**EGGLESCLIFFE AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (EARA)**

**MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Thursday 22nd August 2024 at the Pot and Glass PH,**

**Egglescliffe Village.**

Present: Shane Sellers (Chair), Ruth Greenwood, Christina Rocket, Brian Robinson (Vice-Chair) and Tim McFall (Treasurer).

1. **Welcome**

Shane Sellers welcomed and thanked those present for their attendance at this meeting. The meeting started at 7:00pm as planned, with the evening’s agenda being previously circulated to members of the committee.

The Chair was informed that the landlord of the Pot and Glass, would be attending for a short while to discuss the possibility of holding and event with Andrew Brewster at the pub, in September.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mark and Caroline Buckley, Tim Stokeld, councillor Stefan Houghton, councillor Tony Collier, Neil Rocket and Becky Heaton.

1. **Updates from the previous EARA Meeting**

The minutes from EARA’s committee meeting held in July 2024, had been previously circulated to members. It was agreed at this meeting that the contents of those minutes were an accurate reflection of the matters discussed on the day, with no comments being raised by members in respect of them.

1. **Celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway**

Shane informed members that we now needed to start planning for the celebration of 200th anniversary of the Stockton to Darlington Railway, and we needed to set a date which Egglescliffe and Eaglescliffe Parish Council (EEPC) would agree with. It was suggested that Sunday 7th September 2025 would be a good day to hold the event, as the schools would be back from their summer holidays, and this is two-weeks before the anniversary itself.

Shane would write to the parish council to confirm the above date and would report back to members.

There were several things that we needed to consider at this meeting to make the event a success. These are:

* To arrange a joint planning meeting with EEPC to the points raised by EARA can be fully discussed with EARA.
* To confirm the 7th of September 2024 as the date of the event and to decide how long the event should run for. Brian Robinson stated the St John’s Parish Church would like to be involved on the day, and that they would look to support the event by holding something inside the church. It was suggested by Brian that the church could hold a service on the Green on the Sunday morning, and that would be the start of the day’s activities around Egglescliffe.

Experience at other joint EEPC and EARA summer fetes have identified that residents stay on the Green late into the evening, so an extension from the 5:30pm cut-off time might be appropriate.

* A diverse array of entertainment was considered, which included a brass band, a soloist and a potential band. This entertainment could be planned throughout the day so it could benefit the different music tastes of visitors.
* As this was a community-based event, the planning committee should consult with residents, schools, businesses and other interested groups such the brownies and the quilters. Again, this consultation should start now to give the various groups and organisations the opportunity to start planning for their involvement.
* The landlord of the Pot and Glass agreed to loan EARA his mobile bar so we could sell alcohol and soft drinks on the Green. EARA would have to manage the bar and buy the drink; however, they would benefit by taking all the profit. We could, if we wish, consider using the services of the Three Brothers Brewing, but again, this is something to be discussed with EEPC.
* Was it possible to have a train themed pinata either on the Green or outside the Pot and Glass, that could be used by children on the day. EARA have previously used a local pinata organiser, and Shane would attempt to speak to her about this.
* We should consult with Shildon Railway Museum, York Railway Museum, Durham Archives and Stockton Borough Council to see what, if anything, they could offer for the day.
* Whatever is agreed, we should seek to keep the S and DR Railway anniversary team up to date about any agreed proposals.
* Should this be a railway dress up day?
* Ruth to look at the potential for an art exhibition on Saturday 6th September, with the drawings and pastings displayed around the village at the anniversary event.
* Shane agreed to follow up the possibility of having a mini mobile train that would take children on rides around Egglescliffe Village.
* Brian Robinson enquired as to whether the normal road closures we have at a summer fete could be extended, so we were able to have stalls all around the village Green and on Church Road. It was felt this was a distinct possibility, but a road closure request would have to be made to Stockton Borough Council Road Traffic Department.

1. **Other community events to be organised by, or in partnership with, other organisations**

**Food event in the Pot and Glass** – The landlord of the Pot and Glass agreed that EARA could hold an event at the pub, on Friday 27th September 2024. This would be an event with Andy Brewster (soloist) and would take place in the pub garden. We could have use of the marquee and would charge £5.00 entry from 7.30pm.

It was asked whether we should include food as part of the ticket price (increasing the price accordingly), which may make the night more appealing. Kevin stated they could look at providing a Thai buffet, with Christina stating she would speak to the manager Matt.

Christina also agreed to print off tickets and arrange for social media advertisement of the night. She will feedback on how she gets on with this.

**Salvation Army foodbank collection** – EARA’s annual foodbank collection for the Salvation Army should take place on Thursday 14 November 2024, from 8.00am to 4.00pm. Shan would enquire with the Egglescliffe Parish Hall Association (EPHA) bookings officer to confirm if this date was available and whether there would be a cost associated with it. If so, we could seek permission from St John’s to use their premises as a collection point.

It was felt we should have banners advertising the event to draw in more crowds, and to utilise social media to extend our reach in the local community.

**Summer Fete 2025** – There will be no July summer fete, as this would now be incorporated into the Stockton to Darlington 200th Anniversary event.

1. **Finance**

EARA currently have £708.64 in their account.

Shane would make an application for funding for next year’s flowers for Egglescliffe War Memorial and the parish hall. This application would be sent to Norma Ironside.

1. **Terracycle** – Shane spoke personally to a member of Terracycle who confirmed that if EARA bought a recycling box for Egglescliffe Primary School to recycle pens, when the box was full both the pens and the box would be recycled and we, or the school, would have to buy a new box**.**
2. **Any other business**

**EARA quiz** – Russel confirmed, through Tim McFall, that he still intended to hold a community quiz in the parish hall., which is likely to take place in early 2025.

Shane asked members if they had any friends or family who would consider supporting EARA as by being a member of this committee, to bring them along to our next meeting.

1. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the EARA committee would take place at 7:00pm on Thursday 19th September 2024, at The Pot and Glass, Egglescliffe.