

Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council

Monday 25th September 2017 at 7.00pm

Methodist Church, Christon Bank

Chairman: Terry Howells

Present: Georgina Armstrong, Monica Cornall, Raymond Carss, Adam Moody, Richard Manners, Vickie Fyffe, Ray Imeson, David Cooper

Attendees: County Councillor Wendy Pattison (Northumberland County Council (NCC))

Clerk: Melissa Gilroy

517. Declaration of interests.

534 – Vice Chairman Armstrong (Affordable Housing – Dovecote Close)

518. Apologies: None

519. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the 24th July 2017 were agreed as a true record.

520. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

- **Christon Bank Stone Planters.** The Chairman received a quote of £1600 from the building company AS Construction. Chairman to negotiate on the price and Councillor Cooper to approach alternative builders if a more reasonable quote is not obtained.
- **Road & Bin outside Embleton Primary School**
The pavement outside the school running along the B1339 has been assessed and is only 1.25m wide therefore there is not sufficient space to position a bin. Moving the dog bin was not deemed an appropriate option by the Head Teacher Nicola Threlfall. The Councillors agreed to place 'no littering' signs on the school fence. Chairman / Clerk to action. No further actions regarding the issue of the un-adopted road outside the school can be taken by the Parish Council (PC)
- **Playing Field Trees.** Seven trees are due to be removed on the playing field, Cllr Imeson to action. The cherry tree on the village green is also diseased and requires removing. The options for replacement are to be explored by Cllr Carss and feedback to be given prior to the next PC Meeting.
- **Lamp Post Replacement & Furniture.** A note from Bill Pringle, Northumberland County Council (NCC) dated 8th September advised that the bin on the south bound bus shelter lamp post had been replaced by the contractor. The school and Creighton Hall signs have not yet been replaced and the lamp post bin opposite the playpark gone missing. County Cllr Pattinson to chase up with NCC.
- **Whinstone View Additional Lighting.** No further action required.
- **Bus Shelter Cleaning.** Mark Nelson was contracted to clean the south bound bus shelter in August. The power washing was completed using a local resident's outdoor water supply. The PC is awaiting the final meter reading bill before compensation will be made to the local resident. Chairman to confirm.

521. County Councillor's Report. County Cllr Pattison provided a report that was circulated to Councillors alongside the meeting summons and agenda. The full report is available upon request. In summary:

- **Joint Meeting with Longhoughton Ward Parish Chairmen.** County Cllr Pattinson organised an informal meeting with all nine Chairmen of the Parish Councils within the Longhoughton Ward on September 1st. New contacts were made and another meeting is planned for 2018.
 - **Speed Issues Embleton** - A 20mph speed limit for the Embleton will be added to the list of schemes for 2017/18. (see agenda point 529). £4k from Members Improvements Scheme has been offered to move the scheme forward.
 - **Whinstone View** – A site visit took place on August 1st 2017 with NCC the Chairman & County Cllr Pattinson. No immediate solution was arrived at, however, the building of a small wall was considered and is being considered by NCC. To be feedback at the next PC Meeting. The dropped kerb on the entrance to Whinstone View has been superseded by the installation of new drop kerbs in line with the new footpath being installed by Cussins alongside the B1339. Work on the new drop kerbs to access the bus stop on the northbound side is imminent this has been delayed by having to lower BT services on the footpath line and the Tour of Britain Cycle race. With regard to the new bus shelter area on the southbound side, Northern Powergrid have scheduled to remove the old streetlamp, and the engineers have already issued the construction works approval notice to move the bus stop post and install DDA and further drop kerbs at the bus stop area.
 - **Speed Issue - Christon Bank.** A traffic scheme will be going ahead in 2018 to reduce the speed limit through the village from 30mph to 20mph, and this should assist with current and concerning speeding problems. The Councillors agreed to install rumble strips as a control measure within the village. County Cllr Pattinson to progress.
 - **Northumberland County Council**
 - **Alnwick Playhouse** will be owned by NCC. Building Maintenance and Statutory Testing will be carried out by NCC with the cost shared between NCC and the Alnwick Playhouse Trust.
 - **Area Council Meetings.** The schedule for Area Council Meetings for 2017/2018 has been set. All start at 4pm - Dec, Feb and April are planning only. The Oct meeting will include discussions with town/parish councils. Nov, Jan, Mar and May meetings are both planning and other LAC business.
 - **Core Strategy** - Any questions regarding the withdrawal of the Northumberland Local Plan: Core Strategy Pre-Submission Draft Plan and proposed modifications documents, or the production of the Northumberland Local Plan more generally, should be directed to: Planning Policy Planning Services Planning and Economy Directorate at NCC. PlanningStrategy@northumberland.gov.uk.
 - **Community LED Housing.** Community Action Northumberland, in association with Social Regeneration Consultants, Glendale Gateway Trust and NCC has begun a project to build on Northumberland's success in delivering community-led housing, to identify the support required by individual communities and to identify specific opportunities. Parish and Town Councils potentially have a key role in supporting or providing community-led housing schemes. For more information, contact philip.soderquest@northumberland.gov.uk
- 522. Co-opting Councillors to represent Christon Bank.** Following the July PC meeting, Councillors agreed to co-opt David Cooper to represent Christon Bank as a PC Councillor. An Acceptance of Office Form has been signed. An advert was placed in the Whinstone Times and on notice boards to advertise the remaining vacant position. A resident of the Christon Bank has expressed an interest in becoming a PC Councillors and qualifies for the position. The closing date for application is 30th September. Clerk to send an invite to join the PC and sign the Acceptance of Office Form and Declaration of Interest Form at the October 2017 meeting subject to no further applications.
- 523. Local Transport Plan Programme 2018-19.** Councillors agreed to add the following priorities to the LPT for 2018-19, Clerk to action
- 1) 20mph limit through Embleton Village.

- 2) Footpath repair within the village on Stanley Terrace (Greys Inn to Moody's shop) and along Sunnybrae
 - 3) Footpath installation to Whinstone View
- 524. Dog Fouling on the Football / Cricket Pitch.** Cllr Carss has raised the issue of persistent dog fouling on the football / cricket pitch. An article is to be placed in the Whinstone Times advising residents and visitors that a dog ban will need to be put in place on the playing field if the issue persists. Chairman to action.
- 525. Neighbourhood Plan.** The Chairman provided an update of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) working party group. A grant application has been submitted and a drop in session is due to be held on 9th October in the Parish Rooms to consult with local residents on the requirements for the NP.
- 526. Creighton Place Development.** The footpath between Whinstone View and Creighton Place has yet to be completed. The delay in completing being caused by the positioning on utilities beneath the ground and the Tour of Britain. A letter from a resident with a young child living in Woodsteads has been received by the PC reporting the noise at the site on a weekend and particularly on a Sunday. The Councillors also reported the early morning noise at the site the previous Sunday morning. The PC were of the understanding that the builders were not permitted to work beyond 1pm on a Saturday afternoon. The issue was reported to Liz O'Brien (NCC) and the Chairman has also contacted Cussins. A further letter requesting a contribution towards the completion of the footpaths has been written by the Chairman to Cussins. The letter requests a contribution as a gesture of compensation for the level of disruption that has been created for local residents during the build works. Chairman & County Cllr Pattinson to follow up.
- 527. Quarry Development Update.** The Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the Quarry site is close to completion and the Chairman circulated an update to Councillors prior to the meeting with issues for consideration which included PC liability and the creation of a limited company for the transfer of the Quarry asset. At the meeting the Councillors agreed to accept the written statement from NCC regarding liability and progress with the transfer to secure the Quarry site.
Proposer: Cllr Manners
Seconder: Cllr Imeson.
- 528. Condition of bank between B1339 and Whinstone View.** As per agenda point 521.
- 529. 20mph Speed Limit through Embleton – Speeding Assessment Results.** A speeding assessment was completed in August on the north and south entry points to Embleton. The north entry point did not meet the criteria for further consideration by the Northumbria Safety Roads Initiative, whereas the south entry point did meet the criteria. Clerk to send the results to County Cllr Pattinson. The Councillors all agreed that they would like to adopt a 20mph speed limit throughout Embleton village and this would be added to the LTP for 2018-19. County Cllr Pattinson to progress.
- 530. Meeting Reports.** Thursday September 21st, Alnwick, Northumberland Hall. Cllr Moody attended the meeting on behalf of the PC. Agenda items included the increased call traffic on the non-emergency 101 number. Police are encouraging people to contact them via email, What's App, text and social media as an alternative to the telephone number. The CAT of a park in Berwick to Berwick Football Club was also discussed with a lack of awareness amongst local residents. The Councillors discussed that the PC should continue to inform residents of the progression of the Quarry CAT to avoid a similar situation.
- 531. Forthcoming Meetings.**
- **North Northumberland Joint Town Council / Parish / Community Councils.** Thursday 19th October. Clerk to advise Cllr Moody of the venue & time.

- **NALC AGM.** Saturday 7th October, Pegswood Community Hub, 10am. PC not represented.
- **Annual ANOB, Parish Council Chairs Meeting.** Monday 2nd October. Beadnell WI Hall, 6pm. Cllr Cornall to confirm attendance.
- **Annual Town & Parish Council Conference.** 5th October. PC not represented.

532. Embleton Joint Burial Committee (EJBC).

Prior to the meeting, a paper was circulated to all Councillor laying out the options for Cemetery House and providing background information. The EJBC have requested that the Councillors of the three representative PC's approve one of the options below:

- 1) Sell the house for its market value and invest the funds to provide an income to assist in the running of the cemetery.
- 2) To seek a grant to renovate the house and to let it to a local family as an affordable house. The resident would undertake limited caretaker duties for a small annual fee.

The Councillors of EPC all agreed that option 2 would be the preferred option.

Proposer: Cllr Moody

Seconder: Vice Chairman Armstrong

The condition of the Cemetery was raised by Cllr Carss following resident feedback. The maintenance of the grounds has been inadequate over recent months with grass cuttings being scattered over grave stones. This had also been discussed at the EJBC and raised with the contractor. Assurance has been given that this will improve going forward and with the use of an alternative mower. County Cllr Pattinson also discussed the interest in a 'Friends' group being established to assist in keeping the Cemetery grounds tidy and well maintained. County Cllr Pattinson to progress.

533. Caravan at Dunstan Steads. Cllr Cornall reported that the caravan has now been moved on site.

534. Emails Received / Correspondence.

- **NCC – Fire & Rescue Plan Consultation 2017-21.** No action required.
- **20 Mount View Flooding - Resident email.** The PC are unable to take any further action to assist the resident of Mount View as the road into Mount View is un-adopted. The Chairman has written back to advise them to contact the builder of Mount View to investigate why the road was not transferred over to NCC when the housing development was completed.
- **A1 Dualling – Preferred Route Announcement.** No action required.
- **Allocation of Affordable Housing in Dovecote Close – Resident email.** Due to declaration of interest Vice Chairman Armstrong left the meeting whilst the Councillors discussed agenda point 534 regarding affordable housing. A letter requesting support from the PC was received from a family in urgent need of affordable housing within the village. A second letter was also received in July regarding similar support for the allocation of an affordable house due to become available in Embleton. The Councillors all agreed that supporting local residents in securing affordable housing within the village was extremely important and then discussed the ethics of supporting individual cases in such incidences. It was agreed that a letter to NCC would be written to highlight the importance of supporting local individuals and families currently established within the village when allocating affordable housing. The letter is intended to reinforce support for the number of families currently in great need. Chairman to action.
- **Bonfire Night.** Sunday 5th November – 6pm. Cllr Moody has offered to co-ordinate the annual village bonfire. A note to be placed in the Whinstone Times to request general garden waste only for the bonfire (no building material). Chairman to action. Donations towards fireworks to be taken at Moody's shop. The Councillors all agreed that the PC should make a financial contribution towards the village event. Cllr Moody to confirm the amount required to supplement the donations at the November PC Meeting.

535. Financial Matters.

- Account Balance £17,156.60 31/08/2017
- Spent & Received since 24/07/17
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses -£213.22 (June 17)
 - Creighton Hall – Meeting Room Hire -£13.75
 - Chairman T Howells - Expenses -£125.79
 - Parish Rooms – NCC Your'e Welcome Payment -£208.33
 - Hampshire Flags (Tour of Britain Bunting) -£294.00
 - 2017-18 Precept September +7650.00
- Cheques required
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses -£327.46 (July 17)
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses -£190.30 (August 17)
 - Christon Bank Methodist Church -£10.00
 - Parish Rooms – PC Toilet Payment (Nov16-July17) -£70.00
 - Mark Nelson – Bus Shelter Cleaning -£160.00

536. Planning Matters. None to report

537. Agenda Items for Next Meeting. None to report

538. Time, Date and Venue of next meeting

Proposed that the meeting should be held on Monday 23rd October 2017 at 7:00pm in Creighton Memorial Hall, Ladies Room, Embleton.