

## Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015 Creighton Hall, Embleton

Present: George Skipper (Chair), Terry Howells, Adam Moody, Georgina Armstrong, Gordon Coxon, Raymond Carss, David Morgan, Andy Davies

In Attendance: Kim Bickerton (Retiring Clerk), Peter Mitchell (Project manager; Homes for Northumberland (HfN) Lee Grange (Design Scheme Manager; HfN)

Peter Mitchell (PM) and Lee Grange (LG) gave an update on the Quarry Housing project.

LG said HfN manage projects on behalf of NCC; once a contractor is appointed they manage them. HfN have built 227 new properties this year mainly in urban but including Shilbottle and Embleton as part of the NCC affordable homes project.

There are 16 homes planned for the Quarry Scheme:-

- 1 Bed Apartments x 4;
- 2 Bed Bungalows x 4;
- 2 Bed Houses x 6;
- 3 Bed Houses x 2.

It is designed so that detached properties can be converted to semi-detached if demand alters. SERCO started the preliminary groundworks on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 and the aim is to complete the building of the houses by Christmas 2015; however landscaping may continue after that. PM is managing Community Consultation; liaison between the Parish Council and Contractor and also arranging site safety talks for the 1<sup>st</sup> School utilising IVOR GOODSITE the safety mascot. It was asked if the safety information could also be passed on to older children. PM said that he training days can be arranged for other groups on request. Sea houses Middle School was cited as the next level up and PM said he would contact them. PM sent a pre-site information letter out to 200 local residents and further newsletters will be sent. Members said there was a mixed response as to who had received the letters; PM said he will send out e-mail copies of the letters for circulation to the members. Allocation of the new homes will be through the "Homefinder" system on the NCC website. Potential occupants should telephone 01670 542424 to HfN to register on Expression of Interest list of when various types of property will be available; this should be done as soon as possible. Parish residents will get first refusal; homeless persons will have the highest priority. Completion/readiness and allocation/move in is expected to be a quick process.

The Parish Council is invited to have an input into the street naming, with the contractor putting names forward to Building Control, the final arbiters. The naming protocol requires that the street name:

- Is not an existing street name;
- Is not a living person; and
- Reflects the shape of the street.

Members suggested Whinstone View, Quarry Close, Quarry Rise with unanimous view favouring Whinstone View as the preferred street name.

Members asked the following questions regarding the development:-

Q1. Will a footpath be installed from the development to the bus stop?

A. HfN are meeting NCC Highways to survey the site with a view to location off site of a bus shelter.

Q2. If bus shelter cannot be built off-site by HfN could HfN supply some of the old wall stone for the PC to use?

A. HfN wanted to build the footpath inside the wall. The area will not be left unfinished because the Ecologist requires that a restoration plan is published.

Q3. Will the bottom part of the quarry be left as a wilderness?

A. HfN confirmed that this will be so because of de-gassing issues, and no further scheme is proposed.

Q4. What is the future of Quarry House?

A. HfN said it was unknown to them. Members would like it to be made safe and child-proof. HfN said they would take the matter up with NCC Asset Management regarding the future of Quarry House and inform the Clerk of the outcome. HfN and NCC will offer off-site meeting with the PC.

Q5. Will HfN be taken back into NCC?

A. Yes, but will remain as is and be a NCC department rather than an Arms Length organisation (as at present).

## Minutes

### 1. **Apologies for absence**

Neville Fawcett, John Young, Cllr. Kate Cairns

### 2. **Appointment of new Parish Clerk**

Geoff Newcombe was introduced as the new Parish Clerk.

### 3. **Confirmation of minutes of last meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015)**

The minutes of the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015 were agreed and signed as true record.

### 4. **Matters arising from minutes of last meeting**

(4/12) The untidy garden in Quakers Row was reported to NCC.

(4/13) The chairman delivered a letter to the owner of the campervan who parked on footpath. A response e-mail was received however the campervan is now parked on the road.

### 5. **County Councillor's report**

None; Cllr Cairns was out of the Country and could not vote on PC comment to NCC Planning Change.

### 6. **Spittalford Cemetery Update**

Geoff Newcombe has been appointed as the new Clerk to EJBC. The estimates have been accepted for the new turning circle. Embleton PC as should the other PC's ask their insurers to provide Public Liability cover for the cemetery

**7. JBC – Terms of Reference**

Clerk is to compare the suggested Terms of Reference from the three Parish Councils before adoption by EJBC. The former Clerk had spoken to the insurers and they said this should be no problem but EJBC should have prime responsibility; which is actually jointly and severally between the three constituent PC's. A covering letter to this effect had been sent with the premium renewal cheque for £132.50.

**8. NCC – New Planning Review**

No feedback.

**9. Finance – bank balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015 - £7,953.08**

(a) Zurich Insurance annual premium - £132.50.

(b) Donations 2015.

- A letter from the Whinstone Times requested a similar amount to 2014 - £200.00
- Bailiffgate Museum - £50.00
- Citizens Advice Bureau - £25.00
- Hospice Care, Northumberland - £120
- Great North Air Ambulance - £100
- Community Action - £25

(c) Ellingham PC Re: Bus Service 460 payment – £200.00.

(d) Toner & Paper (Chairman) - £54.97

Proposer: Terry Howells above donations and payments

Seconded: Adam Moody

**10. Correspondence**

- The Embleton Memorial Sub-Station lease has been signed by the Chairman and works to move it are proceeding at no cost to the Parish Council.
- CAT meeting; requesting David Morgan to attend.
- Affordable housing guide received.
- Planning consultation; 3 Merton Cottages, extension and conservatory.
- Invitation to attend Ditchburn Wind Farm meeting; David Morgan asked what effect it would have on Embleton Parish. The Chairman said he will attend the meeting at the Oaks Hotel, Alnwick on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 to evaluate the situation.

- The former Clerk confirmed that EJBC would not be paid a precept for the next financial year. Monies banked by NCC were solely for Embleton PC; the other two PC's (Craster & Newton/Sea) would be reimbursed separately.

#### **11. Planning**

3 Merton Cottages, extension and conservatory (15/00942/FUL) – no objections

#### **12. E-mails received (list to be circulated at meeting)**

Circulated

#### **13. Any Other Business**

It was reported that the construction work to the car park adjacent to the playground was now complete. The usage of the car park and by whom would be monitored to check for abuses and if drivers leaving in a safe manner.

Cllr. David Morgan gave a vote of thanks and gratitude to former Parish Clerk Kim Bickerton for her excellent service to the parish Council. Cllr Terry Howells presented Kim with a bouquet of flowers.

#### **14. Time, Date and Venue of next meeting**

Proposed that the Parish meeting should be held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 at 7:00pm followed by the AGM and Ordinary Meeting at 7:30pm in the Creighton Hall, Embleton subject to not conflicting with other meetings.