

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

Meeting on Wednesday August 17th 2022 at 6.30 p.m.

**in the Hut on the Willow plantation at the Quakers Hole wetland, Hexhamshire**

## 1. Present & Apologies.

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

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

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

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

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

Carol Ferguson - renewable energy / energy efficiency & recycling

Anne & Christopher Porter – Hexhamshire (Chris - community orchard) **CP Chairman for 2022**

Hilary Porteus – plant ecologist – has done many verge surveys in the region.

Victoria Ryrie – Edmundbyres – interest in the outdoors, wild flowers and wildlife

## Apologies

Terry Douglas – Colpitts/ Slaley shop – native trees hawthorn/rowan/ash. **TD Treasurer**

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

Sheila Borthwick – community orchard at Parks Side, Slaley

Slaley School **represented by** Nikki English (outdoor education),

Harriet Lamb – Climate Change /Slaley Community Shop

Lynda Sale – Hollie House, Dipton Foot –

Joan Jewitt – Natural History & Ladycross NR

**2. Minutes of meeting held June 15th 2022 circulated pages 60 – 63 + appendix 1/150622, page 64.** Proposed as a true record by Rosaleen Doonan, seconded by Karen Melvin. The minutes were signed by the Chairman, Christopher Porter.

## 3. Matter arising

a) 9 15/6/22: The Wetland. Hexhamshire PC has offered a member of CEG to become a Friend of the Wetland and take part in a survey recording the insects. Hexhamshire PC Clerk is personally very interested as is Monica Haig. John Grundy has agreed to come out and run a course on cutting with a scythe. CP has more details to follow on a second wetland area.

## 4. General update on recycling

Report DT - the recycling containers at Slaley Community Shop fill up and the products delivered or collected then refill very quickly.

CP reported that PG had presented a very interesting talk to Hexham Rotary Club on Earth Day and Electric Vehicles

CP asked if Recycling July had gone well. DT said she had no feedback to report.

### **5. Treasurers Report. Report by SD**

a) £358.63 in bank and £17.95 in cash giving a total of £376.58. The expenditure for Earth Day was hire of hall and printing of leaflets.

b) An email request from DT for a grant towards SCH green energy. The solar panels and battery storage was explained, this would enable SCH to become an Emergency Hub should the parish lose power through a natural disaster. Our MP is very interested in what SCH is trying to achieve and he sees the project as an exemplar for the region – SD is currently organising a meeting to coordinate all the strands of the project. Slaley PC has awarded 10% of the £16,000 costs. Declaration of interest declared by DT, RD, SD, CF & PW. The remaining five members discussed this and Anne Porter proposed a £100 grant, this was seconded by Victoria Ryrie. All were in favour. PW to produce a Remittance Advice for the records.

### **6. Community Climate Champion**

a) Report by DT: Networking Events at Powburn and on July 7<sup>th</sup> at Humshaugh - DT & PG attended the Humshaugh event where there was a good presentation of information, resources and grants. Haltwhistle Community Buildings have all benefitted from a £5,000 grant to change the lightbulbs to LED. A similar quote has been applied for SCH. An interesting initiative by the Energy Saving Trust was producing heat from water taken from The River Tyne. Carbon Footprint presentation was very interesting.

b) Wildflower area at St. Mary's Slaley – working party Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June. Half the area of sticky weeds was cleared. HP said the area should be cleared about now and then raked before the seeds take hold. It was agreed to scythe the area possibly Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup>. To be co-ordinated by AP & HP

### **7. Template for Discussion**

CEG What do we do? How do we say we have been successful?

a) Stand at Slaley Show – engage with people – needs serious organisation - consider for 2023. Will need to confirm a stall by February 2023 discuss in October and January. AP remarked that there was no provision for bicycles in 2022, everyone came by vehicle or walked. Could we promote bicycle travel at the Show and hire bicycle stands?

b) Vision statement: suggestions in red at meeting - Aims and Objectives in yellow from Constitution. New at meeting “engage the community on issues” and “joint action towards planetary change”.

c) Excel Spreadsheet with Activities and Results: Update at meeting. PW had filled in several sections and also supplied the Healey PC and Slaley PC annual report from CEG.

### **8. Verge initiative (CP & HP)**

HP talked about the Slaley verge signs, how the sites were established and the NCC signs which HP puts out each spring and stores each winter. At Slaley there was help from the AONB. Free App on mobile was E-surveying designed for farmers to look at what is growing in different fields and plant identification. <https://assist.ceh.ac.uk/e-surveyor>

CP has been given support from several members of Hexhamshire for the project. He would like to organise a Spring-Workshop, advertise why we are surveying verges and hopefully include the schools. A skeleton of a plan is formed and will be beefed out and presented at the October meeting. Funding applications will provide tabards for the group. Verge Surveys are ranked by the 'amount of insects' the verges support.

## **9. Correspondence**

21/6/22: NEECCo News June 2022

1/7/22: NCC Climate Action Northumberland July 2022 newsletter

20/7/22: NEECCo News July 2022

## **10. AOB.**

a) CEG Secretary received a request from SCH management committee asking each organisation if they would hold something in SCH to promote the use of the building. It was agreed to hold a CEG fund raising something – DJ suggested something musical then 'A Winter Solstice' event was suggested for December 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> – to discuss further at October meeting.

b) RD asked about the Barn Owl population this year. She wondered if a general survey could be carried out indicating how the species was surviving this year. Concern that individual nest boxes should not be made public was voiced. CP to contact Graham Dixon who records Barn Owls in the Shire. PW mentioned the early CEG hedgehog survey and the useful telephone numbers for poorly or injured hedgehogs. - Maybe an article on what to do with an injured Barn Owl in both Parish magazines. CF suggested Colin Jewitt as a source of information.

c) Community Orchard apples at Slaley. Ready when they drop off when the stork is twisted. SD offered to pick and store for the Winter Solstice event. VR asked if the school was involved. SD to make contact with the school Headteacher.

d) SD suggested bringing SB down to the October meeting in her wheelchair when we returned to meetings in SCH.

e) PW to write a thank you to Jennifer Molyneux for the use of the hut for our June and August meetings

## **11. Date of 2022 meetings:**

October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**12. Let's not forget - a local initiative –land on which to provide a community 'something'.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.