

DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF EMBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Monday 26th January 2015 in the Meeting Room at Creighton Hall, Embleton

PRESENT: George Skipper, Terry Howells, Gordon Coxon, Adam Moody, David Morgan, Raymond Carss, Georgina Armstrong, Richard Manners and Neville Fawcett

IN ATTENDANCE: two members of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES:-** John Young, Andy Davis, Raymond Imeson and Cllr Kate Cairns.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting held 8th December 2014 Pertaining to item 5 (Spitalford Update)** – Cllr Cairns e-mailed changes to the minutes pertaining to item 5 – it was agreed to attach this e-mail to the signed copy of the minutes. It was also stated that Cllrs Skipper, Howells and Fawcett were not forming a sub-committee as was mentioned in the same item.

The minutes were then agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

11 War Memorial - Cllr Howells has approached Craster PC who are looking into amending their names. The matter is on-going.

4. **Identification of Sites for Potential Housing** – Cllrs Skipper and Howells had been unable to access the web site, However, Cllr Howells had been able to get some information. This August 2014 the SHLAA document is, as far as can be seen, similar to that circulated in 2012. In 2012 Embleton PC identified the field to the west of Woodstead (SE of Fieldholme) as the most suitable for future housing development. This is ongoing and the site is described in the SHLAA document as suitable for 81 dwellings. The PC second chosen site in the quarry is detailed as suitable for 14 dwellings and is under development. The third PC site to the west of Station Road is suitable for 93 dwellings but unbelievably is considered to be a “peripheral location” in the village by the planners. Other sites include opposite Dovecote Close for 9 dwellings, east of the new “Falloden” development for 10 dwellings, behind the Villas on Sea Lane up to the quarry for 10 dwellings, behind the Villas on Sea Lane up to the quarry for 22 dwellings, south of Embleton Tower alongside the B1239 for 13 dwellings and the small “Judy Robson plus old toilets site” for 4 dwellings are as before. Within Christon Bank the land opposite the shop adjoining the B1340 (12 dwellings) and the land behind the new houses and shop up to the caravan park (25 dwellings) are the short term (0 – 5 years) suggestions.

Clerk to contact NCC and ask if they wished PC to comment further. Agenda item for next meeting.

5. Spitalford Cemetery Update

Cllr Fawcett gave an update:-

- Committee have had information from Paul Jones (NCC) re a proposal that they can take over the grasscutting and digging graves. However, JBC need more information. Jill and Gary open and close the Cemetery gates, clear litter / snow if funeral taking place, etc. We need to clarify the service NCC will provide as it appears limited as to what we receive at the moment from Jill and Gary.
- The JBC may be entitled to a rebate of approx £189 per year going back 5 years
- The work on the bathroom is to start this week. A new bath and wash basin are being installed. When the bath is taken out, any damp there should be evident. Funds are available to cover this work.

6. PC Response to Embleton JBC Terms of Reference from Newton PC

In the past JBC used standard Terms of Reference. Now they must be approved by all three PCs (Embleton, Newton and Craster). The proportion of Cllrs that sit on the Board are Embleton – 3, Newton – 1 and Craster – 2. A discussion took place and PC felt that if Terms of Reference are to be re-written then Embleton should have proper representation. What would happen when decisions had to be made. There are no means for the committee to

pass a resolution on a majority basis. This defeats the purpose of having a JBC. It was suggested that sub-committee referred to in last minutes should look at Standing Orders and report back to next meeting.

7 Standing Orders for Embleton PC & Delegated Powers

It was still not clear as to what PC should do about planning applications. In the past, if applications looked controversial they went to PC, if not Chairman and Vice-Chairman made comment. Christon Bank matters were handled by Cllr Grant. Circulating them to PC does not work – not enough time. A lengthy discussion took place and members agreed that when PC was meeting every two months this past system had worked. Now PC meet every month and urgency was not so acute. It was agreed that Clerk would e-mail information to PC members with computers who would then access NCC web site. It was the duty of each PC member to respond to e-mail with negative or positive response. Any comments would be sent to Clerk who would then send on to NCC as PC response. A hard copy would be sent to Cllr Morgan who was not on computer.

This section of Standing Orders to be in draft form and put before next PC meeting.

8 Vacancy for PC Clerk

Cllr Howells reported that when Clerk indicated she wished to stand down he met with Cllr Skipper. Craster PC were also looking for a new Clerk and they had produced a very professional Job Description. They felt that it would be useful if Clerk worked for Craster / Embleton / JBC and approached David Frances to see if there any legal reasons why this could not be done or the fact that we hadn't advertised the post. He said this would be okay. Craster were hoping to appoint – Cllr Howells and Gordon said there was one candidate who stood out (*they had sat in on the interviews*) and this person would be very suitable for Embleton. They had no qualms in recommending this person. (Aiden Oswell – 48 years – resides in Dunstan). PC discussed this matter and agreed this person should be approached.

9. Defibrillator

A defibrillator has been installed outside Creighton Hall. Training has been arranged for 7.30 p.m. Monday 16th February for the use of the defibrillator. Access code to be given at this time and should not be handed out discriminately. Clerk to write letter of thanks to Stephen Carey Trust. Trust to send posters re training.

10 Finance

Clerk's salary – December 2014 / January 2015 - £133.20

PAYE – December 2014 / January 2015 - £33.40

Dennis Moody – grasscutting 2014 - £750.00

11 Correspondence

(a) Community Action News – December 2014. Circulated at meeting.

12 PLANNING

There were no plans.

13 County Councillor's Report

- Cllr Cairns sent her apologies for tonight's meeting.

14 E-Mails Received – list circulated at meeting.

- (a) Minutes of Ditchburn Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG) 16th December. We have been asked to send a representative to the committee meetings. Cllr Skipper to attend next meeting.
- (b) Consultation on Options for School Organisation in the Alnwick Partnership – there are several meetings arranged to discuss this matter. There will be a meeting in Embleton School on Thursday 29th January at 7.00 p.m. and everyone was encouraged to attend. Access to the three proposals are on web site. Everyone should have their own opinion and the response should not be a unitary decision. It was pointed out that there was no option to close Embleton School at the moment.

The question is “what is best for the children?” PC is holding back at the moment from making a decision although are intensively interested in what is evolving.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) **Core Strategy** – Cllr Morgan attended meeting. He returned the original document to the PC as he purchased his own copy. The document sets out a whole range of things for the next 15 years. Have until 15th February to make any comments on this document. There is a précis of the document. Every Cllr has a responsibility to look at it. Clerk to contact Cllrs if no response has been received by 10th February. Cllr Morgan said there is a big chunk relating to our area and some where it is relevant to Embleton. Cllr Howells asked if this document was substantially different from last document. Cllr Morgan said this was the consolidated document from the consultations of the last couple of years.
- (b) **Blue Bell** – proprietor of Blue Bell attended this meeting to update the PC on the progress of the refurbishment of the property from a pub to a bistro.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting

7.00 p.m. Monday 2nd March 2015 in the Meeting Room at Creighton Hall