

Embleton & District Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd January 2013

Present: Councillors Petecki (Chair), Graham, Brandwood, Boardman, Shepherd, Hewitson, Airey, Pickering, Hind, Brown and Teasdale.

Apologies: Councillors Helling and McGrath.

Also present: County and Borough Councillor Nicholson, David Smith (Clerk) and one member of the public.

Declarations of Interest: There were no Declarations of Interest.

01.13: Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28.11.12:

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr. Graham

Seconded: Cllr. Hind

The Chair duly signed them.

02.13: Matters arising (not covered by other agenda items):

Further to Item:

- 146.12: Cllr. Helling has investigated the various issues relating to making the proposed footpath multi-use Likely to be more expensive and less supported by landowners.
- 147.12: Clerk informed the LDNPA of the views of the council re: planning applications.
- 150.12: All payments have been sent.
- 153.12: Highways related issues reported to Highways Hotline and works undertaken. Cllr. Petecki reported that he had phoned in a dangerous tree branch which had been removed the next day.
- 154.12: Newsletter published and printed. It was agreed that in time for the next delivery the list of recipients should be revised to ensure that all councillors had similar numbers of the newsletter to deliver.

ACTION: Cllr Petecki/Brandwood to revise the delivery list.

- 155.12: Procedures sub-group meeting arranged for 11.2.13.

03.13: Public Participation:

One member of the public was in attendance but no issues were raised.

04.13: Chairman's Report:

The Chair reported back from the initial meeting of the Cockermouth Joint Area Working Group (see item below).

Further meetings attended were:

CALC MRWS meeting with Eddie Martin, Leader of CCC: at which there was a frank exchange of views. Cllr. Martin stated that the Cabinet was split on the issue of whether to proceed to Stage 4 of the MRWS process and that the vote on the 30th January would be close.

CALC also had a MRWS meeting with Baroness Verma from the Department of Energy and Climate Change. She listened to the various points that CALC made but stated her belief that there should be a move to Stage 4 of the process. She also stated that if the decision to move to Stage 4 was taken then she would ensure that the Cumbrian Town and parish Councils, through CALC, would be included in all future discussions and meetings on this issue.

The CALC Executive Meeting had highlighted concerns over the funding of CALC in light of the decision by Copeland Borough Council to withdraw the funding they provide. Though this is a relatively small amount of money there is a fear that other borough and district councils may follow Copeland and withdraw funding.

A report to the Executive also highlighted delays in the Connecting Cumbria broadband project and the letting of the contract to BT.

05.13: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported that all the actions allocated to him from the previous meeting had been undertaken (see above 02.13).

A list of correspondence was given, most of which was for information only. The following items were highlighted:

1. Allerdale BC: precept 13/14. A small amount of the precept for 13/14 is to come from the new Transitional Grant, put in place by central government. It is not expected that this will have a serious impact on Embleton & District PC.
2. Cumbria CC: draft budget consultation.
3. CALC: Welfare Reform e.briefing

ACTION: Clerk to circulate.

4. CALC: National Grid meetings, to discuss the routes of new power lines, arranged for the 6th and 7th of February with the meeting on the 6th taking place in Wigton Market Hall.

06.13: Police Report:

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Police newsletter for December had been circulated to all members. There was discussion as to whether one of the incidents highlighted had occurred in the parish.

ACTION: Clerk to see if it is possible to get hold of parish specific information.

The police are keen to extend the network of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the area. It was suggested that a special meeting be arranged so that the police could address local people in the Embleton area with a view to setting up a Neighbourhood Watch group.

ACTION: Cllr. Airey to inform Clerk of dates in March when Embleton Village Hall would be available for such a meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with the police and set up the meeting.

(NB: It was later agreed that the Neighbourhood Watch presentation should be given at the launch of the Parish Plan)

07.13: Planning:

There were no planning applications to discuss.

The LDNPA decision on the Mayson's Lodge application, which had been successful, was handed round for members to read.

08.13: Allerdale Joint Area Working Groups:

The Chair reported back from the initial meeting of the Cockermouth Area group held on November 29th. The meeting was led by Mike Heaslip, the deputy leader of Allerdale BC. The main aim of the groups is to ensure that the policies that Allerdale BC adopt and the services it delivers are as locally responsive and accountable as possible. The Locality Groups would also enable Parish and Town Councils to have a direct say in the development of policies and service commissioning for Allerdale BC.

It was made clear that engagement with the Locality Groups was voluntary and if parishes did not wish to engage then they had the right not to do so. The Chair stated that he felt Embleton & District should participate in these initial meetings to see if they were worth attending. It had already been agreed that Cllr. Petecki would be the Embleton & District representative with Cllr. Brandwood as the deputy representative.

At the behest of Allerdale BC, CALC have sent out a questionnaire to all the Allerdale parishes to ascertain the views of the parishes on the Joint Area Working Groups and whether or not individual parishes would be engaging with the process. The questionnaire was completed with all councillors making their views known.

ACTION: Clerk to return completed questionnaire.

09.13: Parish Plan update:

The Chair reported that he had been working on the editing of the draft parish plan. He reminded those present that the 2011 census figures at parish level were available in February so the plan should be ready as soon as these had been received.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received from ACT the new grant application form for community plans and that he had received a quote, based on the draft parish plan, from Firpress Printers of £480 for 250 copies of the plan at A5 size.

It was agreed that there should be another meeting of the Parish Plan sub-group before the next Parish Council meeting and this was arranged for 4.00pm on Monday 4th February.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain further quotes for printing.

10.13: Report on provision of Bus Shelter at Brathay Hill:

The Clerk spoke to his report on the provision of a bus shelter at Brathay Hill as requested by local residents. He took councillors through the background to the request, the passenger numbers for the stop for the twelve months from 1st November 2011 and provided a comparison with another bus stop on the route. The cost of a basic shelter would be in the region of £2,500 plus VAT and plus planning permission costs. A number of options were presented for councillors to choose from.

After some discussion it was agreed by all those present that the current usage did not justify the expenditure of public funds on the requested bus shelter. Concerns were also expressed regarding the setting of a precedent and potential further requests from other local residents along the route for bus shelters at bus stops that may well have much higher passenger usage.

ACTION: Clerk to write to local residents explaining the Council decision and enclosing a copy of the report presented to councillors.

11.13: Emergency Planning:

The Clerk handed around a copy of an Emergency Plan produced by a Parish Council in the south of the country. It was clear that there would be a considerable amount of work involved in the development of such a plan. With this in mind it was agreed to put this issue on hold until the April meeting.

12.13: Highways Matters and Parish Maintenance:

Councillors reported that most of the concerns raised at the last meeting had been dealt with. Cllr. Petecki reported that a dangerous tree branch that he had reported to the Highways Hotline had been dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Cllr. Pickering highlighted his concerns regarding the riding of mountain bikes on public footpaths and in particular the footpath from St. Margaret’s Church (Wythop) to Kelswick along the flanks of Sale Fell. He suggested that ‘No Cycling’ signs, similar to those found in many parts of the National Park, be placed on the footpath signs and gates in the area.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Peter Barron of the LDNPA regarding this issue.

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Allerdale BC on the issue of ‘No Litter’ signs for the lay-by at Brathay Hill. Whilst he was informed that there were no signs currently available, Allerdale would ensure that this particular lay-by was litter-picked by the local team on a weekly basis.

13.13: Council Finances & Authorisation of Payments:

The Clerk informed Councillors that there were four accounts for payment:

- 1. Clerk’s Salary & Expenses Quarter 3: £440.30p
- 2. HMRC PAYE Quarter 3: £91.96p
- 3. Firpress Printers (Newsletter): £65.00p
- 4. Embleton Church (maintenance): £100.00p

Councillors agreed these payments.

The Clerk referred councillors to the latest bank reconciliation, which showed that the most recent bank statement (5/01/13) had a balance of £8,538.35p and that with yet to be cleared payments, the reconciled balance of the Parish Council account as of 23rd January was £7,739.84p. The Chair initialled both the bank reconciliation and the latest bank statement.

ACTION: Clerk to send off payments.

14.13: Matters for the next meeting:

- Parish Plan
- Report from the Procedures sub-group
- New distribution list of newsletters

15.13: Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 27th February 2013 at 7.15pm in Embleton Village Hall

Signed:

Date:

Chair