

Eglingham Parish Council

Clerk: Andy Gray. 32 South Charlton, Alnwick, NE66 2NA

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**Minutes**

Of the meeting held on the 6 Sept 2023 held at South Charlton Village Hall

**Present:** Lorna Turner (LT), Jane Hamilton (JH), Joanne Angus (JA), Jamie Logan (JLo)

**In Attendance:** Clerk - Andy Gray.

1. **Public participation:** none
2. **Apologies for absence:** Paul Davies, Alyson McGarrigle, Judith Scott, Clair Lieshman, June Lawson
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** To consider approval or amendment of the minutes from the previous parish council meeting 28 Jun 2023 . The minutes were agreed and approved.
4. **Declaration of interest:** none declared at the outset of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:**
  - a. BioDiversity - Final reports completed and checked over by members of the PC. Approval given by the PC for the final reports to be sent to the involved landowners for their approval to be hosted on the PC website.  
JH to complete monitoring forms now the project is complete.
  - b. Neighbourhood Plan - Work continues by Ludman Planning Ltd & Sarah Brannigan at NCC with regular contact with the steering group. Grant availability opened during the summer after applying to the RWE fund and thus £3988 was secured by the SG from Groundwork UK. £2500 had been applied for in the meantime and was still being fully processed. JA to speak to DB of the SG for clarification on if this was still needed to help complete the project.
  - c. Wildlife/Rural Crime - A meeting/presentation was held in Eg VH in August with Northumbria Police. NP sent a follow up report stating their interest in attending PC meetings regularly in the future if available. The event was well attended by people from the surrounding areas and especially the local farming community.  
JH asked if a map of the Parish boundary could be sent to the NP reps, for their clarification that South and North Charlton are part of Eglingham Parish. Agreed.
  - d. Fence Painting, the Terrace, Eglingham - after a suggestion box item, ECA painted the white fence with materials supplied by NCC. Noted as a good example of a joint operation.
  - e. Traffic Warning Sign, Eglingham - JLo updated. There was a longer lead in time than expected but installation still is expected to be in September 2023.
6. **Main Agenda:**
  - a. Coronation Tree - Locations were discussed including the community field, opposite Eglingham VH, replacement of now failed trees commemorating the coronation of Elizabeth II, and adjacent to EgVH in an area EgVH are seeking expert advice on tree conditions. This tree could be used as a replacement of any felling. Agreed the PC would work with EgVH committee on this matter. Final agreement was needed before March due to the planting season ending.
  - b. Dog Fouling on Community Field - Remains an issue. Agreed to use residents@ and a sign on the gate to warn that the PC will monitor closely and without significant improvement dogs would be banned from the field. This situation will be reviewed at the October PC meeting.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

- c. Street Lighting in Eglington - The PC had received a letter from an Eglington resident regarding the bright and invasive street lighting. The Logan family had dropped a survey through the doors of 53 homes in Eglington seeking views on the lighting situation. JLo presented these findings to the PC meeting. 20 responses were received (from 14 returns). Most common response to the question of a solution was to change the bulbs to a softer light, followed by turning off all street lighting, then taking out some lights, and motion detection. One response said to stay as it was, there was also suggestions to change the style of lamp to something more "heritage" based.

It was agreed that the next step was to approach NCC as to options regarding changing of bulbs to a softer, warmer light.

- d. Communication Policy - The item was deferred to October after a long discussion was held with the majority of councillors having issues with suggestion boxes and how they have been used at times. Members had various issues with the process of how these are brought to meetings. LT said that the process should not allow contributions to be discussed/researched by individual councillors prior to presentation at the meeting - that the items should appear as AOB initially, to allow time for consideration/research. It was also said that residents should address urgent items directly to the Clerk. Also stated -- that rather than 'Suggestion boxes' being addressed separately on the website, the item should be listed on the Policy, as a means of communicating, through the Clerk.
- e. Financial Committee Proposal - JH brought forward a proposal to create a financial committee to allow bills to be paid between meetings to meet 28 day payment terms. There followed a heated discussion around PC financial responsibility and the use of their resources to administer funding applications, how the PC officers are not in full control of spending on these projects. Item deferred to next meeting.
- f. Suggestion Boxes - to note.  
Grit bin had been moved from Fearnly Lea to a position on the Terrace, Eglington without permission. Members suggested that neighbouring properties take it on themselves to raise the issue with the property owner and NCC directly. JH to pass this info on,  
A complaint about draft PC minutes not being published on the website early enough prior to PC minutes. The clerk stated he was sure that the next clerk will do a better job in this regard, even though it is only stated that *approved* minutes must be published.
- g. Clerk - Andy Gray notified the Chair and PC members prior to the meeting that he was not prepared to continue in the temporary role beyond the end of September.
- h. New Clerk - Applications for a new Clerk had been sent to NALC and posted on the website with a closing date of 15th of September.

7. **County Councillor Report:** Noted as received. No comments.

8. **Finances:**

- a. Receipts:           £3.86 interest on Business Acct.  
                              £2977.50 Precept NCC  
                              £3988.00 Groundwork UK for Neighbourhood plan
- b. Payments were approved for: Andrew S Gray (Clerk) x3 £302.05, SA Douglas (Grasscutting) £180.00, EcoNorth £1623.60 and Hobberlaw Plants £56.90
- c. Balances (Monday 4th Sept) - Treasurers Acct £21233.93, Business Acct £2724.63

9. **Planning Matters:**

**Planning Decisions** - Proposed new shed/tool store - Forge Cottage Lemmington Hall

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Date: .....

Alnwick Northumberland NE66 2BH - WITHDRAWN

**Applications for comment - 23/03073/FUL** Proposed rear extension and alterations to front windows and interior layout - 7 Eglington Village Eglington Northumberland NE66 2TZ - No Comment

10. **Other Correspondence:**

11. **Any Other Urgent Business:**

- a. JH asked if a NALC course for the general public in November could be advertised on residents@ - Agreed
- b. Following the meeting LT has ordered the PC's commemorative wreaths for Remembrance Sunday.

12. **Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 18 Oct 2023 at Eglington Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9:20pm

DRAFT

Signed: .....

Date: .....