

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 14th October 2013 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Apologies. Cllr. N. Green

Present: Councillor C.A. Brooks in the Chair. Councillors D.M. Bell, I.E. Milburn, C.E.M. Goldring, D. Allsop, & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. County Councillor CW Horncastle
Public: None. Northumbria Police: None: Courant Reporter: Rosalind Saul. Community Trust: None.
Slaley Notes: Michael Elphick.

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

County Councillor CW Horncastle for agenda item 10.

3. Minutes of September Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 896 – 899 + appendix 1, page 900).

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

4. Matters Arising.

a) 4b 2/9/13: Damaged backdrop of the Early Years wooden climber has been replaced.

b) 4c 2/9/13: Uplift and relay rubber matting at various piece of play equipment: Clerk has contacted Play Inspections to ask how the PC can test the impact absorbing properties on the overgrown Grass Matrix Tiles.

c) 4d 2/9/13; 4a 12/8/13; 4b 8/7/13; 12a APM 1/7/13: Grass cutting at Parks Side. Cllr D Bell reported when the grass had been cut and how it was left. Dated photographs were presented with the report. On Friday September 6th it rained heavily all day – the grass was saturated – on Saturday September 7th, contractors came and cut the grass but because it was long and wet the mess they left was horrendous. The next cut by the usual contractors was on Saturday September 28th once again, they left an awful mess. On Tuesday October 1st two men arrived in a van marked CJ Mellor arrived – these men cut the grass properly and cleared it up afterwards, they told Cllr Bell that they hoped to get the contract next year. On Wednesday October 9th the grass was cut again and was left tidy. **It was agreed that this report be sent to Kath Heard of Isos Housing.**

d) 4e 2/9/13; 4d 12/8/13; 19c 8/7/13: At the time of this meeting the branches have not been removed. The Clerk has been informed that Mrs. Robson actually asked the owner of SH to cut the branches back and was told that the offending branches no longer belong to SH but to the builder who has just received planning permission. Clerk reported the problem to highways and asked for assistance.

e) 4f 2/9/13; 4e 12/8/13; Mr. Elphick reported that he & Cllr Goldring have nearly finished the Cookie Policy.

f) 4g 2/9/13; 6c12/8/13: The Lloyds TSB Signatory Form was returned for a fourth time because David Baynes was still on their list and we had not withdrawn him. Also because Cllr. Brooks was the only long standing signatory able to sign. A request was made that the Parish Council pass a resolution that the new signatories were in accordance with the constitution and rules of the Parish Council. The resolution was duly agreed and Cllr. Brooks had her signature witnessed by an independent person.

g) 8c 2/9/13: Report of Northumbria Police Strategic Assessment Workshop attended by the Parish Clerk circulated and attached **as appendix 1/141013, page 907.**

h) 18f 2/9/13: Cllrs Bell & Milburn Reported that the ‘New Councillor Training’ on Tuesday September 3rd had reinforced what they had learnt on the CD which had been circulated prior to their first meeting. They had been given handouts, which were offered to the meeting to read.

5. Public Participation. None.

6. Community Trust Report

Cllr. Allsop gave a verbal report. The future of the CT was discussed on October 2nd at an Executive meeting attended by Chairman, Norman Watson, Treasurer Margaret Weatherley, Secretary David Allsop, Michael Elphick & Carolyn Brooks. After reporting the CT success stories it was decided to continue with the CT and try to involve more people. A general meeting has been arranged for Thursday November 21st at 7.30 when current issues will be tabled to see if the CT can help in any way. The old circulation list has been found and this will be brought up to date. Mr Elphick suggested including the oil buying group of contacts. Funds currently stand at £350.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

The planned meeting of local PCs meeting Amanda Cryer has been postponed. The gully sucker is in great demand throughout Tynedale.

8. Correspondence.

- a) NCC Val Knowles Funding for outdoor sport and play available from the Section 106 Developer Fund. **Cllr Allsop was interested to find out if the R&C would be eligible.**
- b) NCC Mike Bird – copy of Members Handbook 2013 with invitation to joint meeting on Tuesday October 15th at The Mart.
- c) NCC Kevin Bartlett & Richard Powell a hard copy of email recorded as (ai) below. This hard copy cost NCC 47p to post.
- d) NCC Ian Coe – Tyne & Wear Integrated Transport Authority: Proposal to develop a bus Quality Contract Scheme – comments by Monday 21st October 2013. This would not affect the Consett to Hexham service unless the current service provider lost contracts in Tyne & Wear which make its business unsustainable. A cross county collaboration would be set up to minimize any knock on effects in Northumberland & Durham.
- e) Funding request from GNAA; Clerk & Councils Direct September issue; Tynedale Hospice at Home Light up a life at Hexam Abbey on December 7th poster and flyers; LCR Autumn Catalogue; Campaign to protect Rural England Autumn catalogue; CAN annual report, News, AGM agenda, BOSS Project update.

Emails:

- a) 18/9/13: Sport Tynedale: Matthew Bewick: **Slaley Councillors had no Nominations for the annual sports awards 2013.**
- b) 18/9/13: RSN weekly digest
- c) 18/9/13: NALC E-NEWS
- d) 18/9/13: NCC Ross Wigham – changes to the NCC website.
- e) 18/9/13: Rebecca Baker AONB Partnership - Dark Sky news in the North Pennines – all proposed Dark Sky Discovery Sites have been successful.
- f) 18/9/13: Navigus Planning – Journal of Local Planning.
- g) 18/9/13: Parish Online – get mapping suggested Nigel Green get his parish map from this site.
- h) 18/9/13: RSN Rural Vulnerability Service
- i) 18/9/13: Northumberland Knowledge 2011 Census Factsheets.
- j) 18/9/13: NCC - Tamara Gilbert EFB No 46
- k) 18/9/13: RSN weekly digest
- l) 18/9/13: Adapt newsletter September.
- m) 18/9/13: Whittonstall Action Group update.
- n) 18/9/13: Crispin Thorn: Forestry Commission: Recruitment of members for the NE forestry and woodland advisory committee. – closing date October 9th.

- o) 18/9/13: Michael Elphick volunteered to look into the free digital support in Northumberland. **Both Slaley & Healey PCs were happy that ME did this on their behalf.**
- p) 18/9/13 CAN e-NEWS
- q) 18/9/13:Slaley will feature in the December issue of Tynedale Life.
- r) 18/9/13: RSN Rural Opportunities Bulletin September.
- s) 18/9/13: RSN Rural Transport Sept 2013.
- t) 18/9/13: Janet Pibworth – Northumberland Music Festival November 8th-24th.
- u) 18/9/13: NALC - Training for New Clerks or anyone wishing to know what role a Clerk has.
- U* 18/9/13: Gary Mcbride: Local Bus Services – West Area review revised timetables: 3 renewal options going from present service where it is expected that the budget will not meet increasing costs through to option 3 with no services on a Saturday and one service week days.
- v) 24/9/13: RSN weekly digest
- w) 24/9/13: RSN Spotlight on small business and the rural economy.
- x) 24/9/13: Michael Quinn from Allendale and his concern on the housing needs survey.
- y) 24/9/13: Dawn Wright – guidelines for helping members of our community with form filling.
- z) 25/9/13: NALC requesting information of Council Chairman. Clerk completed and returned.
- aa) 27/9/13: More from Michael Quinn and his concerns on the housing needs survey + reply from Mrs Lally and his response to that reply.
- ab) 27/9/13: North Pennines E-newsletter September 2013.
- ac) 30/9/13: RSN weekly digest.
- ad) 30/9/13: Whittonstall Action Group - determination timing.
- ae) 30/9/13: NALC Local Councils Explained book £49.99 less 15% discount for PCs
- af) 30/9/13: RSN rural funding petition.
- ag) 30/9/13: Michael Darrington asked to discuss challenges for rural economies with Newcastle University asking for our input. **(see agenda item 13 below)**
- ah) 30/9/13: NCC Rob Naples: Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy: Housing, Employment & Green Belt Preferred Options in the county until 2031 - Consultation 31/10/13 – 2/1/14. Meeting at Hexham Tuesday 19/11/13.
- ai) 1/10/13: Mike Bird: West Area NCC/parish meeting Tuesday October 15th at 6 p.m. at Hexham Mart. Cllr. Brooks confirmed her attendance. **Clerk to book Cllr. Brooks attendance.**
- aj) 2/10/13: CAN AGM on 5/11/13 at Baron Mill. **Cllr. Allsop actually speaking at event.**
- ak) 2/10/13:Gordon Stewart, NCDN new website launch & North East pathfinder project.
- al) 6/10/13: Elaine Sims Information for fast Broadband for Northumberland.
- am) 7/10/13: RSN weekly digest
- an) 7/10/13: Julia Pilnston: Meet the Funders at Hexham October 16th
- ao) 8/10/13: Tarmara Gilbert EFB No 47
- ap) 9/10/13: RSN ROB October
- aq) 9/10/13: NCC Josh Brown – Surplus furniture items for FREE
- ar) 10/10/13: RSN RVS Broadband.
- as) 13/10/13: Rob Naples reminder of Core Strategy consultation.
- at) 13/10/13: Andrea Perrett: Northumberland Rape Crisis Discussion on Friday 8/11/13 at Longhoughton. **No one wished to attend.**
- au) 13/10/13: NCC Vicki Flint: Northumberland Rough Sleeper Estimate 2013. The Councillors were not aware of anyone sleeping rough in the parish.
- av) 13/10/13: RSN Richard Inman: Has Public services improved over the past five years?
- aw) 13/10/13: CAN news autumn edition.
- ax) 14/10/13: RSN weekly digest see article on Rural GP's concerns over medical graduates becoming family doctors.

9.Financial Report.

a) Cheques to be signed

No 497 The Play Inspection Company Ltd. Post Installation Inspection of new equipment £295.00 + Annual inspection of all equipment £59.95 = Total £425.94

No 498 NCC weekly inspection of equipment at Slaley School increased from 9 to 12 items from July 8th. £174.42

No 499 GMS grass cutting at 4 parish sites £300 + at cycle track on school field £180 = £480.00

No 500 NCC balance of all phase 3 sport and play expenditure £939.51

No 501 NCC NCC photocopying 300 copies of community agreement for October news sheet circulation.

No 502 Slaley Commemoration Hall. Hire of Hall April – September £86.00

Proposed by Cllr. D. Allsop and seconded by Cllr. A. Goldring the cheques were signed.

b) Second half year Precept received £3,775.00

c) A year to date balance sheet was presented to show sufficient funds in the carried forward from 12/13 to cover the above payments.

10. Current Planning Applications.

13/02684/FUL: Demolition of existing barn /workshop/store and erection of replacement of barn /workshop / store at Wooley House, Wooley road. **Approved**

13/01130/FUL: Retrospective: Extraction system on roof at rear of premises.

Pending

13/01131/LBC: Retrospective: Listed Building Consent: Extraction system on roof at rear of premises.

Pending

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

Pending

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

*The Clerk was contacted by the applicant and asked why the PC had not supported the application in November 2012. The PC planning sub-committee of 2012 were contacted and a new letter of support rather than no objections was agreed and sent to West Area Planning.

Decisions from planning:

13/01297/FUL: New build detached dwelling with detached garage/store on land south west of St. Mary's Church. Slaley. **Granted.**

13/01300/FUL: Construction of two detached dwellings and one detached garage/store on land to north east of Slaley House. **Granted.**

11. Update games/play area within school grounds.

a) Email 18/9/13 of a Play Ship forwarded to school

b) Email 27/9/13 of weekly inspections. The inspector reported that the three logs which Cllr Green took out and turned over at the August walk about, were loose on the cycle track. Cllr Green was asked by email if he could look at these logs, unfortunately he was on holiday and could not.

c) Clerk and her daughter removed the three logs and filled in the hole with road planings on Saturday September 28th at 4.30 p.m. Cllr. Brooks forwarded by email her thanks to the Clerk for undertaking this work. The Clerk was formally thanked again at the meeting.

d) Mrs Ross asked if a bag could be provided for the tennis net to keep it together when stored in the community storage check. The Clerk purchased a sport hold all from Argos for £9.99 and delivered it to school. The cost will be added to the Clerk's annual expenditure.

e) Phase 3 equipment, GMS invoice for removing the willow dragon and Dodwell's invoices presented by school for payment by the HDF, Community Trust and the Parish Council. (*See cheque No 500 above*).

f) 300 Community Agreement photocopied by school and folded by Parish Clerk then inserted and delivered by Community Trust to every household in the parish. (*See cheque No 501 above*).

g) Cllr. Brooks had received a very positive verbal reaction from a member of the public regarding the community equipment on the school field.

12.Mobile Post Office Van parking Update

- a) Kath Heard from Isos Housing who is offering to lease an area as shaded on the plan attached to these minutes as **appendix 2/141013, page 908** for a period of 30 years on a peppercorn rent. This offer has been acknowledge by the Clerk. The PC will need to cover its own legal costs with the lease. Kath heard has indicated that Isos Housing would consider match funding after April 2014, if we take this further.
- b) Letter sent to Planning
- c) Letter sent and acknowledged to highways
- d) Letter sent and acknowledged to Ian Liley & Ruth Barnes at Post Office Ltd
- e) Clerk met local builder, Andrew Nixon, on site and discussed the proposals with him, he thought that Trevor Golightly could possibly be interested and give us a price.
- f) Mobile Post van is once again in dry dock with engine problems. There was a missing vehicle key problem on Wednesday October 2nd. There has been no service since Monday October 7th.
- g) Notification from Martin Nichol (today) that the van has been sent back to the dealers to rectify the problem, which they say are electrical. New vans are due to be brought into service in March 2014. Clerk has produced Posters for the notice boards at Parks Side, Slaley Shop and PC notice board.
- h) It was agreed that the Clerk write to the parish clerks of other villages affected by the post van break down and try to make a combined complaint to the PO Chief Executive, Paula Vennells. The villages are Bardon Mill, Colwell, Ninebanks (West Allen parish), Humshaugh, Fourstones, Mickley, Simonburn, Newton & Langley (Haydon Bridge parish).

13.Our Views on challenges for rural communities like ours (request from M. Darrington).

(see 8ag above)

mobile telephone signal	lack of employment opportunities
poor post office service	access to health care
public transport	cost of fuel
Broadband	affordable housing for rural workers

disproportionate H&S legislation (e.g. cost of inspection of children's play equipment 12p per item in Hexham and Slaley – cost spread over 10000's in Hexham against 600 in Slaley)

Healey PC discussed this at its meeting on October 2nd and the following was its comment:
“Changes in patterns of communications i.e. mobile post office computer break downs, inferior rural broadband etc had the most impact”.

Cllr. Brooks will reply to M Darrington.

14. Parish Plan – Action Plan October Update. Attached as appendix 3/141013, page 909.

Minor changes were made.

15.Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update

Greg Finch gave a talk entitled “People, Places and Packhorse Ways” at Whitley Chapel on Friday October 4th 112 people attended. ‘Keeping up with the Arches’ is a second FREE talk and exhibition at Whitley Chapel on Wednesday October 16th. The first ‘Dukesfield Smelters and Carriers Project Bulletin’ came out in September and FREE copies are available from Slaley Village Shop. There is an interesting article of the Dukesfield archaeology in the October November issue of The Northumbrian.

16. Approved minutes from Slaley Commemoration Hall Management Meeting on 19/6/13. attached as appendix 4/141013, page 910.

To include the request from M. Weatherley for fund raising attached as appendix 5/141013, page 911.

a) Healey PC discussed this at its meeting on October 2nd and the following was its comments: Healey Councillors felt that possibly a grant from Healey PC towards Hall hire charges should be considered. The Clerk explained that the Hall needed to be used and that was why the suggestion of user group coffee mornings had been suggested. Cllr Anderton reluctantly agreed she would help in the organisation if Slaley PC members were willing to join forces in an activity. As an indication of how this works Greg Finch gave a local history talk with slides and refreshments at Whitley Chapel on Friday October 4th and he made over £600 for hall funds.

b) Response from Slaley Councillors - in principle they would prefer to support the hall by awarding a grant than by organising any form of fund raising activity.

c) Cllr. Allsop asked if a comparison with other village halls had been made: Blanchland is very similar to Slaley with an hourly rate of £10 per hour and a daily rate of £85. However, they are running at a loss and it is an item for discussion at their meeting later this month. Hexhamshire meanwhile has two rates one for affiliated and one not. There are no hourly rates but morning sessions 8 a.m. – 12 noon/1 p.m. £40 none affiliated and £20 affiliated. Afternoon 12 noon/1 p.m. – 5 p.m. / 6p.m. £40 and £20 respectively. Evening 5 p.m. / 6 p.m. – midnight. A Saturday wedding, fund raising leek club type event is booked from 12 noon on Friday – 12 noon on Sunday at £200 or £100 respectively. They also are having problems with soaring heating costs and overuse of heating when the hall is not in use.

d) Clerk met with local builder, Andrew Nixon, on site and he is going to give a price for removing the grassed areas and making additional car parking.

17. Advance notice of Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy: Housing, Employment and Green Belt Preferred Options. 31/10/13 – 2/1/14

Cllr. Monica Anderton from Healey Parish Council has volunteered to attend our November meeting (at 8 p.m.) when it is anticipated that the Councillors will agree which portion of the consultation they will read and make recommendations on (Healey hopes we can make a joint response). (*see 8ah & 8as above*). Clerk alerted the Councillors to recent editorials relating to housing where the village is very much against more housing (including affordable) Ponteland 280 new homes, 300 at Prudhoe and 54 for Corbridge.

18.AOB

a) 18/9/13: email from GMS with winter service details. CC Horncastle confirmed that Highways would allocate grit as done in previous years.

b) 19/9/13: email from Cllr Allsop re local Cycle event through Slaley on Sunday 29/9/13.

c) Townhead litterbin overflowing Clerk to ask why it is not being emptied.

d) Cllr Bell has information on a group called Action for Women who need help with funding.

e) Cllr. Bell confirmed that Northumbria Police are involved with the overnight doorbell ringing and window tapping on some of our bungalow residents.

f) A skip had been placed on the highway for use by residents at The Old Post Office. Its reflectors were questioned. Councillors to check if they are working and if not report the fact to the skip company, the name of which should be somewhere on the skip.

19. Date of November meeting.

Monday November 11th. Cllr Allsop gave his apologies for this meeting.

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