

Minutes of Slaley Parish Council on
Monday 1st September 2014 at 7.30 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall

1. Apologies.

Present: Councillor C.A. Brooks in the Chair. Councillors I.E. Milburn, D.M. Bell, D. Allsop, N. Green, S. Dart & Clerk Mrs P. Wilson.

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

2. Declaration of Interests and Hospitality Record.

Clerk for application for funding from Ladycross Nature Reserve (agenda item 4c).

3. Minutes of August Parish Council Meeting (circulated pages 1005 – 1008, appendix 1, page 1009 & appendix 2, page 1010).

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

4. Matters Arising.

a) 4a 11/8/14, 4c 14/7/14, 4d 9/6/14, 12a 12/5/14: Blocked village drains: David Robson sent the sweeper out on Tuesday August 12th the morning after the August meeting and before the Clerk had sent an email to him. The Clerk emailed a thank you and said the PC would monitor and record if sweeping (and cleaning out the drain near Orchard House) had made any difference when it next rained. The Flothers Bridge flooding was also reported. It rained heavily on the morning of Thursday 21st and the drain outside Cllr Green's was not taking any water. **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.**

b) 5 items from the August meeting when NOT QUORATE were circulated to the remaining Councillors asking for their approval (or disapproval) before the suggested decisions could be implemented. Approval was received from Councillors D. Bell & N. Green.

c) Approval 1: Ladycross Nature Reserve costs received from Joan Jewitt + a copy of the summer 2014 newsletter attached as **appendix 1/010914, page 1015**. An invitation to the Fungus Foray on September 27th was also tabled for the interest of the Councillors. After discussion it was agreed that a grant of £100 would be made to Ladycross Nature Reserve for a feeding station with a squirrel proof feeder. Next financial year there could be a grant towards the bird food for the Parish Council feeding station. Clerk to ask LXNR when they would like the cheque.

d) Approval 3: Village parking problems – News Sheet notice attached as **appendix 2/010914, page 1016**. PC Chair, Cllr C Brooks, reported by email a telephone conversation with Ann Escritt who lives at The Old Post Office with no off-street parking and recently had her car written off. A request was made for safe off-street parking near her home. **The Councillors had no alternative parking suggestions other than the Rose & Crown car park and the Village Hall car park both of which are needed for their own "evening" patrons.** Cllr Brooks to reply to Mrs Escritt.

e) Approval 4: Hollybush Nursery & Coffee Shop £10 voucher and thank you letter delivered to Mr & Mrs Wm Borthwick.

5. Public Participation.

None

6. Community Trust Report

An emailed update on 'slow' postcodes was circulated by Michael Elphick 28/8/14. Michael is waiting for clarification from Graeme Allen on the deployment plan for the Broadband connections.

7. Matters for Discussion with County Councillor

None.

8. Correspondence.

Hard copy:

a) Carrs Billington offering ground care equipment & Glasdon products advertising leaflets.

Emails

a) 12.8.14: NCC Local Offer for parents and carers of children with Special Educational Needs or a Disability (SEND) – offer of reading the briefing note and request to complete the template for revised website being launched in September.

b) 12/8/14: RSN weekly digest

c) 13/8/14: RSN RVS rural transport

d) 18/8/14: RSN weekly digest

e) RSN RVS Broadband

f) 21/8/14: Planning Strategy CRM – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Notice of site assessment consultation – consultation for new sites or additional information between 20/8 – 24/9 – Slaley sites are:

Slaley: 597 2022 West Woodfoot farm NE46 1TT 0.89 Not Suitable

Slaley: 649 2077 West Wood Foot 0.59 Not Suitable

Slaley: 683 2139 Rye Hill Farm NE47 0AH 0.16 Permitted under construction

Slaley: 717 2203 Land east of Treetops NE47 0AA 0.01 Permitted not started

Slaley: 739 2255 Land east of Slaley House NE47 0AD 0.11 Permitted not started

Slaley: 768 2332 Cocklake NE47 0AL 0.04 Permitted Under construction

Slaley: 1886 6122 Fernwood House NE47 0DF 0.02 Permitted Under construction

Slaley: 2499 6872 south of Townfoot Farm bungalow NE47 0BQ 0.64 Uncertainty Achievable

Slaley: 2666 7049 Orchard House West NE47 0AA 0.06 Permitted not started

Slaley: 2676 7059 north west of St. Mary's NE47 0AA 0.22 Permitted not started

It was felt that the Parish Council was not able to suggest any further sites within the parish.

g) 21/8/14: NALC AGM

h) 21/8/14: Sue Andrews NALC – audit of current and prospective cemetery provision. **It was agreed that the Clerk write to the present PCC and ask when the gravestones at St. Mary's were last checked as one or two had been reported as leaning at a precarious angle.**

i) 28/8/14: RSN Spotlight on older people.

j) 28/8/14: Sue Andrews training for new and existing Chairman October 8th at Newton.

k) 28/8/14: Wansbeck CVS Funding Fair at Alnwick Playhouse September 23rd + notice of west area fair in February/March 2015

l) 29/8/14: NCC Public Transport Newsletter – West Area Local Bus Review will be October 2014 the contracts for supported services that originally expired at Easter 2014 have been extended.

m) 1/9/14: Northumberland Community Development Network more on free local basic digital skills.

n) 1/9/14: RSN weekly digest.

9. Financial Report.

a) Real Time Information: Thirsk payroll successfully submitted £283.33 payment on August 14th

- b) Cheques to be signed: No 532 NALC Chairman training event £5. Proposed by Cllr D Allsop and seconded by Cllr N. Green the cheque was signed.
- c) Interim cheques: Cheque No 531: Playdale Playgrounds £270.24 for replacement parts for stepping stone and rocking log. Signed by Cllrs E Milburn & D. Bell
- d) Audit arrangements. Audit Date July 21st 2014. Clarification requested on the £4,500.00 addition on the PC Asset register when the PC did not have a £4,500.00 expenditure. Clerk explained that the second interactive speed sign was paid direct through the CC small schemes grant. The external audit instructed the Clerk that as far as the audit was concerned (not the insurance) the cost should be £1 therefore £4,499.00 was deducted from the audit asset total.

10. Current Planning Applications.

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

No objections.

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

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: None

11. Update games/play area within school grounds.

- a) Approval 2: Repairs to play and sport on school field. The parts from ‘Playdale’ have been ordered and Darren Brooks has been asked to do the work as per his estimate.
- b) Amy Dobson from the Play Inspection Company forwarded a stock valuation for the equipment on the school field the total value was £34,140.00. (Note that they value the Playdale equipment at £12,300.00 – not bad for something 10 years old).
- c) Clerk contacted Val Knowles as requested at the August meeting and asked about HDF funds. The money is for new equipment not repairs and maintenance. If a piece is broken it is best to dispose of it then request funding for a new piece of equipment (if funding is available). Val said there is currently £13,000 in the Slaley/Hexhamshire pot and the school could make an application for the LAST October 24th application. 2015 will see the HDF superseded by the CIL. This could provide some swings or even the “Marmax Products Ltd” recycled milk bottles outdoor classroom for £13,999. Clerk left a message on the school answer-phone inviting Ms Jackson to the meeting.

12. Mobile Post Office Van parking Update.

- a) Gibson Solicitor form signed by PC Chairman, Cllr CA Brooks and PC Clerk, P. Wilson returned to Gibson’s office together with proof of identity.
- b) Request for more information on bollards (and chains) by ISOS solicitor. PC Clerk replied that chains had never been suggested – possibly a misunderstanding with our Solicitor. On Thursday August 28th Gibson Solicitors telephoned the PC Clerk and reported that Isos Solicitors were happy with two bollards (one at each entry/exit as shown in the photograph and no chains. I said Slaley PC wished to proceed with a bollard at each entry point and no chains.
- c) Coulson Construction quote to include fitting two bollards £350.00 Excl Vat + a photograph of bollard (this sent to Gibson & Co to forward to Isos Solicitor).

13. Dukesfield Smelt Mill Arches Project Update.

Geoff Brooker of the Dipton Mill is brewing a special commemorative beer for the project and it will be launched in time for the next Free event on October 10th in Whitley Chapel when

archaeologist, Richard Carlton, will explain the latest discoveries. We hope that a popular VIP will be pulling the first pint. The comedy play “Carry on Galena” written by David Nixon will have its first performance at Slaley on Saturday November 1st where the Beer will also be on sale.

14. Parish Plan: Information Board – facilities & services Update

The Clerk & Cllr Allsop have checked the information board near the telephone kiosk and reported that it remains clear and free from any damage. The information provided is still relevant to visitors. The last Slaley Business Directory including where to buy local goods was provided in the December 2012/January 2013 monthly Slaley News. There have been a lot of recent house changes and an update would be beneficial. **The Clerk to contact the Community Trust to ask if a 2014/15 update is possible. Cllrs Dart & Bell have copies of the 12/13 edition and they were asked to review their copies and report any errors or updates to Cllr Allsop.**

15. Annual review of the effectiveness of the system of internal audit

This to be renamed “Annual review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control” as per Section 4 of the audit report. The Councillors reviewed the effectiveness and confirmed that they have confidence in the system of internal control for the Parish Council account.

16. Core Strategy consultation update

The update for this has not arrived.

17.AOB

a) Telephone call from P&A Hutchinson regarding the no-show of the mobile Post Office on one occasion during the week August 18-23 and again on Friday August 29th. Clerk contacted Martin Nichols who reported a computer replacement on the first occasion and a replacement printer on the second. Martin is concerned that reconditioned machines are being used as replacements. This information was relayed to Mr & Mrs Hutchinson. However at the meeting Cllr Bell who receives notification from the mobile Post Office driver when he has a problem reported that on Thursday August 21st Andy the driver’s mother took ill and he was unable to visit Slaley at 4.15 – 5.30. His mother died the following day (Friday August 22nd). **Slaley was covered that day by an alternative driver.**

b) Cllr Milburn reported that Street Lights SF 26 (Commemoration Hall) and SF 29 (Townfoot Bungalow) were not working. PC Clerk to report.

18. Date of October 2014 monthly meeting

Monday 13th October 2014

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.