

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

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday September 21st 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 – Colpitts area/Slaley Councillor/ Show/ Shop/ web site and community orchard.

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

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

Sheila Borthwick – community orchard at Parks Side, Slaley

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

Lynda Sale – Hollie House, Dipton Foot –

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

Apologies:

Harriet Lamb – Climate Change /Slaley Community Shop.

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

Andy & Gill Hayden (Slaley Community Shop) – recycling

Carol Ferguson - renewable energy / energy efficiency & recycling

Absent:

Peter Topping – Healey parish – community orchard

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

Joan & Jerry Cleal-Harding –

Joan Jewitt – Natural History & Ladycross NR

The meeting started at 18.36 with Pat Wilson in the Chair.

Before the formal start of this meeting a strategy for the management of apples was discussed. See AOB d).

2. Minutes of meeting held August 4th 2021 circulated pages 37 – 41. Appendix 1, page, 42

Proposed as a true record by Terry Douglas and seconded by Rosaleen Doonan.

The minutes were signed and dated by the acting Chairman.

3. Matter arising

a) 3a 4/8/21; 3a 23/6/21; 3b 12/5/21; 3e 31/3/21; 4 17/2/21: Reply from letter to Guy Opperman.

No further information available.

b) 3b 4/8/21; 3 c 23/6/21; 7 12/5/21:

Composing bins £28.50 on the CEG stall- one presently at KM's house which will be delivered to SB when KM gets home. The final bin was sold to Geoff Hughes of Slaley

c) 6 4/8/21:

CEG Climate change Action Plan and NCC Climate change Action Plan placed on www.slaley.org.uk

4. General update on recycling

a) at Slaley Community Shop. – Andy & Gill reported by email – GNAA started to collect printer cartridges again. Blister packs large sack ready to go to Newcastle if anyone is going? Used batteries taken to Hexham Waste |transfer unit. Cheese wrapper gradually filling Terracyle box. Scope textiles regularly emptied and taken to Hexham for resale.

b) at Slaley Commemoration Hall – Rosaleen Doonan told the meeting that as old stocks of materials are used up, new stock of environmentally compliant items would be purchased. Redundant light bulbs are being re-cycled to members of the community.

5. Treasurers Report.

a) 5a 4/8/21; 9c 23/6/21: Meeting to open a Barclays Bank account on Friday 3/9/21

b) Karen Melvin funds from Open Garden & Studio events - Karen will hand over £250 to CEG. She asked that a £100 donation be sent to Just One Tree and she also wished to fund special flowering shrubs/tree for St. Mary's churchyard from Tyne Valley Nursery as per her email of 8/9/21 Sorbus acuparia Apricot Queen £45 Magnolia soulangeana £75 & Malus hupehensis £45 (according to my maths that is £265.00 (see 8b below)

c) Treasurer to give an account of the money now held by CEG.

Terry Douglas reported

- Karbon Homes money held by PC paid into the CEG fund
- £145.89 held after the 1st Artisan Market paid into the CEG account
- Total held by CEG £256.89 on 21st Sept. 2021

Some monies are promised by Karen Melvin (5b). Terry and Karen will discuss this.

6. Community Climate Champion report by DJT

Debra described a quiet summer season for the CCC's. A new cohort will join in autumn. She reminded the group about the NCC Plant a Trees scheme and has communicated with the Shop and School regarding how to access trees. Grant applications are available for Community Woodland activities.

7. September 18 – 26 is National Great Big Green Week – September 22nd Fire and Dough

Activities associated with this have not been planned.

8. Discussion topic: Brought forward from August meeting

a) Creating Ponds – CP emailed Farming in Protected Landscape brochure & AONB local map 16/9/21.

There was a long and interesting discussion regarding the development of ponds and scrapes at Quakers' Hole. Details of this will be published in the future when all interested parties have been contacted.

Members of the CEG are actively pursuing grant monies and further information. It is hoped that, Emma Wright, an expert in this field can speak to the group in November.

DT reminded the group that the Community Chest applications took place twice a year

SD informed the group that Community Chest money could be applied for by non-charitable organisations

LS questioned who exactly was applying and it was noted that CEG should be minded of the need to check on such things before committing time and effort to grant applications

SB asked about a social history board.

RD supported the project and hoped that the children of Slaley School would be included.

CP expressed his clear support for the project to become a long-standing educational opportunity across generations of school children in the two parishes.

PW (acting Chairman) proposed that this project be taken forward

SD seconded

With no objections, The Quakers' Hole Wetland Project will become a CEG project.

b) Planting trees on several different inter-parish sites -

DT emailed (2/9/21) NCC tree scheme details.

KM detailed certain flowering shrubs for the Churchyard by email 10/8/21 in preference to the Free varieties being offered. She is offering to pay for them from the funds raised at her open garden – see (5b) and (5c).

Replace cherry trees at Slaley School – email from Nicki 3/9/21 need to Ok this with new Headteacher.

Action – PW suggested that the Tree planting sub-committee should meet and take tree planting forward.

IS asked for trees for Slaley Community Shop – DT said he could order directly if he wished (6)

c) Re-examining a Community Energy Project – PG to lead after speaking with NCC

There was a long and detailed discussion about the Community Energy project.

PG commented on the need for community support, planning permission and emphasised the need for a Parish Neighbourhood Plan which expressed the “desire to generate our own power supply”

PG and CP noted that Northern Power Grid would not yet accept the size of input which would ensure that the project could go ahead and be economically sustainable, but PG suggested that this might change.

There was comment about whether this project would support electricity going straight into people’s homes or whether this was more likely to be a feed-in project.

In light of the need for further investigation and the possible development of a Neighbourhood Plan by Slaley PC it was agreed to revisit this project in 6 months.

9. AOB.

a) HL emailed 1/9/21 details of National Lottery funded programme to support communities take action on climate change entitled ‘Together for Our Planet’.

b) DT (6) is aware of this as a Climate Champion.

c) LS requested that longer term plans be put on the agenda, PW reminded the meeting of item 11.

d) Apples

There was discussion before and at this point about the excellent apple crop. The acting Chairman subsequently clarified what was happening in a post in the Slaley News (22nd Sept. 2021)

It was reported at the September Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire Community Environmental Group that the grasscutter had picked off one apple from our orchard trees at Parks Side, had one bite of and threw it onto the ground – I think he probably tried one of the Keswick Codling cooking apples. The three eating apples are James Grieve variety. Sheila is going to ask the residents at Parks Side if there is either variety they would like to try. Stella and Terry will store the remainder until our October market when they will be offered for sale to raise money for future fruit trees in our mini orchard. If anyone has a spare field corner, we would be happy to consider a long- or short-term lease to extend the community orchard.

10. Date of next meeting: Wednesday November 3rd

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

The meeting ended at 19.23