Slaley & Healey Community Environmental Group (S&HCEG)

Minutes of Meeting on Thursday October 15th at 6.30 p.m. by ZOOM.

**1. Introduction** of those present and the main environmental interest of the individuals.

Pat Wilson – Farming - protection of wildlife flora & fauna (Ladycross NR) PCs Litter - reduce plastic use.

Stella Douglas – Colpits area/Slaley Councillor/ Show/ Shop/ web site and community orchard.

Debra Taylor – Slaley Hall area, Slaley Councillor/ Village hall – quick win

Peter Topping – Healey parish – community orchard

Rosaleen Doonan – Village hall/shop/ musician/ Minsteracres - Raise awareness especially with young people

Peter Gill – Slaley Hall – community involvement/ stimulate a community effort

Terry Douglas – Colpitts/ Slaley shop – native trees hawthorn/rowan/ash

Karen Melvin – Ladycross Nature & Art - native trees at School

Sheila Borthwick – community orchard at Parks Side, Slaley

Carol Ferguson,

Anne & Chris Porter – Hexhamshire (Chris - community orchard)

**Apologies** Debbie Brett, Headteacher Slaley School **represented by** Nikki English (outdoor education),

**Apologies:** Andy & Gill Hayden (Slaley Community Shop) & Mary Pitkethly (Conservation Trust)

**2. Minutes of First official meeting February 16th 2020**

The minutes were accepted as true record and would be signed by PW

**3. Matter arising**

a) 8c 22/2/20: PW was asked to contact Forest England to see if a general litter/dog bags wheelie bin could be placed at the Trygill and Ladycross entrances – Update. Both Highways and Forest England manager were nervous about placing Litter Bins in an isolated location, Generally, these quickly became fly tipping sites and created more mess than they were meant to address. However, they were prepared for a trial period with PC support. DT & SD said they would bring forward at next PC meeting.

b) 8g 22/2/20 Climate change file - **Update & Verbal report from** Slaley First School Headteacher, Debbie Brett and University Work by Rebecca Brett. Not available

c) 8h 22/2/20: lobby a national/worldwide climate change initiative or a more local initiative – ideas – what? who does? **COME BACK TO THIS AT END OF MEETING**

**4. Update of actions since 22/2/20**

a) PW Alien plant invasion record (began in March)/ Inter-parish Hedgehog count (Hedgehog hospital information recorded in Saley News March & October/ Contact Hexhamshire & Blanchland Anne & Chris here tonight from Hexhamshire/ Professor David Manning at Newcastle University agreed to come out to Slaley in May to talk about his “carbon capture at home” – Ask if he could give a ZOOM presentation in January – If yes DT could set up / Tap outside the Hall DONE DT waiting for approval before it goes on the app. Suggested website.

ab) KM & TD school native trees / Tom & Joes Trees at Wylam. NE reported that School would like to plant trees on field – no funds available.

ac) RD CAN for community led initiatives / plastic free alternatives in March Slaley News. CAN would like an article about the group for its newsletter, our parish involvement and our achievement hopes. RD to draft and circulate. RD reminded everyone of the ‘*Environmental Tips/plastic free alternatives’* the group had hoped to pass on. RD asked NE if this was something the School Children could become involved with? NE explained Coronavirus teaching in bubbles – a whole school project taught by different teachers at different times is not easy.

ad) PT and SD visit local Orchards / research funding streams. / offers of land or possible sites identification – local area map. SD’s requests for land on which to plant an Orchard proved negative. No Orchard’s visited. *At this point we moved to agenda item 5.* It was generally accepted that we could have lots of small pockets of fruit trees, e.g. Parks side and the School Field but we should not loose site of a bigger area.

ae) DT NCC community led initiatives/ less litter & more recycling facilities/ Slaley PC litter pick date / Quick win 2 small bins in Hall kitchen - ideas known on social media. DT reported a contact in NCC however no future or pilot schemes reported back. Cllr Glen Sanderson the new NCC leader – could be interested in our group.

af) PG Humshaugh community shop information/costs on electric car charging. PG emailed a detailed report 17/3/20 to the group. After discussion it was decided because of costs, developing technology and no identified community need, to relook at this in 12-month time. DT commented that a charging point could be something the Commemoration Hall Committee looked at with Phase Two of the 100 year improvements.

ag) TJ community shop offers in Slaley News/ agreement from other board members/ local recycled wood briquettes sales. Community Shop recycling – SCOPE? – how often emptied? The group needs a new contact with the shop. *Note Andy & Gill Hayden have volunteered to represent the Shop.*

ah) SD to develop web page/ Information Hub/ Slaley News article/ Slaley Notes reporting the group’s plans number of visits? SD is Editor of the web site and one of the two Slaley Notes reporters – S&HCEG does feature. PT thought that Facebook was the popular method of relaying news. DT works with SD and has access to the Slaley Facebook page. Visits to the website are increasing.

**5. Sheila Borthwick and her idea of a Community Orchard at Parks Side**

SB described her approach to Karbon Homes about an orchard at Parks Side where she lives and KBs initial reaction to the idea. SB has spoken to 9 residents of the 12 bungalows and those spoken to are in favour of some fruit trees. SB is happy for them to be on the grass to the south-west of her bungalow. Craig Lonsdale, Environment & Energy Officer, for Karbon Homes has contacted PW and said he is interested in joining the group. CP warned the group to be choosy about fruit trees sometimes **free** trees were not recommended for taste, keeping quality or appearance. TP suggested an initial sub-committee meeting of SB, SD CP, PW and himself with Craig. SB was thanked for this. *(the meeting then returned to agenda item 4ad)*

**6. Interesting Articles & Information.**

The articles recorded in the agenda were acknowledged with special emphasis on the free trees (6a & 6j)

PW showed the NFU Education Team ‘farmvention competition for 2020-21’ (6f). The fifth green flag awarded to Ovingham First School from Eco Schools (6i) was also tabled - has Slaley First School received any Environmental awards we can promote?

PW brought the groups attention to (6g) an array of floating solar panels in China, although we don’t have any large surfaces of water maybe solar panels could be considered elsewhere?

**7. AOB**

a) PW - there is a redundant touring caravan site in the parish which could be used for a community solar farm and a community orchard. The first thing to do is to see if the site can be purchased. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the owner. – That would give us a local initiative as mentioned in 3c.

b) PT asked about the constitution. PW to circulate the draft which should have been discussed/agreed at the March meeting.

**8. Date of next meeting**

It was agreed to meet in approximately 6 weeks. **Wednesday November 25th at 6.30 by ZOOM**

There being no further business, everyone was thanked and the meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.