

Eglingham Parish Council Reports – 23 February 2022

Item 17/22/3

DB Report on to Proposed Co-option of New Members for the meeting on 23.02.22.

1. The willingness of those listed in the agenda (Nicky Dickinson, Alyson McGarrigle, & Paul Davies) & whose co-option is on our agenda is much appreciated. If appointed, they will bring our membership to 9 (our maximum is 10 & there are a couple of further candidates in the wings).
2. Speaking personally, I support all the applications noting that:
 - a. All their CV's have been (or will be) circulated by the Clerk & speak for themselves;
 - b. All but Alyson McGarrigle & Paul Davies are well known to most, if not all, of us;
 - c. DB & JL met Alyson McGarrigle & enjoyed hearing of her background, experience & interest in the Parish & its interests;
 - d. To similar effect, DB met Paul Davies on 7th February (Paul had been recommended by & encouraged to join the PC by John & Judy Rutherford, established S Charlton residents).
3. If any existing member has any concerns about any of these candidates or requires further information about them, they are asked to make that concern or requirement known to Angela Meek in response to this report & within the usual timescales.
4. **Action required on 23rd February:** In each case, to resolve to co-opt (or not).

10.02.22

Item 17/22/4

Report by DB for EPC's Meeting (23rd February 2022) re: Neighbourhood Plan

1. At the time of writing, the Steering Group is waiting for NCC's comments on the latest draft of the ENP (expected any day), as a prelude to the next consultation in relation to it.
2. The SEA is underway through AECOM – Natural England has responded raising no material issues, with the statutory consultation period ending on 14th February. Meantime, AECOM have begun their assessment subject to any further response through the above consultation. The process is on schedule to finish by, say, mid March.
3. **Action or resolutions required on February 23rd:** None other than to note the content of this report.

10.02.22

Item 17/22/6

LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT – UPDATE

The project is comprised of two distinct parts:

VILLAGE BOARDS: The project team met with Ben Smith of MGH Consultants at South Charlton Village Hall on 24 January. Each Village displayed the information they had collected on tables in the hall. Ben shared his experience of working on similar projects, particularly in conservation areas and the process involved in working a concept through to installation of the boards. It was interesting to note that Ben suggested the textual content of each board should be between 180 and 250 words! We took Ben to each site so that he could get a feel for the areas involved. All three villages have now submitted their information to Ben in digital format. Initial focus will be to agree a concept for the Old Coach House, Eglingham from which a “house style” for all other boards will follow.

CHURCH BOARDS: The project is progressing according to plan. The new Vicar has recently given her full support for the exhibition in the Ogle Chapel .

Jane Hamilton
Councillor, Eglingham Parish Council
12 February 2022

Item 17/22/7

Report by DB for EPC’s Meeting (February 23rd 2022) re: Biodiversity Study

1. EcoNorth report that they have now completed the surveys of Red Burn, Black Burn, and Washing Pool Burn. The habitat mapping and write-up is also progressing. They were aiming to ‘tick-off’ more of the sub-sites, likely around Harehope, this week. The ‘end is in sight’!
2. **EPC resolution or action required on 23rd February:** None save to note the above.

23.02.22

Item 17/22.8

Broadband Project:

Having taken this somewhat sketchy project on and having taken some straw polls with more remote residents, I am finding that those I spoke to are now reasonably happy with their broadband or don't have the need for it. I'm not sure now that Broadband is so ubiquitous, it is the job of the Parish Council to lobby for individual's broadband service.

However I will post a paragraph in the next Hear Abouts along the following lines: 'Is Your Broadband Service Adequate? If any remotely located residents are struggling to get adequate broadband please get in touch with Jamie Logan and I will help lobby the service providers on your behalf.'
Should I get a torrent of responses I will address
Report from James Logan

Item 17/22/10

Report by DB for EPC's Meeting (February 23rd 2022) re: Storm Malik etc.

1. On 29th January, a tree sem-blew-over in the Community Field. It was dangerously overhanging a resident's house & oil tank.
2. With assistance from Malcolm Angus, I arranged for 'Unstumpable' tree surgeons to inspect & quote for the work – urgency & the workload of most if not all tree surgeons following Storm Arwen' precluded going out to tender (**Disclosure:** the chosen tree surgeons are known to me & had just completed work for me following 'Arwen').
3. I established the parameters of the PC's insurance cover (up to £1,000 subject to an 'excess' of £125) & made the requisite claim, the Insurers approving Unstumpable's price (£750 inclusive - AM is now securing the Insurers' payment of Unstumpable's invoice, less the excess).
4. I saw the resident who agreed access to his garden & the work was done on Tuesday 1st February.
5. Brushing has been cleared but, on my instruction & with Malcolm's approval, the cut timber (walnut) is stacked in the Community Field & available for local residents to 'help themselves', provided they leave no residual mess.
6. The cost to the PC will therefore be £125.
7. **EPC resolution or action required on 23rd February:** To approve (or disapprove) the above action; if approved, to ratify it; & to authorise AM to conclude the claim & to pay Unstumpable.
Also, to agree an entry on the resident's newsletter & in Hearabouts drawing attention to the availability of the spare timber & arrangements/terms for its collection.
8. **N.B.** for information, only:
 - a. Also over the weekend of the 29th January, it came to my attention that the large fir tree to the right of the gate into the Eglington VH was 'moving' at its roots. I sought advice from Unstumpable who advised that, while the tree was dangerous, its proximity to the powerline meant that Northern Powergrid would most likely accept responsibility for its removal. The matter was drawn to the attention of the EVHMC &, as I was informed, a meeting took place involving a representative of the EVHMC; Malcolm Angus; April Potts; & Northern Powergrid. I understand all parties agreed that the tree must come down & arrangements are underway to that end. The tree is not the responsibility of the PC.
 - b. Likewise, AB drew my attention to a dangerous/damaged Beech tree beside Tarry, near the bridge. Again, this is not the PC's responsibility but I directed AB to NCC's helpline (which I had successfully used to report another tree, off the Beanley Road, which was endangering the highway). I do not know how matters have since progressed regarding the Beech tree.

Item 17/22/11

Report by DB for EPC's Meeting (February 23rd 2022) re: Finger Posts & Footpath Infrastructure & Associated Information + Grass Cutting in the Community Field + Other Works + Bus Shelter

1. Malcolm Angus, on behalf of the ECA has informed me of the following (N.B. 'we' is the ECA. The words in italics are his, otherwise my report of what I understand to be the position):

Footpath Infrastructure_[Noting its often dilapidated state]

I have spoken to Neil Dawson, Footpaths, NCC. They are happy to work with partner organisations. They will provide materials, we will install. He was concerned that the organising body had Public Liability Insurance to cover itself should anyone try to make a claim. [This will need to be checked]

Statutory Duty: NCC have a Statutory duty to provide and maintain Finger Posts and Way Markers. It is the land owners responsibility to ensure that walkers can follow the right of way and provide stiles over fences or gates through them. In practice, NCC knows that landowners [may ignore] their responsibilities, so NCC have installed the infrastructure themselves over the years. Once it is installed, it is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain. It is not the PC's responsibility.

We will need to work closely with landowners on this ...and they need to understand that it is their responsibility to look after and maintain said infrastructure.

View Point Seating

I also spoke to Aaron about seating at view points. Happy to incorporate this with the work we are doing. I think this could be a multi-year project. Cracking stuff, though.

(At some point, we would like to install a map showing rights of way around Eglingham Village on the back wall of the Bus Shelter. One for the future, though).

Grass cutting on the Community Field + Other works.

MA is preparing a scheme of maintenance & works, & to support the plans, an application for a grant from the Community Fund (this will be made by the ECA, not the PC) as follows:

- **Grass Cutting etc.**

- A. *20 x grass cutting p.a. Powered hand mower, all grass collected and removed to the far side of the tennis court. This should give us more of a 'lawn' feel to the grass. It costs £60 to get it cut this way and will mean severing ties with Greenfingers who have done the grass with a very large mower that does not pick up for the last few years - 20 x £60 = £1,200 for grass cutting.*

- B. £700 maintenance.
- C. £100 Grant management fee to ECA (again, this has been used over many applications for different groups. The fee is £50 per £1,000. Used for Craft Group, Watercolours, Events, Tennis Club, etc). This small income stream helps to pay the costs of running ECA.

Total grant for A. B. & C. - £2,000.

- **General Other Maintenance.**

- D. *We need cuprinol, hedge trimming all around the field, some tennis court repainting/touching up. More plants. Lots more gravel. Creation of new seating position on the banking and quite a few other things to keep and improve the Field in it's transition to a nice Village Park. A beautiful safe space, there for the benefit of all. So the ECA will apply for a grant of £2,000. This will be to ECA and managed by us as it has been for all of the improvement grants up until now. The difference here is that we are transferring the grass cutting from the PC to ECA. The PC will not pay the bill, it will be paid by the Wind Farm Fund.*
- E. *The ECA also intends to make this a 5 year recurring grant to save the ECA from having to do an application every year. This will be in line with how South Charlton do their grass cutting.*

2. Refurbishment of & Grant for Bus Shelter

Malcolm has also driven this matter – a very worthwhile project. Attached, is the estimate of cost that Malcolm has obtained. The only apparently contentious issue relates to the bin presently located in the shelter – should it remain where it is or be located on the telegraph pole as it used to be? On that issue, we have arranged an informal consultation (also, on the second speed camera) through Hearabouts. AM will collate the results &, if possible, we will report further to the meeting on the 23rd. Meantime, I've agreed with Malcolm that the PC will prepare the CF grant application which, being well under £2k, need not await the next 'window' for applications.

3. EPC resolution or action required on 23rd February:

- a. To approve & confirm the PC's support for the ECA's above proposals under 1. above;
- b. To approve the scheme for the refurbishment of the Bus Shelter per 2. above (subject to a decision on the location of the bin following the informal, Hearabouts consultation which need not delay the CF grant application); to delegate authority to [volunteer(s) requested] to oversee the Bus Shelter project in conjunction with the ECA; to make the necessary CF grant application; & to keep the PC informed of progress.

10.02.22

Item 17/22/13

Report by DB on Use of Bins at the Bottom of Tarry (for PC Meeting 23rd February '22)

1. Site inspection lead to the conclusion that the enclosure & bins should be on the opposite side of Tarry (because, as proposed, there would be potential interference with the Highway).
2. At the time of writing, I await comments from NCC & will report back to the next meeting when NCC respond received.
3. An estimate of costs was obtained (£885.39) but will have to be revised when/if the alternative location is approved.
4. Meantime, in evidence of the problem we seek to address, I encountered a charming couple walking their dog up Tarry, just as the lady was depositing a 'poo-bag' in one of the private bins. She readily agreed to recover her 'poo-bag' from the bin but pointed out that it was full of others!
5. **Action required on 23rd February:** To note this report.

10.02.22

Item 17/22/15

DEFIBRILLATOR UNIT – NORTH CHARLTON

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION

Due to the financial effects of the pandemic, no charitable trusts are presently donating defibrillators to communities free of charge. I have submitted a grant application to the Community Foundation seeking funding for a defibrillator unit for North Charlton. The nearest unit is located at Brownieside which is an unacceptable distance for North Charlton residents to travel to retrieve this life saving device. North Charlton is the only village in the parish to not have a defibrillator unit. The grant application is based on a quotation given by the British Heart Foundation. It requests funding for costs of the unit itself, electrical cabinet, electrical installation, consumable items such as batteries and pads for five years, training props, training course and fees to hire South Charlton Village Hall. The total cost of the application including VAT is £3,308. The Community Foundation Panel sits in March and we will receive its decision following that.

Jane Hamilton
Councillor, Eglington Parish Council
12 February 2022

Item 17/22. 16

First Aid/Defibrillator Courses:

I plan to hold four courses, two at each at each village hall five months apart. These are 2 hour courses where how to use the AED is taught followed by general First Aid. Having done research with St. John's Ambulance and The Red Cross, I was recommended First Response Aid Ltd which were the only body that conduct combined courses. This would accommodate 24 trainees - 12 from Eglington (the same people at x 2 courses) and another 12 from South Charlton. I plan to hold the courses on Tuesday 31st May at Eglington and Tuesday 7th June at South Charlton and the follow ups on Tuesday 1st November at Eglington and 8th at South Charlton. This will cost £940 plus VAT plus 4 x Village Hall hire at £120, £1248 in total. Subject to the PC's approval I will apply for RWE funding at the next round where applications close on 22nd April. The courses will be advertised in Hear Abouts and on a first come first served basis but I suggest all councillors book themselves on at their local halls. First Response Aid Ltd have offered free virtual courses for any should there be in excess of 24 respondents, or indeed take additional courses if there's a very strong demand, obviously at cost.

Report from James Logan

Item 17/22/18

Report by DB on AB's Tree Planting Project (for PC Meeting 23rd February '22)

1. At the time of writing, there is disagreement as to where & in what quantity the sixty (circa 1ft high) trees donated to the PC by the Woodland Trust should be planted (they must be planted by the end of March).
2. David Alston, who initially drove the proposals, believes all the trees should be planted in the Community Field – he prepared a planting scheme which, I believe, the PC approved (**'Plan A'** - I have asked AM to check details & timing & to circulate DA's original plan. **N.B.** Of course, while taking note of any previous decision, we are free to revisit the issue & reach a different conclusion as the facts & opinions change). He says the Woodland Trust's guidance suggests the trees be planted at 2m intervals. His scheme sought to take account of the position of the field drains in the CF & to avoid damage to them. He considers that is how we should proceed &, though I have tried to persuade him not to, wishes to withdraw from the project if a different decision is reached.
3. The other view, espoused by the ECA &, I believe shared by AB, is that sixty trees is too many for the CF (query: would 2m gaps mean overcrowding & the need to remove some of the trees a few years hence?); that damage to the drains is inevitable over time; & that the recent storm damage to an existing tree illustrates the longer-term risks of more of them.
4. Meantime, AB has received written confirmation that we may plant the trees wherever we prefer so long as they are on land to which the Public have access.

5. AB is organising a meeting at the Community Field with MA/the ECA (DA has confirmed he does not wish to attend) to produce an amended proposal for planting some of the trees there. They will also suggest locations for the remaining trees &, with luck, we will have firm proposals for consideration at the meeting on the 23rd (**'Plan B'**)
6. **Action required on 23rd February:** To note this report; if firm proposals from AB/MA are available in time, to briefly compare them with the previous proposals & to resolve:
 - a. Whether or not to stick with Plan A;
 - b. If not, whether or not to proceed with Plan B as put forward or as amended;
 - c. To agree on a campaign to recruit volunteers for an intensive planting exercise before the end of March.
7. **N.B.** In my opinion, we must do all we can to resolve this matter on 23rd – it has become a priority.

10.02.22

Item 17/22/19

Report by DB for EPC's Meeting (February 23rd 2022) re: Flashing Speed Sign – Eglington

1. We await responses to the informal Hearabouts consultation.
2. **Action/resolutions required at the meeting on 23rd February:** To note the position &, subject to the consultation clearly evidencing support for the project, to authorise JL to prepare & submit (with DB's approval) the appropriate CF application ('next window': 20th February – 4th April 22).

10.02.22

Report from James Logan

Item. 17/22. 19

Second Speed Camera

As an adjunct report The Chairman's report, I was asked to cost this project. I can report that three companies were considered for devices for second speed cameras. 1) quoted £2894; 2) £4612 and the third company's product was not appropriate. Northumbria Highways Department quoted £1110 for a post and installation. All figures are plus VAT. Despite being the most expensive I consider that no. 2) quote's device is the best and matches the device at the North West end of the village, so £6865 in total. Again subject to the PC's approval I will apply for RWE funding at the next round, where applications close on 22nd April. Prior to making application, I will also endeavour to get a five year maintenance contract.