

# Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7.45pm

Creighton Memorial Hall, Embleton

**Chairman:** Terry Howells

**Present:** Monica Cornall, Raymond Carss, Ray Imeson, Chris German

**Attendees:** County Councillor (Cllr) Wendy Pattison (Northumberland County Council (NCC), one member of the public (in part to agenda item 921).

**Clerk:** Melissa Gilroy

**Absent:** Vicki Fyffe, Andrew Chillingsworth

**Pre-Meeting Note:** A member of the public requested to speak about the forthcoming paediatric first aid courses running within the community. Following a tragic incident earlier on in the year the public member highlighted the importance of paediatric first aid skills within a rural setting and wrote a letter to the Parish Council (PC) requesting funding of up to £394.00 to help facilitate the training sessions in the Creighton Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 17<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr's unanimously agreed to donate up to the requested amount. Clerk to action.

Proposer: Cllr German

Secunder: Cllr Imeson

**912. Declaration of Interests.** None

**913. Apologies for Absence:** Dave Cooper, Richard Manners, Georgina Armstrong.

**914. Confirmation of Parish Council (PC) Meeting Minutes 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.**

The meeting minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**915. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting.**

- **Parish Noticeboard.** The noticeboard has been installed on Embleton village green. Thanks to Cllr Imeson and family for installing the board.
- **Dunstan Steads Signage.** Awaiting plans from Richard McKenzie (NCC).
- **Glass Recycling Area.** The Clerk reported the fly tipping at the recycling site to NCC and the Chairman chased up the proposed re-siting of the recycling site with Paul Lowes (NCC Recycling Officer). Awaiting feedback.
- **Pig Farm Dunstan Steads.** Following the last meeting a letter was written to Alan Rowley and Liz O'Brien (Enforcement Officers, NCC) with a copy to Rob Murfin (Head of Planning, NCC) and Craster PC. No feedback has been received. Cllr Carrs reported the overflowing cesspits at the back of the Smithy at Dunstan Stead, no complaints have been received from residents on this matter. County Cllr Pattison advised writing to Alan Rowley at NCC expressing a public health concern. Chairman / Clerk to action.

- **Speed Restrictions Proposals.**

- 1) **Christon Bank** – Following on from the drop-in session, Neil Snowdon (NCC) update the PC and confirmed that there was overwhelming support for the provision of interactive signs. NCC will be looking at 'Speed Indicator Display' signs which display the speed of a vehicle rather than the 'Vehicle Activated Sign' example on display at the drop-in session. While Option 1 (chicane feature on the B6347) was very unpopular, the idea of chicanes was not. NCC are therefore considering whether or not it is possible to introduce this type of feature at all entrances to the village as an alternative to the build out feature. This element of the scheme will be subject to detailed site investigation and NCC will consider the needs of all agricultural vehicles as part of the design process. As a final consideration, NCC are also investigating the possibility of a 40mph buffer zone on approaches to the village, in order to encourage drivers to reduce vehicular speeds as they approach and enter the 30mph speed limit. Once the detailed plans of the final scheme are available, NCC will arrange for them to be displayed in the village shop so that residents are aware of the plans before they are issued for implementation. County Cllr Pattison has been assured that the work will commence in Autumn 2019.
- 2) **Embleton** – A drop in session was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May to present the proposed speed restriction plans to local residents. The scheme includes 4 different elements:
  - (i) Extend the existing 30mph limit to cover the road to Dunstan Steads. The existing 30mph signs will be relocated to the southern side of the junction.
  - (ii) A 20mph speed limit outside the school at selected times controlled by programmable signs. During the 20mph periods (school pick up and drop off) the signs will display an illuminated school sign at the top, a 20mph sign at the bottom and the orange lights will flash. When the zone is not in force the signs will be blank but will display 30mph if a vehicle is exceeding this speed.
  - (iii) The central white line to be removed outside the school.
  - (iv) Rumble strips to be installed at all 4 entrances to the village.Feedback forms are available in Moody's Londis or Mandells Coffee Pot and should be sent directly to NCC via the freepost option provided. Clerk to publish the maps, summary and feedback form on the PC website and also on the Embleton noticeboard until the end of the consultation period (19<sup>th</sup> June 2019).

**916. 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:

- Embleton Proposed 20mph (see agenda item 915)
- Christon Bank Pavement
- Results of the Christon Bank Traffic Design Drop In (see agenda item 915)
- Meeting of the 9 Parishes in the Longhoughton Ward
- Step into Spring and Age Well. 12<sup>th</sup> June 10am-midday, Longhoughton. County Cllr Pattison to contact Longhoughton PC and request that they send information for the parish noticeboards.
- Council Tax Discount – Care Providers
- Appeals to the Valuation Tribunal Service
- First Ever Mayor North of Tyne
- Fire Facts
- Additional note. A Christon Bank resident complaint to NCC about the uncut verges towards Christon Bank Farm. NCC advised that the verge cutting had not yet commenced for 2019.

- 917. 2018-19 Year End Accounts & Annual Governance & Accountability Return.** The following documents were circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting for review:
- 917.1 **Annual Internal Audit Report.** Unanimously agreed by all Cllr's  
Proposer: Cllr German  
Secunder: Cllr Cornall
- 917.2 **Approval of Year End Accounts 2018-19.** Unanimously agreed by all Cllr's  
Proposer: Cllr German  
Secunder: Cllr Cornall
- 917.3 **Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2018-19.** All statements were unanimously agreed by all Cllr's  
Proposer: Cllr German  
Secunder: Cllr Cornall
- 917.4 **Section 2 – Accounting Statement 2018-19.** Unanimously agreed by all Cllr's  
Proposer: Cllr German  
Secunder: Cllr Cornall
- 917.5 **Approval of Explanation of Variances Form.** Unanimously agreed by all Cllr's  
Proposer: Cllr German  
Secunder: Cllr Cornall
- 918. EPC Contracts & Tendering.** Written quotations are required for the annual parish grass cutting and maintenance contract. The Chairman consulted the current contractor regarding the job specification and compiled a list of tasks to be included within the three-year contract. The list of maintenance tasks was reviewed with an amendment required for the planters and the playpark hedge. The contractor is required to have £5m public liability insurance and an additional quote is required from the Spitalfields contractor, Chairman to action.
- 919. Embleton Fireworks & Bonfire.** The Chairman meet with Cllr Cooper to discuss event liability and the required DTI guidelines. At the meeting the Zurich Insurance form was reviewed and the requirement to contact the HM Coastguard prior to the event and the need for marshals at the event was discussed. Ongoing. Awaiting Cllr Manners' feedback from Alnwick Round Table. The Chairman will attend the Longhoughton PC meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Boulmer Memorial Hall where their bonfire night / firework display is due to be discussed.
- 920. Neighbourhood Plan.** The Chairman provided an update. NCC is still preparing the Strategic Environmental Assessment for inclusion within the Plan. On completion, this will be submitted for public examination. During this period the working group has decided to offer a further period of consultation on the settlement boundaries proposed in the draft Plan.
- The points raised during the NP consultations and the PC summary were circulated prior to the PC meeting. These were unanimously agreed by all Cllrs. Cllr Cornall raised the current condition of the Whinstone View bank, County Cllr Pattison to contact NCC regarding maintenance to the bank.
- 921. Embleton Quarry Working Party.** The Chairman provided an update. A contractor has agreed to clear the area required for the positioning of the container. It is hoped to have this completed before the end of May. Three areas of the quarry have now been cleared as

outlined in the Management Plan. A few Cotoneaster plants are still to be removed and some bramble roots remain to be dug out. Consideration is being given as how to prevent walkers getting too near to the cliff base with the danger of rock falls now it has been cleared. Clearance of Piri piri is underway and a detailed plant survey is to be undertaken in the near future by the Graduate Trainee and Coastal Care. Ways of creating a wildflower area have been discussed and sources of seed are under investigation.

The possible detrimental effects on the local Tree Sparrow and bats colonies by the demolition of Quarry House have been discussed with NCC's Chief Ecologist. Some form of mitigation within any planning permission is required and the possibility of building one, or even two, towers into which these could relocate has been proposed. It is also hoped that any planning permission will insist that the hedges on the quarries northern boundary are not disturbed in perpetuity. The Graduate trainee has started work and one of her first tasks will be to update the Management Plan along lines agreed with the Committee.

- 922. Embleton Joint Burial Committee (EJBC).** There has been no response from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to the application for permission to apply for a £25,000 loan towards the renovation of Cemetery House.
- 923. Mandell Place Development.** The advertising board stating 'Holmefield' has been installed in the absence of planning permission and remains in place. The local landowner provided an update of progress on site prior to the meeting. In summary, Station Road is open now that the new passing places have been installed and the junction to the main road widened. Cussins have finished the borrow pit and ground works and are now doing the roads and sewers which will take a couple of weeks before they start on the foundations. The current schedule had the first houses being completed in November 2019 and the last in Feb / March 2020. The Cllr's agreed to send a thank you letter to Cussins and the local landowner for surfacing the road by the school and for widening the junction on the Embleton to Christon Bank road. Chairman / Clerk to action.
- 924. Meeting Reports.** Local Area Council North Meeting – 21<sup>th</sup> May, St James's Church Centre, Alnwick. No reports.
- 925. Forthcoming Meetings.** Local Area Council North Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> June, location tbc.
- 926. E mails Received / Correspondence.**
- **Pedestrian Safety** – Embleton to Low Newton Footpath. A letter has been received from a local resident regarding the road verges from Embleton to join the public footpath to Low Newton at the north of the village. The resident has concerns about pedestrian safety when people are walking on the verge of the road, using the field opposite is not permitted to the general public. NCC have advised the resident that the verge is unsuitable to walk on due to the drainage ditches and uneven ground. The verge isn't suitable for the usual ride-on mowers used in the village and is also outside the 30mph signs which means traffic management would be required for strimming it. PC to write to the local landowner regarding access to the public footpath. Chairman / Clerk to action.
  - **Housing Strategy for Northumberland 2019-21.** Consultation period 5<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019. No further action required.
  - **Climate Action Northumberland** - Petition to NCC. Received by the PC on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr's discussed the challenges of being carbon neutral within a rural community. Cllr's agreed to sign the petition. Chairman / Clerk to action.

- **Embleton Paediatric First Aid Training.** See pre-minute note.
- **West Sleekburn Materials Recycling Facility and Transfer Station Tour,** Bedlington. Friday 7th June, 11am or 2pm. Cllr's to inform Clerk if they wish to attend.
- **NCC Waste Sampling of Rubbish in Northumberland** - week comm. 13th May & 20<sup>th</sup> May. In order to give direction as to the waste services of the future, NCC have analysed some rubbish bins in a sample of streets in Northumberland. The results will help make decisions about what the collections will look like from the kerbsides in the future.
- **2019 NCC Weed Control Programme.** A letter has been received from NCC regarding the annual weed control programme. As per 2018 a blue dye will be used so that people could see where NCC have been working. The blue dye marker is completely harmless and allows the teams to see exactly where they have sprayed, potentially reducing wasted or overuse of spray and ensure that any areas that have been missed will be apparent straight away. The chemical can take up to two weeks to kill the weeds and the dye is water soluble, doesn't affect the environment and also breaks down in the sun so it won't be visible for more than the 10 to 14 days it takes to kill the weeds.

## 927. Financial Matters

- A letter to Grey's Inn is required regarding the outstanding village green payment for 2019-20. Clerk to action.
- Account Balance £50,274.47 - 30/04/2019
  - Parish Council (£ 20,699.63)
  - Quarry (£ 20,667.97)
  - Neighbourhood Plan (£ 31.66)
- Spent & Received since 29/04/19
 

○ Clerk Wages & Expenses (March 2019)	-£304.39	BACS
○ Christon Bank Methodist Church Room Hire	-£10.00	BACS
○ Air Ambulance	-£100.00	CHQ
○ Alnwick Playhouse	-£50.00	CHQ
○ Whinstone Times	-£250.00	CHQ
○ Community Action Northumberland (CAN)	-£25.00	CHQ
○ Hospice Care Northumberland	-£100.00	CHQ
○ Parish Church Rooms – Toilet Upkeep 2019-20	-£140.00	BACS
○ Creighton Memorial Hall (NP Meeting 27th March)	-£30.00	BACS
○ Clerk - Annual Norton Virus software	-£29.99	BACS
○ Clerk – Annual Microsoft Office	-£59.99	BACS
○ Chris German – Defibrillator box light	-£9.99	CHQ
○ Embleton Girl Guides	-£100.00	CHQ
○ NALC Annual Membership & Web Hosting Fee	-£261.46	BACS
○ Sambucas – Annual Village Green Payment	+£100.00	BACS
○ Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel – Green Payment	+£100.00	BACS
○ Dunstanburgh Castle Gold Club – Green Payment	+£100.00	BACS
○ HMRC VAT Refund 2018-19	+£646.03	BACS
- Payments Required:
 

○ Clerk Wages & Expenses (April 2019)	-£375.75	BACS
○ Creighton Memorial Hall (EPC Meeting 28th May)	-£15.00	BACS
○ Creighton Memorial Hall (Quarry Meeting 24th April)	-£15.00	BACS
○ Creighton Memorial Hall (Quarry Meeting 22 <sup>nd</sup> May)	-£15.00	BACS

○ Creighton Memorial Hall (NP Meeting 15 <sup>th</sup> May)	-£15.00	BACS
○ Parish Church Rooms (NP Meeting 25th April)	-£15.00	BACS

**928. Planning Matters.**

- None to report

**929. Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**

- Christon Bank Planning Application (7 build to rent houses for local workers and retired local workers behind the Methodist Church in Christon Bank).
- Election of a Vice Chairman and representatives for the PC Committees.
- Dog Fouling
- Exemption from Council Tax – Second Home Donation to the PC.
- Speed Assessment Training

**930. Time, Date and Venue of next PC Meeting**

- Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 7:30pm, Christon Bank Methodist Church.