

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 11th March 2013 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. **Apologies.** Councillor T. Henderson

Present: Councillor I.C. Hancock in the Chair. Councillors C. A. Brooks, L. Norris, D. Allsop & A. S. Robson. Clerk Mrs. P. Wilson & County Councillor Colin Horncastle. Councillor T. Warde-Aldam from 8.15 – 9.15 p.m. for agenda item 12.

Public: None. Northumbria Police: None. Courant Reporter: None. Slaley Notes: None.
Community Trust: None.

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

County Councillor Colin Horncastle for agenda item 10.

3. **Minutes of February Parish Council Meeting** (circulated pages 851 – 854 + appendix 1, page 855, appendix 2 page 856 & appendix 3 page 857).

The Minutes were proposed a true record by Cllr. CA Brooks and seconded by Cllr. AS Robson. The minutes were dated and signed.

4. **Matters Arising.**

a(i)) 4b 11/2/13; 16 14/1/13: Problems with the mobile Post Office. Problems continued and were reported by the Clerk and by Cllr Allsop who represented the PC at a meeting on February 14th when Drew McBride explained the PO's plans to rectify the lack of a mobile phone signal at Slaley. The meetings were well documented in an email to all the Councillors on February 16th and shall be **attached as appendix 1, page 863.**

a(ii)) An updated email on February 23rd informed Councillors that the Post Office was working normally and had done so for two days during the previous week. 4 passengers had taken advantage of the free transport to Hexham Post Office when the service was down. Cllr Allsop reported that BT had surveyed the Parkside area and had agreed a pole to which the Van could get its signal, this may or may not require a different parking area for the Post Office Van. CC Horncastle said that if part of the soft landscaping around Parkside needs to become a hard standing area for the Van he could fund it from his 2013/14 small schemes budget. The Community Trust has received a £2,500.00 cheque from Post Office Limited for the inconvenience caused to the patrons who use the mobile Post Office.

b) 5m/n 11/2/13 Northern Upland Chain Nature Partnership first annual forum on March 8th Cllr Hancock attended, representing the PC & Friends of Ladycross. There is an interesting proposal being considered by Defra for a 'Biodiversity Offsetting' scheme whereby developments in the countryside would pay into a national fund to support environmental enhancement projects.

c) 10 11/2/13: Mobile Youth provision taster session. Unfortunately the flyers (left with a third party volunteer) had not been given out on the Middle and High school buses. Cllr Hancock went to the Hall and saw the Van. Although it was a very cold evening, the van was warm and well equipped. An email from Sarah Wood on February 19th reported that four young people had attended and we could expect a feed-back from the questionnaire given to the young people.

d) 13 11/2/13: Second speed unit – email from Kevin Brown confirming that the second Vehicular Activated Sign is programmed for installation week commencing March 18th. Cllr Brooks confirmed that the old sign is not working.

5. Public Participation.

None

6. Community Trust Report. Circulated and attached as appendix 2, page 864.

- a) Community Trust requested a copy of the electoral roll. Councillor Allsop abstracted the list of parish addresses which was to be used without inhabitants' names.
- b) Announcement of a Public meeting to discuss the R&C on Sunday March 17th at 4 p.m.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor.

- a) A copy of the NCC's legal advice on snow clearing by volunteers (see agenda 12a 11/2/13 minutes) was not to hand.
- b) Faster Broadband provision was discussed especially in light of emails 8n & 8o. G4 Broadband could be the answer when it is available.
- c) County Councillor Colin Horncastle confirmed he would be standing for re-election in May.
- d) NCC Budget Highways - an unplanned £6m has had to be committed to repairing several landslips in the county. Cuts of £567,000 were announced for general repairs (pot holes), but redistribution of money between different Highways headings. Reactive to planned strips where pot holes are reported over a length strip of highway. More money for ditching - it is recognised that underpinning of waterlogged roads is needed
- e) Replacement Highways Manager, Ross Bullerwell, new North West Highways Manager responsible for all the area from Berwick to Allenheads.

8. Correspondence.

Hard copy

- a) Mike Bird: Joint meetings March 12th at Stocksfield. Itinerary for meeting. (see email 8l below)
- b) NCC Ross Wigham promoting the Residents Festival 16/17 March and the "save time, do it online" campaign promoting the NCC web site.
- c) CAN investigating the need to charge for some specialist or more-intensive services in the future
- d) Clerks & Councils Direct March 2013; A genuine Old fashioned Sale; Came & Company Spring newsletter;

Email

- a) 12/2/13: Harriet Blain - Department of Health & Wellbeing - meetings in London at £225 each sent to confirm that they did not wish to receive these invitations. **This was confirmed at the meeting.**
- b) 15/2/13: Parish Online Newsletter
- c) 15/2/13: Sue Andrews - NALC Parish Information Events – Thursday March 21st at Haydon Bridge 6 – 8 p.m. Clerk is going. Cllr Henderson also recorded interest.
- d) 16/2/13: Margaret Townsend – Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) and Parish Councils – asking if we have any issues relating to crime and disorder or community tensions.
- e) 18/2/13: RSN weekly digest.
- f) 19/2/13: David Whitworth Coat of Arms/ Logo request. The WI, YFC and Slaley Show marquee were the only known logos known to Councillors.
- g) 20/2/13: RSN Rural campaign starts to bear fruit.

- h) 21/2/13: Carrol Hessey – NCC Green Spaces Officer - Northumberland complete kitchen gardener for BBC programme – forwarded to Jean Elphick for gardening club & News Sheet.
- i) 26/2/13: Mike Bird – Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries postponed until 2018.
- j) 26/2/13: Murphy Gearoid - invitation to Stanhope for the inauguration of the ‘Explore North Pennines’ website.
- k) 26/2/13: RSN weekly digest
- l) 27/2/13: Mike Bird – Joint NCC/parish councils meeting 12/3/13 at Stocksfield.
- m) 28/2/13: Richard Inman – Call for Evidence – alternative service delivery in rural areas – forwarded to Cllr Allsop for the R&C scheme.
- n) 28/2/13: Carrol Hessey – latest figures for high speed Broadband across Northumberland showing apparent relatively low demand in Slaley.
- o) email correspondence from Steve Bland expressing concern with the Slaley parish response. Clerk pointed out that most village people did not express concern with the speeds when the cards were available. There appears to be a substantial proportion of residents who already receive an adequate connection speed for domestic use.
- p) 28/2/13: EFB No 37
- q) 28/2/13: CAN e:NEWS
- r) 3/3/13: Letter from Reverend David Irvine as Chairman of Slaley St. Mary’s Parochial Church Council requesting if the PC would consider funding or part funding new gates into the churchyard. Clerk to reply that the Councillors agree in principle to new gates however the level of financial help available from the PC would depend upon the cost of the gates and on the presentation of a costed plan.
- s) 4/3/13: RSN weekly digest
- t) 4/3/13: Mike Bird – agenda for the Joint meetings – March 12th at Stocksfield.
- u) 5/3/13: Mike Bird – Poster advertising democracy event for young people.
- v) 6/3/13: RSN Rural Opportunities Bulletin.
- w) 9/3/13: Alex Coleman – Northern Gas invitation to workshops on fuel poverty & carbon monoxide awareness at York on March 26th – also passed on to Eileen Tuohy.
- x) 11/3/13: RSN weekly digest

9. Financial Report.

- a) Cheques to be signed

No 486 Slaley Commemoration Hall hire of room for meetings Oct/Mch	£132.00
No 487 Salary for Clerk Jan/Mch	£750.00

 Proposed by Cllr L. Norris and seconded by Cllr AS Robson the cheques were signed
- b) BDO Audit briefing for 2013 – includes HMRC Real Time information on page 4.

10. Current Planning Applications.

12/02784/FUL Change of use of land, including outbuildings, to residential use. West Ridley Hall. Dr. A Sewart. Councillors had no objection to land use change but concerns over the current building and what changes will be made to it to become residential under permitted development.

12/03599/FUL: Construction of two storey agricultural workers dwelling - land west of Dipton Foot Farm House, Slaley. **Pending**

12/03467/VARYCO: Variation of condition 5 of planning permission 20110117 Installation of UPVC windows. Fernwood House, West Woodfoot. **Pending.**

12/03280/FUL: Construction of a new two story dwelling with garage in replacement of the existing out buildings adjacent to West Orchard House, Slaley. **Pending.**

12/02866/FUL: Conversion of conservatory to kitchen and associated external works. Mallard Cottage. West Woodfoot. **Pending.**

Decisions from planning:

11. Update games/play area within school grounds:

- a) Inspections sheets January 3rd – February 21st received and forwarded to the school (January 24th the equipment was covered in snow and an inspection was not possible).
- b) Mg Weatherley, CT Treasurer confirmed that the CT is holding £2,000 towards completion of the play/sport on the school field.
- c) Emails from School Clerk saying £1,619.00 of sport money still to be claimed from NCC.
- d) March 5th email from Val Knowles saying claim must be paid before March 31st. Then a telephone call to school saying the claim must be in by Thursday March 14th.
- e) School Clerk and PC Clerk got together on March 11th and telephoned Play Practice, Scotland to order the second multi goal with a basket ball net for £2,970 + installation. The order should be placed on Tuesday 12th and the claim for £1619.00 made to Val Knowles. The shortfall will come from the funds currently being held by the CT.

12. Northumberland Local Development Plan: Core Strategy: Preferred Options

Consultation 6/2/13 – 20/3/13. Cllr Allsop to report on 5 & 6, Cllr Brooks 8 & 16, Cllr Henderson 11 & 12, Cllr Robson 14 & 15, Cllr Hancock 7, 9 & 13 & Cllr Warde-Aldam 10 & 17.

A draft reply was circulated and **attached as appendix 3, page 865**. Discussions took place, clarifications were explained and suggestions were made. Cllr Warde-Aldam gave his report verbally. Cllr Hancock volunteered to complete the questionnaire on-line. Cllr Warde-Aldam asked Slaley Councillors if Healey PC could be included in the combined reply. Cllr Hancock said he would see what could be done on line to indicate that it was a two-parish reply.

13. Arrangements for completion of Councillor nomination forms. Completed forms should be handed in to Returning Officer's Staff by appointment.

- a) Councillors were given their electoral roll number.
- b) Nomination packs and submission papers received by Clerk were distributed at the meeting. Completed papers must be submitted by noon on Friday April 5th 2013.
- c) Leaflets 'Become a local councilor – be at the heart of your community' were available.
- d) Councillors I Hancock and L. Norris reported that they would not be standing for a further term. Cllr A Robson also indicated that she might also be standing down. There has been no interest from parishioners on the work of a Councillor. Clerk to telephone David Francis and ask what happens if a six person Council becomes a four or a three?

14. Parish Plan – Annual Highways Report routes. Circulated and attached as **appendix 4, page 866**.

Nothing was agreed because of changing Councillors. The suggestion was made that the new North/West Highways Manager, Ross Bullerwell, will be asked if the report would have any use

15. Annual Risk Assessment. Circulated and attached as **appendix 5, page 867**.

Eileen Tuohy, Catherine Lincoln & Cllr Hancock have all confirmed they are willing for their contact details to be displayed for a further 12 months. However, technically CL does not represent the CT and IH will not represent the PC after May. Clerk to look at signs and see how easy it is to make an amendment.

16. Annual Asset & Investment Register. Circulated and attached as **appendix 6 page 868.**

17. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update

- a) Tree thinning at the site has taken place thanks to Andrew Swallow and his tree surgeon cousin, John Harding. Ian Hanock and Greg Finch provided additional labour.
- b) Project Management; Expressions of Interest, deadline is today Monday March 11th. Early indications were very little interest in the position if it combines all the different management areas of the project. If this proves unsuccessful then splitting the tasks/individual portions would be tried.
- c) The next Steering Group meeting is March 19th. As Cllr Hancock is one of the PC representatives on the Dukesfield Steering Group the Councillors were asked if there was agreement for Cllr Hancock to represent the PC on the Steering Group after May when he is no longer a Councillor? The Councillors were unanimous in Councillor Hancock remaining with the Steering Group and being one of the two representatives from Slaley Parish Council.

18. BOATS update

- a) There will now be a 'Hearing' to determine the proposed Espershields Restricted Byway at Slaley Commemoration Hall on Tuesday April 16th 2013 at 10 a.m.

19. AOB

Clerk's family has been informed that Little Badgers Childcare will cease trading at Slaley First School from July 2013. Numbers are not sufficient to keep the facility open. This is very sad news. It is yet another sign of small rural business struggling to keep open with rising costs and facing the inevitable fluctuations in numbers of children in a small village.

20. Date of April monthly meeting.

Monday April 8th

There being no further business the meeting ended at 10.30 p.m.