

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

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday May 12th 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)

Harriet Lamb – Climate Change /Slaley Community Shop

Apologies: Andy & Gill Hayden (Slaley Community Shop) – recycling

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

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

Lynda Sale – Hollie House, Dipton Foot –

Joan & Jerry Cleal-Harding –

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

2. Minutes of meeting held March 31st 2021 – pages 22- 25. Proposed as a true record by Stella Douglas and seconded by Terry Douglas the minutes were signed by the Secretary.

3. Matter arising

a) 3d 31/3/21; 3d17/2/21; 3d 6/1/21; 6 25/11/20 : Slaley School signed up to Let's Go Zero 2030 a video from the school field was made and Debbie produced a report for the school website. SD asked for a link to www.slaley.org.uk CP asked for a copy of the Let's Go Zero 2030 to present to Whitley Chapel First School, then if they are interested to be followed by HL.

b) 3e 31/3/21; 4 17/2/21: HL & PG drafted a letter to Guy Opperman 28/4/21 re the £5,000 green-home grants initiative cancelled by the government and the subsidies on electric vehicles have also been suspended – this was sent as requested to Peter Topping to send on. Meanwhile DT emailed on 29/4/21 to say NCC are one of the few Councils with government funding for green energy upgrades through a scheme administered by E,ON – so funding of up to £10k is available and it is

targeted at people who might otherwise not be able to afford it. A redrafted letter has been emailed to our MP. Meanwhile Carole Price of Haydon Bridge had the letter of the week (HC 6/5/21) "Rural valley is missing out on green scheme" when she asked Guy Opperman what he thought of the missed opportunity.

c) 3f 31/3/21; 4c 17/2/21: **General update on recycling at Slaley Community Shop. – Andy & Gill to report.** Cheese wrappers - the Terracycle box is filling gradually and there is no evidence of rodent attack. It would appear that all people are rinsing the wrappers out, as requested. Printer cartridges - we cannot take the cartridges to the Great North East Air Ambulance pending them re-opening their offices. However, we have collected loads of cartridges which we have stored at home in readiness to take. Empty pill blister packs - clearly the Slaley population is pretty sick, because we've already taken the first batch to Superdrug, Newcastle - (we were going to Newcastle anyway) for the benefit of Marie Curie. The Pharmacist I spoke to said that Superdrug has collected tons of packs nationally and she was pleased that the Slaley population 'rattles' with loads of pills! Batteries - we continue to take large quantities of batteries to Hexham Waste Transfer Station. The guys who work there can't work out how or why Gill and I use so many different types of batteries. We'll keep them guessing! Scope - the purple wheelie bin has now been emptied twice by Scope, containing clothing which they sell on for the benefit of the Charity. We've had a preliminary discussion with the Rose & Crown about them recycling crisp packets via Terracycle. We'll move this forward shortly.

Recycling at SCH - DT explained the Ziffit recycling of books, CDs and electronic games how to collect will be discussed at the SCH meeting on May 19th. Certainly something we can ask for donations for our stall on July 28th and what does not sell can go towards this recycling. DT asked if there was interest before July 28th if books were requested - need to look through - keep some for SCH lending library, pack up some for the Ziffit scheme. PT & CF volunteered to help with this.

d) 3g 31/3/21; 7a 17/2/21: **Our symbol /logo No 4 tree with leaves made of recycled items** 5 votes. Samples of the logo with the name included were circulated

A vote was taken on each design

No 1 top left: Round double lines around capital letters in black ink 2 votes

No 2 top right: Round thick and thin outer rings capital Letters in brown ink 7 votes

No 3 central: round no outer rings, capital letters in black 4 votes

No 4 bottom left: tree on an oblong, lower case in brown ink 2 votes

No 5 bottom right: tree on an oblong, lower case less heavy text, brown ink 1 vote

Keep the type of print, shade of ink alterations. Request the design in a jpeg and thank Mrs Hayden Junior for her help.

e) 7c 31/3/21: Annual Litter Pick is May 1st/2nd - very well supported in 2021 thank you to all the members who took part. KM asked if we wanted to register with the

Brand Audit – it was not something we could consider on April 8th after the notices and press releases had already gone out. SAS are asking for volunteers to join the Million Mile Clean – I suppose we were (an unregistered) part of that. May consider this for 2022.

4. Interesting Articles & Information

a) Hexham Courant April 1st – page 44 Climate News – very interesting article on A £20 million competition to develop technology to reverse the increase in carbon emissions from shipping. Around 80% of global trade by volume is carried on ships and there is growing concern about the sector's environmental impact.

Hexham Courant April 22nd – Page 44 Climate News – Stars back campaign to save forest – Future Forest scheme will work with 2,852 households, including women, to increase their income from sustainable frankinsense. + Count for nature in churchyards June 5 – 13 report churchyard wildlife to National Biodiversity Network. **Any of our members willing to do this?** Page 44 of each Courant is Climate News.

b) Earth Day Thursday April 22nd Andy & Gill had their photograph taken at the recycling shedquarters outside Slaley Community Shop for Instagram and Face book. The School also pasted something on its web site. PW asked why the group had not reported Earth Day at its March 31st meeting?

c) HL said Saturday June 5th was World Environment Day – KM suggested a group walk to Juliet's Wood. DT suggested a display of electric cars, bicycles and lawnmowers so people could look at and talk to owners and hear first-hand the advantages – this was considered a very appropriate suggestion. Time 4-5 p.m. at a venue still to be decided. PW thought SCH, DT thought one of the public house car parks. SD will advertise the event through Notes and web site. HL to see if there is a logo for World Environment Day. DT asked to see if NCC have a sample electric bicycle which people could actually try out.

5. Discussion topic Action Plan – report by DT Community Climate Champion – need to engage with local communities. Currently fitting solar panels on Wentworth Leisure Centre roof. Action Plan broken down into seven categories – Slaley top with waste reduction. Second with tree planting. De-carbon heating is difficult. Sustainable transport also difficult at Slaley – some people have electric vehicles and bicycles. Different villages have different strengths Humshaugh electric charging point. Ashington active WI members. Rothbury something different. DT asked if we all received the monthly NCC green news – no-one did. Government help is needed for many of these categories. Example Slaley school has solar panels but the school does not get the benefit – goes directly to NCC

6. Indoor Artisan Market at Slaley Commemoration Hall on Wednesday July 28th between 2 – 6.30 p.m. – this group has a stall on which we can raise some income.

We need goods to sell – PT has volunteered to make a Sardinian Ricotta Cake. KM a chocolate vegan cake. Ask family and friends for donations and also to come and support us.

Offers of sales items – garden produce – AP/TD vegetables. SB plants/ home made preserves.

Pricing of items – stickers. Thought for packaging – no cling film – paper plates and paper bags. Biscuits/Cup-cakes etc could be sold in recycled ice cream cartons.

People to set up stall – having different heights/ display units to improve marketing of the sales items and make sure it looks attractive – from 12 noon.

Recycling goods: Books and CDs if not resold DT explained Zeffi fund (3c above). Photograph frames. Goods bought on line & not used.

People to sell on the stall 2 – 4 p.m. & 4 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. KM, AP, SD, DT

Provide cash Float – TD agreed to oversee this.

Have our logo / name recorded on the table so people are aware of who we are and what we represent. Who can make this? SD suggested Doonan's planning printer.

7. AOB. SB was nominated as CEG's Garden Waste Champion – DT was asked to see if NCC could provide us with one of its composting bins either for the World Environment Day (June 5th) or for the Market Day (July 28th). A worm farm was also mentioned – need to look on line – children may be interested.

8. Date of next meeting: Wednesday June 23rd 2021 which will be inside the Hall

9. Let's not forget – a local initiative –land on which to provide a community 'something'. Not discussed.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 19.31