

Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council

Monday 27th March 2017 at 7.00pm

Methodist Church, Christon Bank

Chairman: Georgina Armstrong (Vice Chairman)

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

Clerk: Melissa Gilroy

401. Declaration of interests:

- Cllr Carss item 410. Creighton Place Sport & Play Funding (Embleton Cricket Club).
- Cllr Moody item 417. Planning application concerning Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club (Member of the Golf Club and Men's Club)

402. Apologies: Gordon Coxon, Terry Howells, John Young, Cllr Kate Cairns

403. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

The Minutes of the 27th February 2017 were agreed as a true record.

404. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting

- **Christon Bank Stone Planters.** Cllr Young has agreed to supply the stone. The Clerk contacted the builder to accept the quote and brief him on the building and insurance requirements for NCC. Awaiting the builder's 5m Public Liability Insurance certificate before work starts.
- **Local Footpath Guide - Ongoing**
- **Parish Notice Board – Christon Bank.** Cllr Young informed the PC that he will fix the noticeboard in the next few weeks. Cllr Moody reported that D Moody is available repair the board if needed.
- **Bus Shelter.** NCC cannot wait any longer for Embleton Parish Council's (EPC) builder to carry out kerb and pavement work and are progressing it themselves. The Councillors were unhappy to accept the quote submitted by the builder Pete Manion to complete the work (estimated at £500-£1000 more than the original builder's quote). Cllr Imeson & Cllr Carss agreed to speak to David Astbury and get a confirmed date to start the work and an assurance that this would be completed before June 2017. The PC to be informed of the outcome by Vice Chairman Armstrong. Cllr Imeson to remove the current shelter before the building work starts.
Proposer: Cllr Carss
Seconder: Cllr Imeson
Unanimous

405. County Councillor's Report. Cllr Kate Cairns circulated her monthly report to the Chairman, Councillors and Clerk prior to the meeting. The report was summarised at the meeting:

- **Christon Bank Planning Application – Horsley Place**
The planning application 16/03510/FUL has been re-submitted including a Northumbria Water assessment, amended layouts and provision for affordable housing. As such the objections raised by residents and the Parish Council have been addressed. The expiry date for comment was 24th March.

- **Falldon Drainage Improvements**

Drainage work started at Falldon on 13th March, works are going well and are due to continue for three weeks. The scheme involves a full road closure during the day and the team have been in liaison with the local farmer to allow access.

- **Bridge Repairs**

Masonry Arch Bridge Repairs at Allansford are planned. Cllr Cairns has been in discussion with NCC officers to arrange for the bridge resurfacing to happen at the same time as the Falldon road closure in order to avoid further disruption. Repairs were due to commence on 24th March.

- **Roadworks**

There will be roadworks on the B6347 for 20 metres on either side of the Christon Bank level crossing from the 3rd April until 29th April. It is expected that the road will only be closed from the 13th April until 14th April between the hours of 22:30 and 06:00 during this period. The alternative route for vehicular traffic will be via the B1340, C71, C69, B6347 and vice versa.

- **Responsible Dog Owners**

The previous meeting minutes mentioned that Cllr Cairns was contacted by Ms Vicky Fyffe enquiring about dog controls. Ms Fyffe was given the same information as was reported to the PC previously, she shared the same view of Cllr Cairns that whilst dogs were welcome it is undeniable that irresponsible owners are at risk of spoiling our beaches and villages for all. Ms Fyffe suggested that local businesses contribute funding to address the issue and that she would be happy to do this. Cllr Cairns welcomes this and could support a proposal by the AONB that neighbouring Parish Councils collaborate to employ a single warden and that this could be done also working with the AONB Coast Care Scheme. Another possibility is to use Section 106 funding where it is available. Cllr Cairns welcome PC members' views on these suggestions or any other proposals.

The PC discussed Cllr Cairns report regarding Dog Owners and would like to give the matter further consideration at the next PC meeting. Clerk to put onto the April PC meeting agenda.

After calls to address this issue right across the county and Cllr Cairns proposals for a county-wide approach to aid Parish Councils, NCC Public Protection team has adopted the Green Dog Walkers Responsible Dog Ownership campaign: www.greendogwalkers.org. The philosophy is to change attitudes so that it becomes socially unacceptable to fail to clean up after your dog. This will be launched in June. The fixed penalty fine for offenders has been increased to £100.

- **LEADER Funding**

LEADER is now open for applications and can provide grants to small businesses, farmers, foresters and communities for projects that create jobs and grow the rural economy. Funding is available over the next two years across rural Northumberland to support micro and small businesses and farm diversification, boost rural tourism, increase farm productivity, increase forestry productivity, provide rural services and to provide cultural and heritage activities. LEADER in Northumberland is especially looking for projects around Culture and Heritage, Rural Services, and Forestry. To submit an application contact: Ivan Hewitt, 01670 623927, 07920184617, ivan.hewitt@northumberland.gov.uk or Gillian Cowell, 01670 623885, 07920184616, gillian.cowell@northumberland.gov.uk.

- **Hope for Justice**

Hope for Justice is a charity which works to assist people escaping modern slavery. It has been commissioned by Northumbria Police to develop anti-slavery networks throughout the force area. Northumbria Police freed over 20 people from enforced labour in 2016. Hope for Justice offers free training to assist in identifying trafficked people and signposting them to the appropriate help. Whilst the most common countries of origin were Albania, Nigeria and Vietnam, a significant number of British nationals were referred, ranking the UK as the 5th country of origin. Vulnerable people

with drink/drug problems or mental health issues are often targeted for trafficking as they are seen to be easier to control. Any persons/groups/organisations which may be able to help identify and support victims of modern day slavery please contact chris.reeves@hopeforjustice.org, Tel: 07921454593.

- 406. 2017-18 Parish Council Insurance.** Zurich have submitted a revised quote for PC Insurance for 2017-18 with additional cover for the Quarry Site and village assets (Pant and pumps). Cover for the coming year is quoted at £469.80. Councillors all agreed to the cover. Clerk & Chairman to action, cover to commence on May 1st 2017.
- 407. Transparency Fund Application 2016-17.** EPC have received a grant of £112.91 to purchase the annual subscription for Microsoft Office software, Virus protection and for set up costs for the new EPC website.
- 408. Speeding in Christon Bank & Traffic Calming.** The results of the final speeding assessment for Christon Bank meet the criteria required by the Northumbria Safety Roads Initiative (formerly Camera Partnership) for consideration for additional enforcement measures. NCC have passed these results over to the Northumbria Safety Roads Initiative, the PC are awaiting further information. Cllr Imeson highlighted the effectiveness of the traffic control measures put in place in Bamburgh using cobbled stones over the road.
- 409. Neighbourhood Plan.** The first meeting of six interested participants from the local parish and two parish councillors is currently being planned. Cllr Moody expressed an interest representing the PC in the working party group. The Cllr requested a copy of the interested members. Date of meeting tbc. Chairman & Clerk to action.
- 410. Creighton Place Development - Sport & Play Facility Funding.** The Cricket Club have received £2300 from NCC to reimburse them for the equipment purchased. EPC have received a cheque from the Cricket Club to cover the £2300 loan to purchase equipment.
- 411. Quarry Site.** The Councillors agreed to the resolution that EPC wishes to acquire the freehold of Embleton Quarry from NCC under a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) which means that it is free of charge except for legal fees.
Proposer: Cllr Morgan
Seconder: Cllr Carss
Unanimous

Progress of the CAT of the quarry site to EPC has included acquiring the assistance of retired solicitor Mr Jonathan Dixon to act in an advisory capacity free of charge. The services of a conveyancing solicitor will be needed to finalise the transfer. Estimated costs are currently being investigated. A Notice of Intention submitted by EPC is required as part of the CAT. Councillors agreed to accept the associated advertisement fee which is part of the legal process (a similar cost would apply if EPC were to move to dispose of any of the land it owns).

Proposer: Cllr Morgan
Seconder: Cllr Carss
Unanimous

412. Meeting Reports

- **England Coast Path.** Cllr Morgan attended the session in Alnmouth in February on behalf of EPC. Cllr Morgan reported that the plan for 2017 included the path from Amble to Budle Bay with Budle Bay to Berwick being completed in 2018. At the meeting Cllr Morgan highlighted the ill repair of the path south of Craster to Cullernose Point. Copies of the meeting notes with further information was circulated at the PC meeting.
- **Area Committee North.** Cllr Morgan & Cllr Moody attended the session on Monday 13th March at Hindmarsh Hall, Alnmouth. Cllr Morgan reported on the following items from the meeting, Craster PC petition / car parking charging proposals, Alnmouth PC proposals for a one-way system in their village, Embleton micro surfacing work to be

completed on the roads in 2017, Alnmouth & Berwick station parking issues, A1 Improvement programme. Cllr Morgan reported that he had made comments to CEO Steve Mason and Grant Davey (NCC) at the previous Area North meeting in Longframlington about the need to improve the provisions for Youth Services in Northumberland. These comments had been minuted.

413. Forthcoming Meetings.

- **Town & Parish Council Meeting**, Thursday 30th March. Chairman to attend.
- **Freedom of Information Briefing Session**. Thursday 30th March, 2pm at County Hall. Councillors unable to attend the meeting. EPC not to be represented but to request a copy of the meeting notes. Clerk to action.
- **Neighbourhood Planning Networking Event**. Durham City Council, Tuesday 18th April. Chairman to attend

414. **Embleton Joint Burial Committee (EJBC)**. Cemetery House Update. Notice of intention to vacate the tenancy agreement on March 31st has been received from the tenants. It will now be necessary to carry out the required procedures before the house is marketed. Cllr Fawcett reported that the house and a small extract of Cemetery land was being valued by two agents, the valuations of these are expected within the month. A meeting of the EJBC task force is scheduled for early April (date tbc).

415. Emails Received / Correspondence.

- **Roadside Trees**. Warning from NALC of a Parish Council being negligent in its approach to inspecting a tree which fell on a bus. The Council's 'three-yearly inspection policy' with regard to its tree stock was 'inadequate'. Inspection should have been more frequent. The Councillors agreed that bi-annual assessment would be sufficient for the trees surrounding the playing fields and on the village green. Clerk to advise of specialists that may conduct the assessments and provide a report.
- **Substation Improvement Work**. A representative of Northern Powergrid met with the Chairman to discuss the planned works that are due to commence on 24th April for 6-8 weeks. A new substation will be installed and the area will be screened off to protect the public and parked cars in the adjacent car park. Northern Powergrid have assured EPC that the car park will be restored to the original state.
- **Grass Cuttings at Dunstan Steads**. Cllr Moody reported the mound of grass cuttings on the verge at Dunstan Steads. Councillors agreed to send a letter to the residents asking them to refrain from leaving their cuttings by the roadside and to tidy up this area. Chairman & Clerk to action.

416. Financial Matters.

- Account Balance £18,004.43 @ 08/02/2017
- Spent & Received since 24/01/17
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses (January 2017) -£252.46
 - Creighton Memorial Hall -£13.75
 - Parish Church Rooms -£45.00
 - Mr D Moody (Annual Grass Cutting) -£855.00
 - Transparency Fund +£112.91
- Cheques required
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses (February 2017) -£143.22
 - Methodist Church Christon Bank -£10.00
 - Clerk (PC Laptop Microsoft Office 365 renewal) -£59.99
 - Clerk (PC Laptop Norton Virus Protection) -£24.99
 - Playing Field Rates – NCC -£71.27

417. Planning Matters - Update

- 16/03510/FUL. Erection of 13 dwellings. Land North of Horsley Place, Christon Bank, Alnmouth, Northumberland. Mr G Grahamslaw.
Expiry Date for comment – 24th March 2017

The PC had no further objections to the planning application and made comment on the NCC Planning Portal.

- 17/00706/FUL. Proposed creation of a new rear extension to be used as living / dining area. 7 Springfield View Christon Bank Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3DQ. Mr L Mould

Expiry Date for comment - 3rd April 2017

No comments received. Clerk to feedback via the NCC planning portal.

- 16/03492/FUL. Change of use from agricultural to golfing use in conjunction with adjoining Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Course. Construction of practice area comprising tees, greens and bunkers. Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Course Sea Lane Embleton Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3XQ

Due to be discussed at NCC Strategic Planning Committee meeting on 4th April. The PC have no objections to the planning application and requested that a letter in support of the application was submitted highlighting the opportunity for youth development and employment within the community. Clerk to feedback.

- 17/00929/FUL. Removal of front steps and walls and creation of roofed porch on the same footprint. Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel Front Street Embleton NE66 3UN. Mr J Fyffe.

Expiry Date for comment – 14th April 2017

Received on 27th March. No comments. Clerk to circulate to the other Councillors for comment.

418. Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- Dog Owners – Discussion of Cllr Cairns proposal.
- Street Lighting. Movement of street lamps. Clerk to request a map of the current and proposed street lighting plan prior to the meeting.

419. Time, Date and Venue of next meeting

Proposed that the meeting should be held on Monday 24th April 2017 at **7:00pm** in Creighton Hall, Embleton.