

Minutes for the Meeting of Embleton Parish Council

Monday 25th November 2019 at 7.30pm

Methodist Church, Christon Bank

Chairman: Terry Howells

Present: Monica Cornall, Chris German, Raymond Carss, Vicki Fyffe (in part to agenda item 11), David Cooper, Andrew Chillingsworth, Ray Imeson,

Attendees: County Councillor (Cllr) Wendy Pattison (Northumberland County Council (NCC)).

Clerk: Melissa Gilroy

1. **Declaration of Interests.** None
2. **Apologies for Absence** Richard Manners, Vicki Fyffe from agenda item 11.
3. **Confirmation of Parish Council (PC) Meeting Minutes 28th October 2019.** Cllr Chillingsworth requested an amendment to the wording of agenda point 6 from 'the work was to be completed by the end of November' to 'the work would commence by the end of November'. The minutes were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposer: Cllr Chillingsworth
Seconder: Cllr Carss
4. **Matters arising from minutes of last meeting.**
 - **Waste Bin at Sea Lane.** To be fitted down Sea Lane opposite the Villa's. Chairman to action.
 - **Beach Camping & Dunstan Steads Overnight Parking.** Awaiting a meeting to be organised with Cllr Cornall.
 - **Bus times and On Demand Bus Service.** Following the October meeting, the PC wrote a letter to NCC regarding the revised bus timetable and the on-demand bus service. Currently awaiting a response from NCC.
 - **Small Business Rates.** Cllr's agreed to write a letter to the local MP post-election.
 - **Christon Bank Well.** Cllr Cooper reported that the overhanging trees at the Christon Bank Well had now been removed and a fence, gate and solar powered light are to be installed at the site. Cllr Cooper to provide an estimate of costs to the PC.
5. **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:
 - Travelsure and Arriva Bus Timetable Changes.
 - Embleton Primary School and Flashing School Signage
 - Christon Bank Traffic Safety Initiative
 - Broadband for Rural Communities
 - Borrowbox Library App
 - Alnwick Campus Scheme

- Riding for the Disabled Volunteers
 - Fly Tippers
6. **Christon Bank & Embleton Speed Management Plans.**
 - **Christon Bank.** Neil Snowdon is yet to confirm that the chicane sizing tests have been completed using large farm machinery in Christon Bank. Cllr Cooper agreed to contact the local resident that is providing the farm machinery to assist in arranging the tests with NCC.
 - **Embleton.** Awaiting the final plans from NCC. Letter to be written to Neil Snowdon to chase up. Chairman to action.
 7. **Precept for 2020-21.** The draft document was circulated to Cllr's for review prior to the meeting. A £600 increase is required for the EJBC contribution resulting in a £600 reduction for the Risk Analysis fund. All Councillors agreed to the amended precept, Clerk to submit to NCC.
 Proposer: Cllr Chillingsworth
 Seconder: Cllr Cooper
 8. **Purdah.** The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have issued local PC's with guidance regarding the period before an election when public bodies have to take special care not to be seen to be using public funds in a way that could be seen as potentially affecting the outcome of the election. The 2011 Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authority Publicity applies to all Parish, Town and Community Councils at all times and PC's are required to consider the appropriateness of ceremonial and civic events during the purdah period.
 9. **Vandalism / Communicating with Local Police.** The Creighton Hall Committee requested that the PC write to the Police regarding the recent incidences of vandalism and to request a meeting to help prevent further occurrences. No reply has been received from the Police in response to the letter. At the meeting Cllr Carss also reported damage to the shelter on the playing field and evidence of drug use close to the Pavilion. The Chairman to contact the Police and request that a representative attends the next PC meeting. County Cllr Pattison advised that PC Sharon Wilmor Greives and PC John Swan are the local contacts.
 10. **Embleton Playpark Committee.** No local residents attended the meeting scheduled for 21st November; therefore, no new committee was formed. The available options for managing and maintaining the playpark going forward were discussed by the Cllr's. At present the playpark committee is run as a charity therefore limiting PC involvement. Cllr Cooper agreed to investigate the possibility of using a management company to run the playpark and will also contact Mike Jeffrey at NCC to seek guidance. Cllr German agreed to contact Georgina Armstrong.
 11. **Embleton & Christon Bank Christmas Tree & Lights.** Cllr Imeson & Cllr Cooper have organised two new sets of Christmas lights for the Embleton and Christon Bank trees. Cllr Cooper agreed to contact the local resident regarding the donation of the trees for the villages. Cllr's agreed to purchase two trees if a donor cannot be found.
 12. **Embleton Defibrillator.** The Embleton defibrillator battery and pads urgently required replacement between the October and November PC meetings. Cllr's agreed to the expense of £229.28 and a cheque was issued to the Stephen Carey Trust. The defibrillator was originally donated to the community with money raised from the McCann pipe works, however routine checks and ongoing maintenance were never agreed after installation. The

Stephen Carey Trust have requested that the defibrillator is adopted by the PC. Cllr's agreed to undertake the ongoing care of the unit. Clerk to action.

Proposer: Cllr Imeson

Seconder: Cllr Cornall

- 13. Neighbourhood Plan.** The Chairman provided an update. The Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to NCC who, having read the documents, requested some very minor amendments which have been carried out. NCC have now sent the Plan out for public comment. This consultation ends on January 7th 2020 after which time the external examiner will review the document. It is hoped to receive these comments before the end of January 2020 which, providing they are favourable, should allow a referendum to be held during March 2020.
- 14. Embleton Quarry.** The Chairman provided an update. The container has been delivered into position in the Quarry. Unfortunately, due to the recent wet weather conditions, the ground leading to, and around, the site has been badly churned up. As a result, remedial action may be necessary in the spring. The path to the lake edge, at the south side of the Quarry, has been completed as far as possible at present. It has been decided to suspend all work in the Quarry until late February. The article in the Whinstone Times asking for volunteer help with maintaining the Quarry did not produce any responses at all.
- 15. Embleton Joint Burial Committee (EJBC).** The Chairman provided an update. The appointed builder has confirmed that renovation work on Cemetery House will commence in late December 2019 or early January 2020. An asbestos survey has been commissioned on the property at a cost of £300. NCC have confirmed that Council Tax on the property will rise to a 100% excess in April due to the length of time the property has been unoccupied. A meeting with NCC has been arranged to discuss letting terms and to establish who is to be contracted to carry out the 24/7 maintenance on the property. A precautionary precept of £3,000 has been requested by EJBC of which £1800 would fall on EPC. In 2019/20 the EJBC £2,000 precept was not claimed as it is hoped the 2020/21 will not be.
- 16. Meeting Reports.**

 - Community Action North (CAN) Annual General Meeting, Monday 4 November 2019, Blanchland Village Hall, 2pm. EPC not represented.
- 17. Forthcoming Meetings.**

 - None to report.
- 18. E mails Received / Correspondence.**

 - **Dog Foul bags in Embleton Bay.** A letter was received from a local resident concerned about the amount of dog foul bags dumped along the dunes and by the bench on the golf course. Cllr's discussed the dog bin provisions that have been made available to dog walkers and agreed that these were sufficient. No further action required.
 - **Communication with police, Christon Bank footpaths, Litter-picking.** A letter was received from a local resident with various concerns (see agenda point 9 for communication with the Police). County Cllr Pattison advised that at the request of communities and local PC's, equipment for litter picking will be provided by NCC. No further action required on footpaths.
 - **Public protection order for Control of Dogs.** It is a requirement for dogs to be on a lead of less than 1.5 metres when walking a dog next to any A or B classified road. The Chairman to write an article for the Whinstone Times advising local residents of the requirements.

- **Embleton Cottage - Conservation Area.** Following the installation of a garden fence at Embleton Cottage along WT Stead Road a letter was written to NCC requesting that the Planning Department consider the aesthetics of the fence within the Conservation area. The Planning Department have photographs of the fence and the PC are awaiting a response.
- **Quarry House Site** – The Chairman and a member of the local community had an independent meeting with Mike Robbins (NCC Strategic Estates Manager) regarding the future of Quarry House and potential options and uses for the site. Both representatives were attending the meeting as private individuals and not within roles associated with the PC or the NP. The Chairman sent a detailed report to Cllr’s prior to the meeting. In summary:
 - 1) The option of a Care Home on the site with additional provision for major disabilities was discussed (built by a third party and in association with NCC). Mike Robbins felt the site was too small for an economically viable care home unit to be built and if expanded into the nature reserve (with PC permission) the ecologically important areas would be disturbed. In addition, NCC considered that there were sufficient Care Home places available in the locality.
 - 2) NCC had carried out a study of the site. They had concluded that their first consideration of affordable homes was not acceptable as no more of these were needed in the Parish.
 - 3) NCC also accepted that there was a need for more employment opportunities and were currently investigating building industrial units on the site, either offices or small workshops. They recognised that from an ecological viewpoint there were substantial constraints but felt that these could be met. Should they decide against this use then the site would be marketed again and any proposal would be considered even a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) to EPC if it was interested. Regarding timescales, Mike Robbins thought that it would be several months before a decision was made regarding the sites use for industrial buildings.
- **NALC Guide to Loneliness.** Available upon request please contact the Clerk.
- **NCC Email – Households not Connected to the Electricity Distribution Network.** Not applicable for the Embleton Parish, excludes the dune beach huts.
- **Footpath in Embleton on Station Road.** Work commenced in October but has not progressed any further. Tony Bell at the Lionheart Alnwick Depot to be contacted for an update on the project. Chairman to action.
- **PC Councillor Vacancy.** A letter of resignation was received from Cllr Armstrong on 25th November, therefore EPC has vacancy for one Cllr. The Clerk is required to inform the Returning Officer at NCC and the agreed procedure for filling a Cllr vacancy to commence on 7th January 2020. Clerk to action.

19. Financial Matters

- Account Balance £51,883.95 - 30/10/2019
Parish Council (£32,580.82)
Quarry (£17,710.47)
Neighbourhood Plan (£1,592.66)
- Spent & Received since 28/10/19

○ BACS Clerk Wages & Expenses (September 2019)	-£215.20	BACS
○ Clerk - Dog Waste Self Adhesive signs	-£35.90	BACS
○ Creighton Memorial Hall (Quarry 7/10 & PC Meeting 28/10)	-£30.00	BACS
○ Parish Church Rooms (NP Meeting 21 st October)	-£15.00	BACS
○ Ludman Planning – (NP Consultancy Fee)	-£3600.00	BACS
○ Zurich - Bonfire / Firework Insurance	-£96.44	BACS
○ Rate Relief Contributions	+£50.00	BACS
○ Stephen Carey Trust – Embleton Defibrillator	-£229.28	CHQ

- Payments Required:
- Clerk Wages & Expenses (October 2019) -£265.35 BACS
- Christon Bank Methodist Church (NP Meeting 25th November) -£10.00 BACS
- Creighton Memorial Hall room Hire (Quarry 4th November) -£15.00 BACS
- M Stewart Tree Surgeon -£550.00 BACS
- Christmas Lights Direct -£194.00 CHQ

20. Planning Matters.

- 19/03765/FUL. Proposed single storey rear extension. 5 Merton Cottages, Embleton, NE66 3XL. Mr John Cavener. Expiry Date: 3rd October 2019.
Outcome: APPROVED
- 19/04244/MISC. Operate a Certified Location (CL) for a small 5 pitch site taking caravans, motorhomes and trailer tents. Land North Of Fieldhome U3010 Station Road To Embleton Moor Junction Embleton. J Prudent (Caravan& Motorhome Club). Expiry Date: 7th November 2019.
Outcome: APPROVED AS PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT
- 19/00587/FUL. Removal of velux cabrio balcony window and construction of 2no. dormer windows to front elevation. Replacement of upvc conservatory with sunroom extension to rear elevation. South Gate W T Stead Road, Embleton, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 3UP. Chris Seal. Expiry Date: 14th March 2019.
Outcome: APPROVED
- 19/01654/FUL. Hybrid Planning Application for the erection of 7 build to rent primary residence bungalows for local workers (full planning consent) and 1 self-build bungalow (outline planning consent). Land North West of Christon Bank Methodist Church, Christon Bank, Northumberland Fallodon Estates.
Outcome: APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

21. Agenda Items for Next Meeting.

- Embleton Vicarage - Grade 1 Listed
- Sarah Winlow Historic and Built Environment Officer, Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership. Dwelling Review 2019/2020 - Embleton.

22. Time, Date and Venue of next PC Meeting

- Proposed that the next meeting should be held on Monday January 27th 2020, 7:30pm in Creighton Hall, Embleton.