

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

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday February 16th 2022

at 6.30 p.m in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Present & Apologies.

Pat Wilson – Farming - protection of wildlife flora & fauna (Ladycross NR) PCs Litter - reduce plastic use. £1

Debra Taylor – Slaley Hall area, Slaley Councillor/ Village hall – quick win £1

Terry Douglas – Colpitts/ Slaley shop – native trees hawthorn/rowan/ash £1

Rosaleen Doonan – Village hall/shop/ musician/ Minsteracres /Raise awareness especially with young people £1

Carol Ferguson - renewable energy / energy efficiency & recycling £2

Anne & Christopher Porter – Hexhamshire (Chris - community orchard) £2

Lynda Sale – Hollie House, Dipton Foot – £1

Apologies

Sheila Borthwick – community orchard at Parks Side, Slaley

Andy & Gill Hayden (Slaley Community Shop) – recycling

Harriet Lamb – Climate Change /Slaley Community Shop

Joan Jewitt – Natural History & Ladycross NR

Peter Topping – Healey parish – community orchard

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

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

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

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

2. Minutes of meeting held November 3rd 2021 circulated pages 47 – 50, appendix 1, page 51 & appendix 2, page 52. Proposed as a true record by Rosaleen Doonan .and seconded by Lynda Sale. The minutes were signed by the Acting Chairman, Debra Taylor.

3. Matter arising

a) **Creating Ponds 3a 3/11/21; 8a 21/9/21** : (email 8/11/21 transport from Slaley to Whitley school £80/£90). Report by CP & AP: Hexhamshire Parish Council had discussed the involvement of CEG members with Quakers Hole at each meeting since DJT had attended on October 14th. Finally, it was decided at its January meeting that after an 8 against v 1 in favour not to get involved with CEG's proposals, citing several reasons; fencing costs, additional maintenance work etc. Despite a possible grant from the Henry Bell Trust towards information boards, and the support of our County Councillor and Emma (AONB Defra North-East), CEG members were left in limbo. After discussion it was proposed to write to the Chairman of Hexhamshire Parish Council and offer to lease Quakers Hole for a short period of 5 – 10 years. This action was agreed.

b) **Planting trees 3b 3/11/21; 8b 21/9/21:** Report from Tree planting sub-committee

(i) 60 'native harvest' collected by PW & JJ November 17th PW, DD & TD planted 5 at School, 5 Slaley Community Shop, 50 Ladycross Nature Reserve planted outside of CEG members.

Hexhamshire planted 120 at the Play and Sport field. They also have a grant from the Woodland Trust

(iv) Dwarf 'Stella' or bush 'Arthos' Cherry, 'Conference' Pear, 'Victoria', 'Damson' & 'Greengage' Plum ordered from Hollybush Nursery. Currently with PW will plant after storms pass.

(v) Native shrubs for St. Marys churchyard extension north wall planted by KM. Helen & Olwen Savage

c) **Parks Side Mini Community Orchard** Dwarf 'Stella' or bush 'Arthos' Cherry, 'Conference' Pear, 'Victoria', 'Damson' & 'Greengage' Plum to be planted when ground frost free & storms pass

4. General update on recycling

a) at Slaley Community Shop. – Andy & Gill to report. Andy been in hospital three times since last meeting, feeling better and plans to recycle wine corks to be reused as craft material – this will begin soon.

b) at Slaley Commemoration Hall – Rosaleen / Debra to report. Caretaker uses environmental products

5. Treasurers Report.

Report by TD – almost no activity – Hire of Hall on November 3rd paid. £434 in account with 2 invoices to be paid – Trees in Churchyard (Karen Melvin). Community Orchard latest trees from Hollybush Nursery

6. **Community Climate Champion report by DJT** New Champions appointed getting to grips with initiatives & list of schemes. NCC are focusing on replacing the loss of standing trees during Storms Arwen, Malik & Corrie. + making provision for storms Dudley and Eunace battering us today – through Friday.

7. **Discussion topic:** any update from members on the presentation by LS in November. LS apologised for not summarising. RD asked about a space in meetings where new ideas could be tabled. PW said either at Discussion Topic or AOB.

a) Community Power: Storm Arwen on November 26/27 2021 is causing the County to look at Emergency Hubs and battery power storage – Slaley Commemoration Hall looking into that. RD reported the ZOOM meeting at 2 p.m. (16/2/22), installation of solar panels and batteries for community buildings across Northumberland, hosted by Liz Gray, Innovation Manager, Rural Design Centre with input from Andy Dean of CAN. Funding through many sources including Rural Enterprise working with Tees Valley Combined Authority (accessed some underspend) and North of Tyne 'Green New Deal' fund. Paul Cowie's Powerpoint presentation explained a type of Co-op – a Community Energy Hub. His data analysis graph was completely out of date because of the expected rises in energy costs coming in April. CEG members were interested in viewing

the recording when it becomes available. LS meanwhile has more information on this subject and will forward details.

b) Grow vegetables, buy locally – reduce air miles – Slaley Artisan market is attempting to do just that and the response to the January market was poor. Locally produced produce – how to interest shoppers?.

c) Carbon footprint on lifestyle – CP emailed 5/11/21 a carbon Footprint document on the food from the October Slaley Film night.

8. Correspondence

10/12/21: NCC Climate Change newsletter December

13/12/21: AP details of Hexham Sustainability Fair Sunday 19/12/21 11a.m. this was cancelled.

14/1/22: NCC Climate Change newsletter January – contained information on “Going Green Together campaign” next monthly support session 9/2/22 4-5 p.m. **No one attend**

14/1/22: NCC Climate Change Q&A by ZOOM 19/1/22 from 5 p.m. **No one attend**

24/1/22: Letter from Slaley Parish Council asking if CEG had any plans to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. The 1900 years of the Roman Wall and the 100 years of Slaley Commemoration Hall. *This was not discussed.*

24/1/22: KM Hexham Net Zero 1-hour ZOOM event, 7.30 p.m. 27/1/22 – attended by KM & PW – Three-Parish Carbon Footprint lifestyle suggested by KM – is this something we could instigate for Earth Day April 22nd? If yes how and who will lead? *See agenda 10*

7/2/22: HL Green Allotments Project. – RD to look into ‘Garden Share Scheme’ and report back.

10/2/22: NCC Climate Change newsletter February

9. AOB.

15/1/22 emailed from PT, due to work commitments a new Chair is needed. Christopher Porter volunteered to Chair the next 4 meetings (2022) and others agreed to take the Chair for a limited number of meetings from 2023. Peter Topping was thanked for taking the Chair during our first two years.

10. Date of 2022 meetings:

April 20th. June 15th. August 17th. October 19th.

Earth Day is Friday April 22nd 2022 – **It was agreed that each member look at the suggestion on line for World Earth Day and we will have a quick ZOOM meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd February to discuss possibilities.**

11. Let's not forget – a local initiative –land on which to provide a community ‘something’.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.