

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 November 25th, 2020

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.

20/91 Public Participation - There were no questions from parishioners

20/92 Apologies - Cllr G Grahamslaw.

20/93 Minutes of the Meeting on October 7th, 2020 Subject to the correction of a typo error in Minute 20/76, the Minutes were APPROVED as a true record.

20/94 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

20/95 Welcome and Co-option of New Councillor: The Chair welcomed Aaron Blackmore to the meeting and the Parish Council formally AGREED that he be co-opted as a parish councillor.

20/96 Resignation of Cllr Paul McIver & Vote of Thanks: The Chair reported that Cllr McIver had resigned and the Parish Council's thanks for his service and valuable contribution over several years were formally recorded.

20/97 Matters Arising

- a. **South Charlton Village Hall Lease.** AG reported that CCTV surveys of the drains were carried out several weeks ago. DA said that Julia Robson, Surveyor at Northumberland Estates would update the Parish Council as soon as there was something to report.
- b. **Installation of traffic speed limiter in Eglingham.** Cllr WP confirmed that the order for the equipment had been placed. As yet there is no date for installation.
- c. **Update on Energy Efficiency Information for Residents** GL confirmed that information had been published in Here Abouts. He will liaise with the Clerk to upload it to the parish council website.
ACTION – Clerk & GL
- d. **Rural Broadband** The Clerk reported that she had sent out letters to 15 residents in the proposed East & West Ditchburn CFP, of which 7 positive responses had been returned. Sylvia Pringle, of iNorthumberland, confirmed the 7 properties would not provide sufficient vouchers to cover the cost of supplying superfast fibre but advised 'parking' the responses for the time being - to allow time to explore other options.

The Clerk also wrote to 26 properties in the Shipley CFP to find out who was still interested in fibre broadband and who has made alternative arrangements with a wireless or 4G supplier. It is understood that 6 of the Shipley properties have elected to use their vouchers with Alcom – which makes it highly unlikely there will be sufficient vouchers available to cover the cost of installing FTTP to the remaining 20 properties. Further responses are awaited.

Lastly, the Clerk has written to the remaining properties in the parish with speeds below 24mbps, to enquire if they are interested in superfast broadband or have made alternative arrangements. It was AGREED that GL would take over as lead for Broadband Strategy for the parish council and will liaise with the Clerk.
ACTION GL & Clerk

Signed CHAIR.....

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20/98 Memorial Tree for Henry: A resident has proposed planting tree in memory of Henry – a well-known character in the community, who passed away recently. The community field was suggested as a suitable site. The parish council AGREED to organise a collection and AG will put an item in Here Abouts. **ACTION – AG**

20/99 Results of Consultation on Village Gateway Signs: Three residents had responded to the consultation publicised in Here Abouts. All were from Eglingham and had objected to the proposed design on the basis that the scale, style and materials were inappropriate in a conservation area. It was felt that a modest, metal sign with black print on a white background, like the existing signage would be more suitable. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact NCC's Richard McKenzie to find out what options for signage were possible and whether a 30-mph roundel could be added to the upright post. **ACTION - Clerk**

AG proposed that the residents of South Charlton be asked separately if they wanted a village sign similar to the ones at Beanley and Powburn, where the 30mph roundel is included as part of the design. It was AGREED that AG would include an item in the next edition of Here Abouts (Feb 2021) and would also canvass South Charlton residents for their views using the parish council residents email list. **ACTION – AG**

20/100 Middlemoor Windfarm Community Benefit Fund Call for Applications: GL and AB had received feedback that the funds, amounting to £81,000 pa, were not being spent on community projects and appealed to the PC to put forward ideas. Several suggestions were mooted and discussed. A project to future proof the villages with vehicle electrical charging points is currently being progressed and the Clerk was tasked to update the Eglingham Community Association that the project application was in hand.

It was AGREED that GL will liaise with the Clerk to progress a broadband strategy for the parish and DA will take ownership of the suggestions for a community enhancement fund and hard standing area for events on the community field

DA, GL and AB will meet to explore potential projects and will update the PC at the next meeting. **ACTION – Clerk, DA, GL & AB**

20/101 Middlemoor Community Woodland Planting Project: DB mooted the idea of a community project to increase the number and diversity of trees in woodland sites across the parish. It was AGREED that the PC first needed to conduct a 'discovery exercise' to identify the location and ownership of potential sites for tree planting. Once areas have been identified, the next step would be to engage a consultant to conduct a survey and draw up a suitable scheme. AGREED that AG & AB would take ownership of the project, conduct the initial discovery exercise, and report back to the PC. **ACTION – AG & AB**

20/102 Northumberland AGE UK Letter. The parish council noted the services the charity has provided in support of older residents across the county during the Covid-19 emergency. It was AGREED that DA would circulate an item via the eglinghampc email, letting residents know that the charity has free Activity Packs for those who are housebound because of the Covid-19 restrictions. WP suggested the Clerk connect Angela Clough, Age UK Community Outreach Officer, with the NCC Communities Together team to spread the word. The PC noted the charity's request for funding support but having already allocated S137 grants earlier in the year, elected to defer further donations until January 2021.

20/103 County Councillors Reports for November & December (circulated)

1. WP has reported potholes in Powburn, Beanley and Eglingham to NCC Highways.
2. Steps to finalise the 30mph speed limit for South Charlton are underway.
3. No date yet for the installation of the speed limiter sign. **WP to progress.**

Signed CHAIR.....

Date.....

4. The Coastal Summit on 11th November 2020 discussed the problems experienced by coastal and inland villages who were overwhelmed by visitors during the summer. Motorhome and campervan owners have flagged that there is no provision for them along the coast and the creation of designated 'aires' is now being considered.
5. The work to reinstate the South Charlton pavement is being outsourced and the road up to West Ditchburn has been resurfaced. WP will let Graham Bucknall know that the PC was delighted to see the work completed.

20/104 Neighbourhood Plan Update: DB reported that the Steering Group has been concentrating on settlement boundaries and designated green space areas. AG is liaising with Sarah Brannigan regarding South Charlton and DB and DA are doing the same for Eglingham. DB has received the draft Landscape Study report. The draft Neighbourhood Plan has been circulated with responses awaited from DA, AG and Peter Ridgeway.

20/105 NCC Planning Officers' Approach to PC Involvement in the Planning Process: DB expressed extreme dissatisfaction with the local planning authority on behalf of the EPC to WP, and asked for her commitment to support the PC in seeking action from the planning department. Specific concerns include a failure to engage with the EPC's Design Code and a lack of response to correspondence detailing the PC's representations on planning applications. Rob Murfin, Head of Planning, has yet to update the PC with progress on the action points he agreed to address at the previous meeting on October 7th, 2020.

WP explained that, as she was not a planning expert and that as other parish councils were not making similar complaints, she could not commit to give support in this instance. She stated that, if EPC is unhappy with how NCC personnel are dealing with planning matters, they can raise the issue with the Chief Executive, Daljit Lally. EPC concerns about a lack of response from the County Council should be discussed with Glen Sanderson, Leader of the Council and with John Riddell Cabinet Member for Planning.

WP undertook to send an email to Rob Murfin on behalf of EPC asking for a response to the specific points he agreed to action at the last meeting. It was also AGREED that DA would write separately to Rob Murfin asking for an update on agreed actions.

ACTION – WP / DA

20/106 Planning Matters

- (i) **20/03330/FUL** (*circulated*)
Proposal: Side single-storey extension and replacement porch
Location: Harehope East Lodge, Eglingham
Applicant: Mr Peter Ridgeway
OUTCOME: Clerk will submit a NEUTRAL response from the EPC
- (ii) **20/02128/REM**
Proposal: Re reserved matters on access, appearance, layout, landscaping and scale
Location: Land South East of the Terrace, Eglingham
Applicant: Mr G Grahamslaw
OUTCOME: (*The PC is still awaiting action from the Planning Authority on the written representations submitted to James Hudson, Case Planning Officer*)
- (ii) **20/03274/FUL** (*circulated*)
Proposal: Hard standing at Middlemoor, Chathill.
OUTCOME: NOTED Clerk submitted a NEUTRAL response from the EPC

Signed CHAIR.....

Date.....

- (iv) **Proposal: LBC** – to replace flat roof mineral felt with fibreglass roofing finish
Location: Ogle House, 12 Eglington Village
NCC Decision: NOTED – GRANTED
- (v) **Proposal:** Middlemoor Woodland Planting Scheme
Location: Various plots on land at Middlemoor
EPC Response to George White consultation: The PC had requested a minimum of 15% mixed planting. Clerk to request final decision on outcome of consultation. **ACTION – Clerk**
- (vi) **20/03675/REM** (*Closing date for comments 11th December*)
Location: Land South of Yarrow Cottage, Ditchburn Road, South Charlton
Applicant: Mr Michael Courty
EPC Response: EPC deferred a decision on this application pending a response from NCC Planning to Application Ref 20/02128/REM
- (vi) **20/01422/FUL** (*Closing date for comments 9th December*)
Location: Land East of St James Church, South Charlton
Applicant: Mr Barry Spall – Northumberland Estates
EPC Response: EPC deferred a decision on this application pending a response from NCC Planning to Application Ref 20/02128/REM

20/107 Finance

- a. The following invoices and payments were approved:
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| • Retrospective approval Clerk's salary for Oct 1 st – 31 st including PAYE refund | £178.88 |
| • Retrospective Approval – A Henderson. Hedge trimming at war memorial | £ 18.00 |
| • NCC Inv. 212551- to re-site SC dog waste bin (VAT £9.00) | £ 54.00 |
| • Greenfingers Inv. 2134 grass cutting and hedge trimming (VAT 21.60) | £129.60 |
| • Clerk's expenses Sept 30 th - Nov 25 th (VAT £2.52) | £ 56.93 |
| • Clerk's salary Nov 1 st – 30 th 2020 | £125.28 |
| • Advance approval - Clerk's salary Dec 1 st – 31 st 2020 | £125.28 |
- AGREED that EPC would reimburse the Clerk through expenses for 1/3 of cost of Zoom Premium for the facility to host PC meetings without time limit @ £4 per month.
- b. The Council received the Finance Report for November
- c. It was NOTED that the Lloyds Bank signature mandate had been amended to remove former councillors P McIver and W Purvis. AG is now a signatory and will authorise BACS payments together with DA.
- d. Parish Precept. AGREED that the precept would remain at £4,000 pa. **ACTION – Clerk**

20/108 Highway Matters

- a. South Charlton pavement reinstatement. WP reported progress on this item See 20/103
- b. South Charlton signage. Robin McCartney of NCC is following this up and will update Clerk
- c. South Charlton 30-mph speed limit. WP reported progress on this item See 20/103
- d. Eglington footpath from The Terrace. Clean-up of the path is complete.

20/109 Neighbourhood Services: NCC have moved the dog waste bin in South Charlton.

20/110 Correspondence: to note correspondence sent and received by the Council

- a. Correspondence with James Oliver, Agent at George F White re mix of planting at Middlemoor.
- b. Letters to and responses from James Hudson, NCC Planning Officer, re the PC's concerns in respect of planning application 20/02128/REM
- c. Email from Pete Barratt of the Windfarm Fund looking to recruit members to the Advisory Panel - especially from South and North Charlton.

20/111 Any Other Urgent Business – None

20/112 Date and Time of Next Meeting – Wednesday 13th January 2021 via Zoom at 7.30 pm

Signed CHAIR.....

Date.....