

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

1. **Apologies.** County Councillor Colin Horncastle

Present: Councillor I.C. Hancock in the Chair. Councillors C. A. Brooks, L. Norris, D. Allsop & A. S. Robson. Clerk Mrs. P. Wilson.

Public: Tom Henderson. Northumbria Police: None. Courant Reporter: Apologies Rosalind Saul. Slaley Notes: None. Community Trust: Eileen Tuohy.

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

None.

3. **Minutes of October Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 825 – 828).**

The Minutes were proposed a true record by Cllr. D. Allsop and seconded by Cllr. C. A. Brooks. The minutes were dated and signed.

4. **Matters Arising.**

a) 11 8/10/12 Parish Plan: Action Plan October Update: Neighbourhood Plan (see agenda item 4h 16/4/12 minutes) request for a presentation to Slaley PC. Reply from David English, Principal Planner Spatial Policy & Delivery Team. He suggests that parish councils should concentrate on engaging in the process of influencing what is in the new Core Strategy rather than start work on preparing a neighbourhood plan. A NP is required to be in the general conformity of an up to date Core Strategy. This reply was circulated to all Councillors on November 5th. **Clerk to request a presentation in February 2013 as Slaley PC believes that the Core Strategy can-not deliver the degree of truly local planning that would come from local input into a NP.**

b) 5a 8/10/12: Further update from Victoria Crofton the Planning Enforcement Officer. She reported a meeting at Slaley Hall on 18/10/12. With regard to the Holiday lodges VC felt there were 6 lodges used by Slaley Hall that do not fully satisfy the requirements of the condition and changes are being requested to the way data is recorded. A list should be available for inspection following 24 hours notice. Further correspondence was forwarded to VC regarding a new clay pigeon shooting range south of the water tanks and what appears to be brush clearance for new routes and parking. None of these changes have come to the Council as planning applications.

c) 13b 8/10/12: Post Office problems email to Guy Opperman MP. Jon Aydon on behalf of Guy Opperman provided the details for the Post Office Customer Care Team. Cllr Hancock wrote a response which has been forwarded to the Care Team.

d) Parish Plan: Action Plan: Residual issues: October 2012: New issues - c) Slaley School: (iii) Community play & sport facilities on the school field: Cllr. Norris asked about the proposed survey of usage of sport and play equipment in the school field. How was this going to be undertaken? Cllr. Allsop replied that no decisions had been made at the October meeting. **No decisions were made at the November meeting on how and by whom the survey could be undertaken - deferred until usage is likely to be more representative in fine weather.**

5. **Public Participation.**

None

6. **Community Trust Report.**

a) Community Trust circulated a copy of the new Slaley Business Directory.

b) The CT has no Secretary therefore minutes are not produced promptly. Cllr Allsop has volunteered to take the minutes at the CT meetings and this will be considered at the next meeting.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor.

None.

8. Correspondence.

Hard copy:

- a) Sport Tynedale – Annual Sports Awards 2012 – nominations by 29/10/12. **No one nominated.**
- b) HM Revenue & Customs – Getting your business ready for PAYE Real Time Information.
- c) Came & Company: Autumn Parish Matters.
- d) BDO Changes to DBO LLp extranet for local councils.
- e) War Memorials Bulletin; Campaign to Protect Rural England. North East Newsletter Autumn 2012; Northumbria Healthcare leaflets entitled “Do you have room in your life to care?”; Clerks and Councils Direct November 2012 see Shop saved by volunteers on page 2.

Emails

- a) 16/10/12: Slaley School Invitation to attend FOSS AGM – **No one attended.**
- b) 16/10/12: Mike Bird – House of Lords and IPPR North Event 22/11/12 at Newcastle Business School.
- c) 16/10/12: RSN weekly digest
- d) 16/10/12 EFB No 28
- e) 16/10/12: Invitation to Slaley Councillors to attend a meeting at ‘Middle Grange’, on 25/10/12 “alongside people active in the village” to discuss the future of the Rose & Crown. . (see 8f below)
- f) 19/10/12: Meeting at (8e above) ‘Middle Grange’ postponed. (see 8e above)
- g) 23/10/12: RSN weekly digest.
- h) 23/10/12: Lynne Nelson – Police & Crime Commissioner Elections – 15/11/12.
- i) 24/10/12: Slaley School Cook leaves on Friday – From 6/11/12 after half-term all pupils will need a packed lunch. (see 8p below)
- j) 24/10/12: Claire Thomas requested Tyne Riverside County Park, Prudhoe, information to be provided on the Slaley web site. Clerk forwarded to ME who declined the offer.
- k) 24/10/12: NCC Consult Registration forwarded Cllr Brooks password information to Clerk1 and not Cllr Brooks.
- l) 27/10/12: Sue Howie, Northumberland & Newcastle Society re wind energy on the Core Strategy.
- m) 27/10/12: CAN e-NEWS.
- n) 27/10/12: Jennifer Atkinson, Climate NE Parish & Town Council Survey (unable to open the attachment). Telephone market researcher telephoned Clerk who because of other commitments gave the Chairman’s telephone number.
- o) 27/10/12: Hanif Leylabi NCC local democracy campaign asking for quotes and interest.
- p) 27/10/12: Slaley school meals - Vikki Moffit from Vallum Farm providing school meals for a trial period. Clerk reports this is already in operation. (see 8i above).
- q) 27/10/12: Carrol Hessey West Area transfer of services meeting at Prospect House, Hexham on October 29th. **No one attended.**
- r) 29/10/12: RSN weekly digest
- s) 31/10/12: EFB No 29
- t) 31/10/12: RSN – ROB November.
- u) 1/11/12: Ela Shaw – Woodland Creation Seminar for the North East. 15/11/12 at Hexham.

- v) 2/11/12: Jason Carr – questionnaire from Northumberland Sustainable Community Transport Initiative. Clerk completed however some questions such as number of people over 65 in our parish and what is the total population - answers are not known.
- w) 5/11/12: RSN weekly digest
- x) 6/11/12: Sarah Wood re Mobile Youth Provision: Clerk contacted Sarah asking for more details after reading the Courant article 2/11/12 entitled “Bus gets youth club back in gear” and a discussion with PC Chairman. Possible sites were identified as Village, Hall, School or R&C Inn (copied in Slaley School Headteacher, Demelza Ross and Commemoration Hall Chairman, Keith Robson. Sarah replied by email dated November 9th and suggested a meeting at Slaley. This request was forwarded to DS, KR & IC. Clerk suggested December 3rd as a risk assessment at the Hall is already taking place that day. **It was agreed to meet Sarah on December 3rd to look at possible sites and get more information. Would our young people be interested? A public meeting or a taster session should be organised before any firm decision made. If a few sessions are agreed they could be funded from the carried forward grant money in the current Precept.**
- y) 6/11/12: Mike Bird – West Area Committee meeting 13/11/12 at West Wylam.
- z) 9/11/12: Whittonstall Action Group update.
- aa) 12/11/12: RSN weekly digest.
- ab) 12/11/12: Mike Bird Flyer - Youth Democracy Events “Having a Voice” Hexham 5.30 – 8 p.m. on December 6th.

9. Financial Report.

a) Cheques to be signed

Cheque No	477 Great North Air Ambulance	Grant	£150.00
	478 St. Mary the Virgin PCC Churchyard	grant	£50.00
	479 CAN	grant	£20.00
	480 NCC Play equipment inspections weeks 27-39		£133.38
	481 Ruth Hadden, third share in Bat Survey at Dukesfield		£175.00
	(see agenda item 4d 14/5/12, page 791)		

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

b) The Chairman to put something in the News-sheet that applicants can apply for a PC grant providing they fit the criteria on the PC’s Grant Making Policy.

c) Unsuccessful requests for grants this year include Whitley Chapel YFC 8b 16/4/12 (no accounts provided); Northumberland Theatre Company 8d 11/6/12; Pennine Journey Supporter 8s11/6/12; Tynedale Sports Council 4c 16/4/12; Little Badgers Childcare sign on school 12d 13/8/12 (PC could not support a commercial business).

10. Current Planning Applications.

12/02866/FUL: Conversion of conservatory to kitchen and associated external works. Mallard Cottage. West Woodfoot. No objections

12/013190/FUL: Constructing an agricultural storage building. Mallard Cottage. West Woodfoot.

12/02059/FUL: Single storey rear extension and alterations to existing kitchen to form new kitchen, dining room and utility. Ashlea, Slaley. No objection to planning however concerns over lack of parking provision are generally not addressed in village extensions. **Pending**

Decisions from planning:

12/02603/FUL: New vehicular access with parking and turning area. Holly Cottage. **Granted.**

12/02602/CLP ROP: certificate of lawfulness for proposed single storey extension. Holly Cottage. **Granted.**

11. Proposal tabled by Cllr D. Allsop that Slaley Parish Council make an application to register the Rose & Crown Inn as a community asset.

- a) Email from Cllr Allsop dated October 25th requesting authorisation to proceed with the community asset registration application to be made by the Parish Council. Cllr Allsop informed by email on October 26th that this needed to be an agenda item at the November meeting.
- b) Cllr Hancock downloaded the information of registering community assets and circulated.
- c) Clerk spoken to David Francis regarding Parish Council involvement. DF suggested that the Parish Council should hold a public meeting before making the application to gauge public opinion. Taking this action would stop the brewery being able to sell to another group who could possibly make the business viable. DF also asked if there were a lot of people in Slaley willing to put free time into the public house to make the venture a success. If not DF suggested that the application was a futile gesture that could prohibit a successful sale of the premises.
- d) On November 5th further emails from Cllr Allsop who reported that The Community Trust would make the application. Attached was a draft completed Nomination Form.
- e) An email from the residents of 'The Mathom House' to The Community Trust with a copy forwarded to Slaley Parish Council voicing their concerns that an applications is being made on behalf of the community when the community has not been consulted.
- f) Copy of the reply to residents of 'The Mathom House' from a CT member.

Cllr. Allsop explained that after forwarding the first email the CT had decided to make the application in its own right. He explained the 3 reasons why the CT considered the community asset registration application to be the correct decision to take and the CT felt it should be submitted quickly. (1) This would demonstrate to the brewery that the community is serious. (2) Grant assistance for future funding can be applied for immediately. (3) Marstons have made a decision to sell off some of its less productive premises and listing would prevent the R & C being included in a job lot with other pubs and/or an application for change of use being submitted . This is new legislation and NCC lawyers are wary, precedents will be created and tested by case law. The process takes 8 weeks. Eileen Tuohy spoke on the potential ownership models and about pre-feasibility grants, feasibility grants and grants towards eventual purchase. Detailed research needs to be undertaken on raising the funds needed. Different business models have pros and cons and a Steering Group would need to be established to run the premises – the community would own the premises and business but an employee would undertake the day-to-day running. **The Councillors explained that** there is a lot of doubt in the parish about what is being proposed, the meeting on October 25th was arranged then three days later it was cancelled and that only certain invitees were being involved. Concern had been expressed about the effect of community use of the R&C on the viability of the Commemoration Hall and the Shop. Councillors asked whether the registration and community purchase process allowed for withdrawal if a suitable private purchaser made an offer. Cllr. Allsop replied that the community asset registration could be withdrawn and that the process included specific measures to ensure that the community would be informed of other offers and could respond accordingly. **Cllr Hancock concluded the discussion** by stating that if the Parish Council is endorsing the community asset registration application then a public meeting should be held as soon as possible when the following should be undertaken

Explain to the public the registration process.

Explain to the public the share issues.

Explain the opportunity and the responsibilities incurred by the community.

Explain to the public the opportunity to source grants for the purchase.

Explain the proposals to the public for the future running of the premises.

Explain to the public that if the right tenant/owner came forward the community asset registration could be waived.

Let the public ask questions – people are worried about the shop and the village hall.

It was agreed that the Parish Council supports the CT application to register the Rose & Crown Inn as a community asset and encourages the CT to make the information known by reporting to the public at a public meeting as soon as possible, and immediately via the Parish News.

12. Update from Jan Chisholm on the October discussion regarding the Adapt dial-a-ride service.

a) 10/10/12 Correspondence from Will Smith regarding finance from Kiln Pit Hill Windfarm Community Fund.

b) Article in Newcastle Journal; of 31/10/12 where it was reported that Ian Coe would “provide an answer within a fortnight”. Clerk contacted Jan Chisholm by email and asked for an update quoting this article

Email from Ian Coe, Transport Support Manager of November 8th records that further analysis of passenger numbers shows that it does deliver value for money because previous analysis had mistakenly assumed that the passenger numbers were for return journeys when in fact they were for single journeys. The point 3 suggests an annual total contribution funding target of £500 - £1,000 from the Parish Councils.

It was agreed to reply that the PC was pleased an error had been discovered and that the service was safe for the time being. However the PC would only consider the invitation to fund £500 - £1,000 annually (from 2013/14) when this became necessary. The PC still wishes its proposal for a passenger contribution to be considered, particularly in light of the Hexham Courant reported on 9/11/12 that a new community bus service at Ponteland had just started where the passengers pay £2 towards costs.

13. Report on Core Strategy meeting, Monday October 15th, attended by Cllr C. Brooks and Clerk P. Wilson (hand-out circulated) and attached as appendix 1/121112, page 835.

Cllr Brooks gave a verbal report. Cllr Hancock to circulate the hand out given to him for Councillors to see the different questions being asked at the meetings. The answers at these meetings would feed into the final responses. Concern was expressed about the validity of the response data in the absence of responder numbers.

14. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

Tom Henderson attended the meeting and confirmed he was interested in rejoining the Parish Council. It was agreed to co-opt Tom back onto the Council to fill the place recently vacated by Mr. Davison.

15. Update games/play area within school grounds.

a) Inspection sheets for weeks 36 - 40 received and forwarded to Slaley School.

b) Confirmation from School that NCC Inspector David Robson has drilled the black top back into place on the climbing frame.

c) Copy of an email from CL to SM regarding European Standards for Playground Equipment.

d) Inspection sheets for weeks 41 – 44 received and forward to school.

e) Playground Inspection at School, Hayley does not think it is the same as the Inspection the PC paid £250.00 to Tyne & Wear Play Inspections last January. Clerk asked her to check – there should be no need to have two inspections.

16. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update

a) Circulated the November 1st highlights of the Altogether Archaeology Project report. Attached as appendix 1/121112, page

17. Agree Precept Spending for 2013

Precept form circulated and attached as **appendix 2/121112, page 836.**

- a) Request for funding received from Great North Air Ambulance.
- b) Clerk to request invoice from ME for web page management
- c) Clerk to request a quote from GMS for grass cutting for 13/14 school work may include strimming around the table tennis table.

18. Approved minutes from Slaley Commemoration Hall Committee Meeting July 17th 2012 (circulated) and a verbal report of October 31st meeting by PC representative.

Minutes of July 17th attached as **appendix 3/1211/12, page 837.**

19. BOATs update.

a) Telephone call from RF regarding unauthorised motorcycles at Ladycross during weekend of 20/21 October causing damage and the theft of a trailer – reported to police.

20. AOB.

- a) Wednesday 24/10/12 Martin Nichol telephoned to report a power failure at Stocksfield. Therefore no mobile Post office again and without power no report on Facebook.
- b) The cold calling group from Middlesborough has returned to the village. This has been reported to Northumbria Police and the question asked why have they returned now that the nights are dark? PC Sue Cockburn telephone Clerk about this and intended to contact the concerned parishioner directly. Also discussed go-kart conversation with All Out Adventure (4e10/9/12; 14d13/8/12).
- c) If the Journal and the Hexham Courant articles are true then Social Landlords Isos Ltd have requested Vale to work throughout the winter to improve the grass cutting service for next year (Parkside at Slaley).
- d) Clerk asked who was responsible for setting off fireworks in the village at exactly the same time as the public bonfire and firework display at The Rose & Crown Inn. The R&C event had been very well advertised with flyers put through every door and a couple of “guys” sitting in an armchair on the edge of the car park promoting the event. The flyers offered members of the public to bring their own fireworks as they could be added to the public display.
- e) Cllr. Allsop reported a ladder has been stolen from O’Dunain garden.

21. Date of December monthly meeting.

Monday December 10th

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.