

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on  
Monday 12th March 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

**1. Apologies.** Councillor 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 Colin W Horncastle.

**Public.** David Allsop & Dr. David Graham. **Northumbria Police:** None. **Courant Reporter:** Rosalind Saul. **Slaley Notes:** None. **Community Trust:** None.

Councillor Hancock welcomed the public and said Mr. Allsop was here by invitation as he had expressed interest in the Parish Council Vacancy.

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

County Councillor CW Horncastle for agenda item10

**3. Minutes of February Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 764 – 768 + appendix 1, page 769 & appendix 2 page 770.**

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

**4. Matters Arising.**

a) 4e13/2/12; 8x 9/1/11 West Area Highways West Area Highways had claimed that the clearing of ditches comes under the jurisdiction of the adjacent landowner. Cllr Hancock found that this was reiterated on various County Council websites and printed off a leaflet from Berkshire Council. CC Colin Horncastle has clarified this with West Area Highways Manager, Richard Hayes, who says that ditches that run parallel to the road are Highway Department's responsibility. Field drains that run into ditches are the landowner's responsibility.

b) 4f 13/2/12; 14c 9/1/11; 11d 12/12/11:Parish Grass Cutting - GMS have confirmed that they do have a public liability insurance for working on the public highway. The Councillors reviewed the two quotes for Parish grass-cutting and made the decision to accept that from GMS. A thank you letter to be sent to Mr. Evison thanking him for his dedicated work since May 2008. He had set a precedent on which all future work would be judged.

c) 4h 13/2/12; 19f 9/1/11; 4h 14/11/11; 15b 10/10/11: Parked vehicles on village footpaths – Two members of Northumbria Police called at the Clerks home to discuss this. Random checks have been made and there are many instances where footpaths are blocked - at Townhead between 'Delsmere' and the entrance into the Townhead estate; also outside South Park especially during the day. More dangerous was parking on the north footpath near the Village Hall when events were underway at the Hall or when workmen had vehicles parked – this was a danger right to the bottom of the road. The Police felt that if one footpath was kept clear (and the north footpath is the only footpath that goes the full length of the village) then for the safety of other road users parking on sections of the south footpath were unavoidable. As a recent example of the problem, an event was held at a private house in the Townhead area on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> and vehicles were parked on both sides of the highway and on the footpaths. This was a very dangerous situation for the emergency services or large vehicles such as coaches. **Cllr Hancock to put something in the News Sheet that the Police had carried out random checks and there were many instances of footpaths being blocked over the whole length of the village. It would**

**only be in the situation when both north & south footpaths were unusable that safety was a problem.**

d) 5a 13/2/12 - Neighbourhood Watch house-to-house drop by NP has had an uptake of 60 households.

e) 7b 13/2/12 - CC's offer to fund a second speed unit. The unit has been ordered. VMS confirmed that an engineer has been requested to look at our existing unit during the week of March 5th. It would appear that this has happened because the unit has stopped flashing indiscriminately.

f) 11d 13/2/12 Trellis protection at Laburnum Lodge GMS £552 inc Vat & Stuart Bell £710 inc Vat – A third quote from Peter Dodd received, £395.00 + Vat £79 = £474.00 circulated by email, and accepted by a quorum of Councillors. Cllr. Hancock notified the Irish family to have the trellis work undertaken by Mr. Dodd. The work has been completed and we have the account. See cheque No 465.

g) Cllr Robson, who was not at the February meeting, questioned agenda item 14a - Commemoration Hall Reserve Policy - What is the 10% of the annual income, is this 10% of running costs or does this include grants? The PC commented that over 10 years the reserve pool could accumulate a lot of money. Cllr Robson was asked to put this into an email that can be put to the Commemoration Hall Treasurer at its April meeting.

## **5. Public Participation.**

Dog Fouling down High Clear Lane (U8079) is a problem. Pedestrians are forced onto the grass verges when vehicles use this single-track highway. Dog Fouling outside the village street and a second dog bin was discussed and rejected because according to residents the culprits are not prepared to clean up after their dog when asked to do so. CC Horncastle suggested a name and shame type letter. If names could be given to the PC Clerk then a PC letter could be written explaining the unacceptable behaviour.

## **6. Community Trust Report**

Circulated and attached as **appendix 1/120212**.

Bryony Gibson, Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland has contacted the PC Clerk asking about Beacons in either Slaley or Healey parish. Mrs Gibson reported that Northumberland had a desire for 42 Beacons to be lit across the county and they were several short. Clerk reported that Hexhamshire were talking of a Beacon in their preparations. (RS from the Courant thought that this had been quashed and that something was going into the newspaper this week) The CT Diamond Jubilee arrangements do not include a Beacon.

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

Private Water Supply charges will affect Trygill, Colpitts, Slaley Hall, Springhouse and possibly the farms and properties on the Wooley Road. CC Horncastle reported that a working group has been established to look at this.

## **8. Correspondence.**

### **Hard Copy**

a). NCC Maintenance & Provision of Litter Bins in Slaley – Chairman signed the slip to say Slaley PC took over the ownership of the bins.

- b). NCC Public Access Training Workshops – 30 minutes sessions for Clerks on Monday March 12<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> at Hexham Library. Clerk attended 5.40 – 6.10pm. tonight.
- c). NCC Waste Management – posters on recycling. Request asking if we want this information in future. Clerk replied ‘We do not wish to receive these’. Reply received saying it is our responsibility to encourage our parishioners to recycle. Ask Slaley village Shop if they would like them. It was suggested that a smaller version attached to the emptied wheelie bin would be a better way to get the message to non-recycling households.
- d) Northumberland Age UK – Handyman in the West of the County – Cllr Robson to telephone about this service and ask about prices (e.g.. change a light-bulb), Cllr Brooks to put something in News Sheet. Any services we would like NG to consider setting up in our area? There were no suggestions for additional services.
- e) NCC Joint Meetings NCC + PCs 13/3/12 at Ponteland.
- f) Tynedale Sports Council request for funding. The PC awarded a grant of £50 in March 2007 and again in March 2009 & 2010. For a grant to fit into the PC’s Grants Policy **the Clerk was requested to write and ask for a copy of the accounts for the last year.**
- g) Request from Webfusion to pay the Domain Registration by Direct Debit this avoids the confusion over late payments and Vat as per January and February this year. **The Councillors recommended to do this.**
- h) Clerks & Councils Direct,  
Princes Trust Catalogue..

#### **Emails**

- a) 15/2/12: NALC E-News
- b) 15/2/12: Parish Mapping on line.
- c) 16/2/12: VCS Assembly communication
- d) 16/2/12: Carol Hessey: Connecting Communities through broadband
- e) 16/2/12: Eileen Tuohy: Heating Oil Purchasing Group circulated to both PC members & Geoff Bockett at Minsteracres.
- f) 19/2/12: RFB No 7
- g) 21/2/12 RSN weekly digest
- h) 21/2/12: Carolyn O’Briend – road closure for the Derwent Cycle Race 2012 May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- i) 29/2/12: Northumberland LINK Open Meeting 14/3/12 in Ashinton.
- J) 29/2/12: RFB No 8
- k) 2/3/12: NORTH: Latest edition of Northern Voice.
- l) 3/3/12: ADAPT invitation to a meeting in Choppington
- m) 3/3/12: Lucy Philips, Forestry Commission Outbreak affecting Juniper bushes.
- n) 5/3/12: NCC Mike Bird, Reminder meeting Ponteland.
- o) 11/3/12: RFB No’s 9&10

#### **9. Financial Report.**

- a) Cheques to be signed

Cheque No 463	Slaley Commemoration Hall venue costs	£142.00
Cheque No 464	Patricia Wilson 3months salary	£750.00 )
	Patricia Wilson BOATs annual expenses	£006.00 ) = £1,085.20
	Patricia Wilson Clerks annual expenses	£329.20 )

Cheque No 465 Peter Dodd, trellis work at Laburnum Lodge £474.00

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

- b) The repayment of the Groundworks NE £600 (less the £100 Vat) was requested from CL. Catherine thought that the repayment should come from CT funds rather than the sport and play grant. This was requested to Treasurer MW.
- c) Balance Sheet as at March 13<sup>th</sup> circulated and attached as **appendix 2/1203012**
- d) Audit Notes from BDO who will be carrying out the 11/12 audit however Slaley PC may have a new external auditor from next year as the service is going out to tender.

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

**12/00076/FUL** Conversion of outbuilding to form annex to house with bedroom, bathroom and living space. West Ridley Hall. **Pending**

**12/00147/FUL** Replace an extant permission to extend the time for implementation of 20081147 – construction of two-storey detached dwelling. Tree Tops. No objections. *PC provided a supporting letter to planning officer Kate Blyth. Further email correspondence was received indicating that SHLAA Site Assessments on the NCC web site should be assessed asking if they are preferable to Treetops and why. Treetops is one of the sites on the assessment; other sites were now either built on or already determined as unsuitable. Clerk emailed a reply. CC* Horncastle thought the correspondence would complete the necessary requirements

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

**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) Email from School Clerk - Scaffolding erected at school 22/2/12 to fit solar panels. Clerk forwarded a copy to Northumbria Police.
- b) Email from CL 29/2/12 with an update. The school is asking for financial help in taking down the willow dragon to accommodate the outdoor table tennis.

### **12. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update**

- a) Steering Group meeting minutes attached as **appendix 3/120312**
- b) HLF Grant Application was completed and dispatched the Steering Group should be informed of a decision in June. If successful a more detailed application must be submitted for December. In the interim two small grants have been received allowing work to commence on transcribing documents.
- c) Meeting today 1.30 to walk the Dukesfield Smelt Mill area then a 2.30 meeting at Whitley Chapel to look at documents.

### **13. Parish Plan – Annual Highways Report**

Draft route circulated and attached as **appendix 4/120212.**

In principle we will continue with this. It was decided to omit the green lanes undertaken by Cllr Palmer in 2011 (U8079, the U8217 and the U8074) Cllr Brooks would cover the Townhead to West Burnside section of the B6306.

### **14. Annual Risk Assessment.**

Draft circulated and attached as **appendix 5/120212.**

Amendments were made and agreed

## **15. Annual Asset & Investment Register**

Draft circulated and attached as **appendix 6/120212**.

A request made to have the totals in a column for easy addition.

## **16. BOATs update.**

Dr. Graham, requested an update on the status of the DMMO for BOAT U8079. Cllr Hancock explained the latest developments and the Public Inquiry on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2012 for the U8217 green lane, which the CC has proposed for downgrading. Dr. Graham reported that he had not withdrawn his environmental and safety objections from the consultation. His neighbours were receiving correspondence from NCC that he was not. Dr. Graham's objections had been acknowledged by Andy Thom. The PC considered his best course of action was to contact Mr. Thom and seek clarification at his earliest opportunity. How best to proceed was questioned - the public meeting to discuss this (July 12<sup>th</sup> 2010) - hosted by the PC gave concerned parishioners the opportunity to have their say and ask questions with NCC Rights-of-Way personnel, Northumbria Police and Members of the TRF. TRO's were explained. This was a course of action open to the council once the routes were opened as BOATs and when information from the public on environmental /health and safety issues was relevant.

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

Last month we reported the interest of Tom Henderson rejoining the PC after he retires from the RAF. In the interim David Allsop has spoken with both the Clerk and the Chairman about the position. Mr Allsop attended the meeting and confirmed his interest on becoming a Councillor. Cllr Hancock proposed that if the Councillors were in agreement the PC should offer the position to David Allsop who can join immediately and suggest to Tom Henderson that he puts his name forward to replace Cllr Norris, who is not standing for re-election in May 2013. **A vote was taken on the recommendation and a unanimous decision was recorded to appoint Mr Allsop onto the Parish Council.** Clerk to contact Mick Miller with all the details.

## **18. AOB**

- a) West Area Manager, Richard Hayes has given the go-ahead for the Ladycross Stone on the B6306 near the PC seat. He has asked to meet us on site to agree the exact position. Meanwhile Email correspondence between Cllr Hancock and CT asking about the stone at Parkside and suggesting a Golden Jubilee connection. Cllr Hancock explained the CT's lack of public liability insurance had put a stop to the ideas earlier last year. However the PC liked the idea of the stone commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and agreed to the wording of 'Slaley' and underneath 'ERII 2012'. Clerk to arrange a meeting between Richard Hayes, Trevor Golightly (and the stone) and let the Councillors know of the time. Billy Hall to be asked to inscribe the stone.
- b) Localism Act and the Opportunity of Neighbourhood Planning at Hexham Community Center on Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 6.30 p.m. Cllr Hancock and Clerk are attending
- c) Problems continue to be experienced with the website the latest with the film show. Councillors were asked to look at the website and report their findings to Michael Elphick.
- d) Email circulated 18/2/12 regarding the changed times of the mobile post van. Monday, Thursday, Friday now 4.15 – 5.30p.m. Slaley notes mentioned and News sheet editors have altered the times in their publication.

## **19. Date of April monthly meeting = Monday April 16<sup>th</sup> as agreed 19a 9/1/12.**