

HEAR ABOUTS

APRIL 2022

The Free Community Magazine for Eglington Parish
North Charlton | South Charlton | Eglington | & Everywhere Between

From the Editor

Email: hearabouts@outlook.com

What a bloody mess!

To be honest I'm not surprised to hear that the Parish Council has collapsed after a mass resignation. During my time as Chair the whole environment had quickly become unpleasant, combative and by the sounds of it, it got worse after I left my position in November - just poisonous.

What a sad outcome. I feel sad for June, who after giving over 40 years' service to the Parish Council, felt like walking out of each meeting held since PC meetings returned to in-person, saying she had never experienced anything like it over all those years. If anyone deserved a quiet, calm retirement at the end of this term and a sincere note of thanks it was June. Sentimentality and recognition of her own work, obviously didn't come into her mind as she resigned with determination, knowing the consequences. So, I'll say it here. June Lawson, thank you for your service as a councillor and of course all the other incredible work you've done and continue to do in our community.

So, the PC now sits inquorate, unable to be operated by its remaining two officials and essential operations are likely to be now run by officers from Northumberland County Council. At least with NCC taking on the basic roles it should give everyone time to have a good long think about whether this end result is actually good for our communities. I don't say 'communities' as a plural lightly, as recently it has become apparent to me how different our attitudes are across this Parish. We have just come through a tumultuous couple of years, we should be pulling together and supporting our neighbours, events and organisations within the parish, not dividing into petty cliques fracturing our villages at the seams, with attitudes unable to overlook differences of opinion – what are we? 10 years old?!! Time to get a grip and grow up!

With the recent horrible atmosphere now exposed, which remaining, fair, balanced and community minded people (who can leave personal interests, and vendettas out of their priorities) are likely to willingly subject themselves to such hassle and animosity by standing for the Parish Council? My opinion is that this episode will put these good people off from ever standing. And so, the PC will remain inquorate or worse, made up of a bare minimum struggling to remain quorate half the time, likely made up of a clique of narrow views.

As I think about it now, an extended period of the Parish Council being inquorate sounds like a positive option. Everyone can get back to their lives as NCC runs the statutory elements of the show. Almost everything can carry on without the Parish Council... The ECA is fully independent and can continue to aid and administer community events including enabling continued use of the field & tennis courts in Eglington. South Charlton Village Hall committee have just agreed to become an incorporated charitable organisation thus fully detaching themselves from the PC and legally allowing themselves to hold the new lease for the hall. Indeed, Eglington Village Hall has a multiple year lease in place so their committee can continue to run, maintain, and improve facilities there. The windfarm grant panel is independent of the PC, and any decisions about managing/administrating the fund is made by RWE themselves anyway. Good old Hear Abouts is fully independent. The world won't stop turning with no PC!

This current term of the Parish Council lasts until 2025. Three years of no stress and our local groups carrying on as normal, continuing to improve our communities and, god forbid – working together for the good of ALL?!... Fine by me!

Andy

Breaking: Mass Resignation from Parish Council

On Tuesday 5th of April, seven of the nine sitting Eglington Parish Councillors resigned leaving the Parish inquorate and thus unable to carry out any formal duties.

The seven, which included Chair David Beisterfield, Vice-Chair Aaron Blackmore and even longstanding Councillor June Lawson, who had served on the Parish Council for over 40 years, ended up resigning, citing issues with Councillor Hamilton. They had sent a letter asking her to resign her position - if she did not, then they would resign themselves. Hear Abouts obtained a copy of the letter sent to Councillor Hamilton and is published below.

After a refusal to resign, resignation letters from the seven were submitted to the Parish clerk.

The clerk has also submitted her resignation and will leave her post at the end of the month. The advertised meeting of 6th April was thus cancelled due to the Parish Council being inquorate.

Letter sent by members of Eglington Parish Council
c/o Mill House,
20 The Village Eglington
NE66 2TX

02.04.22

Dear Jane,

It is with regret that we write this letter but our very firm consensus is that we are unwilling to continue as members of Eglington Parish Council while you remain a member.

Those of us who have served with you to date ('longer established members') have noted that nearly all the PC's meetings since you were welcomed through co-option on 21.01.21 have been acrimonious and unpleasant.

Without going into the long, associated history of events, we believe that you have been chiefly responsible for that state of affairs which has impeded the PC's efficacy and resulted in Andy Gray standing down as the PC's Chairman and as a member – a great loss, as he is widely respected in our community and was an invaluable asset. Andy has confirmed to us his reasons for standing down and is aware of this letter.

It also led to Aaron Blackmore being unwilling to assume the Chairmanship on Andy's retirement – also a highly regrettable loss.

David Biesterfield accepted the Chairmanship only because, in effect, no one else would.

The position is compounded by yesterday's resignation of our clerk, Angela Meek whose letter of resignation states:

"It has been an interesting and on occasions challenging time since I started in post, and although the difficulties currently being experienced by the Parish Council are not in themselves my reason for leaving, I feel I should mention that they have sadly made the decision to leave less difficult than it would otherwise have been."

Those of us who have just joined the PC ('new members') have given careful thought to the views of the longer established members, to the best interests of the PC and, more importantly, the wider community. We have concluded that we must support the longer established members.

Accordingly, we, together, request you to resign as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect. We require that resignation by not later than 5 p.m. on Monday 4th April 2022, by email to the Chairman and/or the Clerk. Please note: we are not willing to delay the immediacy of the resignation and nothing you may say will change our decision.

If you do not resign as requested, we will do so immediately upon expiry of the deadline we have set you. Should an election result from our actions, none of us, if re-elected, would be

willing to serve on any PC of which you remain or become a member – we will campaign on that basis.

We reserve the right to publish this letter unless you act as requested.

Finally, insofar as we remain Parish Councillors and you may have ideas for the betterment of our community, we will be happy to consider them fairly and openly if you present them to the PC as a member of the public. Of course, you may also sponsor them through one of the other voluntary bodies that are so valuable to our community. Your resignation need not affect your involvement in the History Project which, of course, you may continue as a local resident.

Please respond within the above timeframes. N.B. due to Covid multiple copies of this letter may be signed so it is the cumulative number of signatories to which you should have regard. To avoid the risk of infection, letters signed by those of us with Covid will be sent to you only by email.

Yours sincerely,



David Biesterfield – Chairman



Aaron Blackmore – Deputy Chairman

June Lawson



Richard Faulkner (see duplicate letter)

Jamie Logan (see duplicate letter)

Nicky Dickinson



Paul Davies



Apologies for the quality of the scan of the letter. It is the best we were given.

From the editor - again:

*With the latest developments, some articles for Hear Abouts have had to be held over to next month to make room. 300 word stories will be back next month, if you fancy having a try the starting sentence is still **“Machines whirring, lights flickering, then the air becomes heavy with acrid smoke...”***

Please also note that some articles printed here, may now be out of date after the events of the past couple of days.

The cover is the colours of the Ukrainian flag, primarily for solidarity, but maybe now a reminder that there are bigger, badder things going on in the world to bring us some perspective.

Andy

Age UK Northumberland

We are writing to introduce Age UK Northumberland, to tell you a little about who we are as a charity and how we'd like to support you in your community. So starting at the beginning, for those who are not aware, Age UK Northumberland was formerly known as Age Concern and has been an active supporter of our over 50s for nearly 25 years. Age UK Northumberland is an independent charity, funded through local support and managed locally to ensure that the needs of our county are met. We are privileged to have secured support from the Middlemoor Community Fund and look forward to providing support within your community.

Our mission is to improve later life for people aged 50+, their family and carers and to that end, we provide a wide range of services including: information, advice and advocacy, practical and emotional bereavement support, exercise classes and health and wellbeing advice, MCST dementia support, scams awareness advice and support, social groups and a friendship line – there are no hidden charges for our service and our teams have vast knowledge and expertise which they take a pride in sharing.

We look forward to meeting with you shortly, but in the meantime, please do get in touch with our team if we can provide any advice or support at all on 01670 784 800 or email info@ageuk-northumberland.org.uk.

Take care and best wishes
Amy Whyte
Chief Executive of Age UK
Northumberland



NEW Pilates Class

suitable for all levels

Tuesdays 4:30pm-5:30pm

At Eglington Village Hall.

Please book your
place by calling
07710702884

**8 weekly
sessions
starting
5 April**



Pilates brings awareness to posture, mobility and core strength. Any specialist equipment will be provided and mats can be provided on request.



Eglingham Parish

Council Tax Energy Rebate

As part of the governments initiative to help households with rising energy costs, they have announced a one-off £150 energy rebate for eligible households in 2022.

Eligibility

You will receive £150 energy rebate if:

- your property is in Council Tax band A to D (or band E where there is a disabled band reduction)*
- you are liable to pay Council Tax
- the property is your sole and main residence on 01 April 2022

* If you receive council tax support you are still eligible for the £150 payment

You will not be eligible if:

- your property is a second home
- your property is empty on 01 April 2022
- you are in Council Tax bands E to H (some band E properties are eligible where there is a disabled band reduction)

How The £150 Will Be Paid To You

If you pay council tax by direct debit, we will use this information to pay £150 direct into your bank account. We aim to make payments by early may 2022.

- If we don't have your bank account details, there will be an online form that you can use to give us your bank details. We will write to you when this is ready.
- We are developing other options for those who cannot engage with our online process or who don't use a bank account regularly. We will share this information when we have it
- Where we cannot find another way to pay someone the £150 they are eligible for, we will deduct it from their council tax account in September.
- Please Note. We can only pay the person(s) liable for council tax on the property
People who share paying the bills

Only one payment of £150 can be paid per property. Where the Council Tax is paid by direct debit the £150 will be paid to the account that is used to pay the Council Tax. Where the Council Tax is not paid by direct debit, customers will need to decide who is going to apply. We will pay whoever applies for the property, as long as the applicant is one of the liable parties for paying Council Tax.

What if I'm not eligible but I need help?

- We have been given a discretionary fund that enable us to help those living in properties in band E-H who need help

- We plan to use part of this to automatically extend the £150 payment to those living in properties in Bands E-H who currently receive council tax support
- We are currently waiting for answers from the government to various questions raised before we can take decisions on how to use the rest of the discretionary fund.

“Youth Club”?

There has been interest expressed about potentially starting “youth club” type activities in the parish due to the increasing number of young people in the area.

Before this is explored further, we would like to ask both parents and young people in the parish (or further afield) if this is something they would be interested in and what activities they would like to be involved in. This could be anything from day trips (during holiday time), sports training such as rugby/football or creative activities such as arts/crafts/baking/theatre.

Please could all interested parties (including young people and those who are willing to be involved) email their interest and suggestions to youthactivities@outlook.com by the 30th April.

Any other queries or questions will also be welcomed.

Thanks

Jess

Eglingham WI

Our meeting was opened by Romaine Barclay-Kim who was deputising for President Brenda Robertson. Poor Brenda had fallen victim to Covid. Romaine welcomed two prospective new members and then normal business continued including discussions about our forthcoming trips to Beamish and Howick Hall.

Our speaker for the evening was Elspeth Horsfield who talked about her silk painting. She described the techniques which she uses, all this being done in the living room of her home. We were shown a large array of beautifully coloured scarves she had made and there were some boxed ones for sale at discounted prices.

After supper the raffle was drawn and won by Carolyn Brewster.

Our next meeting is in April when our speaker will be talking about gravestones.

Pat

Junior Tennis

There will be junior tennis coaching on offer over the Easter holidays for 9 years and over. It will be held on Thursday 14 April in the afternoon on Eglingham Community tennis court. Depending on numbers there will be 2 groups. 9-11 years and over 11 years. Equipment will be provided. The cost will be £5 a head for one hour.

Anyone interested please contact me. Mobile 07919172355.

Cheers

Nicky

PS. Adult coaching is always on offer and we are always looking for new people of any standard or age. Please let me know if you are tempted.

Gardener's Question Time - Eglington Village Hall

Wednesday, 18 May 2022, 7pm for 7.30

Admission: donations on the night

Pre-booking open now at jane.hamilton99@sky.com tel: 07546 487121

Your Panel - Tom Pattinson, Journalist and Broadcaster

Sarah Davidson, NGS Lilburn Tower

Robert Jamieson, Head Gardener, Howick Estate

Please submit questions in advance by 30 April 2022

Photographs and illustrations welcomed

Refreshments including bar available

Anyone for Cricket?

Rock Cricket Club is a growing cricket club with junior teams (boys and girls) and senior teams (men and women) participating successfully in various leagues and competitions. Last season, we were able to welcome new junior members from Eglington parish. This enabled the club to successfully apply for funding from Middlemoor Community Benefit Fund. The funding will be used to install permanent practice nets at the ground of Rock Cricket Club enhancing our facilities significantly. We understand that there is a cricket club in Eglington playing friendlies and we would like to invite the club to play a friendly against Rock Cricket Club at some point this season. Furthermore, if there are any residents in the parish wishing to play regular senior league cricket or join or ladies team you are very welcome. Rock Cricket Club has thriving junior section and is willing to build on this success. Any new junior members from Eglington Parish can join Rock Cricket Club without having to pay any subs for the 1st season in 2022. Junior training is every Saturday from 9.30am until 11am and starts on 16th April. The club also organises various social events, this season will be planning a music night and the over 50s Cricket Match during the Jubilee weekend in June.

Rock Cricket Club also runs Cricket courses for kids in the summer more info below:

Courses - ECB All Stars and Dynamos at Rock Cricket Club

Dates - Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th July

Times - All Stars (aged 5-8) held between 9-11 am each day.

Dynamos (aged 9-12) held between 1-3 pm each day.

Find your local centre here:- <https://ecb.clubspark.uk>

We look forward to seeing you at Rock Cricket Club. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please follow us on Facebook, Rock Cricket Club, Instagram: rock_cricketclub, <https://rocknorthumberland.play-cricket.com/home>

Email address club secretary adamferry@theotservice.co.uk

Regards,

Rock Cricket Club

Parish Council News

You will be pleased to hear that this column will not be a regular feature but I wanted to let you know that the informal consultation through January's Hear Abouts produced a substantial majority in favour of moving the waste bin, or at least its aperture, outside the Eglingham Bus Shelter as part of its refurbishment and almost unanimous support for a second speed warning sign on the main road close to the bottom of the Terrace. Grant applications to the Community Foundation have been submitted and, subject to their success, both projects will be pursued as quickly as possible.

Following the PC's supportive resolution at our January meeting, the Eglingham Community Association also submitted a grant application for better management of the Community Field. In particular, the plan was to increase the frequency of grass cutting and to better enable further tidying-up works. The works contemplated by the application would not have affected any later decision on the use of the field, following the further consultation that the PC had planned. Unfortunately, for reasons I find difficult to understand, that application has been refused. The PC will wish to understand why the Community Foundation has, in effect, blocked works expressly approved by the PC and which would not have affected the outcome of any future consultation. Meantime, I am sure everyone will wish to share my personal appreciation for the tremendous commitment that the ECA team contribute to the management and upkeep of the field – we couldn't maintain this central and valuable asset, without that commitment.

David Biesterfeld (Chairman, Eglingham Parish Council)

Watercolour painting classes are returning to Eglingham Village Hall!

Tutor: Frances Buckingham
Start date: Friday 13th May 2022
Time: 10 am – 12 noon
Location: Eglingham Village Hall

Price: £25 for the whole course (5 classes) or £7.50 for an individual class.

Please note: these classes will be suitable for all levels and the initial course will run for 5 consecutive weeks.

If you are interested in joining these classes please contact sallykaykennedy@gmail.com to book your place.

A list of watercolour equipment you will need to bring with you will be provided to you when you book.

New Tennis Clubhouse

For those of you that have been on Eglingham Community field recently you will have noticed that the old tennis hut has been removed, having been replaced by a new clubhouse thanks to a grant from the Middlemoor Wind Farm Fund.

The old hut was on its last legs with wood rot and damp taking its toll. Volunteers from the club cleared it away which enabled the base to be extended for the new clubhouse. This arrived in kit form last week on a trailer and needed to be moved from the lane to the site for erection. All those involved were advised to regard the heavy lifting work as part of their strength training for the new tennis season. Thankfully the team sustained no injuries



other than those they started with as a result of advancing years!

The new clubhouse looks perfect in its setting next to the beautifully tended border created by the ECA. We feel very privileged to have this lovely facility in the Parish.

This season the Tennis club continues to go from strength to strength with 26 members. Coaching is available for adults all year round (£7.50 per hour). Additional coaching has also been planned for juniors in the Easter and Summer holidays (£5.00 per hour), alongside coaching for toddlers in the summer (£3.00 per session). Everyone is welcome regardless of ability. Why don't you come and give it a try? Anyone who is interested please contact Nicky Dickinson on 07919172355. There is a loyalty box for anyone wishing to use the court (£1 per person, children free) and a booking system which can be joined by contacting Nicky. When all the finishing touches have been completed to the clubhouse, there will be access to rackets and balls available for anyone to use.

Please keep a look out for additional tennis activities which will be advertised through the residents email system and Hear Abouts.

Gillian Ridgway

Broadband Service

I have been tasked on behalf of the Parish Council to establish if any households in the parish are having difficulties gaining Broadband Service or are being poorly served. Despite Broadband provision being a contract between the user and the provider, due to remoteness from Openreach's "green box" there may be help that can be had were we to know who are having issues.

It maybe that with the time that has now elapsed since fibre optic cables were brought to the green boxes, service issues have resolved themselves. However if anyone is having issues please get in touch with me and I'll see if we can improve or resolve your service. *James Logan* on 07976 634669

Ukraine Fundraisers

Many Thanks to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning in aid of DEC Ukraine Appeal, at South Charlton Village Hall on Saturday 19th March. We had a fabulous turn out and the hall was buzzing. It felt like pre-Covid times. We had some yummy homed baked donations and an amazing £460 was raised for the appeal.

Sue Jackson

Money was also raised at the latest Lunch Club at South Charlton, and Andy Grant raised £220 at his catering pitch at Craster.

A magnificent £303.50 was raised at Coffee & Chats this morning for the DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Many thanks to those who made donations of money and produce. A very big thank you to those who kindly gave their time, helping out and making the event such a success.

Eglington Community Association

Continental Chum?

Ca va mes amis, je m'appelle Gus et j'habite a Patterson's Cottage. According to my research I have now exhausted the average British person's understanding of French – unless I can find some way to make the pencil case of my aunt relevant – and have been advised to continue in your language. I speak English well (I learn it from a book) and have lived in many of your houses during the five years that I have been alive. I like you people, you have biscuits, but you seem to think that I am currency and can be passed around as a way to settle debts. This is not ok, the changes and unsanitary conditions made my skin itchy and scratchy; don't panic, the bathing and anti-biotics have done their work and I have the skin of a peach, albeit a very 'airy peach.

I hope to move on to a permanent home soon; if this happens fast enough zen, perhaps, I will be able to join the Adopted Dogs Dog Walk that is taking place at Bamburgh on 10th April. Zose taking part must meet at the first car park on The Wynding at 10am; the lovely people at Bamburgh Castle are allowing us to use The Stable and providing tea, coffee, and water, c'est magnifique.

'Ere at Northumberland Dog Rescue www.northumberlandogrescue.org.uk the humans raise money through their charity shop in Amble (Queen Street, next to the butchers, yum yum!) and street collections; if you can help out with any of zat then please contact Annie at anniewallace60@gmail.com There is a more novel fundraising activity happening next month when Salmon City Blues will be playing for our benefit at the "Barnival" which is at The Joiner's Shop Bunkhouse, Ellingham on the weekend of the 30th April – tickets and more information at <https://fienta.com/barnival-at-the-bunkhouse> My neighbours and I have offered to come and provide a howling backing



track but apparently only non-singing dogs are allowed.

All dogs, with or without singing skills, are welcome to come along and take part in the Dog Show that Northumberland Dog Rescue is organising for the Amble Puffin Festival. This takes place over the Platinum Jubilee weekend – obviously, the winner of the Cute French Guy Class is a foregone conclusion but it is no shame to compete for ze second place, hon, hon, hon.

Au revoir

Gus

Massage and Reiki

Massage, Meditation or Crystal Reiki appointments available in Alnwick and Eglington; or in your home.

- Swedish Massage - £40
- Indian Head Massage - £25
- Crystal Reiki - £40
- 1-2-1 Meditation - £30

Text or Call: 07872120122

Zo Harris

Eglington Parish Council

Clerk: Angela Meek, 21 Orchard View, Linton NE61 5SP

Email: eglingtonclerk@gmail.com

MINUTES

of the meeting of Eglington Parish Council held on
23 February 2022 at Eglington Village Hall

Present: Councillors D Biesterfeld (DB - Chair), R Faulkner (RF), J Hamilton (JH), J Lawson (JLa), J Logan (JL),

In Attendance: Clerk – Angela Meek; Lorna Turner, Michael Stafford – South Charlton Village Hall; 2 Residents

Apologies for Absence – Aaron Blackmore, Wendy Pattison

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2022 – the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

Declarations of Interest – none declared.

Matters Arising – none raised.

Adoption of NALC National Model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations – the item was deferred.

Action: Clerk to re-circulate.

Reports received:

Suggestion Boxes: no suggestions had been received.

Eglington Parish County Councillor Report: February's report was noted.

Co-option of Parish Council Members: the Parish Council RESOLVED to co-opt to the PC Alyson McGarrigle, Nicky Dickinson and Paul Davies. The Clerk would arrange to send the appropriate forms for completion.

Action: Clerk

Eglingham Neighbourhood Plan: the PC noted that NCC's comments on the latest draft of the plan had been received by the Steering Group, and a meeting was planned for 7 March. The SEA was awaited, and the statutory consultation period ended on 14 February. AECOM had begun the SEA assessment subject to further response through that consultation. The process was scheduled to be completed by mid-March.

PC Projects Spreadsheet: the PC noted and accepted the spreadsheet which was to be completed in relation to all Community Foundation awards by those preparing applications.

Local History Project: The PC noted that the Village Boards' project team had met MGH Consultants on 24 January, and provided the information they had collected. A visit was made to each site. All three villages have now submitted their information in digital format. The initial focus will be to agree a concept for the Old Coach House, Eglingham from which a "house style" for all other boards will follow.

The Church Boards' project is progressing according to plan. The new Vicar had recently given her full support for the exhibition in the Ogle Chapel.

Biodiversity Project: The PC noted that EcoNorth had reported the surveys of Red Burn, Black Burn, and Washing Pool Burn had been completed. The habitat mapping and write-up was also progressing. There was to be a week's delay due to the bad weather.

Broadband Project: The PC noted that following enquiries JL had found that most people he contacted were reasonably happy with their broadband. He would place a paragraph in Hearabouts offering support to any remotely located residents struggling to obtain adequate broadband.

Storm Arwen Review by NCC: The PC had received a request from NCC Chairman of the Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee requesting submissions on the PC's experiences during the storm and the multi-agency response to it. The PC RESOLVED that JL would draft a response and circulate to PC members. Submissions were due to be returned in March. Action: JL

Storm Malik: The PC noted the damage caused to a tree on the Community Field during Storm Malik and the emergency action taken by DB and Malcolm Angus. An insurance claim had been made for the work by a tree surgeon (totalling £750) with the PC only liable for the excess of £125. The PC RATIFIED the actions taken by DB.

Finger Posts, Footpath Infrastructure & Associated Information: the PC received information about ECA's plans to work with NCC to improve footpath infrastructure and viewpoint seating; and a proposal for ECA to apply for £2000 grant funding for grass cutting on the Community Field, general maintenance work and grant management fee. A proposal was also submitted for the PC to apply for CF funding to refurbish the bus shelter in Eglingham.

JH requested an item on the next agenda for considering the development of the Community Field via grant funding with the assistance of a consultant as previously raised by the PC in 2019. The PC RESOLVED that DB would request Malcolm Angus to defer the grant application by ECA if it had not already been submitted. Action: DB

The PC noted the responses to the consultation with residents about the refurbishment of the bus shelter and the relocation of the litter bin, a clear majority being in favour of relocating the bin. The PC was keen to suggest a solution that sought to address the concerns of those who took a different view and proposed that the narrow panel that used to semi-enclose the shelter be re-instated and the bin be set within its frontage. The bin's aperture would be outside the shelter but accessible for those using it. The PC, by a vote of 4 to 1, RESOLVED to approve the refurbishment of the bus shelter and relocation of the litter bin and authorised DB to make the requisite Community Foundation application for funding (expected to be under £2,000).

Viewpoint Seating – discussed under item 17/22/11.

Bins at bottom of Tarry – the PC noted that following a site visit it was intended that the enclosure and bins should be on the opposite side of Tarry, and NCC's comments were awaited. The initial estimate of costs was £885.39.

Logging Routes/Heavy Vehicles – deferred

North Charlton Defibrillator – the PC noted that an application to the CF for a defibrillator had been submitted in the sum of £3,308 (including VAT).

First Aid/Defibrillator Courses – the PC AGREED to combined courses on the use of the AED and general first aid being arranged by JL, who would submit a CF application for £1248. Action: JL

Insurance and SCVH Lease - Lorna Turner and Michael Stafford attended the meeting to provide an update on behalf of SCVH on the arrangements for the renewal of the SCVH lease and insurance arrangements and presented their report.

This was in the context of the following concerns (which had been conveyed to SCVH over several months):

1. The current lease and the prospective, new lease of the SCVH both require the PC to be the insured; 2. In any event, the protection of the risks assumed by the PC under both leases make it essential that the PC is at least one of the insured in terms of those risks (specialist insurance advice has confirmed that the noting of the PC's interest on the policy in no way covers the PC's risk exposure); 3. The PC cannot be expected to sign a lease the terms of which do not protect its interests as Custodian Trustee; 4. That being so, it made no sense for SCVH to exclude the PC from the process of negotiating the new lease terms; and 5. Insofar as SCVH may expect the PC to rely on advice of solicitors appointed by SCVH, those solicitors would have to accept a duty of care to the PC (otherwise the PC could not prudently rely on that advice).

LT advised that SCVH agreed the need for partnership working and, while the lease was between the Landlord and the PC, SCVH needed to understand the terms of the lease and its own responsibilities. LT had arranged a meeting with SCVH's solicitor for 24 February and SCVH requested the PC to agree to give further time to complete investigations so that by the next PC meeting it should be able to move forward in meeting the PC's concerns. LT stated that should the PC be unwilling to sign a lease which met the landlord's demands but did not meet the PC's concerns, then one option would be for SCVH to incorporate enabling it (the registered charity) to itself be the tenant.

Discussion took place about the need for insurance to be in the joint names of the PC and SCVH, and for the Lease to take account of the PC's requirements. The PC indicated that it would have no objection were SCVH to incorporate, if SCVH took the new lease directly from the landlord. However, progress, one way or the other, needed to be fast because the PC's risk exposure remained unaddressed.

The PC agreed by a majority vote that it had both a contractual obligation to insure SCVH and that insuring the risks to which it was exposed was, in any event, essential. It was pointed out to LT and MS that the current lease declares that the PC holds it in trust for the VH, instructs the PC to insure, and SCVH under the terms of the Schedule was obliged to pay the cost of the insurance. It also set out the terms that govern the relationship between the PC and SCVH. The draft of the new lease still obliged the PC to insure but contained no declaration of trust nor did it set out the terms between the PC and SCVH.

In terms of insurance, the PC had been advised by two reputable insurance brokers that the options were either 1) the PC was added, as an insured party, to the SCVH insurance for property risk, or 2) SCVH removed property risk from its insurance and passed it to the PC to arrange insurance for that risk, which the PC would be happy to arrange in the joint names of the PC and SCVH.

Concerns were repeated that the PC continued to remain uninsured for the property risks and felt it was an urgent imperative that the PC be (at least one of) the insured in terms of those risks.

LT advised that while there was no objection to a joint policy, SCVH's priority was to finalise the Lease and, so far, it had been advised that joint insurance was not the way to proceed.

The PC agreed to give LT additional time to make enquiries. The PC agreed to accept her offer to arrange, at her 24 February meeting with SCVH's solicitor, for a meeting between the solicitor, LT, DB and JH. The advice provided during the meeting was to be provided under a duty of care to the PC.

LT agreed to provide the Lease to the next PC meeting. All agreed that the PC required legal advice from proficient solicitors owing it a duty of care, prior to signing the Lease.

DB invited LT to join discussions he would be happy to arrange with an insurance broker. LT/MS would consult SCVH and advise DB.

Tree Project – the original intention was to plant 60 trees donated by the Woodland Trust on the Community Field (Plan A). The Woodland Trust has confirmed in writing that the trees may be planted anywhere accessible to the public. Due to concerns about the number of trees being too great for the Community Field and possible damage to drainage, an alternative proposal to Plan A had been put forward and the PC received details of three planting sites and a planting scheme (Plan B). Concerns were expressed by two members that the original consultation was not being adhered to with one of them, however, stating that, in his opinion, 60 trees was too many for the Community Field to accommodate.

The PC RESOLVED by a majority vote to accept Plan B.

Second Speed Camera Eglingham – the results of the informal consultation were in favour of a second camera and the PC RESOLVED that the application to the Community Foundation should proceed. Action: JL

Section 50 Vehicle Activate Sign – Application Form – noted that the PC had signed and returned to NCC a form accepting responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the speed sign which is installed at the North West end of Eglingham.

Finances – The monthly Finance report was noted, and the following invoices approved for payment:

Clerk's Salary January £194.70

Clerk's mileage and expenses £26.88

Unstumpable Tree Services £750.00 (insurance claim for £625, the balance being the insurance excess)

Andrew S Gary Design – domain name fee £50.47

Defibrillator costs at SCVH – not approved for payment (the PC had not been informed of the proposed expenditure nor approved it). The Clerk was requested to investigate responsibility for maintenance and report to the next meeting. Action: Clerk

Planning Matters – the PC noted the following:

21/03689/FUL – Proposed construction of tourist accommodation – land west of staff accommodation Charlton Hall – PERMISSION granted

21/04693/COU - Middlemoor Narrow Boats Chathill Northumberland NE67 5HP: NCC had proposed two conditions relating to landscaping and extent of the site, as suggested by the PC, which the PC accepted as satisfactory. The Clerk was therefore instructed to withdraw the PC's objections. Action: Clerk to confirm to NCC

Charitable Donations under S137 Local Government Act 1972 – deferred

Other Correspondence: previously circulated – noted for information:

- Age UK Groups & Classes - circulated to residents and EVHSC & SCVH
- Library Briefing 25 January - circulated to residents
- Healthwatch Northumberland – GP Access Survey – circulated to residents
- Northumberland Local Plan – Inspector's Report – for information

Any Other Urgent Issues

Consultations: the PC discussed and affirmed its view that it was not possible to consult on all issues. In practical terms, that would be disproportionate and impractical, and the PC lacked the resources to do so.

Funding for CF applications: it was suggested that the CF might be willing to fund an admin post for completing CF applications. To be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

Gateway signs had been installed in North Charlton. They were the wrong type, but residents had agreed to keep them. County Councillor Pattison was thanked for funding them from her allowance.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Wednesday 6 April 2022 at 7.30pm – South Charlton Village Hall

Future Meetings:

Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 7.30pm – Eglingham Village Hall

Fantasy Premier League Hear Abouts Championship Season 2021/22



Current standings are after Game Week 31...

1st - Andy Gray - 1922 pts

2nd - Jon Waters - 1466 pts

3rd - Kay Waters - 1331 pts

4th - Sarah Henry - 1285 pts



**Next Issue:
Sometime in May**

All content must be recieved by the 20th of April

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