

Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council

Monday 23rd November 2015 at 7.30pm

Methodist Church Hall, Christon Bank

Chairman: Terry Howells

Present: David Morgan, Raymond Carss, Neville Fawcett, Richard Manners

Clerk: Melissa Gilroy

116. Declaration of interests: None

117. Apologies: Georgina Armstrong, Ray Imeson, John Young, Gordon Coxon, Adam Moody (on Council Business), Cllr Kate Cairns (NCC)

118. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the 26th October 2015 were agreed as a true record. Type errors on agenda points 99, 100 & 104 were noted, Chairman to sign the revised copy.

119. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

- **Christon Bank**

- Missing Signs. Letter written to Horsley Place resident regarding the missing sign. Councillor Young to contact local resident regarding B6347 sign (brought forward). Revisit in January if the signs remain missing.
- Stone Planters. Parish Clerk confirmed that there were no grants currently available to help fund the village planters. Councillors agreed to use the Parish budget to build these. Having consulted with NCC, the PC must adhere to the 'Requirements for the Erection of Stone Structures on the Highway' document. Parish Clerk & Councillor Young to identify the entry points in Christon Bank where the planters should be build and Chairman to send photos of these to NCC together with a photo of the Embleton planter.

- **You're Welcome Scheme.** Letter written but no response received. Revisit in January if still no acknowledgement.

- **Pavement Parking.** Note drafted and submitted to the Whinstone Times and the NET.

- **Parish Councillor & Parish Clerk Training.** Parish Clerk to attend training in Creighton Hall on 24th November. Parish Councillor training for Councillor Young to be rescheduled when NALC release the Spring dates for 2016.

120. County Councillor's Report (Post Meeting Note)

Apologies were sent from Cllr Kate Cairns (NCC) and an update of County matters were received prior to the meeting. See inserted report for more details:



Embleton PC
update Nov 15.pdf

121. Homes From Northumberland

- **Stone Bus Shelter.** Awaiting a response from the developers regarding their contribution towards the building of the new stone bus shelter. Estimates for the build have been completed and 6.8k should be budgeted. Chairman to continue contacting Peter Mitchell to help secure a financial commitment from the developers before the site is complete. Chairman to also write a letter to County Cllr Kate Cairns to request a contribution from the Councillors Fund.
- **Quarry Housing Development.** Landscaping plans circulated to Councillors for information only.

122. 2015-16 Budget / Precept. Precept request to be submitted to NCC in February 2016. Additional funding required in the 2016 Precept to cover the PC contribution towards the rebuilding of the Quarry bus shelter. Further discussions (to include contingency funds for uninsured Parish assets and potential funding required for the all-weather pitch) to be held on Precept in January 2016.

123. Complaints Procedure Policy. Chairman to amend the appeals procedure to reflect the number of Councillors that are required to attend a hearing where a dispute is unresolved. Agreed amongst Councillors.

Proposer: Raymond Carss

Secunder: Terry Howells

Unanimous

124. Transparency Fund. Grant available to PC's with a budget of <25k to assist with costs of new I.T equipment. EPC require a Parish laptop and printer / scanner. Chairman to request that Vice Chairman Georgina Armstrong progresses with the grant application.

125. Revised EOC Publication Procedure. Compiled by Geoff Newcombe. Agreed by Councillors.

Proposer: Raymond Carss

Secunder: David Morgan

Unanimous

126. Upkeep of Embleton Village Green. The PC 1997-2013 receipts and payments book show that EPC used to receive annual payments from the Greys, Golf Club and Sportsman for the upkeep of the village green. This ceased in 2007. Councillors agreed that the payments should be reinstated and a £100 per annum donation should be requested from the businesses displaying advertisement boards on the green. Chairman to draft letters.

127. Risk Analysis – Asset Register. The Chairman is currently assessing the assets covered / not covered under the PC insurance scheme. Contingency funds required to help cover uninsured assets may need to be considered in the January 2016 PC meeting when the budget / precept is set. Zurich or NFU insurance advisors are available to help to assessing the level of cover required by the PC.

128. Signage at Dunstan Steads. The Chairman wrote a letter to the AONB in October 2015 in favour of the consolidation of the signage at Dunstan Steads. AONB have since written a letter to Simon Lee at the National Trust to gain approval before progressing with one sign to cover all the concerned bodies. Awaiting further response from the National Trust. Clerk to send a reminder letter if no response before Christmas.

129. Energy Grants & CAN. CAN have recently appointed a new Chief Executive (Andy Dean). Councillor Morgan requested that we invite him to an EPC meeting in the next few months to meet our Local Councillors but to also brief the Councillors on his vision for CAN and provide an update on the energy

grants currently available to those residents living in housing without central heating systems (e.g. housing with storage heater etc.). Chairman to draft a letter of invitation to Andy Dean.

130. Meeting Reports.

- **Area North Committee Meeting.** Attended by Councillor Morgan. Items discussed included Energy Grants, Sandstone Way Cycle Route, Highway Verges and the use of local contractors. The next Area North Committee Meeting is being held in the Creighton Hall on Monday 11th January at 6pm. Councillors are encouraged to attend.
- **Alnwick Schools Partnership Meetings.** Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet Meeting attended by Councillor Morgan and Councillor Moody. At these meetings the further consultation recommendation that Embleton Vincent Edwards CofE First School should convert to a Primary school from September 2017 was approved. Decision awaiting final County Council approval in January 2016. The comments submitted by EPC & Merton College in response to the further consultation were highlighted within the meetings.
- **Bus Services Meeting.** Attended by the Chairman. 20% of the local bus services are considered to be 'rural' and require subsidy to allow them to continue running. At present EPC give a £250 contribution towards the 420 bus service that runs from Ellingham to Alnwick each Thursday. Usage statistics have been requested by the Chairman for this service to see if the PC should continue with this contribution. Chairman to update at the January 2015 PC Meeting.

131. E-Mails Received. None to report.

132. Maintenance Issues

- **Bin repair / Replacement near Embleton Village Shop.** Clerk has ordered a replacement bin. Awaiting delivery.
- **Play Park Wall Repair.** Vice Chairman Georgina Armstrong to report progress at the January 2015 Meeting.

133. Financial Matters.

- Current Account Balance £9463.30 @ 29/10/2015
- Spent & Received since 26/10/15
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses - £209.99 (GN)
 - HMRC PAYE - £47.60 (GN)
 - Bonfire Donation - £100.00
 - Playpark Insurance - £963.00
 - Creighton Hall - £12.50
- Cheques required
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses -£238.68
 - HMRC -£54.20
 - Church Hall -£10.00
 - Poppy Appeal -£19.00
 - Embleton First School (photocopies) -£10.00

134. Planning Matters

- 15/03626/FUL - Proposal for construction of 4 no. new dwellings with associated garages and accesses. Land North East Of Wesley Way Christon Bank. Consultation expiry date – 26th November 2015. Clerk to feedback to planning application stressing the importance of Paragraph 2.2 within the Design & Access Statement in reference to affordable housing.

135. Correspondence. Donation request received from Alnwick Playhouse. All annual donations to be assessed and agreed at the March 2016 PC Meeting.

136. Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- CAN representative Andy Dean and Energy Grants.
- As there is no scheduled December PC Meeting it was agreed that Embleton Village Green should have a community Christmas Tree in December 2015. (depending upon a suitable power source).
- Progress report on the all weather pitch. Vice Chairman Georgina Armstrong.
- Field next to Embleton playpark – resident email.

137. Time, Date and Venue of next meeting

Proposed that the meeting should be held on Monday 25th January 2016 at 7:30pm in Creighton Hall, Embleton.