

Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council

Monday 27th June 2016 at 7.30pm

Creighton Hall, Embleton

Chairman: Terry Howells

Present: Raymond Carss, Neville Fawcett, Gordon Coxon, Adam Moody, Georgina Armstrong, David Morgan

Clerk: Melissa Gilroy

Attendance: Judith Murphy (Principal Planning Officer), Northumberland County Council (NCC)

261. Declaration of interests: None.

262. Apologies: Richard Manners, Cllr Kate Cairns

Absent: John Young, Ray Imerson

263. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the 23rd May 2016 were agreed as a true record.

264. Judith Murphy (Principal Planning Officer) - NCC.

- Judith provided Councillors with a background to Conservation areas and discussed their aims in protecting the character and appearance of an area. Principally natural resources are used within these areas that are in keeping with the protected area. The planning directive Article 4 should be in place for each Conservation area, these are compiled by Local Authorities (LA's) and detail the planning requirements within an area. Planning permission must then be sought under Article 4 for any building works that fall within the Conservation area that are listed within an Article 4. Due to resource issues at NCC, Embleton (amongst other areas) do not have an Article 4 in place therefore residents living / working within the Conservation area are not required to apply for planning permission when making specific changes to their buildings e.g. changing windows etc.

265. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

- **Christon Bank Stone Planters.** Clerk to contact the Highways Department with evidence of James Cockburn's £5m public liability insurance. Other information to be submitted includes the traffic management proposals, a completed stone structures form and evidence that there are no public utilities at the site before any work can start.
- **Signage at Dunstan Steads.** Parish Clerk obtained a quote for the production and installation of three 'No Overnight Parking' signs from Fantasy Prints (£493.50). These are intended for Dunstan Steads and one near the bottle bank. Councillors agreed to go ahead with work. Clerk to action.
- **Local Footpath Guide.** Cllr Young to present the proposed leaflet design at the next PC meeting. Ongoing
- **War Memorial Plaque.** Chairman has completed the War Memorials Trust grant application for a plaque on the Embleton War Memorial. Ownership query ongoing. Chairman to assess the list of archived documents held by the Parochial Church

Council before consulting Woodhorn. Historic England would like to list the War Memorial within the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Clerk to feedback that Embleton Parish Council (EPC) have no objections or comments on the consultation document.

- **You're Welcome Scheme – Village Signs.** Additional 'You're Welcome Signs' are now on display on the noticeboards at Moody's and the Parish Church Room. A quote for three metal lamp post signs has been obtained by the Clerk (£145.20). Councillors agreed to have the signs made and placed outside the playpark, Parish Church Rooms and on the B1399 outside the school. Clerk to action.
- **Dunstan Steads Resident Emails.** NCC have replied directly to the emails of the two Dunstan Steads residents.
- **Field beside the Playpark.** Vice Chairman Armstrong has organised to have the field beside the playpark sprayed to help control the weeds over the summer months. Invoice to be forwarded to EPC for payment.
- **EPC's 2016 Finances.** The 2015-16 EPC Accounts have been audited by Fraser Suffield and have been submitted to the BDO for approval. All relevant documents required under the Transparency Code have been uploaded on the EPC page of the Community website (Asset Register & BDO Audit Certificate to follow).

266. County Councillor's Report.

Cllr Cairns circulated a report to the Councillors covering the following areas:

- **Bus shelter**
Following the site meeting on 14th June it was agreed that EPC would take the lead on employing local builder David Astbury to remove the existing shelter, rebuild the new stone shelter, install DDA kerbs in front of the shelter, drop kerbs to the adjacent road entrance and adjust the footpath. There is also an old lighting column to possibly remove adjacent the old shelter and NCC are looking into this. NCC will contribute £2000 to the new shelter and pay for the DDA kerbs and dropped kerbs. Cllr Cairns will contribute £2000 towards the costs of rebuilding the bus shelter.
- **Planting at the Quarry**
Ian Stanners (NCC) met with the Chairman to assess the planting. The planting, which includes ground cover, thorn, shrub and hedgerow tree plants will begin to dominate this season and provide the natural screen that is intended. It was felt unlikely that any additional bulb planting would succeed to show through after a year or two and also the possibility of soil erosion and washing on the public footpath was now minimal as the planting was establishing and would become increasingly less so with time. The conclusion for this area was to monitor and no action is planned if the planting establishes as per the approved planning permission.
- **Pedestrian Access to Quarry**
See Agenda item 269.
- **Other General Landscaping and Scheme Issues**
All soft landscaping has been completed as per the approved planning permission, building contract and quarry management plan. If there is anything that hasn't been completed, this can be identified during the 12 months defects liability period and rectified.
- **Tenants Meeting**
A tenants drop in session is being held on Tuesday 19th July 4-7pm in the Creighton Hall. Any issues emerging from the scheme may be discussed then. The Chairman confirmed that he would be at the session between 4-5:30pm. Cllr Moody intends to attend the session after 5:30pm. Clerk to respond to NCC to give notice of attendance.

- 267. Election of 2nd Representative for the Creighton Hall Management Committee.** Vice Chairman Armstrong agreed to remain on the committee for 2016-17.
- 268. Declaration of Acceptance – Chairman**
The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance form, witnessed by Cllr Fawcett.
- 269. Quarry Path.** Residents have requested pedestrian access throughout the new Quarry development from the north end of the Quarry at the recycling area. Access through the centre of the scheme to the quarry is shown on the landscaping plan but the detail is not clear, Cllr Cairns is seeking clarity on this from NCC. A small amount of hard core / gravel has been left and NCC has no objection to local people establishing a path adjacent to the established shrub planting that recreates the pathway. EPC have been approached by local resident Ms Binks to request assistance with the pathway. Chairman to obtain a proposal for the works from Ms Binks for discussion at the July EPC Meeting.
- 270. Creighton Place Sport & Play Facility Funding.** NCC have confirmed that the sport / play contribution from Creighton Place equates to £7200 (£200 per house) and is released as soon as the development work begins. EPC can have a direct influence on how the money is spent on the sport / play facilities within the village. Interest has been raised for the playpark (new drainage, resurfacing and chippings) and the Football / Cricket Club (contribution towards grass cutter & roller). Quotes to be obtained for discussion at the next PC Meeting. An article to be put into the Whinstone Times inviting any other local sporting groups to apply for funding. Chairman to action.
- 271. Village Green Charge to Businesses – Sambuca’s.** All businesses have paid their annual village green contribution apart from Sambuca’s / Blue Bell. EPC have written to Sambuca’s on three separate occasions to request payment by July 2016, after which time the advertisement board will be removed from the village green.
- 272. Caring for Rothbury Action Group (CRAG) Appeal.** EPC to contact CRAG to report that there have been no incidences within the Parish of Embleton, to express support and to request that CRAG keep EPC up to date on progress.
- 273. Council’s Market Town Initiative.** NCC circulated a list of buildings and sites that are intended for sale in order to rationalise the LA’s estate, make cost savings and to regenerate market towns. Councillors discussed the possibility that in the future it may be that NCC intend to sell the Quarry for development. It was agreed that EPC should respond to the Market Initiatives notice and request that if any public buildings or sites with the Embleton Parish were being considered for resale that EPC were consulted prior to this occurrence. Clerk to action.
- 274. Neighbourhood Plan.** Peter Rutherford attending the September PC Meeting. Clerk to investigate the Neighbourhood Development Order and report back. Information sent out in the June 15th NALC E News.
- 275. Ownership of Road alongside school from Quaker’s Row to B1339.** The Land Registry application has concluded that there is no registered owner of the road. Clerk has responded to the local resident.
- 276. Parking / Driving on Village Greens.** Site meeting on the village green prior to the PC Meeting. To be discussed further at the July PC Meeting.
- 277. Loose Drain Cover, Merton Cottages.** Clerk to report to NCC.
- 278. Homes for Northumberland.**
- **Stone Bus Shelter & Landscaping Requirements for the Bank.** See County Cllr Report – Agenda point 266

279. Meeting Reports.

- **Planning Training Session.** Wednesday 20th April 2016, Pottergate, Alnwick. Vice Chairman attended on behalf of EPC. Pre planning applications and the requirements for Section 106 were discussed.

280. E-Mails Received / Correspondence

- **Bolton Terrace.** The reported rat issue at the former toilet site on Bolton Terrace to be investigated further by NCC, Councillors approved the £50 cost for treatment. EPC are now the legal proprietors on the Land Registry for the site. Change of usage to be applied for before the lease / sale of the site is discussed and agreed. Clerk to action.
- **Kipper Cottage (12 Sunny Brae).** The resident of 12 Sunny Brae emailed expressing concern over Parish objections towards the colour of their front door and windows. The issue has not been discussed at any previous PC Meetings and EPC do not have any direct objections. Clerk responded to resident.
- **Playing Fields & Dog Show.** The Whinstone Times have contact EPC to request permission to hold a Dog Show on the playing fields to raise funds for the publication of the Whinstone Times. The playing fields were gifted to the PC in 1949 by the Robertson's and have been leased out to the Cricket and Football Club. As lease holders to the field, the Cricket and Football clubs have denied permission to the Whinstone Times which has raised the issue of other community events using the playing fields in future. EPC are sympathetic to the request of the Whinstone Times and have asked the Football & Cricket club to reconsider their decision. (Post Meeting Note 28.7.16 – The two clubs have agreed to allow the dog show to go ahead with a £50 charge for the use of the field and assurances that the area will be thoroughly cleared up after the event).
- **Core Strategy Consultation.** Major modifications to the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy have been published. One notable change that has been identified and discussed is the development of onshore wind energy development. Clerk to contact the Newcastle & Northumberland society to support the objections of further local development of windfarms and write to the NCC to express views on behalf of EPC.

281. Financial Matters.

- Clerks Salary - NALC & SLCC Salary Scales 2016-2018. SCP 21 scale change from £10.26 to £10.36 per hour
- Chairman Expenditure Approval – Discuss at July Meeting
- Account Balance £14,985.97 @ 29/05/2016
- Spent & Received since 23/05/16
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses -£414.55 (April 16)
 - Creighton Hall – Room Hire -£12.50
 - Sale of Books +£234.50
- Cheques required
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses £341.56 (May 16)
 - Clerk – Lady Sutherland Centenary £28.00
 - Creighton Hall – Room Hire £12.50

282. Planning Matters

- 12/00594/FUL Change of use of agricultural land to allow the siting of nine caravans. Land East of North Farm Embleton Northumberland. Applicant: Richard Manners.
<https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=NQ0ZHJQSJBR00>
(GRANTED)

- 14/00372/OUT. Access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for erection of 36 dwellings. Land North of Woodsteads U3010 Station Road to Embleton Moor Junction, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 3DX. Applicant: Cussins Embleton LLP. <https://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=O344TDQSG3R00> **(GRANTED)**
- The footpath to be created from the Creighton Place development into Embleton along the B1339 was raised by the Chairman. The limited amount of space alongside the road and the restrictive stone wall are potential issues when this development commences. Although the date for comments on the planning application has passed it was agreed that the Chairman should contact NCC to express the concerns of EPC.

283. Asset Register & Insurance. Ongoing

284. Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- Bin at the entrance to the Quarry
- Footpath between Garage towards the end of the Quarry Development
- Angela Feather – Family Youth Worker to attend

285. Time, Date and Venue of next meeting

- The next meeting will be held on Monday 25th July 2016 at 7:30pm in Methodist Church, Christon Bank.