EGLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

 Clerk; Amy Smith 01665 603755

 Email; amycartmell@googlemail.com

**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday December 13 2017 at Eglingham Village Hall.**

**17/111**  **Present –**  Chair D Alston, Cllrs J Lawson, P McIver, J Robson, A Gray.

**17/112 Apologies for absence**. Cllrs H McIver, D Biesterfield, County Councillor W Pattinson.

**17/113** **In attendance -** Amy Smith (clerk), invited speaker Sarah Radcliffe.

**17/114** **Declaration of Interest -**  The Declaration of Interest was read out by the chair.

**17/115** Invited speaker Sarah Radcliffe, a member of Northumberland’s Joint Local Access Forum and works for the Forestry Commission. Ms Radcliffe addressed the parish council regarding her request that the PC back an application for wind farm funding for a project to enhance some rights of way in the parish in order to provide a few high quality circular routes for dog walkers from Eglingham and South Charlton and for horse riders from Shipley Lane Equestrian Centre, to minimise the use of tarmac roads. She explained that the purpose of the project would be to improve catches on gates on public rights of way to provide easy access. Initially she explained that all routes around South Charlton and Eglingham would need to be walked and gates assessed and she is therefore looking for community involvement at this stage. She explained that landowners have only a statutory duty to provide catches on gates and that better catches would aid users. It was agreed that in principle the Parish Council would support an application, pending further research.

**17/116** **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday November 1 at South Charlton Village hall.** The minutes were proposed and seconded as a true record with an amendment that the discussion on Eglingham Community Field be recorded under matters arising rather than Middlemoor Windfarm Community Fund.

**17/117** Matters arising; -Lime Trees; The Parish Council understood that Northumberland County Council tree officers were awaiting a dry day when a health survey of the trees could be undertaken to decide their future.

-Eglingham Village Hall soil; The clerk had written to the landowner informing of the intentions of soil removal but was awaiting a response. Cllr McIver was in the process of seeking a second quote, already having one, and was in the process of investigating how best to remove soil from the premises with a small digger.

-Community Asset Registration; the clerk had written to the chairs of both village halls informing them of the Parish Council’s intention. A positive response had so far been received from South Charlton Village Hall.

-C.A.N carsharing; Cllr McIver reported that Geoff Turner, transport coordinator, had attended Coffee and Chats.

**17/118 Middlemoor Windfarm Community Fund**; South Charlton Village Hall refurbishment- It was agreed that, as leaseholder, Eglingham Parish Council would submit the application for funding for works to South Charlton Village Hall.

**17/119 County Council update;** See attached report. It was raised that councillors who received Northumberland County Council’s electronic report on Eglingham Speed Monitoring strips had not been able to open it. This will be raised with County Councillor Pattison.

**17/120 Financial**; Precept; Following circulation of the Parish Council’s accounts and budget for 2018/19 it was agreed to ask Northumberland County Council for a precept of £3700, remaining the same as the previous year 2017/18. It was felt this was reflective of the Parish Council’s annual expenditure and also running down reserves.

It was agreed to set the donations for 2018/19 the same as the previous year with an addition of £100 to Eglingham Women’s Institute following a request.

The following donations were also approved; Eglingham Village Hall £125, South Charlton Village Hall £125, St Maurice’s Church £80, St James Church £80, Hospice Care £100, C.A.N. donation £25, Alnwick Playhouse £25, Great North Air Ambulance £25 and British Red Cross (wreaths) £38.

The clerk’s renumeration was agreed; 18 hrs @ £9.90 = £178.20, Mileage at HMRC rate 45p per mile; Alnwick to Eglingham rtn £7.20, **Total to clerk £185.40.**

**Payments made since last meeting;** Transfer of Vat return to Eglingham Village Hall £4719.34 and Greenfingers £108 . Kevin Stewart builder £1800 (delayed payment, due to a cancelled cheque lost by the recipient, for work completed in 2016 to repair Eglingham tennis court fencing).

**17/121 Planning;** There were no objections to plans for Listed building consent for construction of walls and gates to enclose land within curtilage of Tankerville Cottage, Eglingham , application 17/04183/LBC.

**17/122 Correspondence;** The clerk had received and signed for return receipt of a Northumberland County Council Definitive Map Modification Order Byways Open to All Traffic Nos18 and 44.

**17/123 Any other business**;

Eglingham Community Field- The chair proposed that of the £3000 in reserve from the sale of the school building £1200 of it could be spent on disabled access and safer ramp for the field. This project was proposed by Malcolm Angus representing Eglingham Community Association at the previous meeting. It was agreed by the Parish Council that some of the money from the sale of the building should be put back into the maintenance of the field.

The clerk reported that, following investigations with Northumberland County Council, because Eglingham Community Field was originally a school playing field its overall use must not be changed to anything other than a playing field, for 10 years from the closure of the school (2010). The council officer had explained that this was legislation to prevent house building and there was no need to raise small issues such as planting.

Deed of Covenant- Cllr Robson passed the Deed of Covenant from the owners of the new School House to the clerk for safekeeping, following the sale of the school staffroom building.

Co-option- It was raised that following the election in 2017 there were still three seats remaining unfilled on Eglingham Parish Council. It was agreed that an article would be put in Hearabouts asking for anyone who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to come forward for co-option.

Shipley bridge-Cllr Gray raised the issue of the continued disruption caused by heavy lorries and queried the weight restriction. Cllr Gray also reported that a drainage issue at South Charlton village hall had been resolved by Northumberland Estates.

**17/124 Date of next** **meeting** - The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday January at South Charlton Village Hall on Wednesday January 24th from 7.30pm. The clerk will provide a list of dates for meetings for 2018.

Signed:-

 Chairman Clerk Date