

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on  
Monday 10th October 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

**1. Apologies.** Councillors M. Palmer & A.S. Robson

**Present:** Councillor I.C. Hancock in the Chair. Councillor, L. Norris, C. A. Brooks, S Davison & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor None.

**Public.** None. Northumbria Police: None: Courant Reporter: Rosalind Saul. Slaley Notes Michael Elphick. Community Trust: Catherine Lincoln for part of meeting.

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

Cllr Hancock declared an interest in agenda item 5a.

**3. Minutes of September Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 720 – 724 + appendix 1, page 725)** Proposed as a true record by Cllr. C Brooks and seconded by Cllr. L. Norris. The minutes were approved and signed

**4. Matters Arising.**

a) 6a Village Planters. Clerk contacted all Councillors by email asking if they approved of the planters being given to the Village Hall management committee. Or if they wished the PC to take over the ownership to email by return. As no correspondence was received the Clerk emailed CL on 10/9/11 informing her of the PC's support in transferring the planters to the village hall.

b) 16d Clerk emailed the absent Councillors to remind them that holidays should be indicated to the Clerk and apologies given before meetings begin. Cllr Palmer informed the Clerk on Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup> that during August she often goes away for days with her daughter and missed the emails relating to the September change of date and the need to report holidays. Returning circulation documents to the Clerk is also important, reminded the Chairman, who then apologised for mislaying a circulation envelope himself.

**5. Matters brought forward for a decision from the un-quorumed September meeting**

**a) Bus Shelter selling PC assets 4a**

Clerk telephoned David Francis at NALC. He asked if the bus shelter appeared on the PC asset register (audit). He was told that it does not; it only appears on the Heritage Report each June. The original plan for the bus shelter in the village and its outcome, were explained, referring to the article in the News Sheet & Slaley Notes, the letter to villagers, subsequent discussion at a PC meeting, and the final decision and public notification not to place it in the village. Mr Francis advised that the PC had met all its legal duties for the public good and there can be no legal challenge for not placing the shelter where it would be most good. This being the case, the PC can act as a broker or facilitator to finding a new home for the, surplus to requirements, bus shelter. To sell to a public house could incur planning costs, to sell to a private residence for garden furniture etc must be widely circulated to the public if that route is taken. However the PC can gift the bus shelter to a charitable organisation, therefore if Friends of Ladycross had a use for the shelter there would be no legal objections. Cllr Davison reported that the Rose & Crown could be interested. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk contact Robin Turner at Ladycross to determine their interest in the shelter as it stands at the moment and if interested ask Ladycross if they would cover the transportation costs of getting it to its new site. It would be wrong of the PC to spend more money if the building was to be given away.

**b) Parkside Stone - information circulated 6d**

Confirmation that when Ian C Hancock first suggested a Ladycross stone to the CT he was passing on an enquiry from Ladycross Stone Company on behalf of the owner, Mr Robin Turner. At the time the CT were looking to replace the Village signs, however an agreement had already been reached and new signs for Townhead and Townfoot had been ordered. The suggestion of Parks Side had been made as a village alternative site. Clerk to contact Ladycross and ask if the stone is still available, the size of the stone etc. It was agreed that the stone would look best on one of the approach roads into the parish rather than the village. Clerk would need to speak with Highways about a site near the parish seat on the B6306. If here the stone should be inscribed Slaley Parish rather than just Slaley. Could Billy Hall do the inscribing or would it be a monumental sculpture?

**c) Planning application decisions 8a hard copy**

There are only 54 planning applications listed for Slaley on this particular web site connection. Cllr Norris said that a modern IT system should have an alert function accessible directly to the Clerk or Chairman. Clerk who is having a meeting with a member of planning staff 11/10/11 will ask about this.

**d) Britain in Bloom participation 8b hard copy**

The letter to be given to Slaley Gardening Club for possible interest.

**e) Support letter re lack of NCC funding for CAN 8b email**

Email from Mr Elphick to Cllr Hancock was not circulated. A draft supporting letter will be circulated by Cllr Hancock.

**f) Community Policy for use of school field 11i**

Copies of the July and September draft Policies were again tabled. Cllr Hancock to combine the best of both documents into a single page, circulate for approval (including the school and CT) then give to Cllr Brooks for a print run of 350. 300 to go into the DECEMBER News Sheet and 50 for general distribution elsewhere. The Parish Council will cover the printing cost of 1p per sheet = £3.50.

**g) School grounds inspection volunteers or put out to tender 11j**

It was generally agreed that someone should be appointed to carry out the checks rather than a rosta of volunteers. Clerk had been unable to speak with David Hunt (see appendix 3/131210 from December 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 minutes) regarding the updated costs and service level agreement as per the meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 between DH, Cllr Hancock & PW.

A draft Tender advertisement and work schedule was tabled. The Clerk thought that this should be placed in Hexham Courant not just the village notice board. It was recommended that a copy be sent to John Melvine asking for his interest, together with a general PC note of appreciation for what Mrs Ross and members of the CT have indicated he has done. Presumably the CT will be forwarding its own correspondence. After discussion the Councillors were unsure for the need of someone if an NCC weekly inspection was already in place. Cllr Hancock to contact David Hunt and arrange a meeting. The Headteacher is free between 2.30 & 3.30 each Friday afternoon. Until this meeting happens no further action can be taken.

**h) Updated Bus Service agreed by NCC without consultation 12 d**

A letter to be sent highlighting the fact that no consultation was invited with the parish council despite assurances in February that this would be the case. As buses are not used for school runs during the summer holidays ask if additional services be implemented.

**6. Public Participation.**

None.

## 7. Community Trust Report

- a) Spoken with SG regarding spending the £600 grant given for repairs to the school grounds arising from the premises being open to the public. **There is an assumption that any damage on the school grounds will be covered by the PC insurance. Is this what the Parish Council is proposing? When breakages, vandalism etc takes place on the school grounds someone will contact a named Parish Councillor who will arrange for necessary action. Since May 2006 Joe Melvin and Nigel Sanger have undertaken this under the Community Trust umbrella.**
- b) News Sheet. The CT are doing a trial of bi-monthly editions.
- c) There has been no response from the initial request for ways to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.
- d) The CT currently holds £1,300 and local organisations will be asked if they require any financial help.
- e) The CT are looking into asking for the redundant Youth Club funds.
- f) Community Buying is being explored by Eileen Tuohy.
- g) Play /Sport – the Community Chest funding application will be determined on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 8. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

None

## 9. Correspondence.

### Hard copy:

- a) NCC DMMO No 23 2011 Footpath No 10 (Peel Flatt) Receipt acknowledge by the Clerk and returned to Alex Bell
- b) Boundary Commission for England letter re ‘The 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituencies in England’ requesting local coverage especially prior to a public hearing. Our South Tyne villages including Slaley & Healey would lose their MP in Hexham instead would come into the care of an MP based in Barnard Castle in County Durham.
- c) Guy Opperman MP. Boundary Review: Proposed Changes to Hexham Constituency Circulated and encouraging individual to write. A circulation letter ‘Your News’ was distributed throughout the parish on Sunday encouraging individual replies. It was agreed that PC reply would also be sent.
- d) Campaign to Protect Rural England & NALC have produced a 60-page booklet entitled “How to respond to planning applications: an 8step guide”. Further copies are available by a downloadable PDF at [www.planninghelp.org](http://www.planninghelp.org).
- e) Letter opposing Yarridge wind-turbines from John Barker of Whitfield (he had article on letters page of Courant 26/8/11) (Information circulated). **Individual Councillors had their own rationale for the approval or rejection of wind power, therefore it was felt inappropriate to comment on behalf of the parish.**
- f) Mike Bird NCC hard copy of Joint meeting Itinerary (see email 8t below)
- g) Carers Northumberland letter and 3 large business cards; Glasdon products advertising leaflets; Clerks & Councils Direct September 2011; SMP Playgrounds leaflet. Wicksteed leaflet; CPRE overview Summer 2011; Lloyds of Throckley invitation to view the latest salt spreading & snow clearing equipment; Ross Wigham NCC letter re Northumberland News on line; West Northumberland Citizens Advice Bureau request for financial aid, Tynedale Hospice at Home

requesting financial aid, The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons; Tynedale Hospice at Home – Light up a Life sponsorship forms - Sponsor a light raised £6,400 last year.

**Emails:**

- a) 19/9/11: Lucy Philips, Forestry Commission – woodland creation – get your grants in.
  - b) 19/9/11: QE11 Fields challenge update.
  - c) RFB No 34.
  - d) RSN weekly digest 12/9/11
  - e) Parish Online Mapping Free Trial.
  - f) RSB No 35
  - g) RSN weekly digest 19/9/11
  - h) NCC: Temporary Road Closure of C270 26/9/11 – 11/11/11 also circulated to Slaley Notes.
  - i) CAN: New Councillor training.
  - j) 20/9/11: Mike Bird – Democracy Event 24/11/11 Propsect House.
  - k) 20/9/11: Wildlife Conference 22/10/11 at Hancock Museum.
  - Kb) 22/9/11: Sarah Rhodes. Northern Energy Supplies Ltd wanting to advertise emailed New Sheet editors and Vicky Hutchinson for Show schedule.
  - l) 22/9/11: Mike Bird reminder agenda items by 23/9/11 for October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting at Stocksfield.
  - m) 26/9/11: Lucy Phillips, FC – North East Woodfuel Week 16-23 October.
  - n) 26/9/11: Northumberland Wildlife Trust: Druridge Bay events.
  - o) 4/10/11: NCC RSN No 36 & 37 (22 pages)
  - p) 4/10/11: RSN weekly digest 3/10/11
  - q) 4/10/11: NCC Carrol Hessey – Service delivery from April 2012 Do we want extra grass cutting between 18<sup>th</sup> March and April 1<sup>st</sup> and after September to November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Generally the grass does not grow at Slaley during this extended period. Specific dates are requested - reply
- Slaley Show second Saturday in August.**
- r) 4/10/11: Kath Spires, West area Community Housing Project Officer leaving.
  - s) 4/10/11: Yvonne Probert, West area Community Housing Project Stakeholder Event cancelled on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - t) 4/10/11: Mike Bird Itinerary for joint Local & County Council meetings
  - u) 5/10/11 E-News October 2011. Page 3 indicates that every PC should register as an 'employer' on 08457 143 143

**10. Financial Report.**

- a) Cheques to be signed

Cheque No 445 Slaley Commemoration Hall meetings £117.50

No 446 BDO Audit £144.00

No 447 Alex Evison September grass cut £97.80

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

- b) Interim payments

Cheque No 444 Groundworks North East £600.00 signed by Cllr Hancock & Cllr Norris.

c) Letter from Slaley Commemoration Hall Treasurer, thanking the PC for its grant towards heating costs and asking for clarification on the PC policy towards grants. Is an annual application for running costs accepted or are applications only considered when there is a particular project? The Councillors had a long discussion about this and finally agreed that the Treasurer should still apply with a copy of its Reserves Policy. The CT asked what criteria the PC used in setting grants for the forthcoming year. The Clerk replied that since November 9<sup>th</sup>

minutes 2009 (agenda item 13) audited balance sheets had been the only criterion. This was reinforced in the September 2010 minutes (agenda item 15). The CT asked about local criteria e.g. support to the community or benefit to young, old people. **It was agreed that the Clerk write to the Councillors and ask them all for their personal criteria in awarding grants through the Precept for discussion in November.**

d) Payment advice from NCC that the second Precept instalment has been paid into the PC account. + Bank Statement to 30/9/1022 showing a balance of £8,453.75

e) External Audit had to be slightly altered because of the new fixed asset arrangements remaining at cost price only. Restated was marked on the 2010 column. The issued arising report was presented to the Council. The conclusion of audit is currently displayed on the PC notice board.

f) The Annual Return was approved and accepted by the Council.

### **11. Current Planning Applications.**

As last month PC had not received details of **11/02002 NONMAT**: Mrs E Reid, application for a non-material amendment following a grant of planning permission – amendments to 20090625, construction of first-floor extension over single-storey garage at Gortmore House. **Clerk to request an explanation**

**11/01208/CLPROP**: Certificate of lawfulness for proposed single storey extension to provide living room, kitchen, porch and also installation of solar panels. Trygill Farm Cottage.

**Councillors are unsure of the reason consultation is being offered when it is permitted development when the PC has not been consulted on other PDs in the parish. Clerk to request an explanation**

**11/02250/FUL**: Conversion of attached double garage to living accommodation. Pry Cottage.

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

**11/01478/FUL**: Demolition of existing conservatory & construction of two-storey extension. Forge Cottage, Colpitts Grange. **Permitted.**

**11/01333/FUL**: Conservatory to rear. Primrose Cottage, Colpitts. **Pending.**

### **12. Update netted games/play area within school grounds: notes from meeting on Wednesday 7/9/11 circulated and attached as an appendix 1/101011 page 732.**

a) It was requested that the word netted be removed from this agenda item.

b) There were no question arising the the tabled notes from 7/9/11. A further meeting on 22/9/11 was attended by Cllr Hancock he reported that the climbing frame manufacturer had explained the educational benefits of the equipment. Teacher, Julie Stevenson, detailed how the frame would be used in the school curriculum. SM informed those present that detailed examination of the plans showed that the proposed new location for the climbing frame was not possible without interfering with the design of the cycle track. Since no further alterations could be made in the time scale for the grant, therefore, the climbing frame was to be positioned where it had been initially proposed. A step ladder aided those present to assess the action that would have to be taken to prevent overlooking of private properties. It was agreed that garden trellis at an appropriate place on the top of the hedge would solve the problem. Councillor Hancock proposed that, with agreement, the Parish Council would cover the cost.

c) Copy from CL of Housing Developer Fund Award, Acceptance Form & Completion Check List

d) See Community Policy 5f and Tender Notice & work schedule 5g.

- e) Some of the soil from the climbing frame site will be reused on the BMX embankment.
- f) School has been told that County will do a “pre-use site visit and inspection of play equipment” costing £250. The PC agreed to cover this cost.

**13. Parish Plan; Action Plan October Update**  
**Draft circulated as appendix 2/101011, page 733**

Minor amendments were made

**14. Post Christmas Meal**

The 2011 Post Christmas Lunch, open to non parishioners of all ages was enjoyed by 31 people.  
**It was agreed that there would be no meal in January 2012.**

**15. AOB**

- a) Catherine Lincoln emailed the Clerk and Michael Elphick on 6/9/11 saying she had experienced difficulty finding the Parish Council minutes on the web. The on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr Norris reported that her family had been unable to find any PC minutes from October 2010. This was reported to Michael Elphick. Mr Elphick said he would undertake some special linking to get all the PC minutes together.
- b) Cllr Davison reported an obstruction to the footpath by parked vehicles outside ‘Ashlea’ and ‘Oaklea’ properties. The Councillors to establish if this obstruction is constant or only during out of work hours before any correspondence is sent. Slaley notes meanwhile to carry a general reminder to all people that obstruction of the village footways is prohibited at any time of the day or night.

**16. BOATs update.**

- a) Correspondence from The Planning Inspectorate re DMMO No 5, 6, & 7 for BOAT Numbers 35 & 33; No 34, No 36. Circulated. Councillors are pleased that No 37 is not proposed as a BOAT. However concern is expressed about improvements to the Shield Hall route and gates on The Cleugh route. Will improvements be automatic or do we have to request them?
- b) Further information on the Whitley Chapel Public Inquiry on 8/11/11 regards the status of a short RB section of the Gingleshaugh BOAT south of Raw Green.
- c) A BOATs Sub-committee meeting has been arranged for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November.

**17. Date of November monthly meeting.**

Monday November 14<sup>th</sup> 2011

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10 p.m.