

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

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday June 23rd 2021 at 6.30 p.m. by ZOOM.

## 1. Present & Apologies.

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

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)

Lynda Sale – Hollie House, Dipton Foot –

Joan Jewitt – Ladycross Nature Reserve, all wildlife

Young People: Georgina Beckett (first year Hexham High School). Bea (9) & Toby (13) Stephenson

### Apologies:

Andy & Gill Hayden (Slaley Community Shop) – recycling

Harriet Lamb – Climate Change /Slaley Community Shop

Joan & Jerry Cleal-Harding

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

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

## 2. Minutes of meeting held May 12 2021, pages 26 – 29. Proposed as a true record by

Terry Douglas and seconded by Anne Porter. The minutes were signed by the Secretary.

## 3. Matter arising

a) 3b 12/5/21; 3e 31/3/21; 4 17/2/21: Reply from letter to Guy Opperman. There has been no reply. PT left a message on an answerphone and asked for a reply.

b) 4c 12/5/21 Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup> was World Environment Day – a display of electric cars & bicycles was available in Slaley Commemoration Hall car park. Inside books, CDs and DVDs were collected for recycling and refreshments were provided. The Group now has funds of £25 from refreshments at the event. PT said it was good to see people in person.

c) 7 12/5/21: DT asking if NCC could provide us with one of its composting bins for the Market Day (July 28<sup>th</sup>). Information circulated 20/6/21 **attached as appendix 1, page 34**. Composting bins £20 for 220 litres, or £22.50 for 330 litres + delivery charge of £5.99 per order. Take advantage of offer Buy One get one half price with a single delivery charge. Water butts also available. LS & PT both volunteered to order one + one at half price. LS offered her spare bin for the Churchyard. PT offered his spare for sale on the CEG stall on July 28<sup>th</sup>. CP said he would buy it if the public were not interested.

#### **4. General update on recycling**

a) at Slaley Community Shop. – Andy & Gill to report. May 15<sup>th</sup> Andy sent around details of the Gillette old razor and blade recycling (any brand) scheme. Collect **at home** and place inside the free return then envelope to Gillette. Each envelope holds a maximum of 16 razors and/or razor blades. You can request 4 envelopes each year. It has taken 4 weeks for the first envelope to arrive. PW put something in Slaley news about this.

b) at Slaley Commemoration Hall – Debra said the declutter response had produced lots of Books, CDs and DVDs. The Hall had made £110 from the resellable items. Several have been put to one side for the CEG market stall and the remainder will be collected this week by the BHF. The Hall will repeat the recycling/collection in the Autumn as a special event the collection cannot be an anytime drop off type recycle otherwise the Hall will become cluttered. The donations have to be scanned, sorted, packaged, collected or dispatched.

#### **5. Interesting Articles & Information**

Hexham Courant 3/6/2021 Surge in electric car home charging grants.

Hexham Courant 10/6/2021 Plea over water usage in region & Free trees available for schools and groups

Hexham Courant 17/6/21: Green group marks day with face to face date (Our CEG event)

#### **6. Action Plan – report by DT Community Climate Champion & SL**

A long/medium term vision/framework is needed from the group by 2030. This needs a “brain storming session” with a flip chart. PT suggested an outside summer meeting for those interested. DT & LS to come up with some dates.

**7. Indoor Artisan Market at Slaley Commemoration Hall on Wednesday July 28<sup>th</sup> between 2 – 6.30 p.m. – this group has a stall on which we can raise some income.** Notes for actions at the Indoor market were circulated today and **attached as appendix 2, page 35**. Paper bags to put sold goods into CF has some PW to look on line and see costs. KM volunteered to have our Logo printed AI onto something we can use. PW to send Logo jpeg + contact details for Andy & Gill is a

different format is needed. CF asked about our “mission statement” and should this be printed somewhere on our sales table. SD will have the machine for card payments.

**8. Discussion topic:** Request from Reverend Helen Savage for a Climate Sunday – Sunday July 25<sup>th</sup> – religious service at 10.45. Notes circulated 18/6/21 and **attached as appendix 3, page 36.** [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) - then plant trees, then free trees for school and community groups. The hedge is 30 of Dog Rose, Hawthorn, Hazel, Crab apple, Dogwood 6 - 8 metres double hedge. Other sets which could interest us are Wild Wood, Year Round Colour or Wildlife packs of 105 trees to cover land the size of 4 x tennis courts. - You have to give the address and postcode of the site where you intend to plant and the landowners permission. The Community group may be looking at doing something in the Churchyard extension so we could share a pack with Ladycross Nature Reserve. They are for November delivery. They are FREE. Planting trees was suggested down the field between the village and Juliettes Wood. Making a path to the Trekking Well. The field behind the Rose and Crown Inn. However, it was pointed out that the land did not belong to CEG and not all farmers wanted trees planted along fence lines. AP suggested the bankside of the Hexhamshire playing field at Whitley Chapel. There could be a sponsorship type planting to give people a feeling of ownership. AP to discuss with Hexhamshire PC for its comments.

Georgina Beckett attended the meeting to give her report of her discussion with Reverend Helen Savage. (*see CEG minutes 31/3/21 agenda item 3b*) Helen liked the idea of an environmental garden at the Church she would need to discuss with the PCC. GB was very interested in making bug hotels in the churchyard and thought some of her friends may take part. How to publicise such an event was questioned. Vicar has her messy church/easter egg hunt circulation. The school could be asked if they would also mention to their children. AP will organise publicity in Hexhamshire.

PW went through the meeting she had with Reverend Savage. SD thought that Philip Cain might make some bird boxes for CEG to sell and for the church in his Men’s Shed. SL donating her extra Composting bin to St. Marys as a gift would give extra interest to the event. PT said that the Church Service would be up to individuals to decide if they wanted to attend.

*This section has been rewritten after a request for clarification was made by PW.* The Chairman made the point that we are a community group of volunteers with no or very limited funding and so while we are always ready and willing to work with others, we should not raise too many expectations.

## **9. AOB.**

a) Cllr IC Stevens who is also a Director on Slaley Community Shop board offered Cllr SC Douglas space for three fruit trees two in the rear garden and one in the front. The Treescape

Fund closed May 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, however someone on the shop board has a woodland that could take up to 100 trees and are looking for more oak, beech, silver birch, chestnut – mainly broadleaves/hardwood.

b) HL forwarded information on The Rural Community Energy Fund through RCEF a 10 million pound programme delivered by the Local Energy Hubs. PW explained the 2018 Slaley parish Council Slaley Community PV project with a £20,000 feasibility grant from RCEF the outcome reported in December 2018 was that we could produce too much electricity. HL has offered to discuss further. **It was agreed to make this the Discussion Topic in August.** PT thought that things may have changed since Slaley PC attempted a Community PV project in 2018.

c) Treasurer, Terry Douglas has organised a meeting to open a Barclays Community bank account. Barclays is the only bank offering Community banking at this time. Not available at Hexham branch. TD has organised a 15-minute meeting with Barclays bank in Newcastle – two people who will be signatures need to attend in person on Friday July 2<sup>nd</sup>. DT volunteered to go with TD and become one of the signatories. Our name is too long for a cheque book and may become longer if other neighbouring villages join our group. It was agreed to be know as CEG with the Bank. SB asked how people could donate funds to CEG. SD said that once a bank account is established, she will place a button on the web site to allow people to donate via the web site.

**10. Date of next meeting: Wednesday August 4th 2021 which will be inside the Hall**

**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 19.40