of deciding what is acceptable in any situation and if they get it wrong and an appeal is lodged, the planning authority can lose a lot of credit and much needed finance. It was agreed that Slaley Parish Council object to the variation planning application for Rookhope Cottage and use the scale of loss of light and overshadowing at Tree Tops and the heightened design and appearance in its current setting breaches the previous planning permission.

2. Apologies. County Councillor Colin Horncastle.

Present: Councillor D. Allsop in the Chair. Councillors N. Green, R.W.H. Hutchinson, D. M. Bell, E. S. Dart & I. E. Milburn & Clerk P. Wilson. Public: Mrs C. Johnston, Mrs C. Lincoln & Mr. K. Beckett. Hexham Courant reporter: apologies from Rosalind Saul who is leaving the Courant at the end of the month. Northumbria Police: apologies from Police Constable Sue Cockburn – asks if there are any police

matters for discussion. It was agreed that in light of the recent spate of burglaries the Clerk to ask if more police have been deployed to deal with the increase and are there more night patrols in the area?

3. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

- a) Cllrs D Allsop & N. Green form planning application 15/01554/ADE Amended. (R&C)
- b) Cllr D. Allsop for planning application 15/02181/NONMAT. (Ashtree House)

4. Minutes of June Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 10773 – 1081 appendix 1, page 1082).

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr. N. Green and seconded by Cllr. R.W.H. Hutchinson. The minutes were dated and signed.

5. Matters Arising.

- a) All the necessary approval by the missing Councillors was received by email which produced the full quorum needed to implement the suggestions made at the June meeting.
- b) 1a 8/6/15: Transparency Act and changes to the web site – a meeting with the PC Clerk and Chairman and the web site editor is due to take place.
- c) 7b 8/6/15: Highway concerns these were also endorsed by Hexhamshire PC to the Highway Division.
- d) 17b 8/6/15: Private Firework Display – The problem was covered by an Hexham Courant article and one farming family requested an article in the July issue of the Parish News. Slaley PC Chairman wrote an email to the farming family suggesting they may wish to attend the July PC meeting and the reply, dated June 16th, was received informing Cllr Allsop that the family were at the Great Yorkshire Show on July 13th and would not be attending. Mr Beckett informed the meeting that after several complaints about firework displays at Slaley Hall the hotel had agreed to use “Go Quieter Fireworks” and these appear to satisfy customers and the nearby farming community. It was suggested that this should be mentioned in Slaley News and Slaley Notes.

6. Community Trust Report

Cllr D. Allsop verbally reported that the Slaley News article asking for interest in joining the Community Trust had produced one interested person, Karl Beckett. Mr. Beckett had come forward with two good fund raising ideas. The CT will now call a meeting to discuss how to go forward, Mr Allsop indicated that the members of the EC had served for a number of years and some were ready to hand over the reigns to new, young, blood. Mr Allsop reported his disappointment that only regular R&C customers had attended the Race Night held specifically to raise money for the parish Defibrillator. £128 had been raised and this has gone towards the cost of attaching the Defib Cabinet to the east wall of the R&C. Connection to the electric supply is not completed therefore extra costs may, or may not, be incurred.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) County Councillor Colin Horncastle is in the RVI today for an operation and gives his apologies for the foreseeable future. The Councillors wished Councillor Horncastle a speedy recovery.
- b) Cllr D. Allsop received a telephone call from the owner of Townfoot Old Farmhouse who is very concerned about the continuous flooding and the inability to provide conclusive corrective action to the village street flooding. A bi annual jet wash of all the village gullies was suggested. **It was agreed to invite the Highways Manager to PC meeting and ask if neighbouring parishes wanted to join us.**
- c) The roadside verges are in desperate need of cutting and this is causing danger especially at crossroads. The Clerk to report.

8. Correspondence.

Hard copy

- a) NCC Local Transport Plan Programme 2016-17 (Safety issues) Clerk suggests The Linnels Bridge is suffering from dislodged stones caused by large vehicles. Safety work should be undertaken on this.

Grade 1 Listed Monument and protected by English Heritage as a matter of urgency. As recorded in June minutes. **The Councillors agreed to include this in the LTP. One Councillor reported seeing notices in a similar situation which said “Don’t take any notice of your Sat Nav see Road Restrictions” .The Councillors wondered if drivers using the Linnels Bridge would respond to that statement.**

b) Campaign to Protect Rural England invitation to AGM on Saturday July 25th at 12.30 p.m in The Golden Lion, Corbridge and afterwards a visit to the Pele Tower and Low Hall in Corbridge. Information emailed to Councillors 16/6/15.

c) CAN NEWS + a letter requesting that PCs consider giving an annual grant to CAN

d) Broxap street furniture catalogue; Clerk & Councils Direct July.

Emails circulated

a) 10/6/15: NCC Planning – Training Session Planning on Thursday July 9th at Prospect House, Hexham. This was further clarified by planning officer Frances Wilkinson by email on 15/6/15. Clerk & Councillor N. Green attended. There were about 30 members of the west area PCs present and all had some planning problems within their parish – these were applications that did not “fit the normal pattern”. Retrospective planning application is no longer on the list. IF deviations or alterations are discovered and reported than a Variation application is made and this is judged as a separate application. It is the intention that two or three such sessions will be held each year. Varying factors determine each planning application and because there is very little local knowledge with the new planning determination system the planning officers do take notice of local comments. Rules differ depending upon the area, Rural v Urban, AONB v Town, National Parks v Farming, Listed Building v Village, Open Countryside v Brownfield, High Landscape Value v Business, Neighbourhood Plan v Permitted Development etc. A handout was given to all attendees.

b) 10/6/15: ESN RVS fuel poverty

c) 15/6/15: RSN weekly digest

d) 15/6/15: Iain Hedley LDO request for contact details of Chairman after AGM.

e) 15/6/15: Iain Hedley LDO invitation to second annual Town & Parish Council conference at Cramlington Fire Station on September 24th.

f) 16/6/15: NALC Chairman training June 23 & 25th at Felton.

g) 16/6/15: NALC Councillor training 30/6/15 & Chairman training 2/7/15 at Newton & Bywell Community Hall.

h) 17/6/15: RSN, RVS rural transport.

i) 22/6/15: RSN weekly digest.

j) 22/6/15: Community Action Northumberland is looking for “Friends” The network will enable CAN to gather views and intelligence on issues facing rural communities and rural people. **Does Slaley PC want to become a friend? The Councillors were not interested in this offer.**

k) 24/6/15: Northumberland & Newcastle Society - Wind Turbine Update in Northumberland.

l) 27/6/15: Iain Hedley LDO: Arriva briefing session invitation. (appears to be the north of the county rather than the west however the Hexham Courant of June 12th carried an editorial which said that the Go North East service between Cossett and Hexham and the 695 Tuesday service from Blanchland to Hexham were also at risk.

m) 27/6/15: Iain Hedley LDO: more on the Arriva briefing session.

n) 5/7/15: NALC E-NEWS – Transparency and smaller parish councils – training and grants information.

o) 5/7/15: RSN ROB.

p) 5/7/15: Kevin Isaaks, Smartwheelie – a range of speed awareness wheelie bin stickers 500 stickers @ £210.00 delivered.

q) 5/7/15: RSN weekly digest 29/6/15.

r) 6/7/15: RSN weekly digest 6/7/15.

s) 6/7/15: CAN News

t) 7/7/15: West Area meeting at Tarsset on July 14th.

u) 11/7/15: CAN e:News Extra – new funding available for local groups in Northumberland who are trying to make their communities a better place to live. People’s Health Trust has just launched Active Communities in Northumberland is looking to invest in projects that support people living in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods. (Is deep in the rural countryside disadvantaged? Or is the inner city? – Depends upon what you want! I have forwarded this to Ross Menzies and Joan Jewitt. Karl Beckett also asked to look at this to establish if the funding could help with the school windows.

v) 13/7/15: RSN weekly digest.

9. Financial Report.

a) Real Time Information: Thirsk payroll - Employers Summary June. Employees pay slip. Parish Council Tax due to HMRC £15.40

b) Cheques to be signed.

Cheque No 561 Salary P Wilson April, May & June £909.59

Cheque No 562 HMRC 3 months tax £15.40

Cheque No 563 Thirsk Community Care -= Payroll preparation April – June. £39.00

Proposed by Cllr. R.W.H. Hutchinson and seconded by Cllr. N. Green the cheques were signed.

c) Interim cheques

Cheque No 559: British Heart Foundation for our share of the Defib

Cheque No 560: WEL Medical for Defib Safe cabinet £708.00

d)) Lloyds bank - change of signature form completed and posted. Correspondence received asking for Clerk to telephone it appears that CEM Goldring was still recorded as a signatory therefore a second set of papers had to be countersigned to remove CEM Goldring from the list.

e) Repayment of Vat by HMRC for financial year 14/15 of £1,184.29 has been confirmed by HMRC.

f) Bank statement as at June 23rd £6,343.96 Note that the grant towards the Churchyard has still not been paid into the bank. The £50 on cheque No 545 was issued November 10th 2014. Cllr Green suggested that the church must not need additional funds as this is the second instance of a cheque not being presented.

g) The annual governance statement was approved by the Councillors and signed at the meeting.

h) Audit arrangements: – internal audit successfully carried out by Margaret Weatherley. Audit date is July 20th

10. Current Planning Applications.

New planning applications:

15/02181/NONMAT: Non material amendment to application 14/04060/FUL (inclusion of four Velux windows to proposed extension pitched roof and one Velux to front roof slope of original dwelling, with omission of proposed landing window to front elevation) at Ashtree House. Applicant D. Allsop. **As the PC had not been consulted on this application it was proposed that no comment was expected.**

15/02146/VARYC: Planning application variation of condition 2 (approved plans) from application 14/02051/FUL (Construction of new dwelling) Rookhope Cottage. **Object (letter sent)**

15/02062/LBC: Listed Building Consent for removal of existing conservatory; construction of new garden room; partial removal and reconstruction of existing porch; Installation of roof-lights to kitchen. Stanegarth, Slaley. Applicant Mr. & Mrs McKendrick. **No objections**

15/02062/FUL: Proposed removal of existing conservatory; construction of new garden room; partial removal and reconstruction of existing porch; Installation of roof-lights to kitchen. Stanegarth, Slaley. Applicant Mr. & Mrs McKendrick. **No objections**

15/01554/ADE Amended June 24th: Resubmission: Advertising Consent: 2 no non-illuminated timber gallows style hanging double sided signs in Traditional style Street Sign, Slaley. Applicant Mr. David Allsop. **Concerns tabled by 3 of the 4 Councillors - letter sent**

15/010125/FUL: Proposed kitchen extension to rear. The Old Barn, Slaley, Hexham. **Pending.**

14/04288/OUT: Outline planning permission with some matters reserved except for access for construction of single storey agricultural workers dwelling. Land East of Flothers Farm, Slaley.

Pending

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

Decisions from planning:

15/01508/FUL: Extension to side to form an attached double garage & extension of existing first floor balcony to front. 4 Slaley Park. **Applicant** Mr. & Mrs. Peter Gill.

Granted

15/01451/FUL: Kitchen extension to East, new porch to South & bedroom extension to West, Foresters Lodge, Trygill. Applicant Mr. & Mrs. Peter Canning.

Granted

15/01342/FUL: Proposed front porch, Highfield House, Slaley.

Granted.

15/01005/FUL: New bungalow – land west of Bogglebush, 2 Wooley Grange, Slaley. **Refused**

11. Defibrillator Update

a) Cabinet and its position at the Rose & Crown – a positive decision was received from the SCAL Directors giving their permission for the cabinet to be positioned on the R&C east wall.

b) Initial Cabinet was damaged Cllr Allsop photographed and reported. Damaged cabinet was uplifted together with its original packaging and an undamaged replacement was received. Cllr Allsop arranged to have the cabinet put in place on the east wall of the R&C, the work was partially (or totally?) financed by the Community Trust Race Night held at the R&C.

b) The BHF grant towards the Defib meant that the PC had to pay £400 with a six week waiting list. After two days the Defibrillator arrived. It has to be commissioned by Adele Young and she is aware of its arrival.

c) CPR information pack received from BHF – Clerk has read and listened to the video this was presented to the meeting and Cllr Allsop was first to take home to listen.

d) Emergency Life Support training on Monday July 27th by Mags Bower. Posters have been emailed to the Notes editors and placed throughout the parish. Mags did ask if refreshments could be served at half time and Michael Elphick has agreed to show the DVD onto the big screen for the event. Cllr N. Green volunteered to help the Clerk with the refreshments.

12. Update games/play area within school grounds.

a) School inspection sheets from March to June received and a copy forwarded to Slaley School.

b) LEA inspection by Eric Anderson is expected on July 21st

13. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Completion

The project will once again have its own marquee on the Slaley Show field where the touring exhibition will be displayed, the walks and cycle leaflets and a selection of blank cards with envelopes will also be available. There will be the usual children's activities.

14. Parish Plan Action Plan July Update

Draft circulated and attached as **appendix 1/130715, page 1089.**

15. August walk about.

Full list of Walk-about sites and dates circulated for information and attached as **appendix 2/130715, Page 1090.** It was suggested at the June meeting whilst discussing the Heritage Report that the Councillors would be interested in seeing some of the Boundary Stones and especially the Hare Stone repositioned by Andrew Coney when he was manager at Slaley Hall. This was last inspected in

September 2002. Karl Beckett offered to show the Councillors the School outdoor classroom at Slaley Hall and this was accepted. Councillors to meet at 7 p.m. and share transport up to Slaley Hall. Cllr E.S. Dart gave her apologies.

16. Slaley Commemoration Hall Management Committee AGM revised date July 15th

The minutes from April 15th meeting will be approved then circulated to the Councillors [The Clerk apologised for this inclusion on the agenda, for obvious reasons there was no report from the AGM.](#)

17. AOB

a) Feral cats being fed in the village and the nuisance this causes. RSPCA has been informed but is unable to take any action because the family concerned reported that they were responsible for them.

After discussion it was agreed there was no action that the PC could take.

b) Cllr. I.E. Milburn asked if making a PC report for the Slaley News could be undertaken by a different Councillor. There were no offers so Cllr. I.E. Milburn was prevailed upon to continue.

c) Cllr. D.M. Bell reported that the public footpath that goes between Slaley Village Shop & 1 Church Close and the east wall of the churchyard has had garden refuse dumped on the path. **The Councillors to check this out and report back at the August meeting.**

d) Email from David Brooks re Winnows Hill Slaley - Byway 16 Parish of Healey & Byway 40 Parish of Slaley asking for our comments by July 31st. The route has recently been clear felled, the ground is very soft and there was no evidence of sandstone. There is currently a temporary TRO on the route for forestry work this will end in November and NCC propose a further TRO through the winter and to enable consultation on future management. Mr Brooks estimated that works to sustain non-vehicular use would be minimal while some limited seasonal vehicle use will cost in the region of £20-£30K. All year round motorized use would be £40 - £60K. Two members of Healey PC have replied that it should be maintained with no vehicular use at minimum expense to the public purse. Slaley Councillors also agreed this course of action.

e) Mr. K. Beckett reported that one of the BOATs in Slaley Forest is so badly damaged that he had an accident earlier this year and asked who maintains the BOATs and who should he make the complaint to.

18. Date of August 2015 monthly meeting :

Monday August 10th with an earlier starting time of 7 p.m. to accommodate an hour's walk before the monthly meeting.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.