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

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday November 25th at 6.30 p.m. by ZOOM.

**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

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

Trudie Jennings – Recycling – has emailed and asked to be removed

Carol Ferguson - renewable energy / energy efficiency & recycling

Anne & Chris Porter – Hexhamshire (Chris - community orchard) Anne Durham Wildlife Trust Reduce Waste

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

Andy & Gill Hayden - Slaley Community Shop

Mary Pitkethly (Conservation Trust) – has emailed and asked to be removed

Harriet Lamb – Climate Change /Slaley Community Shop

**Apologies** Sheila Borthwick – community orchard at Parks Side, Slaley. Debbie Brett (headteacher)

**2. Minutes of meeting held October 15th 2020**

The minutes were accepted as a true record by SF & seconded by KM and were signed by PW

**3. Matter arising**

a) 3a 15/10/20; 8c 22/2/20: general litter/dog bags wheelie bin placed at the Trygill Both Highways and Forest England manager were nervous about placing Litter Bins in an isolated location. However, they were prepared for a trial period with PC support. DT & SD unable to discuss at November PC meeting DT had other commitments.

b) 3c & 7a 15/10/20) 8h 22/2/20: lobby a national/worldwide climate change initiative or a more local initiative. PW - there is a redundant touring caravan site in the parish which could be used for a community project (i.e. solar farm) and a community orchard. The first thing to do is to see if the site can be purchased. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the owner. – That would give us a local initiative as mentioned in 3c. Letter dated 19/11/20 posted to owner – no response at time of meeting.

c) 5 15/10/20: Meeting with Craig Lonsdale, Environment & Energy Officer, for Karbon Homes arranged for Monday November 30th at 9.30 a.m. with sub-committee meeting of SB, SD CP, PW and PT + good news about funding for fruit trees from Slaley PC. Slaley PC has offered to fund fruit trees up to £100

d) 7b 15/10/20: PT asked about the constitution. PW circulated the draft which should have been discussed/agreed at the March meeting. Constitution circulated with agenda – discussed.

Agenda 1: Name – representation from Hexhamshire do we include in name Slaley, Healey & Hexhamshire CEG. This was agreed.

Agenda 8b: group shall attempt to meet every month it was agreed to change to 6 weeks.

No further changes - amended Constitution attached as appendix 1/251120, page 11

**4. Update of actions since 15/10/20**

a) PW Alien plant invasion record excellent article in November Hexhamshire magazine. Professor David Manning at Newcastle University contacted and asked if his “carbon capture at home” could be given by a ZOOM presentation in January. Email sent 3/11/20 to Prof Manning not replied at time of meeting.

ab) RD CAN for community led initiatives / CAN requested an article about the group for its newsletter, our parish involvement and our achievement hopes. RD provided an article and asked that other village halls/groups make contact with their ideas and suggestions.

ac) PT and SD Orchards / research funding streams/ generally accepted that we could have lots of small pockets of fruit trees. SD to re-advertise for any land suitable for planting.

ad) DT NCC community led initiatives / Contact Cllr Glen Sanderson the new NCC leader. DT has asked NCC to include Slaley in any future Environmental pilot scheme they may have. DT also said that the collection of the County Wide tree allocation had been rescheduled the new date and venue to be forwarded by DT.

ae) SD to develop web page/ Information Hub/ Slaley News article/ Slaley Notes / PT suggested social media sites especially Facebook. SD will take video footage to be included in the web site.

af)PW asked Baynes family about shredded material for animal bedding – researching – David Baynes replied from a cattle bedding viewpoint need to establish how absorbent is it - Newsprint quite good. Printed material how quickly does it break down? - not known. Spreading muck on a windy day and the hedges get festooned in dirty bits of paper (What would the Parish Council say?)

ag) Community shop Andy & Gill Hayden. The shop was hoping to have solar panels on the roof to help generate some of the power they need in the Shop. They asked about any grants available and was the Commemoration Hall thinking of something similar? HL said that Green Hands were giving domestic grants of up to £5,000 she would check and see if a community business was eligible. CP said that most incentive schemes were finished but roof panels would be an excellent carbon saving exercise. RD said she would check with CAN and DT would check with NCC. AH said the shop was thinking of having a Battery recycling facility – everyone thought this was a terrific idea and asked if Ink Cartridges could be included. Good press coverage especially if the school children could be involved.

6 Slaley School and the Green Flag awards from Eco Schools – NE reported a free registration for Early Years pupils and also the After-School Club – at the moment two separate bubbles due to the COVID-19. HL explained that Ashden is working with Eco Schools. HL and NE to have a meeting and see if Slaley School would be interested in registering with Let’s Go Zero 2030 (*see agenda item 6c below*). RD said she hoped that our older young people who attended Middle and High Schools would also become involved. RD also reminded the meeting that an initial idea from January was for the children to share with the community their “green ideas”.

**5. Harriet Lamb offered 8 oak saplings approximately 2 year-old to the community – ready for planting early December.**

School interested in 4 (NE & PW to meet on site and agree a location)**.** SD 1. Colpitts 1. Church ? HL asked if the saplings could be collected from Haydon Bridge and there could be one or two few more. SD agreed to collect. CF asked about stakes and rabbit proofing - TD to provide. AH asked about publicity. SD to mention in notes, take Video footage for web site. KM to take photographs. PT suggested Facebook and inviting the Hexham Courant to record the planting. HL was thanked for the saplings DT reported that Slaley Hall were cleaning land of self-germinating Rhododendrons and planting thousands of native hardwood trees.

**6. Interesting Articles & Information**

a) Hexham Courant 12/11/20: NCC declares a climate emergency & replaces 7 diesel vans with electric vehicles + another 40 more on order this year.

b) KM circulated by email 24/11/20 the South Tyne Sustainability Newsletter - PW asked for clarification on recycled plastic marked by 2 & HDPE. DT & SD had both checked on the NCC web site and most of the plastic we use comes under HDPE. Attached as appendix 2/251120, Page 12.

c) Harriet Lamb forwarded the Let’s Go Zero 2030 information. Attached as appendix 3/2511/20, Page 13.

**7. Agree dates for 2021 meetings especially if we are going to resume meeting face to face**

6 weeks from Wednesday November 25th is January 6th 2021

6 weeks from Wednesday January 6th is February 17th

6 weeks from Wednesday February 17th is March 31st

6 weeks from Wednesday March 31st is May 12th is the date of Slaley WI

6 weeks from Wednesday May 12th is June 23rd

6 weeks from Wednesday June 23rd is August 4th

6 weeks from Wednesday August 4th is September 15th is the date of the Hall Management Meeting. SD, DT, RD & PW are all on that committee therefore a change of date is essential

6 weeks from Wednesday September 15th is October 27th

6 weeks from Wednesday October 27th is December 8th is the date of Slaley WI

The meetings in red will need to be changed if we meet in Slaley Commemoration Hall.

**8. AOB**

a) RD asked how information would go out to the people of Hexhamshire**.** AP said she would write a press release for Lynda White to include in Hexhamshire notes and a second for Hexhamshire Parish Council.

b) CF asked how the people of Healey were kept abreast. PW explained that Climate Change was in each monthly report/minutes for Healey Parish Council.

c) PG spoke about battery storage of excess energy and the need to keep abreast of changes so Slaley could become an early adapter especially as battery cars become more commonplace.

d) AH asked what size piece of land was the group looking for on which to plant its Community Orchard and how many trees would be needed? SD explained that the tree providers recommended the tree numbers and spacing for growth when area shape and size was identified. KM reported having been part of an Orchard on a hillside at Tarset – she would send photographs around the group.

e) Chairman PT recapped the meeting and the several groups who were going away to undertake certain actions and reminded them all to keep SD informed for publicity. PT suggested that in January the group should discuss Recycling.

**9. Date of next meeting**: WednesdayJanuary 6th 2021

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.