Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire Community Environmental Group (SH&HCEG)

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday January 6th 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 - renewable energy / energy efficiency & recycling

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

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

Andy & Gill Hayden (Slaley Community Shop)

Harriet Lamb – Climate Change /Slaley Community Shop

Joan & Jerry Cleal-Harding - Recycling

**2. Minutes of meeting held November 25th 2020**

These were agreed by SD and seconded by DT and signed by PW

**3. Matter arising**

a) 3a 25/11/20; 3a 15/10/20; 8c 22/2/20: general litter/dog bags wheelie bin placed at the Trygill Both Highways and Forest England manager were nervous about placing Litter Bins in an isolated location. However, they were prepared for a trial period with PC support. DT & discussed at December 2020 PC meeting. PW to check 2016 prices of reconditioned bin, locking post and installation + Vat then Slaley PC will decide if they will cover cost. PW asked if the small dog bin outside Cautley Cottage would be an alternative? This was generally felt too small.

b) 3b 25/11/20; 3c & 7a 15/10/20) 8h 22/2/20: climate change - a local initiative - No reply from the November letter to the Owner of Townfoot Caravan Park. Work at site during Week commencing 14/12/2020. A discussion about other possible sites resulted in SD being asked to re-ask through Slaley Notes & the web site. RD wondered about renting land rather than purchasing. CP said there was one small piece of land in Hexhamshire between the old Click-em-Inn and Whitley Chapel School, access is via a ladder type style from the road, the owner was not known. PW said the site was quite dangerous being on a corner and there was no footpath. CP also spoke about the new ELM payments (Environmental Land Management) which would supersede the present farming subsidies. CP wondered if farmers could be encouraged to allocate a corner of their fields to plant fruit trees if this would enable them to claim the ELM – problem is that the ELM is an unknown at present. SD said she would speak with the owners of the two fields used by Slaley Show to find out their reaction to the proposal.

c) 3c 25/11/20; 5 15/10/20: ZOOM Meeting with Craig Lonsdale, Environment & Energy Officer, for Karbon Homes held 30/11/20 agreed to Dwarf fruit trees in principal. Craig to write to residents. When costed apply to KH for a grant. On-site meeting on Saturday 5/12/20 and agreed 5 fruit trees on blue section. Email CL (5/12/20) & asked to inform residents. CP to ask Hollybush for prices. SB informed meeting that the residents had not received any notification from Craig. PW to re-ask when sending the quote. CP had a quote from Hollybush Nurseries for 3 x James Green eating apples and 2 x Keswick Codlin cooking apples. 5 @ £27.00 = £135.00 + £22.50 for stakes, tree ties and guards. SB said she would have liked different fruit trees.

d) 6 25/11/20 Discussion between HL and Slaley School re the Ashden scheme working with Eco Schools with the Let’s Go Zero 2030. HL explained that the COVID restrictions into Tier 3 in December and now the 3rd General Lockdown meant that the School were snowed under with more pressing problems. HL spoken with Helen Savage who is a local Governor at a Middle School about the scheme. The MP will also be approached. Update at a future meeting.

e) KM involvement with an Orchard on a hillside at Tarset – KM sent photograph by email earlier today apparently there a mixture of different trees in what appears to be an exposed hillside.

**4. Update of actions since 25/11/20**

a) 5 25/11/20: oak saplings 4 planted Slaley First School field Tuesday 15/12/2020 – Courant did not respond. Photographs on School web site with a link to Slaley.

b) 4af 25/11/20:PW asked Baynes family about shredded material for animal bedding - David Baynes replied shredded paper does not breakdown as newsprint does so the answer is No.

**5. Interesting Articles & Information**

a) Email invitation from Northern Powergrid for a Net Zero Energy Future for the North conference 28/1/2021: 9.30 - 13.00 circulated. Sheila Borthwick, Peter Gill & Peter Topping have registered to take part.

b) Hexham Courant 24/12/2020 *Green project to connect young people to nature.* Tony Gates CE of Northumberland National Park Authority said “Our aim is to help young people from all backgrounds have access to and engage with our unique landscapes and environment”.

c) The Northumbrian, Issue 177: Mike Pratt CE of Northumberland Wildlife Trust explains the proposed Great Northumberland Forest – to create 600 hectares of new tree cover in the middle of the county. A tree group has been convened. TG is part of the group and he went on to explain that planting trees in the wrong place can be disastrous. As an example, he explained that the tree planting in the border mires at Kielder which took 50 years to repair. **PW suggests that everyone should read.** In the current issue, number 179, Mike reports that the concept of a Great Northumberland Forest and a new Tyneside Community Forest has started. These woods will be productive as well as nature and recreational benefits.

d) ‘Science can’t be ignored’, letter in Journal 17/12/2020

e) Wildwood project takes to the skies. Hexham Courant 31/12/2020. The Kielder Wildwood project aims to plant 35,000 trees and create a native upland woodland on the Scaup Burn. Alongside the planting a monitoring protocol will collect data on how the tree planting affects the ecology of the site and is collecting seed.

f) 250 acres opencast coal mine at Dewley Hill near Stamfordham Road on the A69. Hexham Courant 31/12/2020 reported the Objectors relief as the mine plans were rejected. The same issue recorded that the developers considered the decision Outrageous – Throckley brickworks need the fireclay and coal by failing to make use of domestic supplies the UK industry will be forced to drag the coal across the globe while simultaneously significantly increasing global greenhouse gas emissions.

g) PT reported a NCC seminar about the environment. Apparently, it is a question-and-answer type event. Glen Sanderson, the leader of NCC is leading the event. TP, DT. & PG are attending. HL asked for information to be emailed to her. It was generally agreed that NCC should be pressed to undertake better recycling throughout the county.

**7. Recycling Discussion.**

a) Andy & Gill to give an update of recycling at Slaley Community Shop – battery recycling installed December 5 2020. AH updated the Ink cartridges request. GNAA will collect original ink cartridges (those that have a gold label) from Slaley Community Shop – they can sell on for refilling – AH will circulate by email when this is set up and the Shop is ready to accept. AH also mentioned Terra Cycle a company who collects all manner of items from flip flops to crisp packets. Only one item will be collected at any one time, so if the shop agreed to use Terra Cycle a recycling item would have to be agreed for a definite period. The shop would not be able to store items not on the monthly/quarterly recycling rota. AP looked on line and said Terra Cycle made items like plant pots and watering cans. It was suggested that everyone go on line and look at the company. AH meanwhile will talk to the company - it is being suggested that the present newspaper shed could be used for recycling storage between collections.

b) Recycle postage stamps – DT reported that the stamps with part of the envelope to include the franking are saved by a local lady for The Dogs Trust. AH said there was a box for these on the right of the extension inside Slaley Community Shop.

c) SB asked why people paid money to have their garden compost removed. RD said how difficult it was to find ‘Soil Improver’.

d) NCC recycling - CF said Northumberland had a poor recycling record there were many items not recycled by Northumberland done in other parts of the country. Some plastic not, some bottle tops not, some fruit juice packets not. AP said that the Tetra pack recycling in Wentworth Car Park had been removed because of contamination which apparently caused problems. DT said that NCC did recycle clothes and bicycles. PG thought the Slaley web site should have a link to the NCC site – should we have a list in the shop? CF thought snippets in Slaley News might help.

e) JC-H said her former school recycled old mobile telephones – most people now update their model by trading in similar to motor cars.

f) PG said he would like to see a use for delivery packaging especially bubble wrap – during COVID most of us are getting a vast quantity of packaging. SB said she was using a roll of packaging made from sheep’s wool.

g) PT thought that three points had emerged from the discussion:

1) NCC ‘catchy’ recycling material needs to be made widely known.

2) Ask people what they would most like to see recycled e.g. yogurt pots, crisp packets etc this could be done via Facebook by Slaley & Hexhamshire Notes and by Slaley News and Hexhamshire Magazine SD & AP to confer about those.

3) ??

**8. AOB**

PT asked for an item for discussion at the February meeting. As there were no suggestions PT asked for ideas to be circulated.

**9. Date of next meeting**: WednesdayFebruary 17th 2021

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.36 p.m.