

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on  
Monday 2nd March 2015 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall

**1. Apologies.**

Present: Councillor C.A. Brooks in the Chair. Councillors I.E. Milburn, N. Green, S. Dart. D. Allsop & D.M. Bell. Clerk P. Wilson. Hexham Courant Reporter: Rosalind Saul. Public: Jean & Michael Elphick.

**2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.** None

**3. Minutes of February 2015 Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 1046 – 1051, appendix 1, page 1052, appendix 2, page 1053 & appendix 3, page 1054).**

The Minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr. N. Green and seconded by Cllr. D Allsop. The minutes were dated and signed.

**4. Matters Arising.**

aa) 9/2/15 **Core Strategy Consultation** – Acknowledgment of our comments received.

a) 12 9/2/15: Request from Jim Bailey for parish fundraising. Mr. Bailey has since visited the Clerk's home, to discuss this further and presented further clarification for his initial request. The suggestions as tabled at the February PC meeting by Cllrs D. Allsop, D. Bell & Clerk P. Wilson could be pursued independently. A discussion followed and the Clerk was instructed to write to the Community Trust and ask them to request a public meeting in the R&C inviting a representative from all fund raising parish organisations to see (i) if they are interested in working together towards a major fund raising and (ii) if any of the suggestions are viable and can come to fruition.

b) 13c 9/2/15: An afternoon Bingo session will take place between 3 – 5 p.m. on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>, this is being organised by the Commemoration Hall Management Committee and not the PC.

c) 18d 9/2/15: Double parking & footpath parking in Slaley village. A letter of complaint has been received from one of the five properties who received a letter; because the complaint was that the recipient had not been named in person in the letter.

**5. Public Participation.**

a) Concern was expressed about continual fund raising and the need was questioned. What had happened to the funds received by the Commemoration Hall in 2014 during its year of fund raising activities? Neither Councillor Green, who represents the PC on the Hall Management Committee, or the Clerk who also serves on the committee, were able to say because the 2014 accounts have not been published. Many organisations are self sufficient in their running costs i.e. the Film Club. Has there been a request for some additional need? The various clubs are always looking to raise funds i.e. YFC has once again won the regional drama competition and will need funds for transport and costume costs.

b) Broadband in Colpits. The new fibre connection has not made any difference to the service at Colpits. This is very annoying for residents.

c) The Residents Association in Colpitts has been reading the recent media coverage about Defibrillators and has decided to purchase a machine for the residents at Colpitts it will be fitted somewhere central. The residents are being encouraged to attend the March 31<sup>st</sup> event to learn about the machines.

**6. Community Trust Report**

The reply from the Community Trust to Jim Bailey's request for combined Fund Raising is indicating that the offer from Slaley Community Assets Ltd to host an event in the R&C is the Community Trust's response. (see 4a(i) & 4a (ii) above) Cllr. Allsop reported that the CT executive committee

had decided to concentrate on Broadband and village hall fundraising at its last meeting. Michael Elphick had led the Broadband investigation and the Hall had raised sufficient funds without the need for the CT to take any action. Funds were reducing month by month as the Parish News printing was paid. Hopefully when the meeting, as proposed at 4a above was organised the CT will have a better idea of how it can help the organisations of the parish. *Postscript:* Cllr. Allsop asked Cllr Brooks why Mr. Bailey was temporary editor until Rev'd Dr. H Savage arrived in the parish in May. Cllr Brooks reported that Rev'd Dr. Savage has indicated that she would like to be involved in the Parish News production. Cllr Bell asked about a revised Parish Business Directory/Where to Buy Locally. Printing costs prohibit further hard copies of this publication. Updated versions are only available on the Slaley web page.

## **7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor.** None

## **8. Correspondence.**

### **Hard copy**

- a) Northumberland Residents' Festival 21-22 March 2015 booklets and poster.
- b) Age UK Northumberland – Silverlinks Project – event 26/3/15 2 p.m. at Hexham Community Centre.
- c) Letter from Sue Allen, on behalf of St. Mary's PCC. The gate into the Lych gate is in a bad state of repair and the PCC are looking to have it replaced. Quote from Hexhamshire Hardwoods - £675.00 providing the existing hinges can be reused, if not, the estimate does not cover the cost of replacement hinges. The PCC is requesting financial help. Clerk to reply that the PC would like to see three quotes for a replacement gate and would also need to see the last audited accounts. Michael Swanson at Hexhamshire and Mal Johnston at Todburn were suggested as local possibilities for further quotes.
- d) Wicksteed playgrounds advertising leaflet; Unipart Dorman (first Speed Unit) going completely on line with invoices, statements etc; CPRE Spring 2015.

### **Email:**

- a) 11/2/15: RSN RVS rural transport
- b) 15/2/15: Carrol Hessey – playground training.
- c) 14/2/15: Zen Internet - request to complete a review. Clerk forward to Michael Elphick and he completed on behalf of the PC. Mr. Elphick was thanked for this.
- d) 18/2/15: RSN weekly digest.
- e) 18/2/15: RSN RVS rural broadband
- f) 18/2/15: Aaron McNeill – Northumberland Flood Risk Strategy.
- g) 20/2/15: CAN e:NEWS
- h) 23/2/15: RSN weekly digest
- i) 23/2/15: Ladycross walks programme for 2015.
- j) 25/2/15: RSN spotlight on older people.
- k) 25/2/15: Forestry Commission do we want to sign up for Tree Health News? Cllr Anderton (Healey) has suggested No; the request was noted by Slaley Councillors.
- l) 26/2/15: Northumbria Healthcare – North East workers happiest in England.
- m) 1/3/15: Ncdn newsletter.
- n) 2/3/15: RSN weekly digest.

## **9. Financial Report**

- a) Real Time Information: Thirsk payroll successfully submitted £283.33 payment on 15/2/15.
- b) HM Revenue & Customs letter Paying your PAYE electronically.
- c) No Cheques to be signed:
- d) Interim cheques: None.

## 10. Current Planning Applications.

**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.

**Support the concept that dairy farmers need agricultural workers close by.** \* email to Cllr Brooks from Andrew Dart stating that no comments from the PC were shown on the planning web site. Clerk telephoned planning and on instructions forwarded the original email to planning officer Graeme Robbie.

**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.

**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:

None

## 11. Awareness Event and update on supporting fundraising towards the purchase of an iPad or similar machine.

a) **Additional support came from** Karen Melvine, Hilary & Max Hamps, Ann & David Wright, Val & Derek Hull – Hilary, Max, David, Derek & Karen are interested in refresher training. Bobby & Connie Johnston (neither wish for training but will support fund raising).

b) **Negative response from** Margaret and Roy Ward, but they will support fund raising. Peter Hutchinson verbally reported to Cllr Brooks that they did not support the idea.

c) Possible dates for an Awareness event were checked with Slaley Village hall bookings clerk and cross checked with Adele Young and then with members of Slaley PC. Eventually Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup> was agreed between 7 – 9 p.m. This has been confirmed with Adele.

d) Judith from Shotley Low Quarter PC contacted the Clerk for Adele's email address as they hope to meet as a parish during April. Two members were offered a place at the Slaley Awareness Event.

e) Posters have been emailed to History Club members, Medicine Run Rosta, Commemoration Hall Management Committee, the people who confirmed interest, the School, Slaley Notes editors, Slaley village shop, notice board and Commemoration Hall. Posters hand delivered to interested parties without email or where email not known.

## 12. Core Strategy Small Settlement

Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire Chairmen + Alistair Stevens & Slaley Clerk met four planning officers, organised by planning officer Frances Wilkinson at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> at Hexham House to discuss smaller settlements and the Green Belt. We were fortunate in having sight of the meeting report from February 5<sup>th</sup> with the East Tynedale Parish & Town Council Forum. A subsequent email was received from Charlotte Colver explaining the Green Belt methodology. We were given until March 11<sup>th</sup> to report back. Infill development was discussed for Slaley & Hexhamshire. Exceptional needs housing provides a small quantity of lower market housing. Policy 23 + Agriculture protects the openness of the green belt. The need for a regular Housing Needs Survey in small villages was discussed otherwise they will not remain sustainable. The planning officers said groups of smaller villages could join together for an "area housing needs assessment" (i.e. Healey, Hexhamshire, Blanchland and Slaley) Depending upon who the builder/landlord is dictates the letting restrictions – points system can be overcome for local people. Environmental constraints such as SSSI, listed buildings, flooding etc in rural areas are concerns for green belt settlements. Green (low) Amber

(middle) and Red (high). Cllr Brooks explained the SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) where several Slaley landowners had suggested sites for future housing development although most of the sites have now been built upon. (*Postscript: these are recorded in September 1<sup>st</sup> minutes of 2014 agenda item 8f*). The planning officers provided a map of Slaley village showing the current green belt restrictions. The area from Reaston View affordable houses to Townfoot is marked Amber and as such can be released for housing, however if the green belt status is removed developers could purchase the site from the landowner and build the type of houses that people want to own in Slaley. By keeping this parcel in the green belt it could only be released for development of more affordable houses if a need was identified by a housing needs survey. Entrances into fields to the north and south of the village could be released to give more depth to the village the planning officers explained.

The Clerk provided information of where more depth of the village could be provided or by extending the village to the east and west of the present Townhead and Townfoot.

**The Councillors discussed water and sewerage and decided unanimously that they could not take this action on behalf of the landowners without prior consultation and therefore did not want to alter the existing Green Belt Boundary around the village. This decision will be forwarded by March 11<sup>th</sup> to planning officer Frances Wilkinson.**

### **13. Planning Review**

The planning review as discussed at the February meeting under agenda item 8v 9/2/15.

a) Second email 17/2/15 from Geoff Paul with the POSe reports and giving an extension to March 1st. Printed off POSe Report Appendix 3 & 4 and emailed to Councillors to read 18/2/15.

b) Clerk circulated a draft reply 18/2/15, after slight changes it was sent to Mr Paul by the deadline of February 19<sup>th</sup>.

c) Email came in from David Francis (16/2/15) urging everyone to respond (circulated 18/2/15)

d) Email came in from Duddo PC (Don Brownlow) (circulated 18/2/15)

e) Email came in from Stannington PC (Karen Cairns) (circulated 18/2/15)

f) Further emails supporting David Francis suggestion (not circulated) from Bavington PC, Elsdon PC Henshaw PC & Haydon PC.

g) Second reply from Karen Cairns 24/2/15 (Stannington PC) having read the Deloitte & POSe comments.

h) Reply from Northumberland & Newcastle Society/CPRE 25/2/15

i) Alnwick Town Council produced a very good five-page response. While Blanchland & Humshaugh PCs reply was more concise.

j) A second reply from Slaley PC was drafted after Councillors had more time to read all the main correspondence. This was circulated by email on February 27<sup>th</sup> asking for comments by 4 p.m. February 28<sup>th</sup>. At 17.15 on 28/2/15 the second letter was emailed to Geoff Paul.

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

a) A copy of the community agreement last amended in July 2013 was circulated to all parents at the school in July 2013 and as an inset into the Parish News with the October issue. A copy was emailed to Ian Hancock, Catherine Lincoln and David Allsop for their agreement to remain as the local contacts for 2015/16. Also to the school for Ms Jackson's consideration and Northumbria Police for any changes they wished to make. Replies received from Northumbria Police, David Allsop & Catherine Lincoln they are happy with text and their names remaining. Ian Hancock has asked that his be removed It was agreed to leave the notice with two people.

### **15. Mobile Post Office Van parking Update.**

a) Kath Heard at Isos was informed by the Clerk that the parking area was 90% completed. The two bollards were still to be fitted and the sign on the tarmac was still to be painted. Kath replied that Isos

would like some positive publicity and suggested a photograph with the mobile Post Office. Also send an invoice for 50% when we get the invoice hopefully before the end of March.

b) Coulson Construction fitted the two bollards on Saturday February 28th. Cllr Brooks and Clerk were present.

c) Clerk has purchased two padlocks with keys from JF Walton, Corbridge. £14.00 one padlock is marked with blue permanent marker as is one set of keys. The Postman has one set and the Clerk retains the second.

d) Tim Doody who does road markings in Northumberland has been asked for a price for writing "Post Office Parking" on the tarmac. The minimum price is £500 and that is what they are quoting us there will be no extra charge for the actual words. They could do the work on a Saturday. The Councillors do not wish to proceed. Clerk to write to Isos housing and report the high cost.

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

As the project nears its completion the interpretation panels are currently under construction and the legacy website is being constructed. Storytelling by Candlelight will take place at the Arches on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>. The touring exhibition will begin about this time and a final celebration is planned for a Sunday in June.

17. **Annual Risk Assessment** circulated and **attached as appendix 1/020315, page 1060.**  
Alterations were made.

18. **Asset & Investment Register** circulated and **attached as appendix 2/020315, page 1061.**  
The actual cost of the Post Office parking area to be added, once all the invoices and grants are finalised.

#### **19. AOB**

a) Request from GLEAM for information about problems from as many areas as possible because a new Stakeholder Working Group is to be established to look at policy on recreational motor vehicle use of green lanes. Copy was forwarded to the resident of West Burnside who has had problems on the green lane outside her home. It was verbally reported that Blue Gables resident was having problems with his domestic water pipe.

b) Several complaints have been received about vehicles parked at the Townhead T junction on a Sunday morning whilst the drivers go off cycling. This Sunday they were very close to the junction causing problems for other road users. Clerk has written to Ted Liddle to see if he knows who they were. Copied in Northumbria Police who asked if we have Registration numbers. Clerk asked Townhead resident if any had been taken – no reply as yet.

c) Courant 20/2/15 carried an editorial "Cutbacks threaten district bus routes" where it said Also at risk are the daily Go North East 689 service between Consett and Hexham. **Slaley PC has not received any notification about this.**

d) Blanchland Parish Council notified the Clerk that a new two-metre wide moorland footpath request from 19/12/2012. Beginning at BOAT 80 (Slaley Forest) in a south easterly direction to BOAT 26 (1210 metres from Slaley Forest) was going to public hearing on 7/7/15 at Morpeth.

#### **20. Date of April 2015 monthly meeting**

Monday April 13th

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