**EGGLESCLIFFE AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EARA)**

**MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Monday 8th March 2021**

**Online via Zoom­**

Present: Shane Sellers, Ruth Greenwood, Neville Thompson, Norman Douglas, Brian Robinson, Richard Crouch and Jan Crouch.

1. **Welcome**

Shane welcomed and thanked those present for their attendance online.

1. **Apologies**

Doug Nicholson, councillor Maureen Rigg, councillor Stefan Houghton and Kathie Hatfield.

1. **Minutes of previous Meeting**

The minutes for January 2021 had previously been circulated. There was no meeting on 8th February 2021, as the meeting was postponed due to a lack of items for the agenda.

1. **Updates from January’s meeting**
2. **Back lane surface** - Shane informed members that a response had been received from councillor Stefan Houghton in respect of this item.

*The response was, “I have visited the track today and see what you mean! I have been advised that it is not adopted. It is privately owned. Privately owned by who is the mystery. The footpath by the wall is a 'public right of way' and I understand recent inspections state it is in good condition.*

*In terms of who owns the track, Land Registry records state it is unregistered (not been sold or the owner has not registered it since the Land Registry began in 1862). It could belong to the Parish Council, but it's been suggested this is unlikely. Land Registry requests have been made in relation to the allotments and the field to see if these documents provide any clues of ownership.*

*In the meantime, a technician will look at the issue of surface water along Back Lane with this being part of the adopted highway”.*

1. **Gritting of the road up to The Green, Egglescliffe** – Shane informed members that, through the support of councillor Stefan Houghton, a response on the gritting of roads uo to The Green, Egglescliffe, had been received from Stockton Borough Council (SBC).

Their response was, “*We have considered your request to extend the gritting of Butts Lane in conjunction with our policy, from its current turning point at the Cemetery entrance to a new point terminating at Back Lane and unfortunately we are unable to agree to this request for a number of reasons as follows;*

* *The route currently terminates at the Cemetery entrance as this is the only safe point along Butts at which we can get the gritting vehicle to safely carry out a U-turn manoeuvre without compromising the health and safety of the gritter driver and other road users.*
* *The hierarchy and usage of the road does not support its inclusion beyond the primary school.*
* *A number of salt bins have been provided should residents wish to ‘salt’ other sections of the Lane.*
* *The layout of the road coupled with the presence of parked vehicles severely restricts the access for the gritter with the potential for issues/delays to arise, which may then affect the treatment of the remainder of the priority route .*

Whilst it will be disappointing for some community members that the requested gritting will not take place, it is understandable that SBC must prioritise their primary routes.

1. **Artistic artwork for the top of Stoney Bank Lane**

Shane informed members that he had been speaking to councillor Stefan Houghton regarding the artwork and had put forward a number of potential themes. A response had been received from councillor Houghton and his colleagues that three sides of the artwork can have designs and the themes they have chosen are the 1825 railway, the Civil War and poppies.

The 1825 railway celebrates the forthcoming 200th anniversary of the Stockton to Darlington raily journey, the Civil War represents a Civil War battle that took place on Stoney Bank and the poppies link in with the War Memorial for those who died in both World Wars.

Councillor Houghton is now waiting for the artwork so he can share it with EARA and then the bin covering itself can be produced.

1. **EARA gardening volunteers**

Richard and Jan were thanked for their continued work at the War Memorial, particularly during this difficult pandemic period. They informed members that the previous War Memorial plant waterers would be approached to confirm they would be happy to continue this activity throughout the summer of 2021.

Riachard and Jan have planted some seedlings at home, particularly Amaranthus seeds, but would need buy additional plants for the summer. They also mentioned that the two barrels at the top of Stoney Bank needed replacing and it was agreed these could be purchased once the current tulips had stopped flowering.

The cost of the barrels and summer plants would be met by EARA, but Richard and Jan would approach Dobbies Graden Centre, Yarm Road, to see what support they could provide.

Ruth confirmed that the Egglescliffe Gardening Club has continued to meet via Zoom and that they have agreed to maintain the flowers barrels at the front of Egglescliffe Parish Hall. They would, however, have to buy plants for the barrels and it was agreed EARA would stand the cost of these.

1. **A.O.B**

Neville informed members that a foodbox collection point had been placed inside the entrance of the parish hall to support Little Sprouts. Little Sprouts have carried out a lot of work during the last year to support community members who struggled to buy food. They are now liasing with with local schools to provide emergency food hampers and are seeking the support of residents.

Neville suggested the planting of trees in identified areas of St Margaret’s Park to soak up some of the water that has not been able to dissipate due to the ground being waterlogged. Shane stated that he believed this land was owned by Egglescliffe and Eaglescliffe Council (EEPC) and their agreement would have to be sought before such activity could take place.

There was some debate over the type of tree to be used (willow) and the cost of funding this activity, however, until such time as approval was sought this matter could not be taken further. Contact would be made with EEPC to try to address this matter.

Ruth asked whether the could be some publicitiy around the support that had been given to the telephone box library on The Green. This librabrary had been well used during lockdown and had provided much enjoyment to residents living in and around the area.

Ruth enquired as to whether EARA could hold their annual scarecrow event later this year as lockdown would end in June 2021 (subject to the 4-steps being met) and it would be something for residents to look forward to. Shane agreed to speak with EEPC both about the scarecrow event and the possibility of the Egglescliffe 2021 Summer Fete.

There being no further items of business, Shane thanked those able to make the meeting and the meeting itself was closed.

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the EARA committee would take place at 7:00pm on Monday 5th April 2021, via Zoom.