

Eglingham Parish Council

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

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MINUTES

Minutes of the electronic meeting of Eglingham Parish Council held on Wednesday February 24th, 2021

Present: Chair - Cllr D Alston (DA), Cllrs D Biesterfield (DB), A Gray (AG), A Blackmore (AB), J Hamilton (JH)

In attendance: Clerk - Lesley Long.

Chair's Opening Remarks- The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Cllr Jane Hamilton to the parish council.

17/21 Public Participation - There were no questions from parishioners.

18/21 Apologies - Cllrs G Leishman, G Grahamslaw and County Cllr W Pattinson. Cllr Grahamslaw's formal request for leave of absence until after May 6th, 2021 was APPROVED.

19/21 Minutes of the Meeting on January 13th,2021. The Minutes were APPROVED as a true record.

20/21 Declarations of Interest – DB declared an interest in Item 25/21, when he would be contributing in his capacity as a representative of the Northumberland & Newcastle Society.

21/21 Matters Arising

- a. **South Charlton Village Hall Lease.** DA reported the solicitors have been instructed to draw up the lease.
- b. **Installation of traffic speed sign in Eglingham.** This has not yet been installed. The Clerk will follow up with NCC Highways **ACTION – Clerk**
- c. **Response from Robin McCartney re excess signage in South Charlton.** A decision on the passing place signage is still awaited. The Clerk will follow up again. **ACTION – Clerk**
- d. **NCC Highways Response re Eglingham Village Gateway Signs** – NCC's Richard McKenzie had acknowledged the EPC's request for a simple black and white sign for Eglingham.
- e. **Rural Broadband Strategy Proposal** – In the absence of GL there was nothing to report.
- f. **Response from Rennington PC re overgrown hedge at Rock Lodge by A1** – The Clerk for Rennington PC has referred the matter to NCC Highways.
- g. **Village Gateway Sign for South Charlton.** After considering residents' responses to the consultation, the PC APPROVED the design. The Clerk will find out if a 30mph roundel can be incorporated. AG suggested a single sign at the Vicarage End would be sufficient as there may not be enough verge at the other end of the village. Clerk to discuss with Richard McKenzie. **ACTION – Clerk**
- h. **A Memorial Tree for Henry** Donations to the fund to date total £110
- i. **Consultation on Planting Trees in the Community Field** – DA confirmed he had written an article for the next edition of Here Abouts inviting residents' feedback.

22/21 Consideration of the Co-Option of a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council formally AGREED that Richard Faulkner be co-opted as a parish councillor. DA will write to confirm the appointment and the Clerk will send out the necessary paperwork. **ACTION DA & Clerk**

23/21 Middlemoor Community Woodland Planting Project – AB reported he had approached Sarah Radcliffe, of the Forestry Commission, for advice on how best to proceed and had spoken with several landowners about the project. DA suggested AB might find it useful to approach NCC to enquire about the feasibility of planting along NCC verges. JH, who is a member of the Woodland Trust, offered to work with AB on taking the project forward. **ACTION AB & JH**

Signed CHAIR.....

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24/21 Suggestion Boxes for Residents' Responses

JH mooted the idea of suggestion boxes to encourage residents to contribute ideas anonymously and offered to check them and collate responses. After discussion, it was AGREED to site suggestion boxes at both village halls. JH will speak to the village hall committees about fitting them to the building and AG will include an item in the next edition of Here Abouts. The Parish Council APPROVED expenditure in the region of £40 for each box and the installation, which JH will organise. **ACTION - JH**

25/21 'Northumberland Sandstone Ridges & Vales - A Valued Landscape' Landscape Study.

Biesterfield, in his capacity as a member of Northumberland & Newcastle Society, gave an overview of the Landscape Study (the link to the various documents had been circulated ahead of the meeting) which sought to identify areas of high landscape value outside the Northumberland National Park. He explained that the Society had recognised a serious gap in Northumberland County Council's ('NCC's) approach to the local landscapes, in the discharge of its planning decisions, plan making and policy functions - a failure to consider 'value' based on a proper, fieldwork-based study as NCC's own consultants recommended in 2010. As a result, there was no evidence-based recognition of the 'value' of the local landscapes, which left them exposed to bad planning decisions in relation to development likely to harm them. The Study, undertaken by the Society, addressed this deficiency.

Having substantially completed the Study, the Society is consulting parish councils. DB commended the report to the parish council, as a significant and extensive piece of work which would provide invaluable evidence when responding to development proposals affecting the parish in the future.

He invited the invited the parish council to consider passing a resolution in support of the report, noting that Members may wish to advance further evidence extending the boundary slightly further towards the Middlemoor Windfarm. Such evidence would have to address the criteria on page 5 of the Summary Report.

After discussion, it was AGREED by ALL to pass the following resolution. "Eglington Parish Council supports the findings of 'The Northumberland Sandstone Ridges & Vales – a Valued Landscape' – Alison Farmer Associates January 2021 ('the Study') and adopts its suggested designation of that part of the Parish Area (and the landscapes surrounding it) as advised by the Study, as an Area of High Landscape Value, subject to comments the Parish Council may wish to make on the exact extent of the designation's boundaries. The Parish Council will endeavour to provide such comments to the Northumberland and Newcastle Society within 56 days of the date of this resolution".

26/21 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Sarah Brannigan, of NCC Planning, has indicated that the Plan may need to be screened by NCC in case it has an impact on any European designated conservation sites, DB thought such an impact was unlikely.

Progress has been made on the discussion of settlement boundaries and the designation of green spaces. Sarah Branningan has suggested the EPC conduct an intermediate consultation with the parish residents and the Steering Group are considering this although, conscious of 'consultation fatigue', they are presently inclined to consult on all aspects of the NP, together.

Initial progress has been made on drafting policies and the Steering Group are scheduling a (Zoom) meeting to advance these. JH offered to contribute to the Steering Group on the drafting of a Biodiversity Policy and a Habitat and Species Policy.

It was AGREED JH will approach consultants for further information about the service they could provide with an indication of costs. Consideration could then be given to applying to the Windfarm Fund for financial support.

Signed CHAIR.....

Date.....

AB reported that he had seen suspicious people and vehicles in the area purportedly looking for hen harriers and kestrels. He agreed to put the information in an email to JH who will pass it to Natural England **ACTION – JH & AB**

27/21 Windfarm Fund Progress on Project Ideas. Nothing to report.

28/21 New Model Code of Conduct for Councillors – Councillors had received the New Code of Conduct, and noted that NALC would be recommending at the National Assembly on March 9th that it be adopted by all local councils. It was agreed to defer the adoption of the Code of Conduct to the April 7th meeting. **ACTION – Clerk**

29/21 NCC Private Sector Housing Strategy - Consultation. There were no comments. **ACTION – Clerk**

30/21 County Councillors Report. It was NOTED that the reports for February and March had been circulated. There were no comments.

31/21 Planning Matters: To discuss current applications received and specifically:

- (i) **21/00369/FUL Staff Accommodation Charlton Hall Ellingham Chathill** – The Clerk to post a NEUTRAL response. **ACTION - Clerk**
- (ii) **20/01422/FUL** – Land East of St James Church. DB reported that he had reiterated the EPC’s position on both the planning conditions and the Housing Needs Survey to Barry Spall of Northumberland Estates, and that it was now up to NCC Planning to determine the application.
- (iii) **To NOTE: 20/03330/FUL Harehope East Lodge** – Single storey extension & replacement porch – GRANTED
- (iv) **To NOTE: 20/01917/FUL Land North of Middlemoor Windfarm, Control Building - GRANTED**

32/21 Finance

- a. The following invoices and payments were approved:
 - i. Approval Clerk’s salary for Feb 1st – 28th (PAYE deducted) £100.28
 - ii. Clerk’s expenses Jan 13th 2021 – Feb 19th 2021 (VAT £2.22) £ 15.68
- b. AG and DA are still awaiting login details from Lloyds Bank
- c. The EPC considered funding application letters from Bailiffgate Museum and Citizens Advice Northumberland and declined both requests. It was noted that as the Bailiffgate Museum had worked with several groups within the parish and that residents have benefitted from their work, the Clerk should reply with a recommendation that they make an application to the Windfarm Fund and will organise an introduction to Pete Barrett, Community Fund Manager. **ACTION – Clerk**

33/21 Highway Matters / Village Maintenance

- a. Highways England Consultation on Scheme Amendments – There were no comments.
- b. The council noted the request from a resident of North Charlton for a 30/40mph speed limit into the Village to reduce speed of wood lorries travelling up to Middlemoor Wind Farm. County Councillor W Pattinson has asked NCC for speed monitoring equipment to be installed. The parish council confirmed it was happy to support the request and the Clerk would write to Richard McKenzie at NCC accordingly. **ACTION – Clerk**
- c. The Clerk was instructed to write to the owner of Glebe Cottage, Eglington, to request the removal of accumulated builder’s construction materials which are an unsightly eyesore. **ACTION - Clerk**
- d. The Clerk was instructed to ask NCC to remove the broken Grit Bin on Tarry Road. DA will supply a photograph. **ACTION – Clerk**

34/21 Correspondence: to note correspondence sent and received by the Council:

- i. The Chair had responded to an email from an Eglington resident who was concerned that the parish council may have cut the hedge fronting their property during 2020. DA had reassured

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Date.....

the resident that the work had been done by NCC without consulting the parish council, and parish council would never undertake any work on a resident's property without seeking prior permission. The Clerk was instructed to write to NCC hedge cutting team to inform them that the hedge is on private land and must not be cut in future. **ACTION - Clerk**

- ii. AG reported that residents on Ditchburn Road in South Charlton have been seriously adversely affected by drainage works undertaken by Northumberland Estates. The misalignment of the new drainage system has resulted in broken drains causing flooding, and the failure of the resident's water treatment plant. As Northumberland Estates do not accept liability for the damage the resident has approached the parish council for support. It was agreed the parish council would send a letter to Northumberland Estates expressing their concern that liability was not being accepted. AG will liaise with the resident for a full chronology and DB will draft the letter for the Clerk to send on behalf of the parish council. **ACTION – AG, DB & Clerk**

35/21 Any Other Urgent Business

AG said that residents of South Charlton were unhappy with the proliferation of 30mph signs throughout the village. Cllr Wendy Pattinson has advised that the parish council do not ask for any to be removed at present, as the fact there as so many may help to deter speeding drivers.

36/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Wednesday April 7th at 7.30pm via ZOOM

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

- May 12th at 7.30pm
- July 7th at 7.30pm
- September 1st at 7.30pm
- October 6th at 7.30pm
- November 24th at 7.30pm

Signed CHAIR.....

Date.....