

Slaley & Healey Environmental Group (S&HEG)

Minutes of Meeting on Sunday February 16th at 6 p.m. in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

1. Introduction of those present and the main environmental interest of the individuals.

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

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

Trudie Jennings – Wooley/Director Slaley shop - Eco washing up liquid so people can refill their bottle

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

Apologies from Carol Ferguson, Debbie Brett, Andy & Gill Hayman.

2. Data protection forms

Completed and given to PW. DT asked everyone if they minded their email address being used by members of the group as they looked into the various aims /objectives as detailed in 4aa – 4ah. This was agreed by the group.

3. AIMS of the Group

e.g. To work with the local community to make Slaley & Healey parishes a fulfilling place to live by focussing on environmental sustainability.

Typically, but not exclusively, this will be by helping people reduce their reliance on fossil fuels, reduce excess waste, improve the visual impact of the area and increase their appreciation for the local environment and flora and fauna.

4. Objectives

a) To cooperate with other organisations, voluntary bodies, and statutory authorities with similar aims. To create an information hub whereby initiatives are made available to the local community.

b) To establish working groups to focus on specific projects that support the “Aims” above e.g. aa)) PW would also like to organise an ALIEN invasion record. We know that Japanese Knotweed was growing south of Flothers bridge in 2013 (July 8th 2013 minutes agenda item 19a) (NCC eradicated it – or did they). Maybe do one per month in the Slaley News (Healey residents can read it on line). PW would like to organise an inter-parish Hedgehog count – recorded sightings to an email address. To contact Hexhamshire and Blanchland to see if either parish wants to join. Letter already sent to Professor David Manning at Newcastle University about his talk on carbon capture. Tap outside the Hall when alterations to the toilets are underway – group needs to find funding for this.

ab) KM & TD to speak to school about native trees and if interested organise planting of same. RD suggested speaking to Tom & Joes Trees at Wylam.

ac) RD to contact CAN for any community led initiatives /would like to provide plastic free alternatives in the Slaley News each month

ad) PT and SD pursue the Community Orchard idea and visit local Orchards, research funding streams. SD reported no offers of land from request through Slaley notes.

ae) DT to contact NCC for any community led initiatives. DT would like to see less litter and more recycling facilities. Quick win 2 small bins in Hall kitchen. DT to make ideas known on social media – work with SD.

af) PG to contact Humshaugh community shop for information/costs on electric car charging

ag) TJ will provide information on community shop offers for page in Slaley News. Offer of fill your water bottle at shop (with agreement from other board members). Sample of local recycled wood briquettes brought to meeting. Community Shop recycling – SCOPE? – how often emptied?

ah) SD to develop web page/ Information Hub/ Slaley News article/ Slaley Notes reporting the group’s plans

5. Name of the Group –

It was agreed that Community should be included in the name. For the moment Slaley & Healey Community Environmental Group. PT felt that it was important to have the names of the parishes recorded in its name.

6. Officials - Any offers for role of Officials

Chairman for the moment Debra Taylor then possibly Peter Topping

Secretary for the moment Pat Wilson then Stella Douglas

Treasurer Terry Douglas

7. Constitution

The circulated draft constitutions were generally accepted PW to try a draft for circulation. It was agreed to hold an AGM in March 2021 when the officials would be appointed for the coming year. It was also agreed that anyone from the two parishes could join the group and depending upon the interest of neighbouring parishes this could be extended.

8. AOB

a) KM asked about the circulated letter delivered on Saturday called 'Nextdoor co.uk' both SD & DT explained its concept.

b) PW was asked if farmers could be contacted to ask what is spread on their fields.

c) PW was asked to contact Forest England to see if a general litter/dog bags wheelie bin could be placed at the Trygill and Ladycross entrances to the forest. If the answer was yes then NCC would need to be contacted to see how they could be emptied, the Trygill bin would be on route to Blanchland but the Ladycross bin is well outside the fortnightly run.

d) TJ explained a community clothes rail / charity rail – less recycling clothes - where could this be? RD was concerned that black bin bags could be left at the Hall door if the concept was adopted at the Hall.

e) Carol Ferguson's email - most of the points raised had already been covered.

f) Everyone pad £1 towards the cost of the hall £8 was given to SD.

g) PW has a file on Climate change / Environmental issues and this was available for people to look through

9. Date of next meeting

Sunday March 22nd at 5 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.