

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on  
Monday 8th June 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall

**1. Public Participation.**

- a) Michael & Jean Elphick – Transparency Act: Michael, as Editor of the PC website wished to ask how the Councillors would like all the additional information, especially documents, presented on the web site. How to record the alterations made to the documents especially the quarterly Parish Plan Updates was discussed. Having links to these documents and links to the agendas was the most favoured. The question of ‘Do the draft documents stay or should they be removed?’ was unanswered. Some documents have a link to the NCC website (planning applications & consultations). Some like the Insurance policy and the Annual Inspection Report for the community play and sport equipment are very large reports, the latter containing many colour photographs. It was suggested that the public if they wished to view these reports before the Councillors discussed them could be offered sight by liaison with the Clerk. Cllr Allsop suggested a working meeting between Michael Elphick, the Clerk and himself to look at the possibilities and report back to the July meeting. Mr. Elphick gave the Clerk his June holiday dates.
- b) The Clerk reported that “Making Parishes Better Places” had emailed both Slaley & Healey Councils asking for a copy of their organisation chart detailing the structure of the council and the committee membership and asking if this was displayed on the website and / or made available elsewhere. The Annual Booklet ‘Information Sheet’ from both parishes was emailed back together with an explanation of the Booklet for the APM and how copies were available throughout the parish. Mr. Elphick reported that he had updated the information for both Slaley & Healey PCs on the Slaley website.

**2. Apologies.** Councillors D.M. Bell, S. Dart & I. E. Milburn.

Present: Councillor D. Allsop in the Chair. Councillors N. Green, R.W.H. Hutchinson & Clerk P. Wilson. *Note the Council was not quorate and therefore no decisions could be taken until confirmation is received from at least one of the other Councillors. The Clerk to email the various decisions needed for a swift response.* Public: Michael & Jean Elphick. Hexham Courant reporter: Rosalind Saul.

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

- a) Comments & Clarification from David Francis received by email. Cllr Allsop explained the different ‘DPI’ and ‘Other Interests’ and said the information from David Francis has been most helpful.
- b) Cllrs D Allsop & N Green for the Rose and Crown advertising sign planning application.

**4. Minutes of May Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 1073 - 1076).**

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. *Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approved the minutes.*

**5. Matters Arising.**

- a) APM: Make no decisions at Annual Parish Meetings – decisions must be during a parish council meeting.
- b) APM: No Declaration of Interest needed at Annual Parish Meeting.
- c) APCM: David Francis has suggested that two meetings in May would be sufficient and that what Slaley normally covers in the Annual Parish Council Meeting could be incorporated into a normal meeting. The Clerk explained that it was something she had started to differentiate between the Annual meeting and that of the normal monthly business. The Councillors decided to continue with three meetings in May.  
*Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve of 3 meetings.*
- d) Move Public participation to beginning of meeting in light of new filming & broadcasting regulations (see 8b 9/2/15 NALC Road show)

- e) Give more information on Parish Council agendas which is now placed on the web site in light of the Transparency Act (see 8b 9/2/15 NALC Road Show; 8af 13/4/15 & 13d 11/5/15 + 8b below). *Covered under Public Participation above.*
- f) APCM: Amended Grants Policy (altered at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>). Cllr Allsop proposed that this amendment was approved. Cllrs Green & Hutchinson also approved subject to confirmation from the remaining Councillors that they had no objections. *Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve of the amendment.*
- g) 8 11/5/15: Insurance Policy. Parking area for the mobile Post office is recorded with the Insurers there is no additional charge, however, a £250 excess will apply for any claim. A Defibrillator has also been included in our outside equipment and it is covered at a value of £2,000.

## 6. Community Trust Report

Cllr Allsop gave a verbal report – The June issue of Slaley News carries a request for new volunteers to join the Trust Executive Committee to plan and help organise major fund raising activities which will capture the interest and support of large groups of people. To-date there has been no response. Following on from this request the CT Executive will need to meet, whatever the outcome of the request, and decide what course of action to take.

## 7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

- a) Cllr Hutchinson requested that a reminder be sent to highways regarding the overgrown roadside saplings reported on March 5<sup>th</sup> (see agenda item 18c 13/4/15 minutes).
- b) Cllr Hutchinson also reported damage to The Linnels Bridge, although technically out of our parish a large percentage of parishioners use the bridge for access to Hexham. The bridge is suffering from dislodged stones caused by large vehicles. Ask Highways if safety work can be undertaken on this Grade 1 Listed Monument and protected by English Heritage as a matter of urgency. Also ask Hexhamshire PC to write a letter requesting similar action.
- c) A pile of grit on the Lambshield road needs moving as it is causing vehicles to damage the opposite verge. Also mention to Hexhamshire PC.  
*Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve of reporting a,b,&c.*
- d) Cllr Green continues to inspect the village drains and has a work in progress document detailing the flooding incidents and the lack of adequate cleaning of the village drains.

## 8. Correspondence.

### Hard copy

- a) Active Northumberland A5 colour leaflets for a Live Music festival at Blyth beach & folded A taste of South East & mid Northumberland. Information emailed 22.5/15. Leaflets left in Slaley Village Shop.
- b) Love Northumberland Awards 2015 - Letter, posters and leaflets

### Emails circulated

- a) 14/5/15: RSN RVS rural transport
- b) 14/5/15: Adam Curtis Transparency Code & Website Information. Michael Elphick replied that Adam is using Word Press as Slaley is, however his costs will be higher than Michaels. **The Clerk has a copy of the Transparency code for smaller authorities which became law in December 2014 and came into force Spring 2015. Agendas, annual data and accounts should now be posted onto a FREE website. Whilst these requirements are provided in hard copy, booklets at the APM, have not in the past, been placed on the web site.**
- c) 14/5/15: Ladycross Nature Reserve walks information.
- d) 14/5/15: Carrol Hessey: Invitation to old and new bus stations plans.
- e) 18/5/15: RSN weekly digest May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- f) 19/5/15: RSN RVS rural broadband
- g) 20/5/15: NCC Love Northumberland – Hate Litter campaign.

- h) 21/5/15: Ladycross Spring 2015 Newsletter.
- i) 22/5/15: NCC Private Sector Housing Strategy Consultation runs until July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Clerk asked if Councillors wished this to be a separate agenda item.
- j) 26/5/15: RSN weekly digest.
- k) 27/5/15: RSN spotlight on older people.
- l) 28/5/15: NCC Funding bulletin May.
- m) 28/5/15: RSN rural crime survey 2015.
- n) 1/6/15: NCDN news
- o) 1/6/15: HMP Northumberland annual report by the Independent Monitoring Board.
- p) 1/6/15: NHS Stakeholder Update. New hospital at Cramlington opens June 16<sup>th</sup>.
- q) 1/6/15: Tyne Rivers Trust newsletter.
- r) 1/6/15: New European Safety Standards came into force in May 2015 for permanently installed fitness equipment.
- s) 1/6/15: RSN weekly digest June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- t) 8/6/15: RSN weekly digest June 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. Financial Report.

- a) Real Time Information: Thirsk payroll
- b) Cheques to be signed: None.  
Subject to confirmation from the missing Councillors a £400 cheque for a Defibrillator should be issued – see 11b below. *Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve the issue of a £400 cheque.*
- c) Lloyds bank change of signatures. Form was completed with the Councillors available. The missing Councillors also need to sign the form. Clerk to organise.
- d) Approve the Accounting statement and sign where necessary. The three Councillors approved the statement and Cllr Allsop signed as Chairman subject to approval from the remaining Councillors. *Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve the Accounting Statement.*
- e) Clerk confirmed that a Vat refund request of £1,184.29 has been submitted to HMRC.
- f) Audit arrangements: – display notice June 8<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> (internal audit) Records available June 22 – July 17<sup>th</sup>. Audit date is July 20<sup>th</sup>

## 10. Current Planning Applications.

### New planning applications:

**15/01554/ADE** Resubmission: Advertising Consent: 2 no non-illuminated timber gallows style hanging double sided signs in Traditional style Street Sign, Slaley. Applicant Mr. David Allsop. ( Cllrs Hutchinson will need to liaise with Cllrs Bell, Dart & Milburn before a decision can be made)

**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. **No objections**

**15/01451/FUL:** Kitchen extension to East, new porch to South & bedroom extension to West, Foresters Lodge, Trygill. Applicant Mr. & Mrs. Peter Canning. **No objections**

*Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve the No objection decisions above and that they inform the clerk of their decision regarding the R&C advertising sign.*

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

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

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

**14/02887/FUL:** Proposed extension and alteration of existing property including demolition of existing single storey conservatory area/kitchen; demolition of existing two storey extension to rear elevation providing part kitchen area at ground floor level and bathroom at first floor; all to be replaced with new two storey extension providing new kitchen/utility at ground floor with third bedroom, en-suite, dressing room and new bathroom at first floor. - East Cornerfield, Slaley, Hexham NE47 0BS. This replaces application 14/00749/FUL.

**Granted.**

### **11. Defibrillator Update**

a) Ownership of the land on which the BT payphone kiosk stands has been confirmed as belonging to Slaley Village Shop. Mr. & Mrs. R. Ward have requested that the redundant kiosk is removed.

b) Parish Council grant application to BHF has been successful A contribution of £400 has been request from us. The Councillors agreed to this providing the other Councillors arte in agreement.

*Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve the authorisation of the £400 cheque.*

c) Clerk asked if cabinet should be ordered through them. Apparently not. Adele Young is meeting the Clerk on Friday morning and the type and size of cabinet will be established then. When to purchase the said cabinet will also be established.

d) Where do we put the defibrillator was discussed, the most popular options were the Commemoration Hall and the Rose & Crown. Cllr Allsop suggested the east wall of the building next to the Cellar and the Electricity meter. Would planning permission be needed on a listed building was questioned. Cllr Allsop was asked to mention the idea to his fellow Directors of SCAL and ascertain if they were agreeable. Cllr Allsop reported that he anticipated that SCAL would not consider any installation costs but may provide the running costs provided they were minimal. Clerk confirmed that in earlier talks the Parish Council had understood that they would be responsible for installation costs either in the kiosk or at the Commemoration Hall.

*Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve of the Defib being attached to the east wall of the Rose & Crown if this proves possible.*

d) Call Push Rescue CPR training kit DVD's & equipment received (emailed 22/5/15). This was still at the home of the PC Clerk, however, it was hoped that everything could be stored in the roller cabinet at the Commemoration Hall. This would happen after the visit of Adele Young on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>.

e) The dates offered by Mags Bower were once again considered and if the date of Monday July 27<sup>th</sup> was still available and the hall was free this was considered the best option for basic life support training.

*Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve the date on Monday July 27<sup>th</sup> for basic life support training.*

### **12. Update games/play area within school grounds.**

a) The annual inspection will be carried out by The Play Inspection Company for £62.50 excl VAT.

b) Clerk to request that the Parish News carries the updated Community Agreement in its July issue. As agreed and amended agenda item 14 March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

### **13. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Completion**

The end of Project celebration took place on Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> and was enjoyed by two Councillors and their wives. The remaining Councillors having been unable to accept the invitation from the Dukesfield

Smelters and Carriers Steering Group. The project came a highly commended second place in the Constructing Excellence in the North East Awards and are also in the running for a further two awards.

#### **14. Parish Plan Dog Fouling review**

No major issues have been reported to Slaley PC of any evidence that dogs are allowed to roam the village and foul the village footpaths.

#### **15. Parish Plan Heritage review.**

Draft copy circulated by email and **attached as appendix 1/08015, page 1082**. The following amendments were made subject to full approval.

Page 3: Redundant Water Tanks

(3) Cushat Hill south east of the PC seat on the B6306. Never inspected: Owned by Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Garvey, Wooley Park, Slaley. NE46 1TY. Field owned by Mrs. Audrey Hutchinson.

Page 5: **Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches.**

Technically the Arches are out of Slaley Parish (since the boundary changes of 1976). However Slaley Parish Council was asked in 2011 if it wished to join forces with Hexhamshire PC to consolidate the Arches which were showing signs of deterioration. Ian Hancock and Pat Wilson volunteered to join the Steering Group alongside two members of Hexhamshire Parish Council, (Greg Finch & Anne Porter the latter replaced by Gill Whatmough) two members of The North Pennines AONB ( Ian Forbes & Peter Jackson) and a community representative (Liz Sobell). This Steering Group, with the help of an HLF grant has preserved the Arches and its environs. The Steering Group through the grant encouraged the public to take part in a large selection of learning skills and activities ranging from acting in a comedy play, transcribing old documents, heritage cooking, art, photography, brewing beer (to name a few) and finally installation of interpretation boards and a stone carved Galloway Pony milestone. In the light of public safety the wonderful archaeological remains the project exposed have been partially recovered. An interactive web site is in place recording many aspects of the Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project.

*Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve the alterations.*

#### **16. Slaley Commemoration Hall Management Committee AGM June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

The minutes from April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting should have been approved then circulated to the Councillors. However, the meeting was cancelled at the last minute and has been rescheduled for July 15th.

#### **17. AOB**

a) Mrs. Oakley emailed the Clerk reporting that she was unable to open the April minutes on the Slaley web site. This was checked by members of the public and Councillors and the minutes were available. Mrs. Oakley was duly emailed that the web site was working as normal.

b) A local firework display at 10.30 p.m. on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> has caused undue suffering to farm animals and fatalities' were reported to the Parish Council. The Councillors wished the Clerk to convey every sympathy to the affected farming community. Cllr. Allsop was aware of the venue and volunteered to speak privately about the verbal report. *Clerk to ask for confirmation from the missing Councillors that they also approve of a PC email to the farming community expressing their sympathy.*

#### **18. Date of July 2015 monthly meeting**

Monday July 13th

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.06 p.m.