

Eglingham Parish Council

Clerk Lesley Long, 5 Meadow Riggs, Alnwick NE66 1AP

Email: eglinghamclerk@gmail.com

DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the electronic meeting of Eglingham Parish Council held on Wednesday April 7th, 2021 via ZOOM

Present: Chair - Cllr D Alston (DA), Cllrs D Biesterfield (DB), A Gray (AG), J Hamilton (JH) G Leishman (GL), Richard Faulkner (RF)

In attendance: Clerk - Lesley Long. County Cllr Wendy Pattinson (WP) and Pete Barrett of the Community Foundation (PB)

37/21 Public Participation - There were no questions from parishioners.

38/21 Apologies – Cllr A Blackmore

39/21 Minutes of the Meeting on February 24th, 2021. The Minutes were APPROVED as a true record.

40/21 Declarations of Interest – None

41/21 Matters Arising

- a. **South Charlton Village Hall Lease.** DA reported that there were no further developments.
- b. **Installation of traffic speed sign in Eglingham.** A new post and solar panel is in place but the sign has not yet been installed. Cllr WP will chase with NCC
- c. **Response from Robin McCartney re excess signage in South Charlton.** Robin has asked for the elderly people crossing signs to be removed. He has yet to hear if the number of single passing place signs can legally be reduced.
- d. **Rural Broadband Strategy Proposal** – GL reported he had been in contact with B4RN (Broadband for the Rural North), a not for profit- community benefit society delivering high speed fibre optic solutions to rural areas in the north of England. The organisation was established in 2012 and provides FTTP (fibre to the premises) connections with 1GB download speeds for £9 per month. The organisation is funded by a combination of local investment and government funding. GL has asked B4RN to undertake a viability assessment for Eglingham parish and will report back to the next meeting.
ACTION - GL
- e. **Response from NCC re Overgrown Hedge at Rock Farm** – NCC Northern Highways team have added the hedge to their Mayrise inspection programme.
- f. **NCC Highways Response re South Charlton Village Gateway Signs** – NCC's Richard McKenzie has acknowledged the EPC's request for signage.
- g. **Response from Glebe Cottage to remove excess building materials.** It was noted that while a small amount of materials had been removed, a considerable amount of rubbish remains on site. The Clerk was instructed to write to the owner requesting the removal of the remaining items within 21 days after which time the EPC will instruct NCC to collect them and the property owner will be billed for NCC's costs.
ACTION – Clerk
- h. **NCC Removal of Damaged Grit Bin on Tarry Road** – NCC have not actioned the removal of the damaged bin. Clerk to chase.
ACTION – Clerk
- i. **EPC letter to Northumberland Estates in support of SC residents' drainage problems.** Still outstanding. AG and DB will liaise.
ACTION - DB & AG
- j. **Update on Suggestion Boxes at Various Village Locations;** JH reported boxes had been set up at the village halls in Eglingham and South Charlton, A 3rd box for North Charlton has yet to be sited.
- k. **A Memorial Tree for Henry** Donations to the fund to date total £160. The appeal for a tree for Henry has been very successful. The Parish Council is currently seeking permission to plant the tree and to the use of excess funds.

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- i. **Consultation on Planting Trees in the Community Field** – DA detailed the responses to the recent consultation; there were 2 responses against and 10 in favour. He also referred to an enquiry from a resident asking if there had been any further development on the proposal for a children’s play area on the Community Field.
- m. **Support for speed assessment equipment for North Charlton request for 30 mph** Cllr WP reported that NCC Highways had placed speed monitoring strips in the village for a 4-day period. She will circulate the assessment data as soon as it’s available **ACTION - WP**

County Councillors Report - Owing to an oversight this item had been left off the agenda.

- a. WP stated she has reported an extremely large pothole in North Charlton village on the road heading towards Middlemoor. She is chasing NCC Highways for action.
- b. WP had visited Eglingham to find out why the speed indicator sign has still not been installed. She is following up with Rick O’Farrell at NCC and, as she is paying for the sign from her Members Small Improvements Scheme Allowance, she wants it in place by April 28th 2021.
- c. WP stated she had noted the 30mph repeater sign in South Charlton Village and suggested that, subject to residents’ preference, a white gate incorporating a 30mph roundel might be a more attractive alternative.

42/21 Community Funding Advice on various EPC Projects. Pete Barrett Community Foundation Senior Programme Advisor, gave an overview of the fund objectives. The fund is now in its 8th year with RWE committed to donating £81k (index linked) each year for a further 17 years. The fund can award grants of between £250 - £81,000 per project. Projects of less than £2,000 can be fast tracked through the application process. Projects exceeding £2,000 must go to the Advisory Panel. All applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The fund is currently underspent, partly owing to Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020, and the fact that many capital projects for the community have already been completed. Fund investors are concerned about the underspend and Pete Barrett had been tasked to find out what initiatives the parish council and residents might wish to submit. GL reported that the parish council was actively considering several projects and that these had been assigned to individual councillors to progress - with the expectation that several applications will be submitted shortly. PB stated the fund will open for the next round of applications in mid-April, with a closing deadline in early May. The panel will meet to award grants in June or July. The next round of application dates will be in November / December and PB will be happy to help any potential applicants who need advice.

During discussion councillors agreed that it would be a good plan to pro-actively publicise funding opportunities to residents 3/4 times a year. Groups can apply for grants - but either need to be a separately constituted body or be part of the Eglingham Community Association.

A number of local restoration projects were discussed, as well as the possibility of providing electric charging points in Eglingham village. It was agreed that several councillors would undertake further research to gauge the level of commitment from key individuals within the community whose support would be required. **ACTION - DA/DB/JH**

In response to an enquiry from WP, PB explained that, as the Middlemoor Wind Farm Fund is set up as a charitable trust with a limited duration, it cannot operate in the same way as the Ellingham fund which provides a fuel support scheme, to residents.

43/21 Middlemoor Community Woodland Planting Project – Prior to the meeting, AB had circulated an email detailing progress made to date:

- a. He had spoken to Graham Bucknall at Northumberland County Council regarding verge planting which will include hedgerows, broadleaf trees and wildflowers. Graham is going to advise on which areas are owned by County Council and which are privately owned by local farmers.

Signed CHAIR.....

Date.....

- b. He had approached nearly all local farmers to get an idea on their thoughts regarding verge planting and all responded positively but need to check on their Stewardships to see when plant on different sections of road within the parish would be possible.
- c. He had spoken to a local fencing contractor who was be willing to help with planning for planting when the project was ready to proceed. The contractor had stated that the parish council would be looking at next winter before any planting could take place.
- d. AB also thought the project would fit with JH's Biodiversity project.

In the absence of AB, discussion on this item was deferred to the May 12th meeting.

44/21 Biodiversity Project

JH gave a short presentation with the emphasis on undertaking a community Biodiversity Project, rather than solely preparing a Policy to fit within the Neighbourhood Plan. She had approached 3 firms of consultants for quotes. She recommended the proposal from Econorth to the parish council. Econorth is an organisation which is part of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust (NWT) and whose profits are re-invested in community projects. The firm had been asked to cost 3 phases of the project: a desktop study, a 2nd phase habitat survey which would involve residents and an action plan. The quote was £7,192 excluding expenses. It was considered that the parish council should budget another £2,000 for ancillary expenses.

A full discussion ensued and after putting the issue to a vote, it was AGREED to submit a fast-track application to the Middlemoor Windfarm for the funds to undertake Phase 1- the Desktop Study in early summer 2021. JH will prepare an application to be submitted by the end of April with the help of the Clerk .

ACTION - JH / Clerk

45/21 Neighbourhood Plan Update

DB reported that the 2nd draft of the plan has been reviewed and he will send the revised version to Pete Ridgeway for his comments. It hoped to share this with Sarah Branningan very soon. He has recently received Alison Farmer's adjunct report and will share it with the parish council shortly.

46/21 New Model Code of Conduct

It was agreed to defer the adoption of the New Code to May 12th 2021, when the members of the new parish council can consider it at the same time as reviewing all other parish council policies.

47/21 Succession Planning for the New Parish Council

DB had raised several issues for councillors to consider and the Chair had circulated a summary of the roles and responsibilities he currently performed. However, there being no discussion on the matter, the item was adjourned for the first meeting of the new parish council.

48/21 Elections 2021

The Clerk confirmed that, if the election was uncontested, the members of the new parish council would be published on the NCC website April 9th. The Chair reminded councillors that in the run up to the May 6th election date, the parish council could not issue any PR or information on consultations or decision making matters. The first meeting of the new council will take place on May 12th. DA confirmed that he was stepping down as a parish councillor after 10 years' service having been Chair for 8 of those years. This evening's meeting would be his last meeting in his formal role as Chair.

49/21 Planning Matters: To discuss current applications received and specifically:

- (i) **20/01946/FUL Charlton Hall North Lodge, Ellingham.** NOTED application REFUSED.
- (ii) **21/01219/TREECA.** 34 Eglingham Village Eglingham Alnwick. Fell and remove one Cherry tree due to interference, shadowing and intrusion into house. NEUTRAL Comment **ACTION - Clerk**
- (iii) **21/00369/FUL: Charlton Hall, Ellingham, Chathill.** Construction of building for tourism accommodation. NEUTRAL with NP Design Code condition applied. **ACTION - DB & Clerk**

Signed CHAIR.....

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50/21 Finance

- a. The following invoices and payments were APPROVED:
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| i. Clerk's salary for Mar 1 st - 31 st (PAYE deducted) | £133.80 |
| ii. Clerk's expenses Feb 19 th 2021 - April 5 th 2021 | £ 13.55 |
| iii. Reimburse councillor expenses for purchase of suggestion boxes | £ 42.77 |
| iv. Geosphere- Parish Online Annual Subscription Mar 31 st 21- 2Mar 31 st 2022 | £ 60.00 |
| v. HMRC PAYE due for 4 th quarter ending March 31 st 2021 | £108.40 |
- b. The monthly finance report for April was received.
- c. It was AGREED that Cllr D Biesterfeld be added to the Lloyds Bank mandate as a full signatory and as a Delegate User for online banking. **ACTION – Clerk**

51/21 Correspondence: to note correspondence sent and received by the Council: None

52/21 Any Other Urgent Business - None

53/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Wednesday May 12th at 7.30pm via ZOOM. The Chair reminded councillors that this is also the date for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting. He will produce the Chair's Report to present to the meeting.

Revised Meeting Dates for 2021 to be held via Zoom until further notice.

- July 7th at 7.30pm
- September 1st at 7.30pm
- October 6th at 7.30pm
- November 24th at 7.30pm

Signed CHAIR.....

Date.....