

Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council

Monday 25th June 2018 at 7.30pm

Methodist Church, Christon Bank

Chairman: Terry Howells

Present: Adam Moody, David Cooper, Vicki Fyffe, Andrew Chillingsworth
Richard Manners, Monica Cornall, Raymond Carss

Attendees: 5 members of the public

Clerk: Melissa Gilroy

Absent: Georgina Armstrong

700. Declaration of Interests. None

701. Apologies: Ray Imeson

Member of the Public Request to Address the Parish Council.

The Chairman explained that although by law anyone could attend Parish Council (PC) meetings no public were allowed to speak except by invitation from the Chairman. It was intended that public speaking should not exceed 15 minutes in total in order to allow the PC time to complete their meeting and the PC were not required to answer questions at the meeting.

A resident of Christon Bank contacted the Parish Council (PC) prior to the meeting and requested to address the PC regarding the 20mph speed restriction experimental order recently put in place through Christon Bank village. The Chairman allowed the address at the beginning of the meeting with a restricted timeframe of 5 minutes. Whilst the resident is not opposed to speed restrictions he felt that the 20mph limit has inadvertently created a more dangerous traffic situation within the village. The resident reported incidents of overtaking within the village limits by impatient drivers unwilling to travel behind cars adhering to the 20mph limit. The resident presented researched evidence which indicated that the design of the newly implanted traffic order will be ineffective in reducing traffic speeds. He reasoned that with no evidence for the effectiveness of the 20mph limit, but evidence of increased risk, that the PC should immediately reconsider the experimental order. The resident has agreed to forward the research to the PC.

702. Confirmation of Meeting Minutes of 28th May 2018

The Minutes of the 28th May 2018 were agreed by all Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

Proposer: Cllr Fyffe

Seconder: Cllr Cornall

703. Election of 5th Quarry Committee member. To be carried forward to the July 2018 Parish Council (PC) meeting.

704. Election of 3rd EJBC member. Cllr Chillingsworth was agreed as the third to represent EPC on the Embleton Joint Burial Committee (EJBC).

705. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting.

- **Dog Bin Repairs.** Councillors agreed to move the dog bin from Sea Lane up to the top of the junction on the verge. The Chairman has instructed a local handy person to complete the work.
- **Water Analysis Dunstan Steads.** See agenda point 711.

706. County Councillor's Report. County Cllr Pattison provided a report that was circulated to Cllr's alongside the meeting summons and agenda. The full report is available upon request. In summary, the following issues were reported:

- Christon Bank & Embleton 20mph
- Nine Parish Chairman Meeting
- A1 Closure
- Parking problems at Greyfield Estate
- Free Post 16 Student Travel
- Reporting Tree Problems
- Shrub Maintenance
- Recycling
- Garden Waste Collections 2018
- Borderlands Conference

707. Christon Bank & Embleton Speed Restrictions

Cllr Chillingsworth agreed to being the PC's NCC Liaison Office on matters regarding speeding and speed limits. The 20mph speed restrictions are in place in Christon Bank in the absence of the rumble strips whilst Northumberland County Council (NCC) await permissions from Network Rail to install these. Having listened to the resident address at the beginning of the meeting the Councillors agreed to invite Neil Snowdon (NCC Principle Programme Officer – Highways Dept) to the July meeting to discuss the 20mph speed restrictions and the timeframe / procedure for feedback to the 6-12month experimental order. County Councillor Pattison received the speed restriction plans for Embleton and sent these onto the Clerk. Clerk to circulate to Councillors for review.

708. EPC Planning Application Procedure.

The revised policy was circulated to all Councillors prior to the June PC meeting. The policy was unanimously agreed.

Proposer: Cllr Fyffe

Seconder: Cllr Moody

709. Quakers Row / Playing Field Trees. The trees growing inside Embleton Primary School playing fields are currently growing over the fence onto the lane over Quakers Row. Residents have reported this to the PC as the trees are beginning to damage vehicles. Chairman / Clerk to contact the school and arrange for these to be back. It was agreed that the PC would pay for this strimming even though the trees belonged to the school.

710. Overnight Parking at Dunstan Steads. Cllr Cornall to contact Land Registry to identify the owners of the parking verge at Dunstan Steads. Ongoing.

711. Dunstan Steads Farm. Cllr Cornall re-sent the drafted letter to the Environmental Agency regarding water testing at Dunstan Steads / Embleton Burn to the Clerk and Chairman. Clerk to circulate to the other Cllrs. before sending to the Environment Agency for actioning.

712. Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman began by briefing the Councillors on the rules and regulations concerning Councillor conflicts of interest and the differences between a prejudicial conflict of interest and pecuniary conflict of interest. The Chairman stressed that Councillors must consider the disclosure of their disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI's) which includes ownership of land or businesses within the parish, which they made at the time of their appointment. If an agenda item relates to one of their DPI's they must withdraw from the meeting. It is a criminal offence not to do so. If proved this is punishable by a fine of up to £5000 and being banned from public office for up to five years. The Chairman highlighted that Cllr Manners had previously stated land as a DPI on his conflict of interest form and asked Cllr Manners to seriously consider if he had a pecuniary interest and should leave the meeting room. Cllr Manners requested that it be minuted that he would have rather been told about DPI regulations before the meeting so that he could have sought legal advice first. The Chairman pointed out that it was not his responsibility to remind Councillors of any possible conflicts of interest, the responsibility was entirely theirs. He had only raised this matter due to the possible serious consequences for Cllr Manners. Cllr Manners did not state that he had an interest and requested to stay present at the meeting.

The Chairman explained that the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) steering group had been formed by the PC and remained under full control of the PC. The role of the group is to prepare the NP and present this to the PC as a pre-submission draft for objection, acceptance or amendment by the PC prior to submission for consultation with the Parish. The Whinstone Times published the suggested village settlement boundaries with a request for feedback from local residents. The Chairman reported that several members of the public had deemed this method of data collection inappropriate citing distribution issues and that some local residents do not read the publication. The NP consultant Jenny Ludman advised that this method is most commonly used by NP steering groups to access resident feedback and that this consultation was not mandatory.

The NP steering group has consulted with four local landowners. J Ludman advised that this is not a requirement or a tactic that other NP Steering groups had chosen to employ. At the Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 20th June several landowners attended to share their views on the work to date of the NP. The Chairman reported an acrimonious and at times insulting meeting ensued. Because of the lengthy public debate at the meeting, the NP Steering group felt that the meeting, and the time of the consultant, had not been spent productively and have therefore taken the decision to conduct closed meetings in future. Public meetings are not a requirement of the group.

Cllr Manners contributed to the PC meeting discussion and explained that local landowners felt that they had not been consulted prior to the publication of the boundaries, that information had not been available online, that there was a lack of transparency in the process and a lack of diversity on the NP Steering group. The Chairman agreed that the minutes on the community website had not been kept up to date (partly due to ill health), the Clerk advised that these were now all available to view on the PC website. Cllr Manners enquired if he could view the submitted Whinstone Times questionnaires, these are all available to view upon request and the Chairman could arrange for this to be facilitated.

Cllr Moody shared his view that the village boundaries do not take into account building for housing need in 10 years+ time and questioned if the NP could be modified at any time during its 20 year life. The Chairman was unable to answer this and agreed to investigate. Cllr Fyffe highlighted the areas within the boundaries for future building work. The Cllr's requested that a large scale map is viewed at the next PC meeting and that J Ludman is invited along to discuss the plans to date. Chairman to action.

713. Embleton Quarry Working Party

A working party meeting was held on 11th June 2018. The Chairman briefed Councillors of the discussions / actions agreed at the meeting. The PC Councillors agreed to give the working party permission to apply for a grant for £4.5k to purchase landscaping equipment (mower, strimmer etc.) and a container for storage on site.

Proposer: Cllr Fyffe

Seconder: Cllr Cooper

The quote received for the installation of deep water signs and dog fouling signs was deemed too expensive at £567.83 (ex.VAT) and a more cost-effective approach was agreed i.e. the collaboration of these signs and local installation. It was also agreed to mark out the land boundaries with wooden posts (awaiting quotations). Ariel photos of the site have been requested so that the group are able to map out the route of the footpaths to see if they would like to adjust any of these. The Wildlife Trust have donated 120 trees to the site, the positioning of these is to be agreed. Cllr Manners enquired about the identity of the buyer of Quarry House so that the group can make contact. County Cllr Pattison advised that NCC Legal department had been contacted but have not disclosed this information. The Chairman requested that Cllr Pattison asked for this information on behalf of the PC again. The minutes of the working party meetings can be viewed on the PC's website.

714. Meeting Reports.

- **Lady Sutherland's Funeral** – The Chairman represented EPC at the Funeral of Lady Sutherland in Embleton Holy Trinity Church on 29th May 2018.
- **Local PC Buckingham Palace Garden Party** – The Chairman was randomly drawn by NALC to represent Northumberland Local Parish Councils at the annual garden party at Buckingham Palace in May 2018. The Chairman attended the event.
- **Local Area Council Committee Meeting** – see agenda point 719.

715. Forthcoming Meetings. Consultation on a Draft Local Plan, 4th July - 15th August. i.e. a series of drop in sessions across Northumberland. The Councillors have been provided with the dates if they should wish to attend.

716. Embleton Joint Burial Committee (EJBC). The Chairman provided an update of the EJBC. An application for funding for the renovation of Cemetery House cannot be placed until three tenders have been received (two minimum), ongoing. Complaints have been received with regards to the overgrown grass. As a result signs have been placed within the Cemetery to advise visitors that the grass is cut fortnightly by contractors. The minutes of the EJBC meetings can be viewed on the PC website.

717. E mails Received / Correspondence.

- **AONB Management Plan Review 2019-2024.** The AONB is revising its Management Plan and scheduled a couple of consultation sessions on 21st June 2018. EPC were not represented at the meeting. The draft Management Plan is available to view on the Northumberland Coast AONB website.
- **Ann Marie Trevelyan MP NCC Planning Letter.** The Chairman summarised the letter received from Ann Marie Trevelyan MP in response to EPC's letter regarding planning applications in the absence of a Neighbourhood Plan.

718. Financial Matters

- Village Green Upkeep – Outstanding payment from Sambuca’s. Second letter / invoice sent. A third letter to be drafted to advise that the boards will be removed if the outstanding invoice is not paid. Clerk to action.
- Account Balance £49,479.52 - 31/05/2018
 - Parish Council* (£27,178.26)
 - Quarry* (£22,295.76)
 - Neighbourhood Plan* (£0.00)
- Spent & Received since 21/05/18
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses April 2018 -£457.14
 - Clerk – Training Course cost & postage -£18.30
 - Creighton Memorial Hall Room Hire -£13.75
 - Creighton Memorial Hall Room Hire - Quarry -£13.75
 - Parish Church Rooms – NP Meetings -£30.00
 - HMRC VAT Refund 2017-18 +£1212.90
 - Quarry Land / Quakers Row Lease Inst 1 +£75.00
 - EPC Donation Mr & Mrs Moore +£20.00
 - Neighbourhood Plan Grant 2 +5911.00
 - Cheques required
 - Clerk Wages & Expenses May 2018 -£381.15
 - G Newcombe Clerk Cover May 2018 -£57.71
 - G Newcombe PAYE -£14.40
 - Christon Bank Methodist Church Room Hire -£10.00
 - NALC Web Hosting Annual Fee -£75.00
 - NALC Membership 2018-19 -£178.47
 - Creighton Hall Quarry Meeting 11th June -£13.75
 - Direct Debits
 - ICO Annual Fee -£40.00

719. Planning Matters.

- 18/01816/FUL. Change of use from agricultural to residential to provide two static caravan spaces. 1 - Chapel View Station Cottages Christon Bank NE66 3EX. Mr Gary Little
Expiry Date: 22nd June 2018
NO COMMENTS
- 18/01592/FUL. Re-siting of a static caravan. Land North West of Dunstan Steads Farm Embleton Northumberland. E F Brown.
Expiry Date: 21st June 2018
OBJECTION – A vote was taken as to whether the Council should lodge an objection to this application. (Objection 5 votes, Approval 3 votes). The Clerk was asked to lodge an objection similar to that made to a previous application for the same re-siting.
- 18/01014/FUL. Proposed Construction of 7 Dwellings. Land West of Station Road Station Road, Embleton, Northumberland. Mr & Mrs Robinson.
Local Area Council Committee – 21st June 2018
REFUSED - The Chairman attended the Local Area Council meeting behalf of the PC and presented the case for objection (draft presentation circulated to Councillors for agreement prior to the meeting). The planning application was refused.

- 18/01442/FUL. Proposed front garage extension, rear kitchen extension and first floor side extension. 6 Merton Cottages, Embleton, Northumberland, NE66 3XL. Mr Aaron Wood
GRANTED

720. Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

Dunstan Stead Farm – smell & pollution
Creighton Place, Affordable Homes & Holiday Lettings.

721. Time, Date and Venue of next meeting

Proposed that the meeting should be held on Monday 23rd July 2018 at 7:30pm in Creighton Hall, Embleton.