

## 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 January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Present:** Chair - Cllr D Alston (DA), Cllrs D Biesterfield (DB), A Gray (AG), G Leishman (GL), A Blackmore (AB).

**In attendance:** County Cllr W Pattison (WP). Clerk Lesley Long.

**1/21 Public Participation** - There were no questions from parishioners.

**2/21 Apologies** - Cllr G Grahamslaw.

**3/21 Minutes of the Meeting on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.** The Minutes were APPROVED as a true record.

**4/21 Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

#### 5/21 Matters Arising

- a. **South Charlton Village Hall Lease.** DA reported Northumberland Estates was willing to progress the lease without finalising the issues of drainage and sewage, which would be resolved in due course. The legal costs would be capped at £850 + VAT with 50% payable by the Parish Council and 50% by South Charlton Village Hall. The parish council AGREED to the proposal. **ACTION - DA**
- b. **Installation of traffic speed limiter in Eglingham.** Cllr WP confirmed that the order for the equipment had been placed and it would be installed at the start of February.
- c. **Response from Robin McCartney – re excess signage in South Charlton.** The elderly people crossing sign is to be removed. A decision on the passing place signage is awaited.
- d. **Update on Energy Efficiency Information for Residents** GL to send Clerk the information for the website. **ACTION – Clerk & GL**
- e. **Rural Broadband** GL reported that he had met with the Clerk and Sylvia Pringle via Zoom to get an overview of the current superfast provision in the parish. He intends to do further research into speed availability across the parish and to explore the full range of broadband options, with the aim of presenting a strategy proposal to the next parish council meeting. **ACTION - GL**
- f. **Response from NCC Highways for Alternative Options for Eglingham village signage.** The Parish Council AGREED to a simple black and white sign. The Clerk will liaise with Richard McKenzie for installation. **ACTION – Clerk**
- g. **A Memorial Tree for Henry** – DA confirmed that he had drafted an item for Here Abouts inviting contributions. Any funds, surplus to those required for the tree, will be donated to the Alnwick & District Food Bank.
- h. **Middlemoor Community Woodland Planting Project** – AB reported he had been exploring the possibility of the Parish Council working in collaboration with the Cheviot Valley Trail Stewardship, a not-for-profit organisation working to maintain and create new trails that are low impact and ecologically sound. An association between EPC and the organisation could be of mutual benefit as the not-for-profit group has support from DEFRA and the National Lottery.

After discussion, it was agreed that as the two initiatives are separate, AB would engage with Cheviot Valley Trails to understand how the two projects could be integrated to benefit the Woodland Planning project.

On confirmation from AG that this is an acceptable approach, GL will advise Pete Barratt of the RWE Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, that the EPC will submit an application for any consultation costs.

Signed CHAIR.....

Date.....

It was noted additionally that it may benefit both projects to have initial discussion to identify any potential opportunities for local landowners and the Parish and to ascertain the general level of support for the project.

AB will take the project forward with support from AG and will circulate an Action Plan to councillors before the next meeting. **ACTION - AB**

**6/21 Consideration of the Co-Option of a Parish Councillor.** The Parish Council formally AGREED that Jane Hamilton 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**

**7/21 Neighbourhood Plan Update** - DB reported that a Zoom meeting would take place shortly to discuss settlement boundaries and the designation of green spaces. Good progress has been made with the landscape study and the Steering Group will start work on policy statements soon. DB agreed to talk with Rennington Parish Council who are considering drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan. Clerk to organise introductions. **ACTION - Clerk & DB**

**8/21 Windfarm Fund Progress on Project Ideas.** Nothing to report

**9/21 Tree Planting on the Community Field** - DA reported that a response from the Eglington Community Association stated that for several reasons they were not keen on the idea. After discussion, it was agreed that Parish Council would consult with the wider community and that an item would be placed in Here Abouts inviting residents' views. **ACTION DA & AG**

**10/21 County Councillors Report.** The report for January was circulated prior to the meeting. The following points were discussed:

- i. The pavement in South Charlton has been resurfaced.
- ii. The Eglington speed limiter sign will be installed in early February.
- iii. Councillors confirmed that elderly and vulnerable residents were starting to receive the Covid vaccination.
- iv. In response to a question from AG, WP stated that the hedge at Rock Lodge which is obstructing the view on the bend on B6347 leading from the A1 to South Charlton, is a matter for Rennington Parish Council. The Clerk will inform Rennington Parish Council that it poses a road safety hazard. **ACTION - Clerk**
- v. The parish council asked WP to thank Rob Murfin, Head of NCC Planning, for the introduction to Vivienne Cartmell, Principal Planning Officer. Communications had improved significantly and the process of responding to EPC representations on planning applications was working much better.
- vi. WP advised that the next Northern LAC meeting was on Thursday 21st January at 2.00pm Councillors were invited to submit written questions in advance.

#### **11/21 Planning Matters**

- (i) **Middlemoor Woodland Planting Consultation** – The Clerk reported that the landowners' agent, George White had taken a final decision of 10% mixed planting following consultation with the parish council. The Clerk will write to NCC Planning to express the parish council's disappointment that the agent had not accepted the EPC recommendation of 15% , as the council considers that new woodland planting schemes have a significant impact on the local landscape. **ACTION – Clerk**
- (ii) **20/01422/FUL** – Land East of St James Church. The parish council is waiting for an invitation to participate in a Zoom meeting with Barry Spall of Northumberland Estates to finalise the few remaining issues of difference. Clerk to respond to Vivienne Cartmell's email of 12<sup>th</sup> Jan to clarify which application she is referring to and to advise that DB would like to talk with her. **ACTION – Clerk**

Signed CHAIR.....

Date.....

- (iii) **20/03675/REM Land South of Yarrow Cottage.** EPC further representations have been submitted.
- (iv) **To NOTE – 18/02990/FUL – VARYCO Farm Cottage, Charlton Hall - GRANTED**
- (v) **To NOTE – 20/03274/FUL - Middlemoor, Chathill. Hard standing for farm – GRANTED**

**12/21 Finance**

- a. The following invoices and payments were approved:
  - i. Approval Clerk’s salary for Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> (PAYE deducted) £ 64.68
  - ii. Clerk’s expenses Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 – Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 (VAT £1.81) £ 17.26
- b. The Parish Council received the Finance Report for January 2021
- c. AGREED that AG be added to the online banking mandate for BACS payments

**ACTION – Clerk**

**13/21 Highway Matters / Village Maintenance**

- a. **Hedge Cutting at Rock Lodge** (See Minute 10/21/iv). **ACTION – Clerk**
- b. **Consultation on South Charlton village gateway signage.** AG reported that responses from residents had been in favour of the proposed gateway signage.

**14/21 Correspondence:** to note correspondence sent and received by the Council

- i. Letter from the Bailiffgate asking for funding support. It was AGREED to defer this item to March when all S137 grant applications will be considered.
- ii. NOTED the exchange of letters with planning Officers Jon Sharp & Haley Marron with EPC representations on Planning Applications
- iii. Request from Cygnus Mental Health Support asking EPC to publicise and promote a mental health programme including a mental health helpline, 1 to 1 counselling and an online therapy platform Silver Cloud. These services are available to Northumberland residents as well as those working in the county. It was AGREED to include an item in Here Abouts.

**ACTION Clerk, AG**

**15/21 Any Other Urgent Business**

- a. GL advised councillors that the next meeting of the Middlemoor Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund to award grants would be on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Applications need to be submitted before then.
- b. DA undertook to speak to the owner about the accumulation of builders’ materials next to their property.

**16/21 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021, via ZOOM at 7.30pm**

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

- April 7th at 7.30pm
- May 12<sup>th</sup> 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.....