

# Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council

Monday 25th July 2016 at 7.30pm

## Methodist Church Hall, Christon Bank

**Chairman:** Terry Howells

**Present:** Raymond Carss, Neville Fawcett, Gordon Coxon, Adam Moody, David Morgan, Richard Manners, Ray Imeson

**Clerk:** Melissa Gilroy

**Attendance:** Angela Feather & Roger Howell - Farne Churches Youth & Family Outreach (FCYAFO). One member of the public.

**282. Declaration of interests:** None.

**283. Apologies:** Cllr Kate Cairns  
**Absent:** John Young, Georgina Armstrong

**284. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting**  
The Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were agreed as a true record.

**285. Angela Feather (Family & Youth Worker).** Angela provided Councillors with a background to the Farne Churches Youth & Family Outreach project and is currently researching the needs of the local villages before establishing any new groups or local projects. Possible opportunity to work with Embleton Primary School in September. Angela to contact the school and discuss ideas with the children and new acting Head Teacher.

**286. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting**

- **Christon Bank Stone Planters.** The Highways Department at Northumberland County Council (NCC) have given the go ahead for works to commence. Awaiting James Cockburn's availability.
- **Signage at Dunstan Steads.** 'No Overnight Parking' and 'Toilets' signs are currently in production at Fantasy Prints. Delivery and installation expected in August.
- **Local Footpath Guide.** Cllr Young absent at Parish Council (PC) Meeting. Ongoing.
- **War Memorial Plaque.** The War Memorials Trust have confirmed that Embleton Parish Council (EPC) are eligible for a grant for a plaque to be placed on the Embleton War Memorial. Further information is required by the Trust including names for the plaque, military records, photos of the memorial and evidence of a newspaper article. Chairman to place a note in the Whinstone Times & NET before progressing with the application. Ownership query ongoing.
- **Village Green Charge to Businesses – Sambuca's.** The advertisement board belonging to Sambuca's / Blue Bell has been reinstated following payment of the annual village green charge.
- **Bolton Terrace.** The reported rat issue at the former toilet site on Bolton Terrace has been investigated by the Pest Control team at NCC. Recommendations have been made by Pest Control and the Environmental Health Department to consult Northumbrian Water for an inspection of the sewers / drains beneath the site to advise

on the actions required and the responsibility for these actions. The Clerk contacted Northumbrian Water, date for inspection to be confirmed.

- **Core Strategy Consultation.** Major modifications to the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy have been published. One notable change that has been identified is the development of onshore wind energy development. The Newcastle & Northumberland Society have prepared a pre written response in opposition to the change in the consultation. Deadline 27<sup>th</sup> July for responses. The Councillors agreed to support the Newcastle and Northumberland Society and send in the pre written response on behalf of Embleton Parish Council. Clerk to action.
- 287. County Councillor's Report.** Cllr Cairns had no actions or issues to report at the PC meeting other than a note to say that work is ongoing on progressing the proposal of a county wide responsible dog charter.
- 288. Quarry Site.**
- **Entrance Bin.** See agenda item 289. An additional observation was made at the meeting about the amount of fly tipping at the recycling plant. Councillor Imeson personally cleared away the excess of rubbish that had been left, NCC have since cleared up the site and surrounding area.
  - **Reinstating footpath into Quarry & Footpath from Quarry housing to Garage.** See agenda item 293. Development of the new footpath will address these issues.
- 289. Replacement / Repair to Dog Bins.** Images of the dog bins on Sea Lane and at Dunstan Steads were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Both bins are damaged and require replacing. Councillor Moody also highlighted the requirement for a dog bin on the lamppost beside the Quarry entrance. It was agreed at the meeting to replace the three bins at the approximate cost of £170 per unit. The Chairman agreed to place a sticker on one of the green wheelie bins at the Golf Club to highlight that this may also be used for dog waste.
- 290. Parish Noticeboard – Christon Bank.** An image of the Christon Bank noticeboard was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The board is not regularly used and requires repair, replacement or removal. Chairman to assess the state of the board and advise if this can be repaired at the September PC meeting.
- 291. Local Transport Plan Programme 2017-18.** NCC contacted EPC in July 2016 requesting the Parish Council's priorities for the Local Transport Plan Programme for 2017-18. A list of transport related requests from the Directory of Requests database accompanied the NCC letter. These issues included speed control and no overnight parking restrictions at Dunstan Steads. Councillors agreed to request the painting of 'SLOW' signs on the road approaching Dunstan Steads (before the bridge, the sharp left bend and before the housing). In addition, Councillors also agreed to request that the roadside verges are cut back after feedback from the member of public in attendance at the PC meeting. No overnight parking signs are currently on order. Clerk to respond to NCC.
- 292. Embleton Joint Burial Committee (EJBC) Cemetery Maintenance.** Councillor Coxon provided an update of the meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July with Steve Lowe from the Wildlife Trust. A presentation was made exploring ways in which the maintenance of the Spitalford Cemetery could be changed to create a more natural, attractive and environmentally friendly environment while respecting its sacred nature. The Committee agreed that to reduce grass cutting and maintenance costs they would allow the unused burial areas to become wild flower meadows. The area will be developed for 12 months before assessing the outcome of the site and the response from the public.

- 293. Quarry Footpath (connecting Creighton Housing to Embleton Village).** Chris Thompson – Highways Department Manager (NCC) met with the Chairman on 22<sup>nd</sup> July to discuss the options for a footpath connecting the new housing development to the village. The options for the path on the East and West side of the road were discussed by the Councillors and it was agreed that the most appropriate siting for the path was on the east side of the road (from the current path to the low cost houses then to opposite the entry of the new estate). This was also seen as a solution to the problem of access to the bottle bank. Building of the footpath would be on condition that the wall on the east side would remain intact and the trees on the layby would not be affected. There would also be a need for dropped kerbs at both ends of the lay-by and opposite the estate entrance so that prams etc. can easily get off the road onto the pavement. The Chairman to feedback to Chris Thompson and request that the Parish Council are kept fully informed as regards developments relating to the new pavement.
- 294. Creighton Place Sport & Play Facility Funding.** Awaiting the outcome of the Whinstone Times article inviting any other local sporting groups to apply for funding. Once received the PC will agree how the fund should be distributed between the interested parties. The Community Chest grant information has also been circulated to Councillor Imeson, Councillor Carss and Councillor Armstrong to apply for funding for the Cricket & Football Club equipment and Playpark drainage & wood chippings.
- 295. Neighbourhood Plan.** Peter Rutherford is due to attend the September PC Meeting to brief Councillors on the Neighbourhood Plan. Information regarding Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDO's) was sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Chairman and Councillor Morgan assessed the information and have deemed it inappropriate for a rural PC such as Embleton therefore not to be progressed further.
- 296. Parking / Driving on Village Greens.** The Chairman circulated images of the white roadside mini bollards used by North Sunderland Parish Council to prevent parking on the roadside verge. To be discussed further at the September PC Meeting.
- 297. Homes for Northumberland. Landscaping of the bank.** The Chairman meet with NCC at the Tenants Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July to discuss landscaping on the bank. The plants put onto the bank (dog rose, holly and ivy) are intended to act as low maintenance ground cover growing over the weeds. These plants are immature at present, therefore the area should be reassessed in Spring 2017.
- 298. Meeting Reports.**
- **Tenants Meeting** - 19<sup>th</sup> July Creighton Hall. See agenda point 297
  - **Embleton Joint Burial Committee Meeting** – 5<sup>th</sup> July Spitalford Cemetery & Creighton Hall. See agenda point 292
  - **Area Committee North Meeting** – 11<sup>th</sup> July, Chatton. Councillor Morgan attended the Area Committee North Meeting on behalf of EPC. Items discussed included the Community Chest Grants available for community groups, the Tall Ships Regatta at Blyth, petition support for the Barrels Ale House in Berwick Upon Tweed and the appointment of Liz Hall, Inspector for Northumbria Police. The Councillors discussed that they may invite Liz hall to a future PC meeting. Councillor Morgan expressed interest in attending the final two Area North Committee Meetings for 2016 in Ford and Longframlington.
- 299. E-Mails Received / Correspondence**
- **North Area Review of supported Bus Services.** A letter detailing the planned changes to local bus services was sent to EPC on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The change to services do not affect the residents of Embleton and Christon Bank directly. Councillor Morgan highlighted that one proposed change to the X15 and X18 to support the re-siting of the Duchess's High School would result in the children changing buses at Alwick Bus

Station each afternoon (i.e. X15 pick up at school, X18 Alnwick Bus Station for onward travel north). Clerk to feedback to Neil Easton (NCC) the concerns of the PC that a large number of pupils will be unsupervised at the Alnwick Bus Station changeover. Clerk to also check with NCC that there is no planned change for Embleton / Christon Bank pupils private hire bus service when the new High School opens in September 2016.

- **Ellingham to Alnwick 450 Bus Service.** Usage figures for the bus service have been obtained by the Chairman and only one person uses this weekly service with pick up in Christon Bank. The person using the service lives within the Parish of Newton and travels to catch the bus. The Councillors discussed and agreed that the £250 contribution payable to Ellingham PC could not be justified on this basis. Clerk to feedback to Ellingham PC and suggest that Newton are approached for the annual contribution towards the service.
- **NCC Future Budgets – Environmental / Green Issues.** Budget cuts that are due to impact upon the services provided by NCC between 2019-2020. These services include grass cutting, amenity land maintenance, public toilet provision, supported bus services and community group support. Councillors agreed that none of the listed issues would directly impact upon EPC.

### 300. Financial Matters.

- Chairman Expenditure Approval – The Councillors agreed to grant the Chairman authority for discretionary spending on PC matters up to the sum of £50 where required between PC Meetings.
- Account Balance £13,300.96 @ 30/06/2016
- Spent & Received since 27/06/16
  - Clerk Wages & Expenses -£341.56 (May 16)
  - Clerk – Lady Sutherland Centenary -£28.00
  - Creighton Hall – Room Hire -£12.50
  - Sambucas (Village Green Upkeep) +£100.00
- Cheques required
  - Clerk Wages & Expenses -£288.38 (June 16)
  - Clerk – NCC Payment Rodent Control -£50.00
  - Christon Bank – Room Hire -£10.00

### 301. Planning Matters

- 16/00876/FUL. Erection of 39 dwellings (Use Class C3) including associated access, infrastructure, landscaping and engineering works. Land North of Wood Steads U3010 Station Road to Embleton Moor Junction, Alnwick, Northumberland.  
<https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>  
**(GRANTED)**

### 302. Asset Register & Insurance. Ongoing

### 303. Agenda Items for Next Meeting. No new items requested.

### 304. Time, Date and Venue of next meeting

- The next meeting will be held on Monday 26th September 2016 at 7:30pm in Creighton Hall, Embleton.