

Eglingham Parish Council

Clerk: Andy Gray. 32 South Charlton, Alnwick, NE66 2NA

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Minutes

Of the meeting held on the 5 Apr 2023 held at Eglingham Village Hall

Present: Lorna Turner (LT), Judith Scott (JS), Clair Leishman (CL), Alyson McGarrigle (AM), Jane Hamilton (JH), Jamie Logan (JLo), June Lawson (JLaw)

In Attendance: Clerk - Andy Gray. Northumberland County Councillor - Wendy Pattinson (WP)

1. **Public participation:** none
2. **Apologies for absence:** Paul Davies (PD) Joanne Angus (JA)
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** To consider approval or amendment of the minutes from the previous parish council meeting 22 Feb 2023 . The minutes were agreed and approved.
4. **Declaration of interest:** none declared at the outset of the meeting.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. Verge Issue in Eglingham - JS is waiting until the affected residents return before speaking to them about the designation of path and verge.
 - b. Bus Stop Bin Relocation - No update due to JA giving apologies for absence.
 - c. Drone Photo of Community Field - No progress to note.
 - d. Grit Bin, South Charlton - LT reported the new grit bin is installed on Ditchburn Road
 - e. Traffic Mirror, North Charlton - WP stated that Northumberland County Council no longer install or support mirrors for entrances/drives onto a highway.
 - f. Tree Whip Planting - Noted that NCC were taking on responsibility for risk assessments and planting agreed in 2021/2022 and the PC has no further involvement.
 - g. Windfarm Grant Eligibility (Young persons outside Parish) - The independent grant panel is dealing with such cases and eligibility on a case by case basis.
6. **Main Agenda:**
 - a. **Eglingham Parish Neighbourhood Plan (EGPNP)** - A slight delay on completion of final consultation documents was reported by members of the steering group. A previously agreed meeting would be held asap once documents were ready to allow PC to agree progression to Regulation 14 consultation phase.
 - b. **Community Preparedness** - LT proposed and was unanimously supported that the PC stand back from facilitation of community preparedness as both Community Action Northumberland (CAN) and NCC's *Northumberland Communities Together* are setup to offer help to communities and individuals in times of "stress" and emergencies.
 - c. **Accountability**
 - i. End of Year - AGAR for 2021/22 was finally signed off by the appointed auditors after explanations. The PC unanimously accepted the audit report. LT read through the financial situation of the PC over the last year. While the bank balances look healthy it gives a false sense of security as the income and outgoings for large projects funded by the wind farm fund mask the fact the PC finances are in a precarious position. The amount of funds passing through the PC also makes the auditing more rigorous and incurs cost.
 - ii. **Asset Register** - An updated Asset register was presented. Some assets were still missing from the register. Items to be added and to be agreed at the next meeting.
 - iii. **Financial Risk Assessment** - Deferred to future meeting

Signed:

Date:

- iv. **Policy Updates** - Deferred to future meeting
- d. **BioDiversity Project**

JH updated on the status of the project. Phase 1 was completed. Phase 2 surveys were completed, subsequent amendments had not been done due to change of leadership and PC pause in operation. Phase 3 (action plan) was therefore not done. LT read from the minutes of St James' Church PCC. Stating that the St. James' PCC wanted complete withdrawal from the project and strongly objected to the PC originally allowing a survey to be done without their express permission. JH said that all public bodies were required by law to have Biodiversity policies in place by November 2023. WP was asked if other local Parish Councils were preparing any. She was unaware of any doing this. WP suggested & LT agreed to speak to NALC to ascertain the PC's legal responsibility with regards to the Environment Act 2021. LT to also speak to the consultants involved in the BD project and coordinate with JH.
- e. **Suggestion Boxes**
 - i. **Book swap "mini library"** - Noted for discussion at a future meeting.
 - ii. **History Project accusations** - The minutes of November 2021 were referenced and these confirmed that quotes were obtained, that the Clerk was asked to inform the chosen consultant/supplier and that the PC approved the application for a grant of £16,813 to cover history information boards across the three parish villages, with an extensive display within St.Maurice's Church detailing the social impact of the Lindisfarne Archdeaconry on the Eglington community.
 - iii. **Removal of Notice board in Eglington** - Post meeting LT has asked the History Group to confirm permissions regarding the replacing of the Notice Board at the west end of Eglington with an information board as follows: Planning Application dated August 2021 - Granted: Proposal: - Listed building consent to replace notice board on gable end wall with A1 size interpretation board. (A planning notice was on site inviting public comment prior to installation). It was noted at the time of installation that the fixing to the original mortar was not suitable so a free standing board was put up, following a call to the appropriate NCC office.
 - iv. **Use of Suggestion Boxes** - A discussion was held due to the way the boxes had been used regarding the History Project. It was decided that anonymous suggestions/concerns should be encouraged to come forward in confidence to the Chair. LT also recommended that suggestions should be "opened" at meetings rather than prior.
- f. **The King's Coronation**
 - i. Event - JH asked if the PC was planning to stage an event to celebrate the King's coronation. LT said that the PC was not obliged to do so and that few funds were available. The PC, not including LT, delegated responsibility to JH to make an application to the Wind Farm fund on its behalf. If successful, this would fund drinks and cakes at each village hall to provide a community toast to the King and Queen.
 - ii. To mark the Coronation of Charles III, it was suggested planting a commemorative tree possibly in the community field at a future date, in a typical planting season. The tree could be accompanied by a plaque. JH volunteered to investigate costs.
- g. **Northumberland County Councillor Wendy Pattinson's Report:** Noted as received.

With regard to potential widespread maintenance project in the Parish, WP suggested inviting Graham Bucknall and Bob Hodgson to a future meeting.

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Logging extraction is due to take place via Tarry Road. The condition of the road will be photographed before commencement for monitoring purposes.

Cattle Grid at South Charlton - It has been checked by NCC and will be sorted, but not immediately.

WP also reminded us that *Northumberland Communities Together* is there to help with every problem in our communities.

7. Finances:

Receipts of £6866 and £5524 were noted for the Eglington speed sign and VAT reclaim respectively.

Payments were approved to Andrew S Gray Design (Clerk, 2x month & exps) £377. PKF Littlejohn (Auditor) £240, BHIB Insurance £30.74. Gil Ridgeway (reimbursement for final Tennis Pavilion items) £656.43, JAX (Defibrillator) £1658, Ludman Planning (ENP work) £1750 and Groundwork UK (return of unused funds 22/23 year, ENP) £2375.

Balances - Treasurers Acct £18576.99, Business Acct £2715.78

8. Planning Matters:

Planning Decisions - None

Applications for comment

- a. 23/00820/ADE Charlton Hall. Advertisement consent for 3 x No roadside advertisement signs - No comment
- b. 23/00841/VARYCO Land South East of the Terrace, Eglington. Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on approved application 21/02331/FUL to clarify Site section plan. - No comment
- c. 23/00771/FUL Patterson's Cottage Kennels. Replacement of wooden outbuilding, on existing footprint. - No comment

9. Other Business:

- a. Street Lighting in Eglington - JLo spoke about reducing amount/type of street lighting. Possible legal issues surrounding 30mph zone was raised, also raised was a consultation done in the past. Noted as a subject to be raised again in the future.

10. Other Correspondence: None

11. Any Other Urgent Business: None

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 17 May 2023 at South Charlton Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed:

Date: