Egglescliffe Area Residents’ Association

**MINUTES FROM THE**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF**

**EGGLESCLIFFE AREA RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

**AT EGGLESCLIFFE PARISH HALL**

**ON TUESDAY 11th October 2022**

1. **Welcome by the Chair**

Shane Sellers welcomed those present and thanked everyone for their attendance. It was noted that 23 members of the local community attended this AGM, which is a significant increase on the 2021 AGM.

Current committee members who were able to attend this AGM were Shane Sellers, Brian Robinson, Neville Thompson, Ruth Greenwood, Richard Crouch, and Jan Crouch.

1. **Apologies**

Committee member apologies were received from Doug Nicholson and Norman Douglas.

Other local resident apologies were received from Rosemary Douglas, Simon Smith, Joanna Sellers, and Rosey Thompson.

1. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM**

Minutes of EARA’s AGM held in October 2021 were circulated and placed on EARA’s website. They were made available to any member of the community should they wish to read them.

1. **Chair’s Report – Shane Sellers**

The Chair gave an overview of his annual report, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

1. **Report of accounts – Nev Thompson (Treasurer)**

The treasurer informed those present that EARA had £1,200.00 in their account, but when he had paid out for flower purchases for the War Memorial, this would reduce to £1,175.00. EARA currently pay £5.00 per month for the luxury of having an online bank account, and if we are to remain and move forward, we would need to look at fund raising events.

The cost of replacing the defibrillator pads once they have been used is approximately £50.00 per pack.

1. **Election of Management Committee Officers**

Due to the uncertainty as to whether sufficient members would be nominated, and seconded, as forthcoming committee members, the Chair asked those present if they still wished EARA to exist. He asked this question as if there were insufficient members nominated as new members of the EARA committee, the current committee would have to remain in place to invoke section 11 (Dissolution of the Group), of the EARA Constitution.

It was clear, from those present at the meeting tonight, that they wished EARA to continue so the current officers stood down from their positions.

A formal election process concluded the election of the following officers to sit on the 2022 – 23 EARA management committee:

* Chairperson – Shane Sellers was nominated by Brian Robinson and seconded by Dawn Robinson.
* Vice-Chair – Brian Robinson was nominated Shane Sellers and seconded by Dawn Robinson.
* Secretary – Kevin Clark was nominated by Caroline Buckley and seconded by Dawn Robinson. There was no secretary elected. The Chair agreed to take the minutes at future EARA committee meetings.
* Treasurer – Tim Mackfall was nominated by Tim Stokeld and seconded by Russell Pell. Neville Thompson, the previous treasurer, agreed to work with the new treasurer, for a few months, to change over cheque signatories and hand over all documents.
* Additional committee members that agreed to join the newly appointed EARA committee were Mark Buckley, Caroline Buckley, Becky Heaton, Kay Greehalgh, Ruth Greenwood, Neil Rocket, and Tim Stokeld.
* Co-opted members included councillor Stefan Houghton, the Egglescliffe and Eaglescliffe ward councillor. Shane Sellers would liaise with Egglescliffe and Eaglescliffe Parish Council to identify a suitable ward councillor to sit as part of the committee.

1. **Closing of the AGM**

There being no further business, the AGM closed at 7:42pm.

**EARA**

**Chair’s Annual Report 2021/22**

Following their committee meeting in October 2021, it was agreed the EARA would temporarily suspend meetings subject a decision as to whether EARA should merge with the Egglescliffe Parish Hall Association (EPHA). The following EARA committee members attended an EPHA committee meeting on Tuesday 8th February 2022, where several options were discussed - Doug Nicholson, Norman Douglas, Brian Robinson, Shane Sellers, Neville Thompson, and Ruth Greenwood.

The following is from the minutes of the above meeting, which was prepared by the EPHA secretary:

***Linking up with EARA***

*Thank you to Neville from bringing this item forward.*

*We are both working as 2 different groups but towards broadly the same aims and objectives and both committees are dwindling. We both run the risk of closing.*

*EARA will celebrate their 10th Anniversary in the summer. We have been relatively successful. Both organisations are struggling to recruit volunteers and it would be a shame for either group to fail.*

*The Parish Hall was formed about 50 years ago from the Village Amenity Society. This was set up to undertake various activities including gaining conservation status for Egglescliffe Village in which they were successful. They were offered the Parish Hall when the new school was built.*

*We then had a lengthy discussion the main points of which were:*

* *How will be marry together the different activities we do e.g., EARA manage the War Memorial, Village Fete, Hall Garden and EPHA maintain the hall and manage bookings.*
* *Need an active committee with younger members.*
* *We will need to review the terms of the lease of the Hall from the Church.*
* *We will need to work together to draw up a new constitution.*
* *The Church support the continued running of the hall by a management committee.*
* *We need help with marketing our “group” – Lydia may be able to find someone to help us with that.*
* *We need to link up with local shops and businesses for help with volunteers as well as donations.*

*The discussion ended with a vote “Should the two organisations merge”. No one present was against the merger however the members of EARA in attendance today will need to feedback to their other committee members’.*

The above minutes were shared with EARA members on 27th February 2022.

On the 8th of March 2022, EARA members attended the EPHA AGM, where the issue of a potential coming together of both organisations was discussed. The following is an extract from the EPHA AGM minutes, prepared by their secretary:

***Amalgamation with E.A.R.A****.*

*If we were to amalgamate as has been discussed the EPHA constitution would have to be amended. A Copy is to be sent out with these minutes so that the attendees here today can suggest amendments to bring the constitution up to date and make it fit for purpose.*

*Note the constitution can only be amended at an extraordinary general meeting and it was suggested that this should be held in 2/3 months’ time.*

**Defibrillator**

The defibrillator remains available for our community to use. EARA are grateful to the EPHA for allowing this to be place on the front of the building and for allowing their electricity to be used to keep it prominent.

Should EARA amalgamate with EPHA, funds would need to be shared to maintain the defibrillator pads and medical equipment.

**Volunteer Gardening Section**

Richard and Jan Crouch and the EPHA Gardening group, through Ruth Greenwood have, despite the difficult time we have all experienced over the last 12-months, managed to work to maintain the gardens at both the War Memorial and at the front of the parish hall. Those who have seen both displays will agree that they certainly brighten then area up, and the work that has been put in to achieve this, is greatly appreciated.

The two barrels at the top of Stoney Bank, opposite Egglescliffe War Memorial, were replaced, and will be planted up with Spring bulbs by the team.

We place on record our special thanks to Richard and Jan Crouch, Ruth Greenwood, and the many ‘waterers’ who have kept the gardens looking so pristine.

**Scarecrow Festival**

On the 10th of July 2022, EARA held their third Egglescliffe Scarecrow Festival, which took place alongside Egglescliffe Village Fete. Despite circulating almost 300 A5 leaflets throughout Egglescliffe Village and St Margaret’s Estate, only 9 participants were involved in displaying scarecrows. Whilst this was disappointing, the time, effort and quality of the scarecrows that were produced was appreciated, with the overall winner being the Rust family. Well done to them for their ‘Postman Pat’ scarecrow, which was chosen as the winner by a local independent artist, Helen Hardy.

**Community Telephone Box Library**

The community telephone box library, on Egglescliffe Village Green, is still as busy as ever and is used regularly by residents. We remain grateful to those who have donated books over the last year, but also to those volunteers who have regularly cleaned and maintained the telephone box.

**Double yellow lines in Grisedale Crescent and Borrowdale Grove**

EARA committee members have worked closely with ward councillors, in particular Stefan Houghton, to have double yellow lines in Grisedale Crescent and Borrowdale Grove. This is due to the significant traffic problems that create a danger for pedestrians walking in these areas, due to inconsiderate parking by parents attending Egglescliffe Primary School.

Shane Sellers

Chair (EARA)