

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF EMBLETON PARISH COUNCIL**  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 in the Meeting Room at Creighton Hall, Embleton

**PRESENT:** Terry Howells (Chair), Raymond Imeson, Adam Moody, David Morgan, Raymond Carss, Georgina Armstrong, Richard Manners and Neville Fawcett

**IN ATTENDANCE:** John Young, Andy Davis, Jan Applegarth, Aiden Owell and Cllr Kate Cairns.

1. **APOLOGIES:** Cllr George Skipper and Cllr Gordon Coxon.
2. **Appointment and introduction of new Parish Clerk**  
Cllr Howell welcomed Aiden Owell to the meeting and introduced him as the new Clerk to the PC. He is taking over as Craster Parish Clerk and also Clerk to the Burial Committee.  
  
**Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting** (26<sup>th</sup> January 2015)  
After the following amendments are made, the Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.  
**Item 4 – Identification of Potential Sites**  
Delete “behind the Villas on Sea Lane up to the quarry for 10 dwellings.”  
**Item 6 - PC Response to Embleton JBC Terms of Reference from Newton PC**  
Number of Cllrs for Newton should read 2 not 1.
4. **Matters Arising**  
**Item 3 – 11 War Memorial** – ongoing.
5. **County Councillor’s Report**
  - NCC want to pass responsibility of looking after **public toilets** to Parish Councils but this does not affect Embleton as we no longer have this facility.
  - Cllrs Cairns reported that some residences outside of villages in little hamlets or single dwellings will not get faster Broadband for another two years. BT are in the process of installing Broadband in Embleton. John from Christon Bank said they had Broadband in the village but it does not seem to be any faster. A public meeting is being arranged for those people who are having to wait for the installation of Broadband in their areas. Cllr Cairns asked PC if they knew of anyone in this position. She will inform PC when meeting is to take place.
  - NCC are organising an “Eyes are Watching You” campaign to deal with dog fouling. AONB have declined to participate as they don’t want additional signage. After discussion PC agreed to support the issue, however, did not want any more signs but could use more facilities. Free “on-line” digital training through Arch Digital. Eligible businesses can take part in a series of online sessions plus three hours of master classes in person– contact [Sylvia.Pringle@northumberland](mailto:Sylvia.Pringle@northumberland) or archdigital.co.uk.
6. **Spittalford Cemetery Update**
  - Committee have agreed to offer Clerk’s job to Aidan who has accepted. Handover should be next week.
  - Bathroom is now complete. However, the wall was found to be rotten when bath was removed. The wall was repaired at added expense.
  - Tenancy agreement for Jill and Gary should be complete next week.
  - Three PCs’ were working together on Terms of Reference and JBC have not had response as yet.
  - No precept was required for 2015 and should not be needed in the future.
  - Tenders for grasscutting, etc (work currently carried out by Jill and Gary) are being sought.
- 7.
8. **JBC – Terms of Reference**  
Craster PC have already considered these and sent their reply. Cllr Howells proposed send Embleton PC’s response and await reply from Craster and Newton PC. David Morgan seconded proposal. Agreed.
- 9.

### **Standing Orders for Embleton PC**

PC agreed to accept and adopt the Standing Orders at tonight's meeting.

### **Application for grant from Parish Church Rooms**

10. A letter has been received requesting a grant towards the cost of refurbishing the toilet facility at the PCC Church Rooms and Jan Applegarth was in attendance at this meeting to explain more about the project. An application has been made to the Sir James Knott Trust for funding and the response should be known by 20.3.15. David Smith from Beadnell has given an estimate for the toilet project of £5084 (inc VAT). Cllr Howells stressed to the PC that this money was totally for the provision of a disabled toilet facility and so did not contravene the rules for giving monies to the Church. The PC discussed this matter and agreed that the facility had been well used by the members of the public, especially the people using the Playpark. The PC asked if an agreement could be provided that gave more permanence to the continued use of the toilet facility in the future. Jan felt this could be done and would draw up such an agreement. On that assurance, the PC agreed to give a grant of £1500.

### **School Re-organisation Proposals**

11. It was a good turnout for the meeting held at the school on 29.1.15. Cllr Morgan gave a very comprehensive report regarding the response from those present which was overwhelmingly in support of the status quo. It was felt that we, as a PC, need to take note on what was said at that meeting. Cllr Howells reminded the members that as a PC we need to reflect the views of Embleton and Christon Bank. Although the ultimate decision will be made by the governors of the school, it was proposed that a letter be sent to the Board of Governors in support of the status quo. A letter also to be sent to Lorraine Fife, Chair of the Governors Policy Board at NCC.

### **12. NCC – New Planning Review**

13. A letter had been received from NCC not long after January's PC meeting outlining new planning review which proposed excluding PC involvement in planning matters. A reply to that letter from the Chair of Stannington said everything Embleton PC wished to say. Embleton's response has been sent on and Cllr Howells felt we had done all that could be done. Cllr Morgan said we had also made a response through the Core Strategy.

### **NCC Local Plan Core Strategy – Full Draft Plan – Embleton PC's response**

14. Cllr Morgan had prepared response on behalf of Embleton PC.

### **Finance**

15.
  - Clerk's salary – February 2015 - £66.80
  - PAYE – February 2015 - £16.60
  - PCC toilet facility - £90
  - Raymond Imeson – Trees - £105

### **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **Planning**

16. (a) Quarry housing development – removal of spoil – response from PC was sent stating it was noted that NCC were to take responsibility for management of spoil but hoped it would be properly landscaped.
17. (b) First floor bedroom over existing garage – 36 The Village, Christon Bank – Adam Gilroy
- (c) Demolition of existing outbuildings, proposed single storey extensions to front, side and rear of existing property – 2 Station Road, Embleton – Mr & Mrs Robin Emmerson

Items (b) and (c) – Cllrs to access NCC Planning site and send their comments to Clerk a.s.a.p.

### **E-Mails**

List circulated at meeting.

### **Any Other Business**

18.

- **Christon Bank Issues** – Andy reported that the kerb and footpath repairs were still outstanding. Clerk to contact NCC again and ask that they be given attention.
- **Footpath** – bus shelter to garage – in bad state of repair. Also footpath from Blue Bell towards Sunny Brae – the repair work seems to have been done to a low standard and is now breaking up. Clerk to write and invite County Engineer to visit and inspect the work and see if he finds it acceptable.
- **NCC – Flood Strategy – e-mail forwarded to PC.** The strategy covers drainage as well and PC were advised to read the document.
- **Churchyard trees** – three sycamore trees were to be removed from the churchyard. The wood from the trees is available for use by the people of Embleton (personal use - not financial gain). However, anyone who wants the wood has to collect it themselves.
- **Telephone Box** – PC has not heard anything more on the removal of the box. However, we did give three good reasons why the box should stay.
- **Start time of future PC meetings** – it was asked if meetings could start at 7.30 p.m. Agreed.
- **Lack of Cllrs from Christon Bank** – Cllr Armstrong brought this matter to the attention of the PC after having it raised by residents in Christon Bank. However, PC cannot dictate who stands at election time and how the votes are made. PC knew of lack of Cllrs from Christon Bank and that is why John and Andy were invited to represent Christon Bank and raise any issues from the village.
- **Obstruction by vehicles along Quakers Row and Untidy State of Garden** – PC are concerned about a particular property along Quakers Row. Three cars from that property have been seen to park along the top road, sometimes causing an obstruction along that road. Also the untidy state of the garden gives concern as it is in a conservation area. Clerk was asked to write to Social Housing Section of NCC stating our concerns and respectfully asking they look into this matter.
- **Greyfield Estate / Turnstone Gardens** – a campervan has been seen on numerous occasions parking across the footpath and road. Parking is available on the Turnstone site.
- **Blue Bell** “parking” might become a problem when the Blue Bell opens as a Bistro. PC to keep an eye on the situation.
- **New contact telephone number for NCC** – A new telephone number is available for County Hall 01665 600733. Information is to be put into Whinstone Times and Net.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 7.30 p.m. in the meeting room at Christon Bank Church.