

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 8th October 2012 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

Special meeting: At 7.30 p.m. the meeting between members of Slaley, Healey, Blanchland, Hexhamshire and Shotley Low Quarter Parish Councils and Jan Chisholm (NCC Community Transport Officer) discussed the Review of Financial Support for Bus Services: Adapt Service 695: Blanchland to Hexham via Slaley, Healey and Shotley (Tuesday only). (See 4a 10/9/12; 4d 13/8/12; 13 9/7/12, 7c & 8v 11/6/12, 6d & 6o 14/5/12)

Present: Jan Chisholm (NCC), I.C. Hancock, C. A. Brooks, L. Norris, D. Allsop & P. Wilson (Slaley), Alice Ellison & Michael Kennedy (Blanchland), Brian Massey (Hexhamshire), Will Smith (Shotley Low Quarter), County Councillor Colin Horncastle, Mrs Barbara Simmons & Jacqueline Brailsford (Public) Rosalind Saul (Press).

Councillor Hancock outlined the reason for the meeting and explained that questions had been raised about cost of the overall service, who is paying and the number of passengers. Using the service. Slaley, Blanchland Hexhamshire Service 695 / Whittonstall New Ridley Service 613

Jan explained that her role was to listen and hopefully gain some ideas of how the service can be sustainable. The NCC criteria is quite clear it must be sustainable. The subsidy criteria was discussed. The government funding for the operator in respect of bus pass holders is 50% of the passenger charge. Passenger numbers were also discussed and it appears that the 12-seater bus would need to be full consistently to make it viable within the current subsidy criteria. Given the nature of the users there must always be empty seats for wheelchair storage therefore the funding will never balance. Adapt is a registered charity and its vehicles are also used for school transport so all other business works around the school day. NCC had looked at the two services 613/695 to see if they could be incorporated in some way, however that would make very lengthy journeys with very small vehicles that could not cope with the double number of passengers.

Mrs Simmons was able to explain how important the 695 service is to those living off the traditional bus routes. Traditionally there are 7 regular users from Blanchland, 4 from Hexhamshire and herself from Slaley.

Various suggestions were put forward to Jan – passenger payment, parish council payment, unclaimed Housing Developers Funds, reclaim from school transport funding on identification of transport overuse, Commercial sponsorship (Colin Horncastle to speak with Tesco), Community funding from wind farm allocations (Shotley Low Quarter only) and potentially other Community Development grants.

Jan was asked to find a route direct or indirect whereby the funding can be provided to secure the service beyond Easter 2013. Jan confirmed she would discuss this at NCC and report back through Slaley Clerk. Everyone was thanked for their attendance and this section of the meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

1. **Apologies.** Councillor A. S. Robson

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

Public: Dr. Claire Brewster. Northumbria Police: None. Courant Reporter: Rosalind Saul. Slaley

Notes: None. Community Trust: None

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

County Councillor Colin Horncastle for agenda item 8.

3. **Minutes of September Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 820 – 823 + appendix 1, page 824).**

The Minutes were proposed a true record by Cllr. L. Norris and seconded by Cllr. D. Allsop. The minutes were dated and signed.

4. Matters Arising.

a) 15 10/9/12: Update games/play area. Reply emailed 7/10/12 from C Lincoln. School to order tennis posts/net/table tennis equipment. Stuart Murrell contacted Best Practice for the second ball wall to be installed by Dodwell Brothers. The Councillors asked about usage of the play/sport equipment. The PC Clerk reported that on a Saturday afternoon when she goes with her grandchildren there are normally no other young people on the school field. During school holidays there is always Little Badgers staff and children using the facilities. **It was decided that a survey of usage should be undertaken - by whom and when by, was not agreed.**

5. Public Participation.

a) Emails from Dr. Claire Brewster & Michael Elphick relating to loud noise from a celebration event held in a marquee on the football field at Slaley Hall. The noise continued until 3 a.m. on Monday 23-24 September 2012. Both were forward to VC & RS Enforcement Officers at West Area Planning for their comments. VC replied by email 1/10/12 that the noise issue is a matter to be investigated by public protection. Vicky said she would copy the PC. This has not happened. Dr. Brewster confirmed that she had not received any correspondence from VC. CC Horncastle reported that a special road had been made between the hotel and the marquee for this wedding which catered for 650 guests. **Clerk to request a reply from VC.**

6. Correspondence.

Hard copy:

- a) NCC Jan Chisholm Review of Financial Support for Bus Services: Adapt Service 695: Blanchland to Hexham via Slaley, Healey and Shotley (Tuesday only).
- b) NCC Joint meetings of NCC & Parish/Town Councils 9/10/12 Hexham Community Church
- c) NCC Public Access Live. The Planning Departments will consult electronically from January 2nd 2013.
- d) Local Works "Let's reverse the community decline" the letter urges councillors to use the Sustainable Communities Act.
- e) Tynedale Hospice at home Light up a Life Remembering at Christmas Hexham Abbey 1/12/12. NALC Annual Report 2011/12 + AGM papers + CAN news September 2012, Glasdon products; Policing in Northumberland 2011-2012.

Emails:

- a) 30/9/12 NCC Carrol Hessey: Update Highways & Neighbourhood Services (first copy for the North, second copy for the West).
- b) 30/9/12 RSN: weekly digest 17/9/12
- c) 30/9/12 David Francis: voluntary organisations making a contribution to community safety should report activities to VONNE. Slaley report Speed camera, Farmwatch, Sport & play facilities on school field.
- d) 30/9/12 NCC Carrol Hessey - Grass Cutting briefing July 2012.
- e) 30/9/12 NCC Tamara Gilbert EFB No 25/
- f) 30/9/12 NCC Jan Chisholm. Supported Bus Service review 695 Blanchland /Hexham.
- g) 30/9/12 Hazel Brenda. Inspection Sheets for Slaley School – part of the climbing frame has broken. Part requested from KOMPAN. 59-page, parts brochure arrived Clerk asked Hayley at Slaley School to ask where the part has come from. Weekly inspector D thinks he can repair without the need for a spare part.
- h) 30/9/12 Tamara Gilbert EFB No 26.

- i) 30/9/12 Helen Griffiths Special Schools & Special Unit Consultation Autumn 2012.
- j) 30/9/12 Lynne Nelson UNISON Road Show - privatisation of services - Hexham October 4th.
- k) 30/9/12 RSN weekly digest 24/9
- l) 30/9/12 NCC Reminder about Planning road safety meeting at Stannington 2 p.m. October 10th.
- m) 30/9/12 Jan Chisholm Community Transport Officer Letter as per hard copy 6a.
- n) 30/9/12 Kate Israel wanting Prudhoe information circulated locally – information sent to Cllr Brooks who has replied to Kate with dates and space restrictions.
- o) 30/9/12 North Pennines AONB Partnership newsletter.
- p) 30/9/12 Adapt Membership for 2012. **It was agreed to pay.**
- q) 30/9/12 Nike Bird Election costs for May 2013.
- r) 30/9/12 CAN, AGM 31/10/12,
- s) 30/9/12 NCC latest version of NCC key contacts.
- t) 30/9/12 Whittonstall Action Group update.
- u) 30/9/12 Tamara Gilbert EFB No 27
- v) 1/10/12 RSN weekly digest.
- w) 1/10/12 NCC Kevin Tipple Acknowledging attendance (Clerk + Cllrs Brooks & Hancock Slaley Clerk + Cllr Gibbs Healey) at the Core Strategy Feedback Workshops Mon October 15th, West End Methodist Church.
- x) 1/10/12: Slaley School request for jigsaw, puzzle books etc for wet playtimes.
- y) 2/10/12 Tyne Rivers Trust - planning improvements - drop-in at the Hancock Museum 4 – 6th October.
- z) 3/10/12 SLCC Neighbourhood planning presentation given by Peter Biggers (17 pages)
- aa) 3/10/12 Slaley School FOSS AGM 16/10/12 & Race night 13/10/12.
- ab) 3/10/12 NALC AGM 20/12/12
- ac) 3/10/12 RSM Rural Opportunities Bulletin.
- ad) 4/10/12 Slaley School invitation to harvest festival on Friday 12.10.12.
- ae) 5/10/12 Carrol Hessey – Funding for rural broadband includes the successful Hexhamshire.
- af) 6/10/12 Carrol Hessey: Parish Transfer Meetings between NCC & Western PCs. Hexham Town Council Offices on 29/10/12 at 6 p.m.
- ag) 6/10/12 Ian Clough, NCC Civil Contingencies Manager, requesting one or two names and telephone numbers for emergency rest centres should the need arise. Cllr Allsop agreed for his name, telephone and mobile numbers to be provided together with those of the Clerk.
- ah) 8/10/12 RSM weekly digest for 8/10/12
- ai) 8/10/12 Carrol Hessey inaccurate address for (6af) above – now Prospect House, Hexham.

7. Financial Report.

- a) Cheques to be signed

Cheque No	473 GMS for cutting roadside grass & BMX track	£468.00
	474 BDO LLP External audit	£144.00
	475 Slaley Commemoration Hall hire of Roomj	£122.00
	476 Adapt annual membership	£10.00

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

- b) BDO LLP successfully carried out the audit there were no issues that needed attention.
- c) Bank statement for September 14th included the second Precept payment. Balance £11,814.71
- d) NCC 2nd Precept payment.

8. Current Planning Applications.

12/02603/FUL: New vehicular access with parking and turning area. Holly Cottage. **12/02602/CLP ROP:** certificate of lawfulness for proposed single storey extension. Holly Cottage.

No objections

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:

None.

9. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

Two people previously shown an interest in becoming a Councillor have been invited to the October meeting. Cllr Allsop has spoken with the lady since the September meeting and she is currently unable to attend meetings on a Monday evening. Clerk to write to TH and clarify his continuing interest.

10. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update

The second public consultation meeting will be held on Wednesday October 24th when details of the archeology test pits will hopefully have provided some evidence of the mill buildings and site layout.

11. Parish Plan: Action Plan October Update

Draft circulated, discussed, amended and attached as appendix 1/081012, page 829.

12. BOATs update.

- a) Clerk had a brief conversation with Mrs Graham who apologised for not having provided a report to the PC. Incidents had happened and been noted but not officially handed over to the PC.
- b) Cllr Brooks reported trail bikes being loaded into a white van parked at High Clear entrance sometime over the weekend of October 6/7.
- c) Cllr Brooks reported further damage on the Long Edge BOAT, there are now three separate sections of the hard core drive where the pot holes sides are so steep that the user groups are avoiding them.
- d) When reporting the above to DB the Shield Hall TRO request should be mentioned.

13. AOB.

- a) Highways: B6306 water continues to run down the south section of Dipton Cut and on the approach to the Linnels Bridge (north side). The central pot-hole at the junction with the B6307
- b) Mobile Post Office Van broken down today 8/10/12. It is anticipated that the van will be off the road until Wednesday October 10th. Clerk reported this to Margaret at Slaley Shop, a resident at Parks Side and by email to Councillors and Editors of News Sheet and Slaley Notes. Martin Nichol now reports Post Office Van difficulties on his Stocksfield Central Post Office Facebook page by clicking on the PO logo – this information to be passed to the public through the notes and monthly news sheet.

14. Date of November monthly meeting.

Monday November 12th.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.45 p.m.