

1. Members & apologies

New trustee (given her apologies) Paula Darrington will represent St. Mary the Virgin PCC and replaces Reverend Helen Savage. RD welcomed Colin Washington who has come this evening to help us understand how the battery storage system works, how to use it both economically throughout the seasons and in case of an emergency.

Present: Chairman, Rosaleen Doonan, Stella Douglas, Carol Ferguson, Christine Johnston, Margaret Rowell & Pat Wilson.

Apologies: Debra Taylor, Philip Cain, Ian Stevens, Helen Brewis-Levie, Paula Darrington

2. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday January 17th 2023, attached as pages 204 - 206 with appendix 1, page 207, appendix 2, page 208, appendix 3, page 209, appendix 4, page 210. appendix 5, page 211, appendix 6, page 212 & appendix 7, page 213.

Notes from the ZOOM meeting on Wednesday January 24th also attached, numbered as page 214.

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Stella Douglas and seconded by Carol Ferguson the minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

Brough forward agenda item 9 for Colin Washington to speak.

Colin used a flip chart to help the committee understand his comments. ESS = Energy Storage System Solar & Batteries.

Battery chemistry

Lithium Ion	Lithium Iron Phosphate LiFE PO 4
Mobiles & computers	Car and SCH batteries
Store more energy per weight	Inverta indicates amount of energy
Energy dense	not dense
Cycle (charge) 500-1000	Cycle Charge 1000-10,000 (20 times more charges)
Heats up	No heating Safer cooling system

1. Smart Meter SCH has
2. Split Rate Tariff SCH current tariff 15.59 very good, ends at end of April 2024
3. Smart Export Guarantee SCH has, currently at 15.00, excellent

Can the Hall store the energy from the panels into the batteries and use when the external rate is expensive? Heating anything takes a lot of energy it may be that the Invertor does not allow sufficient energy from the batteries to boil a kettle, use the electric radiators etc without backup from the grid. The energy allowed from SCH's batteries needs to be established.

Rescue Centre

When normal power is not available i.e during a storm

Switch over to keep batteries at 100% SD can do this from her laptop

Do not heat anything electrically = kettle, hot water, electric radiators, electric blanket etc.

Modern lighting low power, charge mobiles – low power, heating pump for gas central heating – low power.

Help

To help us further Colin offered to look at our batteries and see what size we have, what the Invertor capacity is and the data from SCH's Smart Metre will give details of what is using our power.

Colin was thanked for his time and the explanation of how the committee can move forward to use the battery storage effectively.

3. Matters arising.

a) 1 ZOOM meeting 24/1/24; 3a 17/1/24; 3a 15/11/23; 3a 20/9/23; 3b 19/7/23; 8 17/5/23: Update by PC on the decking project. Philip, Jim Bailey & Simon band have worked on the foundations and decking

structural support since Monday 18th, the decking surface will be fitted this week with the steps and railings next week. It was agreed that the purchase of any additional timber was given the go ahead.

b) 2 ZOOM meeting 24/1/24; 3b 17/1/23; 3g 20/9/23; 11d 19/7/23; 15e 17/5/23: Change wording on welcome plaque final design after advice from partially sighted guidelines provided by HB-L – plaque returned and has been refitted by Ian Stevens. Invoice is paid.

c) c 17/1/24; 3g 15/11/23; 14 20/9/23: ‘Function Brochure’ updated by DT and circulated for final approval 20/2/24 PW thought there should be comment on the heating and suggested “natural gas heating throughout the building can be controlled by a thermostat” – copy now in the Hall kitchen.

4. Correspondence

Emails:

24/1/24: WNCBC Sarah Hallberg: AGM online by Microsoft Teams 24/1/24 at 7.30 p.m.

24/1/24: Tracey Morgan CAN with a copy of the Feb 29th event at Longhoughton which will be similar to that at Slaley on Thursday March 28th 2024 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

28/2/24: CAN Village Halls Heritage project 18/3/24 at County Hall, Morpeth 9.45 – 12.45 also a reminder that a presentation will be made to Louise Currie at this event, Louise is retiring at the end of March – SCH trustees were asked for any photographs or memories or best wishes for the Memories Book by end of February. PW wrote a poem and emailed to Carrie Brookes at CAN, this was acknowledged. Also, on Thursday June 27th at Humshaugh 12 – 2 p.m. is the WNCBC summer gathering – Debra questioned why we were members – maybe one or more should go? Remind the May meeting committee about this.

5. Financial Report – SD

a) Barclays Bank closed on Thursday February 29th 2024 therefore all cash receipts for SCH hire will be paid into the Post Office by a grey deposit card. The PO only accept bags of money containing the nominated amount.

b) All minor defects have been rectified and the 2.5% retention fee will now be paid, this is £2,467.70 + Vat (£493.54) = £2961.24

c) Financial Report attached as **appendix 1/200324, page 219**. There was a much larger excel attachment if anyone wanted a copy PW had a hard copy for the committee to look at.

6. Budget for the coming year – Year to date presented by DT

a) A graph emailed 21/1/24 showing the increase in gas during November & December 2023 compared to the same months in 2022 when the heating was increased to 15 resulting in £200 extra per month on the heating.

b) Second graph showing January and February emailed 17/3/24. The February 2024 fall is partially due to the fall in costs Copies of this were available to view. Attached as **appendix 2/200324, page 220**.

7. Bookings Report – SD

a) a new two-day Art Class booking has been made

b) a wedding in June is also booked.

8. Issues Log – DT

DT asked for update on a) Kitchen Door repair RD – not yet

b) Ladders at storage area IS - removed

c) repair of hand-wash tap in kitchen IS – not yet

d) hole in floor (currently under piano PC) - repaired

e) door jamming in outside store CF asking her husband – clarification of what was needed.

f) Two framed 19th century notices positioned on entrance walls – thanks to IS.

g) Coping stone from north east boundary wall – not repaired

9. Slaley Commemoration Hall as a Rescue Centre; energy advice from Colin Washington

3 ZOOM meeting 24/1/24: 11e 17/1/24; 11d 20/ 9/23.

- a) Colin will discuss how we optimize the battery storage and help SCH to become a rescue centre. (*see page 1*)
- b) 11e 17/1/24: RD reported that SCH may become a Rescue Centre if an emergency was declared by the chairmen of Slaley & Healey PCs and the Chairperson of SCH. Healey PC 6/3/24 - Cllr T. Warde-Aldam was unaware of the parameters of dealing with an emergency as described at the SCH management meeting on January 17th.
- c) RD explained further: A meeting was held between SCH chair and Slaley PC chair only, Healey PC chair has not been included yet because the idea was only a suggestion. If SCH declare a local emergency Slaley PC will cover the Hall's expenses. If a National emergency is declared NCC will cover the Hall's expenses. MR asked about food at the Hall. RD said that provision of food had not been considered. CAN's warm hub has a very different explanation to a national warm space. Northern Powergrid had offered a generator if the emergency was long lasting.
- d) SD explained that Slaley PC will meet the cost of a telephone installation (incoming calls only) where a National emergency will be reported to SCH informing them that the Hall will be needed. Slaley PC have also agreed to pay 50% of the next twelve months WiFi charges of £254. SD also said that after attending a meeting at County Hall last week there was still very confusing messages about how and what help would be available.
- e) RD also said that an insert into the parish magazine informing Slaley people of what would be available and how to respond if help was needed. PW felt that the instructions would be lost or disposed of if provided several months or years before such an event took place. Something more easily available was needed i.e. a sign outside the Hall which told people the building could be used in an emergency and contact information.

10. Cleaner's Report

- a) RD reported outside lights and some internal on at 7.44 a.m. on Monday February 26th. CF agreed that there were also some kitchen appliances left switched on Monday morning when she arrived. The booking on Sunday February 25th was a private event.
- b) RD reported at 7.29 on Thursday March 14th that the kitchen lights were on. W.I. on Wednesday 13th
- c) Charlotte reported that lights are occasionally left on. Heating could maybe be reduced a little. Mr Douglas sometimes helps Charlotte out cleaning, he is covered on her insurance. Sunday 'circle dancers' if they could be asked to put away the chairs. Charlotte often cleans on a Sunday morning and is not back until a Tuesday. The committee discussed chairs being left out and lights left burning. If a group using the Hall has to turn on the lights and put out chairs they should realise that without a Caretaker we do expect that chairs are put away and lights are turned out before they leave.

11. Building maintenance

- a) Thermostat to Community Room radiators changed by Ryton construction – now working brilliantly (PW).
- b) RD reported that the west boundary pillar has once again been knocked. MR suggested Keith Wilson of Blue Gables. PW to telephone and ask about the pillar and also the coping stone (see 8g above)
- c) Email from IS who is concerned that the 2023 repair work on the main south-facing door is already showing signs of deterioration. IS is offering to purchase new paint and repaint. This was agreed.

12. Fundraising

- a) 14/2/24: Email from David Nixon offering his theatre group to perform a Murder Mystery on an Alpine train. The committee thought we should look for a suitable date after lambing. CJ had some suggestions for Alpine themed food. PW explained we would need a minimum of 8 tables of 8 people – 64 to be profitable.
- b) Draw the March SCH 200 number. A lapsed member has joined with two numbers for the next six months increasing the prize money by £3 per draw. Colin Washington drew number 21.
- c) DT sent an email 17/2/24 regarding Easyfundraising – Any further explanations on the use of easyfundraising to new members. Our 13 core members have raised over £550.

d) Fundraising appendix attached as **appendix 3/200324, page 221.**

13 Slaley Village Hall using Broadband Event Thursday March 28th 2024 10 a.m. – 12 noon.

4c 17/1/24: Tracey Morgan CAN booked SCH 19/12/23 for a joint CAN/SCH Village Hall's "use of Broadband" event. CAN will cover the hire charge. Basically, TM invites attendees and support speakers, introduces speakers, DT will make a presentation on behalf of SCH. PW will provide refreshments supplied by TM.

14. Annual Governance: PAT/Fire Extinguisher Testing/Music/Performance/Entertainment Licence payment due April. Are these all in-hand, or does anyone need to do anything?

a) SD would check the PAT testing.

b) MR checked the Fire Extinguishers and they were last inspected August 2023. Therefore, no immediate action needed.

c) SD said Entertainment Licence already done.

15. Invitation to join the Management Committee

3 ZOOM meeting 24/1/24: Letter gone to St. Mary's PCC and Mrs P. Darrington appointed (see agenda item 1). Has any other request been sent to user groups? RD said a concerted effort was needed to be made to attract volunteers onto the committee. SF reported that a notice in the Community Room had not attracted any interest.

16. Any other business

a) Outside windows cleaned by Gavin (last done November 2023). Gavin has been asked, however he is currently suffering from foot numbness and awaiting hospital treatment.

b) CEG members are offering to look at the area north of the decking and consider a planting scheme for this shaded area. DT offered to meet up with them and report back. Is the committee OK with this? After discussion the committee would like to ask what is being proposed, the committee need to see some plans, is it pots with spring bulbs? The Hall grounds are currently looked after by two retired gentlemen, whatever is being proposed, low maintenance must be a priority and possible wall climbing plants caused alarm. Is CEG proposing to maintain the area? There is an overgrown shrub at the north, is the proposal simply to trim this tree back into shape?

c) Healey Councillor M. Cartlidge asked if anything could be done about the acoustics at the Hall, he found hearing clearly in both rooms difficult. He felt any further funding from BHEF could be awarded to addressing this problem. SD suggested contact with Newcastle University to see if a post-graduate could visit this problem as part of their course work.

d) DT emailed 1/3/24 to report BT contract being switched to a digital service giving us broadband and telephone call facility. The switch is a one-off charge of £95 with a new two-year contract of £35.94 (including VAT) per month. Slaley Parish Council are changing their level of support for the WiFi service from April. Funding. *This was covered in agenda item 9d above*

17. Maintenance Log Book –

No problems were identified.

No outside checks were made at the meeting

18. Date of last 2024 meetings:

15/5/24, 17/7/24 (AGM), 18/9/24, 20/11/24.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.