

Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council

Monday 22nd July 2019 at 7.30pm

Creighton Memorial Hall, Embleton

Chairman: Terry Howells

Present: Monica Cornall, Chris German, Andrew Chillingsworth, Ray Imeson, Raymond Carrs, Richard Manners

Attendees: County Councillor (Cllr) Wendy Pattison (Northumberland County Council (NCC) in part to agenda item 964, one member of the public.

Clerk: Melissa Gilroy

Pre Meeting Note. The Chairman made reference to the legal update contained with the National Association of Local Council (NALC) members update on 9th July 2019. The article updated Parish Councils (PC's) on the use of secret ballots in that 'Paragraph 13 (1) of Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 for England and paragraph 29 (1) for Wales states "unless otherwise provided by the council's standing orders the manner of voting at meetings of a community council shall be by a show of hands". NALC's Model Standing Orders (3s for England and 3r for Wales) confirm this requirement. Councils cannot just decide to do a vote by secret ballot unless permitted to do so by their Standing Orders and to change standing orders to permit the use of a secret ballot requires written notice.' In conclusion, Embleton Parish Council (EPC) shall continue to vote using a show of hands as per the current standing orders.

957. Declaration of Interests. Chairman - agenda item 975 Outline Planning Application 19/01968/OUT. Interests as a home-owner on Station Road residing directly opposite the Glebe field.

958. Apologies for Absence: Vicki Fyffe, Georgina Armstrong, David Cooper

959. Stuart Brimble – Neighbourhood Beat Manager. Speed Assessment Training. Not present.

960. Neil Snowdon – Principle Programme Officer – NCC. Traffic Management Plans

- **Christon Bank.** Neil Snowdon presented the Christon Bank traffic management plans to Councillors. A combination of village entry / exit chicanes (3.5m in width) and speed indication signs have been designed within the plan. A member of the public has offered the services of agricultural vehicles to check the width of the proposed chicane widths, Neil Snowdon took contact details and will arrange these tests. The number of 30mph interactive signs to be supplied (either 1 or 3), the type of sign (fixed or transferable) and the timings for installation of the scheme have yet to be confirmed. Neil Snowdon to send EPC the details on the types of interactive signs that are available for selection. County Councillor Pattison advised that there may be funding available from the 'Members' Local Improvement Scheme' to assist in financing the Christon Bank traffic management plans.

- **Embleton.** Neil Snowdon confirmed that 30mph is to be installed down towards Dunstan Steads. The option of rumble strips was then discussed and the siting of the strips and their impact of noise as per the situation in Christon Bank was queried. Cllr's agreed that this requires consideration if they are to be installed in Embleton village, Neil Snowdon advised that the rumble strips would allow space for passing cyclists. The 20mph limit outside the school was discussed, Neil Snowdon agreed to send EPC the 20mph sign options and also agreed to a site meeting in September to include the Headteacher of Embleton Primary School. Cllr Manners requested re-tests of the North Farm speeding assessments in different / more appropriate locations along the B1339.

961. Confirmation of Parish Council (PC) Meeting Minutes 24th June 2019.

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

Proposer: Cllr Chillingsworth

Secunder: Cllr German

962. Matters arising from minutes of last meeting.

- **Christon Bank Well.** Cllr Cooper assessed the work required for restoration of the well. Work to commence in August.
- **Christon Bank Maintenance Contract.** The Chairman approached NCC for a second quote. No response has been received. The current contractor quoted £1170 per year for the work. The Cllr's agreed to accept this quotation.

Proposer: Cllr Imeson

Secunder: Cllr German

963. 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 Traffic Plans
- Embleton Traffic Plans
- Greyfield Estate. Roof Renewal.
- Council Recycle Waste
- Free Trees for Schools and Communities.
- Community Chest Scheme
- Additional note. Confusing junctions outside of Dunstanburgh Castle Hotel, option for Councillors to discuss at a future EPC meeting.

964. Dog Foul in Embleton. The Chairman contacted the local resident about the location of the dog waste, this was confirmed as down Sea Lane. The Clerk contacted NCC on their policy regarding the installation and emptying of new dog bins. NCC would prefer general litter bin as they are steering away from dog bins which are unpleasant for operators to empty and dog foul waste is now classed as general litter. NCC are happy to assess the location of a new bin in relation to their schedules for emptying. Clerk to contact NCC regarding the installation of a general waste bin opposite the Villa's (the dog waste bin at this site was relocated to the top of the lane last year). The possibility of fixing labels to all bins to say 'suitable for dog waste' to be explored. Clerk / Chairman to action.

965. Embleton Playpark Committee. The zipwire and basket swing are both faulty and have been removed. The Cllr's agreed that these should be fixed as soon as possible, Chairman to contact Cllr Armstrong. The Playpark Committee does not have sufficient funds to pay for the repairs therefore the Cllr's agreed that the PC would finance these. Cllr Armstrong was not present at the meeting to advise on the future of the Playpark Committee. A notice is

due to be published in the Whinstone Times and a letter sent to school parents to request volunteers to form a new Committee, these actions are awaited. The Cllr's discussed if NCC would consider adopting the playpark from EPC, Clerk to enquire. Playpark to be discussed at the September meeting.

- 966. Exemption from Council Tax – Donation to the PC.** The Chairman received details of the Bamburgh scheme. Bamburgh PC request an annual voluntary contribution of £25 from owners of properties exempt from Council Tax. The Chairman had prepared a list of the registered businesses within the Embleton Parish using information received from NCC regarding properties currently exempt from Council Tax. The Cllr's agreed to write a letter to these businesses / properties and request an annual minimum donation of £50 with a notice in the Whinstone Times also. Chairman & Clerk to action.
- 967. Embleton Fireworks & Bonfire.** The Vice Chairman attend the Longhoughton PC meeting on Monday 15th July 2019 at Boulmer Memorial Hall where their bonfire night / firework display was discussed. Cllr Cooper produced a risk assessment and guide for the organisers of the Embleton event based on DTI guidelines and other guidance. The Cllr's agreed that EPC should insure the event (Chairman to action) with Cllr Imeson organising the fireworks. Cllr's Manners advised that organisers of the Alwick event employ an outside body to supply the firework display.
- 968. Neighbourhood Plan (NP).** The Chairman provided an update. The Plan has been delayed by unexpected work. NCC have reported that the Environmental Report was ready to go last week. Unfortunately, at the same time, some evidence came to light through the examination of another NP in Northumberland which has resulted in some issues with their SEA (Strategic Environmental Report). Their report was produced by Aecom (the Government's appointed SEA consultant) rather than the County Council. However, it has thrown up some issues which the NP working party group are keen to address fully in their SEA work to ensure that our Environmental Reports are robust and can withstand legal challenge. As a result, the NP working party are currently making some amendments to the Environmental Report for Embleton to ensure that the report is as robust as possible and to avoid any similar issues at examination. Given the importance of getting the SEA right, together with the increasing use of procedural matters (such as SEA) as a route for legal challenge of NP's, it's of paramount importance for the NP working party group to ensure that the Report takes account of the issues raised by the Examiner. The Chairman is hoping to be able to get the consultation on the revised Environmental Report next week.

As far as the NP working Party Group are aware the HRA (Habitat Regulation Assessment) has been completed satisfactorily. In effect this means that with all the required public consultation periods it is almost impossible to see how the Plan could be presented for referendum before the end of 2019. A further grant of £5400 has been received to cover costs of final stages of the NP preparation

- 969. Embleton Quarry & Quarry House.** The Chairman provided an update. An article has been prepared for publication in the Whinstone Times by the Graduate Trainee explaining what has been and is being done in the Quarry. It also reiterates the call for more volunteers to help with various tasks laid out in the management plan. It has still not been possible to obtain a decision from NCC regarding ownership of the small piece of land between the edge of the land transferred to the PC and the rear of Whinstone View gardens. Work is continuing to solve the problem of transporting the container for equipment from the roadside to a point within the Quarry. As required, the cost of electric fencing for segments

of the Quarry to contain grazing ponies is being investigated. This would only be in place for two months per year and the ponies would help the development of a wild-flower meadow. It is intended to hold a 'Bioblitz' on the August Bank holiday weekend. This is intended to attract families by including a bat walk, moth sheet, bird walk, small mammal search, pond dipping, a butterfly and bee walk and possibly a history stroll. It is hoped that more volunteers will come forward after this.

970. Embleton Joint Burial Committee (EJBC). The Chairman provided an update. The EJBC has received an updated quotation from the builder. The figure has risen from £64.7k to 69.2k an increase of 7% or £4.5k (all prices ex VAT). This new cost has been accepted and a start date is now awaited. The increase will be taken from the contingency fund of £10k.

971. Meeting Reports.

- Longhoughton PC Meeting - Monday 15th July, Boulmer Memorial Hall. (see agenda item 966).

972. Forthcoming Meetings.

- Nine Parishes Meeting, 4th October 2019. Location tbc. Chairman to attend.
- National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Annual General Meeting (AGM), September 28th 2019. Chairman to attend.

973. E mails Received / Correspondence.

- The Tour of Britain passes through Embleton on Monday 9th September at 12:55pm. As per 2017 the village will be decorated with bunting. Clerk to contact Cllr Armstrong and Cllr Fyffe regarding the location of EPC's bunting. A note to be placed in the Whinstone Times regarding the decoration of the village, Chairman to action.
- Warcup Solicitors. A letter regarding the will of the late Kay John Seymour Walker has been received to inform EPC that the deceased estate has been divided into 200 parts, of which EPC is entitled to 4 of those parts. The Solicitors are currently dealing with HM Revenue in connection with Inheritance Tax and will contact the PC in due course.
- NCC have requested the estimated number of rough sleepers in the Parish on the evening of Monday 22nd September. There are no known rough sleepers, Clerk to respond.
- NCC review of local Polling Stations - no comment from EPC.
- A resident letter has been received regarding the footpath connecting Embleton to the North Farm public right of way. The Cllr's agreed that a pavement along the B1339 connecting Embleton to the footpath should be included as one of the Local Transport Priorities (LTP's) for 2020-21.
- Local Transport Priorities (LTP's) letter from NCC received for 2020-21. To be discussed and agreed at the September EPC meeting.
- Paediatric First Aid Training. Cllr German reported that the two first aid sessions were well received and due to generous participant donations, the amount required from EPC may not be as much as originally anticipated. Awaiting invoice.

974. Financial Matters

- Account Balance £49,368.22 - 30/06/2019
Parish Council (£28,826.09)
Quarry (£20,540.47)
Neighbourhood Plan (£1.66)

- Spent & Received since 24/06/19

○ Clerk Wages & Expenses (May 2019)	-£285.05	BACS
○ Christon Bank Methodist Church	-£10.00	BACS
○ J Young – Quarry Maintenance	-£62.50	BACS
○ Parish Church Rooms - Room Hire 22 nd May	-£20.00	BACS
○ Creighton Memorial Hall - Quarry Meeting 18 th June	-£15.00	BACS

• **Payments Required:**

○ Clerk - Wages & Expenses (June 2019)	-£192.50	BACS
○ Clerk - Training Fee C German NALC	-£10.00	BACS
○ Creighton Memorial Hall – Quarry Meeting 15 th July	-£15.00	BACS
○ Creighton Memorial Hall – EPC Meeting 22 nd July	-£15.00	BACS

975. Planning Matters.

- 15/02012/COU & 12/00594/FUL. Change of Use of Agricultural Land to allow the siting of nine caravans with reference to approval notice 15/02012/COU & 12/00594/FUL. Land East of North Farm, Embleton, Northumberland. Mr Richard Manners
Outcome - GRANTED
- 19/01968/OUT. Outline Application (All Matters Reserved) for Development of medium density 2 and 3 bedroom homes with garages and storage. Land East of Dovecote Close, Station Road, Embleton. Mr J Swanson
Expiry Date for comment: 22nd July 2019
(The PC requested an extension for comment to 25th July 2019).

Prior to the meeting an objection statement prepared by the NP Working Party Group in relation to the outline planning application was circulated to all Cllr's.

6 Cllr's agreed with the statement supplied by the NP Working Party Group and agreed that the statement should be submitted on behalf of Embleton Parish Council in its entirety.

1 Cllr neutral

3 Cllr's were absent

Clerk to submit the objection statement to NCC's planning portal.

- 18/01014/FUL – APPEAL. Proposed construction of 7 dwellings. Land West of Station Road, Embleton, Alnwick, Northumberland. Mr & Mrs Robertson
Appeal Hearing – 16th July 2019.
Outcome - AWAITING

976. Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- LTP Priorities – 2020-21

977. Time, Date and Venue of next PC Meeting

- Monday 23rd September, 7:30pm, Christon Bank Methodist Church.