

EGLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
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Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2020 at Eglingham Village Hall.

20/1 Present – Chair D Alston, Cllr Biesterfield, G Leishman, A Gray, J Robson and P McIver. County Cllr W Pattison.

20/2 Apologies for absence. Cllr J Lawson, G Grahamslaw.

20/3 In attendance - Amy Smith (clerk).

20/4 Declaration of Interest - The Declaration of Interest was read out by the chair. Cllr Robson expressed an interest in the Northumberland Estates' proposed planning development at South Charlton.

20/5 Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday November 27th at South Charlton Village Hall. The minutes were proposed and seconded as a true record.

20/6 Matters arising;

Request for extra bus stop at West Links, North Charlton. The clerk had written to the bus stops officer Neil Easton inviting him to a meeting but had not yet received a response. Cllr Pattison said she had received an email from him explaining a bus stop would not be put at West Links because it was felt it would be dangerous to do so. This was accepted by the PC.

Land to East of St James Church, South Charlton. The clerk had received a few responses from residents of South Charlton. One was in favour of the plans, two expressed concerns about the access on a busy corner and a final comment was querying if the construction would be fully stone. A decision on the next step was made under the item on Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan.

20/7 Eglingham Traffic Management Plan The chair said 6 representations had been received following the consultation all in favour of the proposal but concerned that the signage is not too intrusive in a Conservation area. Cllr Biesterfield had had correspondence from residents concerned about the plan for a footpath on the bridge when they consider the existing arrangements satisfactory. Cllr Alston said the footpath was something the PC had been looking at getting for the last 12/13 years. Cllr McIver felt that the PC had a duty of care to proceed with the plan when there was increased traffic through the village. Cllr Alston also highlighted that the money to do the bridge had been offered in this year's budget

which would finish at the end of March. It was agreed the clerk will contact Richard McKenzie (see 20/9) to ask for clear details about signage to arrange a site meeting at Eglington. Cllr Alston said if need be an extraordinary meeting could be called.

20/8 Eglington Neighbourhood Plan update; Cllr Biesterfield said that the Groundwork grant of £7000 had been received and work could start with the landscape consultant although due to the darker nights he felt this would take time and would next expect it to be completed before the end of March. The Design Code was also set to be undertaken as the technical support had been formally agreed and approved consultants appointed. He expected work to commence on this at the end of January or most likely early February. Cllr Biesterfield stressed the importance of involving Northumberland Estates in light of their proposed application for housing at South Charlton. He urged that the Estates take account of the Design Code in their planning application even if this meant a delay in submitting to NCC. It was resolved that Cllr Biesterfield will contact Colin Barnes, head of planning and development at Northumberland Estates, to discuss the Design Code and EPC's response to the proposed plans to date. Cllr Biesterfield said it was likely to be May before the Neighbourhood Plan was at a stage to consult publicly on its draft policies.

Cllr Biesterfield highlighted that the Northumberland Local Plan was holding a hearing on February 6th regarding its windfarm policy. He urged that as many Parish Councillors and Parishioners as possible attend the meeting to show the community feeling against the policies. A reminder note will be put out on residents email nearer the date.

20/9 Middlemoor Community Windfarm; The clerk had received confirmation of the grant to cover the £240 audit cost. Cllr Alston said that he would be standing down as a panel member on the Windfarm grant board in April. The Community Foundation is keen that the Parish Council is represented on the panel which meets three times a year. Cllr Alston asked that councillors consider for the next meeting.

20/9 County Councillor update; (report circulated). Cllr Pattison suggested that the chair invite Richard McKenzie out for a site meeting at Eglington Bridge to move plans forward. The clerk will contact him regarding signage and a meeting. Cllr Pattison mentioned as a matter of interest the speed of vehicles surveyed in Longhoughton which is 20mph but traffic travelling at over 30mph. She also mentioned rural bus services which she said are being slowly stripped back with cuts to the odd afternoon service which she said is at odds with climate change and she will be taking it up with the bus company. Cllr Alston had mentioned the climate change event held by NCC which had passed but Cllr Pattison suggested he write to Cllr Glen Sanderson who could provide any information. She highlighted NCC's Climate Change Action Plan which will include a tree for Northumberland residents to plant.

20/10 Financial; Financial report (circulated) and invoices approved. Payments made :-

Stephen Carey Fund Defibrillator battery £151, Clerk's remuneration; A Smith 21 hours @ £9.90 = £207.90, Mileage at HMRC rate 45p per mile; Alnwick to Eglington rtn £7.20 (15/1/2020) Total to clerk £215.10. Receipts between meetings; Interest (Dec £0.10) £6925 Grant. Accounts Balance Total £6173.33 (Treasurer's account £3463.97 Business account £2709.36).

Midyear budget and precept planning; In recent years the Parish Council has purposefully run-down its balance following audit guidelines and had reduced its Precept. Following discussion it was agreed to raise the Precept for 2020/21 by 5% to £4000. This takes into account potential expenses involved in the Eglington Traffic Management Scheme, the Eglington Neighbourhood Plan and increased grass cutting costs on the Community Field. An explanation of the increase will be included in Hearabouts when NCC agrees Precepts.

20/11 Planning matters;

Between meetings; Application 19/04681/FUL Replacement windows to front elevation Old School House, 20 South Charlton; no objections. There were no other planning matters.

20/12 Highways Matters; Tarry Road- the gully cleaner had been out and cleaned a section of Tarry road and had resolved the problem of water flooding from the wall at the entrance to Tarry. However Nigel Brannen at NCC had informed the clerk that there was a bigger issue and Tarry Lane had been added to the drainage programme. It was agreed the clerk will query what this means. The clerk had written to highways regarding the poor state of the kerbstones at Eglington and South Charlton and had received a response in December to say the requests would be looked at but she had not received a requested update since then. Cllr Pattison said she would raise the slow response with NCC and Cllr Biesterfield asked that she raise with Rob Murfin, head of planning, what he feels is the lack of response from planning officers to parishioners and PC requests. Cllr Pattison agreed to do both but suggested the PC invite Mr Murfin to a future meeting. The clerk will contact Mr Murfin.

Potholes, Cllr Pattison had raised concerns about potholes on the South Charlton heading towards Eglington Road, Cllr Lawson had raised concerns about potholes on Shipley Road and other councillors complained about the number of potholes on the Eglington to Alnwick Road. The clerk will write to Highways regarding all matters.

20/13 Correspondence; Grit Bin; The clerk had contacted Highways regarding the empty grit bin at South Charlton but was awaiting a response.

Neighbourhood Police officer; A new Neighbourhood Police Officer Paul Sykes had been appointed for the area and the clerk will send the PCs meeting dates in case he can attend while on shift. Libraries consultation- the clerk urged that councillors to complete the circulated online usage survey. NALC garden party- As a former chair Bill Purvis was nominated to attend, the clerk will contact him to see if he is happy to be nominated.

Cllr Biesterfield also asked it be noted that he will chase up logging routes.

20/14 Any other business; Eglington Broadband Cable. Cllr Biesterfield had been contacted by John Carr Ellison regarding some exposed broadband cable in Beanley but which delivers Eglington's broadband service. Cllr Alston said previous attempts had been made to get BT to rectify the problem. Cllr Leishman had a former BT contact he will chase, Cllr Robson also agreed to chase with her BT contacts and the clerk will contact Sylvia Pringle at iNorthumberland.

There was no other business.

20/15 Date of next meeting; - The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday February 26th at South Charlton Village Hall.

Signed:-

Chairman

Clerk

Date