

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 2nd September 2013 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Apologies. None

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

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

County Councillor CW Horncastle for agenda item 10.

3. Minutes of August Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 890 – 893 + appendix 1, page 894 & appendix 2, page 895).

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

4. Matters Arising.

- a) Walk-about report: Block Village Drain: Reported reference number 101002199800.
- b) Walk-about report: Damaged backdrop of the Early Years wooden climber: Clerk has spoken with Mrs Ross, the Headteacher, and she is taking steps to have a new backdrop fitted.
- c) Walk-about report: Uplift and relay rubber matting at various piece of play equipment: Cllr Green felt this unnecessary and will report back after speaking to his contact.
- d) 4a 12/8/13; 4b 8/7/13; 12a APM 1/7/13: Isos contract for grass cutting at Parks Side. At the meeting with Kath Heard (see item 13b) on Friday August 30th she was appalled at the state of the grass and took photographs to show the large clumps of dried grass from the last cut and the length of the grass needing to be cut. Cllr Brooks and the Clerk again made a verbal offer to Kath Heard for the PC to take the responsibility from Isos if the funds could be transferred. Cllr D Bell was asked to report when the grass was next cut and how it was left.
- e) 4d 12/8/13; 19c 8/7/13: A further letter has been hand delivered to Slaley House requesting that the overhanging branches are cut back. At the time of this meeting they have not been removed.
- f) 4e 12/8/13; Action Plan Update July: Cookie Policy. Michael Elphick will produce a revised Cookie Policy for PC consideration.
- g) 6c12/8/13: New Signatory form posted back to Clerk on August 22nd from Cllr Goldring this was added to the Lloyds TSB forms counters signed by Cllr Brooks. Cllr Allsop had not completed the forms and was deleted from the signatory form.

5. Public Participation.

Mrs Elphick asked why there was no sport equipment in the community storage chest at the school. She had understood that equipment from the former Youth Klub was to be provided. The Clerk explained the lack of a key to access the equipment due to holidays but confirmed that on Sunday September 1st there was a bag of equipment in the storage chest.

6. Community Trust Report

Cllr. Allsop verbally told the Clerk that a meeting of the CT executive committee had been arranged for October 2nd^l when the future of the CT would be on the agenda. Cllr Allsop confirmed that this meeting was only for the Officers of the Trust and that no activity had taken place other than the normal activities.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

Cllr. Horncastle informed the meeting that Amanda Cryer and or Louise Haywood (NCC Highways) would be interested in meeting a Cluster of Parishes Councils one evening . Cllr. Horncastle to arrange a date with Louise.

8. Correspondence.

Hard Copy

Emails:

- a) 14/8/13: RSN Rural Vulnerability Service.
- b) 16/8/13: NCC Declan Langan: Round 5 Grant Application for NEW & SUSTAINABLE community transport. Alice Ellison contacted Clerk to ask if a joint response could be made. However because these grants were aimed at New & Sustainable Transport it was not felt that Slaley & Blanchland had anything to submit. (Application 6 pages & Guidance 7 pages).
- c) Northumbria Police: Jon Keenan: Invitation to Clerk to attend the workshop on 20/9/13 at Hexham between 13:00 to 16:00. Circulated for approval then invitation accepted by the Clerk. The Councillors were asked if there were any issues which they would like brought to the table.

Neighbourhood Watch was suggested.

- d) 19/8/13: RSN weekly digest.
- e) 19/8/13: Forestry Commission newsletter for Yorkshire and the North East.
- f) 23/8/13: Norfolk China Ltd: Commemorative mug of Prince George. The Councillors indicated that they did not wish to take this any further.
- g) 23/8/13: RSN Neighbourhood Plan evidence.
- h) 23/8/13: David Francis NALC AGM 19/10/13 in Morpeth.
- i) 23/8/13: Gordon Stewart: Northumberland Community Development Network: Free digital support in Hexham. **Is there anyone in the community who would consider being a communication volunteer? Clerk to forward this information to Jean Elphick who would put something in the Slaley Notes. Cllr Milburn to put the information in the newsletter.**
- j) 23/8/13: Myra Jamieson: 2011 Census update reports for Northumberland.
- k) 23/8/13: RSN Rural Vulnerability Service: Broadband August 2013.
- l) 23/8/13: Richard Inman: The Rural Fair Share Petition –Journal article 7/8/13 – our MP asking if communities pay more than £1.45.9 per litre for petrol and £1.53.9 for diesel. **No Councillors had any personal experience of such high fuel prices in this area.**
- m) 27/8/13: RSN weekly digest.
- n) 30/8/13: RSN Spotlight on Young People.
- o) 30/8/13: NCC Public Transport Officer: Public Transport Newsletter. Cllr have checked and there is no mention of any reduction or problem with the Consett to Hexham bus.
- p) 30/8/13: NCC Mike Bird: What North East Scientists see as the biggest challenges facing the UK Government. **No Councillors wished to attend the September 7th - 12th event.**
- q) 30/8/13: NCC Carrol Hessey: Request from Jonathan Dickinson for help with his dissertation.
- r) 2/9/13: RSN weekly digest.

9. Financial Report.

- a) Cheques to be signed

No 496 P Wilson 6 months salary £1,650.00

Proposed by Cllr. N. Green and seconded by Cllr. D. Allsop the cheque was signed.

- b) Audit completed on August 1st there were no matters which arose. The annual report was presented to the Councillors and was accepted by the Councillors. The Notice of Conclusion of Audit will be placed in the PC notice board.
- c) There is no charge for the audit because the income/expenditure band is less than the £10,000 limit.

10. Current Planning Applications.

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

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

***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**

**** Hearing on June 19 at 6 p.m.**

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.**

Decisions from planning:

11. Update games/play area within school grounds.

No Update available. See also agenda item 4b and 5 above.

12. NCC Public Transport Newsletter Special Edition August 2013

Draft circulated by email and accepted by three Councillors therefore forwarded as the deadline was September 2nd. Reply attached as **appendix 1/020913, page 900.**

13. Mobile Post Office Van parking Update

a) Kath Heard from Isos reported that the Board had considered a paper recommending the transfer of land at Parks Side to the Parish Council in order to facilitate a designated parking space for the Post Office van, However the Board had decided against the transfer.

b) Chairman, Cllr CA Brooks & Clerk met Kath Heard on site on Friday August 30th at 8. 30 a.m. to discuss the way forward. Ms Heard immediately saw the problem and asked if a lease of the land between Isos and the PC would help with the PC being able to acquire matched funding to make a hard surface.

c) Martin Nichol telephoned to say the battery was dead on the mobile PO van – no service Thursday & Friday August 29th / 30th.

d) Planning Permission needed to make a lay by? Colin Horncastle is looking into this.

e) Highways Authority and any permissions needed? Colin Horncastle is looking into this.

f) New PO Field Officer, Ruth Barnes, contacted the Clerk by email on August 14th and asked for an update on the PCs plans to have an area tarmaced. Unfortunately Ms Barnes was on leave and not able to look at the site on Friday August 30th (see agenda item, 4d above). Clerk to make further contact regarding PO matched funding to a possible CC small schemes grant for the project.

14. Local Transport Plan (LTP) Programme 2014-15.

The requests as outlined for 2013 – 14 remain as:

Additional parking bays at Parks Side Slaley village and for staff and visitors at Slaley First School. Clerk suggested that a lay by for use by the mobile Post Office be made near the telegraph pole at Parks Side bungalows.

No further requests were made.

15. Parish Plan – Facilities & Services Review

- a) After inspection by the Clerk there does not appear to be any damage to the Information Board near the village letter-box.
- b) Cllr. Milburn has recently tidied the Parish Notice Board and taken out old notices and volunteered to continue to remove old notices.
- c) The monthly news sheet continues to be published & delivered by the Community Trust and remains the only circulated news in the parish. For this service the PC is very grateful.
- d) The Community Trust updated the business Directory and Where to Buy locally and included a copy to every household with the October issue of the Community news sheet.
- e) Michael Elphick remains Editor of the Community Web Site.
- f) Old 'Rose & Crown share information posters' were still attached to some village telegraph poles and Cllr. Allsop agreed that these should be removed.

16. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update

Photograph and article in the Hexham Courant of Friday August 30th reporting the condensing chambers. The new Project web site is dukesfield@wordpress.co.uk

17. Annual Review of the effectiveness of the system of internal audit

Cllr. Allsop said that he couldn't make any judgment because the system of internal control (which includes internal audit) hadn't been fully explained. The new Councillors were given a full explanation of the Internal Audit regulations undertaken by Margaret Weatherley and the External audit by BDO. The Councillors were also reminded that they had been presented with internal and external audit arrangements in the Interim Report April 9th – June 2nd agenda item 3b & 3c; July minutes agenda item 9b, August minutes agenda item 9b and at 9b above when the annual report had been presented to the Councillors and accepted without question. On reexamination of the Audit Booklet the Councillors confirmed they had confidence in the system of internal audit for the Parish Council account.

18. AOB

- a) Request from YDGLA asking to send a proposal regarding the Deregulation Bill. Clerk drafted a response that has been checked by the various BOATs members.
- b) Village Street lights reported: Outside 'Linton' intermittent off and on, outside Ashtree House any light is lost in the leaves so comes on at about 6 p.m. In the past branches have been removed. Obviously, when the leaves fall off the light will be more beneficial.
- c) Highway chevrons north of Holly Cottage have grown into the corner foliage and need attention.
- d) Village highway - water running from Pinetops on the west-bound carriageway to the Rose and Crown this could be a utilities blockage.
- e) Older children riding bicycles fast on the footpath. Whilst this is against the law the practice should be viewed from a safety aspect especially when cars are continually parked on the village highway forcing young people passing these cars into oncoming traffic. The main problem was outside Ivy Cottage where the property was the footpath boundary. It was agreed that a general message be given in the notes and news letter reminding everyone to take care especially near The Old Post Office and asking parents to remind their children about this blind spot.
- f) New Councillor Training on Tuesday September 3rd. Arrangements were in place for Cllrs Bell, Milburn and Green to attend the training.
- g) Muddy Puddles had a fund raising Summer Barbeque on Sunday September 1st between 12 noon and 2.30 p.m. The Clerk and her family had attended.

19. Date of October meeting.

Monday October 14th. There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.30 p.m.