

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 13th October 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall

1. Apologies. Councillor D.M. Bell

Present: Councillor C.A. Brooks in the Chair. Councillors I.E. Milburn, D. Allsop, N. Green, S. Dart & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson. **Invited Guest:** Rebecca Jackson, Headteacher at Slaley First School.

Public: None. **Northumbria Police:** None. **Courant Reporter:** Rosalind Saul. **Community Trust:** None. **Slaley Notes:** None.

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

Councillors D Allsop & N. Green for planning application 14/02929/ADE

3. Minutes of September Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 1011 – 1014, appendix 1, page 1015 & appendix 2, page 1016).

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

4 Matters Arising.

a) 4a 1/9/14, 4a 11/8/14, 4c 14/7/14, 4d 9/6/14, 12a 12/5/14: Blocked village drains: It was agreed that Cllr's Allsop, Bell and Green would try and get photographs of the drains overflowing after the next heavy rain and these would be sent to Highways. Clerk sent an email on September 6th asking if photographs had been taken on Friday 5th. Village running with water on Monday October 6th after heavy rain Sunday night/early hours of Monday. Cllr Green confirmed he had several photographs and would email them.

b) 4e 1/9/14 The £10 voucher to Mr & Mrs Borthwick was acknowledge with a "Thank You" card.

c) 8h 1/9/14, Clerk wrote to the PCC to ask when the gravestones at St. Mary's were last checked as one or two had been reported as leaning at a precarious angle. A reply was received from Susan Allen and circulated by email 25/9/14. Cllr Brooks and PC Clerk met with Mrs D. Hall in the churchyard, Friday September 26th and inspected the leaning graves. A request has gone out in the Slaley Notes for parishioners with relatives to check the gravestones.

d) 8j 1/9/14: Training for existing Chairman on October 8th attended by Cllr Brooks who reported that the Chairman has a vote and also has the casting vote if needed.

e) 14 1/9/14: The request to Slaley Community Trust for any interest in updating the Slaley Business Directory provided the Parish Council with the knowledge that Michael Elphick actually updates the directory on the Slaley website. The printing of the December 2012 edition cost £120 and Mr. Elphick felt this was an excessive annual expenditure unless the PC was willing to fund an annual update. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Brooks put something in the Monthly News that information is available on the Slaley web site but offering people a hard copy if they wished by contacting a designated member of the CT.

f) 17a 1/9/14: Further equipment breakdowns occurred at the mobile post office during September there were no exact dates when this had happened.

g) **11 from August 11th meeting** Village Parking – despite the article in the monthly news and a September Hexham Courant editorial with photograph of Cllr Allsop, vehicles are still parking on the village footpaths. Cll Allsop produced a simple notice asking that people park with more care, he suggested that this could be placed under the windscreen wipers of offending vehicles. Clerk to forward a copy of the notice to Northumbria Police and Highways and ask if this is permissible or if it could be better phrased and if so ask for appropriate alternates. Copy of the notice attached as **appendix 1/131014, Page 123.**

5.Public Participation. *(see also agenda item 11)*

The chairman welcomed Ms Rebecca Jackson, Headteacher of Slaley First School and the Councillors introduced themselves. Ms Jackson explained that the new gates are courtesy of Slaley Hall as is the Outdoor woodland classroom in the grounds of Slaley Hall. The rotten woodwork of some of the school windows was discussed as was the possibility of extending the area between Muddy Puddles and the south classroom – in effect make the south facing side of the school level. Obviously funding for this would be substantial. School Secretary has spoken with Val Knowles regarding the £13,000 in the HDF pot, however, the school needs to make an application for this by October 24th otherwise the money will be lost. 2015 will see the HDF superseded by the CIL. Ms Jackson thought that seating would be a useful edition to both school and the community, or something for role-play. The Clerk suggested looking at the “Marmax Products Ltd” recycled milk bottles outdoor classroom for £13,999. Spending £13,000 on seating could give several new items being added onto the weekly inspection and because the PC is charged by the item, individual seats could make a disproportional charge for the PC to cover, Ms Jackson said she would bear that in mind when ordering. The community agreement was discussed and next spring Ms Jackson could have her input into the 2015 update. The two inspection reports were compared and discussed and the repairs currently under way were confirmed. The gap in the long rocking log was not considered dangerous and needing replacement on the PC earlier inspection, that is why the PC had ordered repairs to the damaged end log. It had been generally felt that the long rocking log was suffering from a long very hot summer. Lack of any funding towards maintenance was discussed; this could become a real financial burden for the PC, unless changes are made because all the grants from County Hall are for capital. Ms Jackson intends to make an application for the HDF funds and will pass her suggestions on to the Councillors for approval via the Clerk.

6.Community Trust Report

Email report from Michael Elphick entitled lack of progress with broadband and two suggestions. This circulation had not reached all the Councillors – Clerk to circulate. **Attached as appendix 2/131014, page 1024.** Cllr Brooks to ask Mr. Elphick for a news item for the November Monthly News.

7.Matters for Discussion with County Councillor: None.

8.Correspondence.

Hard copy

- a) NCC Joint NCC & T & Parish Council Meeting October 21 at Hexham Library (also by email see 8i below).
- b) Air Ambulance request for funding.
- c) NCC Northumberland Local Heroes – Nominate Your Local Hero application form. There were no nominations.
- d) Clerks & Councils Direct, Wicksteed advertising, CAN Annual Report + NALC Annual Report.
- e) Lega Care request for a small donation of £500 to help with bereaved people in Slaley..

Emails:

- a) 7/9/14: Moyra Riseborough invitation to Curlew Cohousing event on September 21st.
- b) 7/9/14: Nichola Turnbull: West Area meeting on September 9th.
- c) 7/9/14: Adapt newsletter and NHS Clinical Commission Group survey.
- d) 8/9/14: Carrol Hessey Broadband launch at Corbridge on September 19th.
- e) 25/9/14:RSN weekly digest.
- f) 25/9/14: RSN ROB.
- g) 25/9/14: Linda Pinkham NHS Clinical Commission Group survey Cllr Milburn completed.
- h) 25/9/14: Chris Bowden - Journal of Local Planning.

- i) 25/9/14: Nichola Turnbull: changed date of West Area meeting to September 21st.
- j) 25/9/14: NALC E-NEWS issue 33.
- k) 25/9/14: RSN weekly digest.
- l) 25/9/14: CAN e:NEWS September.
- m) 25/9/14: RSN RVS rural transport.
- n) 25/9/14 Raymond Wealleans introduction Area Manager for neighbourhood Services - direct line – 1670 625579 or mobile 07917 594004.
- o) Sue Howie – Red Squirrels in Northern England talk 16.10.14 at Whalton Village Hall.
- p) 25/9/14:Northumbria Police offer to complete questionnaire as unable to attend workshop. Clerk had a copy and several suggestions were made for its completion.
- q) 25/9/14: RSN weekly digest
- r) 25/9/14: Richard Hall - public transport - west area contracts extended to Spring 2015.
- s) 25/9/14: Northumberland Music Festival performances over 3 weekends in November.
- t) 25/9/14: Ladycross Fungus Foray on Saturday September 27th
- u) 29/9/14: RSN weekly digest
- v) 30/9/14: Northumberland Community Development network update.
- w) 1/10/14: Carrol Hessey Playground inspection courses.
- x) 1/10/14: Ian Hedley An update of the conference from September 25th. *Cllr Allsop and Brooks though that the new web portal was clear and helpful.*
- y) 2/10/14: Lizzie McCann - invitation from Northern Gas to an event in Newcastle.
- z) 2/10/14: Mike Bird reminder west area meeting October 21st.
- aa) 5/10/14: Carolyn Woodhouse: Lead Road closure November 4th.
- ab) 7/10/14: RSN weekly digest.
- ac) 7/10/14: NALC E-NEWS October.
- ad) 7/10/14: NALC AGM at Morpeth on October 18th.
- ae) 8/10/14: RSN ROB.
- af) 8/10/14: Forestry Commission England – Rural development Initiatives Ltd working with the SIMWOOD Project.
- ag) 8/10/14: Linda Pinkham – Healthwatch Northumberland October update.
- ah) 9/10/14: RSN rural housing spotlight – October.
- ai) 10/10/14: Iain Hedley reminder about joint meetings.
- aj) 13/10/14: RSN weekly digest.
- ak) 13/10/14: Hadrian’s Wall Marketing Group – future promotion of Hadrian’s Wall.
- al) 13/10/14: Mike Bird – Officers attending the west joint meeting on October 21st. Includes Ray Weallans of neighbourhood services (see 8n above). **Cllr Brooks intends to attend this. Cllr Nigel Green would like to speak about the village drains and the reality of the problem through his photographs. The Clerk would like to speak to someone about a fund for maintenance of community play areas.**

9.Financial Report.

- a) Real Time Information: Thirsk payroll successfully submitted £283.33 payment on 14/9/14.
 - b) Cheques to be signed:
 - No 533 £100.00 Ladcyross Nature and Art for a feeding station.
 - No 534 £504.00 GMS parish grass £315.60 + Bike track on school field £188.40
 - No 535 39.00 Thirsk Community Care for payroll preparation July – Sept
 - No 536 £36.00 BDO LLP for query on audit
 - No 537 £849.99 P Wilson 3 months salary July – September.
 - No 538 £102.00 Slaley Commemoration Hall venue for meeting April - Sept
- Proposed by Cllr. D. Allsop and seconded by Cllr. E. Milburn.the cheques were signed.

- c) Interim cheque: None.
- d) Audit: the annual return was presented to the council, approved and accepted. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit was signed and will be displayed for 14 days. A charge of £36 was made for the clarification of the second speed-activated sign being added to our fixed assets, as reported under agenda 9d 1/9/14.
- e) Second half of Precept £4,050 paid into PC bank account on September 12th
- f) Bank statement at September 30th £10,011.80

10. Current Planning Applications.

14/03163/FUL: Construction of 2 wrought iron balconies to the rear elevation of Viewlands, Slaley.

No objections

14/02929/ADE: David Allsop (Rose & Crown): Timber framed hoarding supporting two signs, encapsulated in plastic, mounted on timber boarding. - land south of Slaley Showfield, Hexham.

Letter sent to planning.

14/02774/VARY CO: Alistair & Susan Carr & Flynn : Variation of condition 2 approved planning application 13/03823/VARY CO (garage design) - land north west of St. Mary's Church Slaley , Hexham. Observations by October 7th please. This is the second vary condition of the original Meeting between Cllr Brooks, PC Clerk and Mrs Doreen Hall to discuss the overall site plan which had part of the churchyard access blocked off this revelation instigated a visit from the Archdeacon and a reply was sent to the planning department. The planning officer has spoken to the PC Clerk about the implications, which she feels are a legal matter for solicitors between the builder and the Archdeacon to sort out.

There were no objections to the garage variation.

14/02887/FUL: Mrs J Vaughan: 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 Cornfield, Slaley Hexham NE47 0BS. This replaces application 14/00749/FUL. **The lower roof levels will differentiate between the old cottage and the new extension therefore No objections.**

14/02051/FUL: Construction of new dwelling east of Treetops, Slaley Village (Rookhope Cottage)

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:

14/01672/RENE: Proposed installation of 16 ground mounted photovoltaic panels to generate electricity on land south of Peel Flatt House.

Granted

11. Update games/play area within school grounds. (see also agenda item 5)

- a) 11a 1/9/14: The parts from 'Playdale' have arrived and Darren Brooks has been asked to do the work as per his estimate.
- b) 11c 1/9/14: Money in the HDF fund, which is currently £13,000 in the Slaley/Hexhamshire 'pot' has been explained to the school. Hayley has telephoned Val Knowes who confirmed that a request must be made by October 24th or the money will be lost.
- c) A copy of the School's play and sport inspection was circulated to the Councillors by email on 7/10/14
- d) Weekly Inspection forms forwarded to the school. David Robson (&PT) report the problem with the rolling log – this is part of the repair as detailed at 11a.

12.Mobile Post Office Van parking Update.

- a) Cllr Brooks and PC Clerk signed the agreement with Isos Housing for the 25 year lease on the parking area on October 1st at Gibson Solicitors. The PC will receive a copy of the Lease after it has been logged with the Land Registry.
- b) Coulson Construction was contacted and asked to proceed with the work to include the additional bollards. The request was acknowledged by Liz Coulson at 18.52 on October 1st.

13.Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update.

The open evening at Whitley Chapel on Friday October 10th gave the public an update of what has been achieved this year – everything from archaeology to drinking Ore'some Ale.

David Nixon and company is performing a comedy play at Slaley on November 8th. Although the play is sponsored by DSG the event is to raise money for the Commemoration Hall

14.Parish Plan: Action Plan October Update circulated

Attached as **appendix 3/131014, page 1025**. It was agreed to ask the Police to undertake a Speed check.

15.Minutes of Commemoration Hall Management Committee 4/6/14 circulated.

Attached as **appendix 4/131014, page 1026**.

Cllr Green gave a brief report of the September meeting when the WI had suggested that a Defibrillator would be a welcome edition to the parish. (*note CH minutes of March 3rd 2014 agenda item 5f when the cost was £1,200*) Where to place it was obviously a concern, someone had suggested inside or outside the Hall. There would be a need for a designated first aid person if it were positioned inside the Hall. Cllr Green explained that these machines needed to be checked daily and the batteries replaced annually. Check with Northumberland Health for any financial help. Gutters and guttering are a problem – can they be repaired or is it a renewal situation? Dilston Hall will be hosting a weekly coffee morning at the Hall. Parking at Hall functions remains a problem. Cllr Allsop asked if any consideration had been given to his suggestion of making the east and west side hard surface in favour of the grass (*see July 8th 2013 minutes agenda item 17 – the CH rejected the idea at its Sept mt*).

16. AOB

- a) Member of the public reported the uneven footpath on the south side to Cllr Milburn (September 6th) between the R&C and the village shop. Cllr Brooks and Clerk walked this footpath on Friday September 26th and considering the amount of highway work currently ongoing it was no worse than the north side apart from private gateways where there is substantial wear and tear. Mervyn Savage suggested that South Park entrance was a danger. **It was agreed that while all the building work was underway any footpath improvements would be a waste of money. However this is another question for the meeting on October 21st** (*See agenda item 8al above*)
- b) Mervyn Savage reported to Cllr Brooks by email 19/9/14 about the mud on the footpath between Slaley House development and the village shop. Cllr Brooks spoke with the builders on Saturday September 20th who assured her that they sweep the footpath each evening. The leaves and the wet conditions are making everything sticky and coupled with the utilities work Cllr Brooks considered it was almost impossible to keep the footpath clean.
- c) During the last weekend of September, Martin Pugh almost fell (or fell?) down a hole left open near the post box. The hole had been supposed to be fenced off but for whatever reason the interconnecting fencing along the pathway in front of the village shop, past the telephone box and the hole towards the postbox had been moved allowing access (possibly for someone using the telephone). This incident was reported to the contractors. Management arrived in Slaley on Monday, a report was taken from

Margaret Ward as being the last person to see the security fencing when she left the shop on Friday evening, and as the PC understands it, a visit to Mr. Pugh was also undertaken to establish any injuries.

d) Number 11 Parks Side is up for rent on the NCC home-finder page. The Parish Council has been asked to support the application of Nicholas Barker. The Clerk drafted and tabled a simple letter of support and the Councillors agreed its content and that the letter be sent.

e) Cllr Green reported difficulty in opening some attachments sent by the Clerk to his computer.

17. Date of November 2014 monthly meeting

Monday November 10th. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.