

Eglingham Parish Council
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Draft Minutes of the electronic meeting of Eglingham Parish Council held on Wednesday August 26th 2020.

Minutes

20/56 **Introduction of new clerk.** The chair introduced the new clerk Lesley Long who said she was looking forward to working with everyone in the future.

20/57 **Public Questions** It was requested that any public questions be emailed to the clerk by 7pm on Tuesday August 25th. There were no questions received.

20/58 **Present:** Chair Cllr Alston, Cllrs P McIver, D Biesterfield, A Gray, G Grahamslaw, G Leishman. County Cllr W Pattison. Clerk A Smith. New clerk Lesley Long.

20/59 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr J Lawson.

20/60 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Grahamslaw declared an interest in item 20/65 (ii).

20/61 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday July 8th, 2020** had been circulated and were approved.

20/62 Matters Arising

- (i) **Hedge cutting in Eglingham:** The clerk reported that a particular hedge in the village had been trimmed and no longer encroached onto the footpath but it could still benefit from tidying up. Councillors reported that there were other hedges in the village that were encroaching onto the footpath and were detrimental to the overall appearance of the village. It was agreed that approaches will be made to residents in Eglingham whose hedges front onto the public footpath. Cllr McIver also raised a concern that there is a need for a retaining wall for the footpath from the village to Eglingham Terrace as the banking is slipping down. He said he could not understand why when the footpath was put in there was no provision made for the earth bank. The chair commented that this issue had been raised previously with the Parish Council and following discussions with the County Council the PC checked the ownership and responsibility for this land. The land as recorded by the Land Registry is in the ownership of the relevant privately owned properties on the Terrace and as such is their responsibility. The issue of a retaining wall should have been dealt with in consultation with the County Council at the time of construction of the footpath. It was agreed Cllr McIver will take photographs which the new clerk will send to Highways and copy in Cllr Pattison.
- (ii) **Eglingham Speed monitoring signs-request for meeting with NCC:** The clerk will arrange a Zoom meeting for councillors with Neil Snowdon of Highways potentially for next week.
- (iii) **Openreach Community Fibre Broadband-** The retiring clerk will liaise with the new clerk to update her on conversations with iNorthumberland who have identified properties in the Parish as potentially being eligible for funding to install superfast broadband.

20/63 Eglingham Design Code for approval (circulated) Cllr Biesterfield recommended the Design Code, which has been professionally produced and it was agreed unanimously to adopt it. He said it has the ultimate aim of bringing us back to a more localised design process and is a document that aims to ensure that development in the parish is guided and consistent and reflects the character of the parish.

20/64 Eglington Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Biesterfield said there is now a draft of Alison Farmer's work which will be circulated within the steering group.

20/65 Planning matters

(i)20/01422/Ful Land to East of St James Church, South Charlton for discussion regarding proposed affordable homes survey by Northumberland Estates. Cllr Biesterfield explained that Northumberland Estates has commissioned a survey into the need for affordable housing in the parishes of Eglington and Rennington. This comes after NCC indicated it is not in favour of the application at South Charlton because there is no proven demand for the proposed two affordable homes within the application.

(ii)20/02128/REM Land South East of the Terrace, Eglington, for discussion of Parish Council's response to NCC. A letter had been sent with the PC's comment to NCC based on the Design Code. Cllr Biesterfield confirmed that the PC's comments simply asked for a bit more information on the design of the proposed housing. Cllr Grahamslaw, who had declared an interest, said he would await NCC's feedback on relevant issues.

(iii)20/01783/LBC Ogle House, Eglington, replace near flat roof with fibre glass. There were no objections and the clerk will respond to NCC.

(iv)Any other plans received since agenda prepared. There were no other plans.

20/65 Financial Matters; Financial report and approval of invoices (approved)

Payments to make :-

A Smith (Clerk's remuneration) 21 hours @ £9.90 = £207.90

- HMRC (final payment from A Smith) £41.60

- Total to clerk £166.30

Payments made between meetings;

Greenfingers cuts two cuts in July 9/23 £108

Receipts between meetings;

Interest July £0.11, August £0.10

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT £6907.53

BUSINESS ACCOUNT £2710.26

£9617.79

(-£3350) Neighbourhood Planning grant

PC Total: £6267.79

20/66 County Councillors report (circulated) Cllr Pattison said the flashing traffic slowing sign she has funded for the southern entrance to Eglington had been ordered. She said the 30mph speed limit for South Charlton is still in design, however, NCC traffic management will look into moving this forward in order to proceed with a traffic order which is required to make and enforce the changes. She said that while the increase in visitors to north Northumberland over the summer had benefitted local businesses it had also caused some chaos in small villages. The chair said Eglington had been busier than usual.

20/68 Highway matters; Tarry Lane The chair confirmed that he had met with highways at Tarry Lane to pinpoint the ditches that needed cleaning and this had been done immediately.

20/69 Correspondence – Local Transport Plan consultation (2021-22) The PC has been asked for its three highways priorities for October 11th. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The clerk had received a letter of thanks from the Alwick District Food Bank for its donation of £225 for the organisations efforts during the pandemic. The chair noted a letter from St Maurice's Church that

expressed disappointment it would not be receiving a donation from the PC this year. Cllr Biesterfield raised a concern that the Parish may not be getting a full-time vicar.

20/70 Any other urgent issues;

(i) Eglingham Village Hall reopening- The clerk confirmed it is understood Eglingham Hall will be open by October in time for the PC to hold its next meeting. Cllr Gray confirmed that South Charlton Village Hall is due to start taking bookings soon.

(ii) Invite to Rob Murfin NCC's head of planning), The clerk will invite Mr Murfin to the next meeting on October 7th.

(iii) Cllr Biesterfield raised whether there had been any progress on the South Charlton Village Hall lease which is due to be renewed in January 2021. The chair said he would chase this up. Commented [AS1]:

(iv) Cllr Gray raised the condition of the South Charlton noticeboard and the chair considered that the Eglingham noticeboard was also in need of some attention.

(v) Cllr Biesterfield mentioned that the clerk had obtained costings for the printing of the Design Code into bound copies following a request at the last meeting. It was agreed to have 3-5 copies printed depending on costing.

(vi) Energy efficiency Cllr Leishman raised the potential for accessing government grant funding for making properties more energy efficient. It was agreed he will further investigate this and present to the PC at the next meeting.

20/71 Time and date of next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday October 7th at 7.30pm at Eglingham Village Hall. It was agreed that the Zoom meetings had been a success and would operate as a default where a meeting could not be held in a village hall at any time in the future. The clerk thanked the PC for its kind gifts on her departure.