

Embleton & District Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd May 2013

Present: Councillors Petecki (Chair), Brandwood, Boardman, Teasdale, Helling, Pickering & Hind.

Apologies: Councillor McGrath, Graham, Shepherd, Brown, Airey & Hewitson. Allerdale BC Councillor Nicholson.

Also present: County Councillor Bowness & David Smith (Clerk).

The Chair welcomed Cllr. Bowness to his first Embleton & District Parish Council meeting, thanked him for attending and wished him well in his new role as County Councillor.

Declarations of Interest: There were no Declarations of Interest.

58.13: Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24.04.13:

The minutes of the April meeting were agreed to be an accurate record by the councillors present and the Chair duly signed them.

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

The Clerk reported that the following actions allocated to him from the previous meeting had been undertaken. Further to Item:

- 46.13: Clerk to obtain current mileage rates used by ABC Councillors: Done (See below)
- 47.13: Clerk to inform LDNPA Planning Dept of the views of the council: Done
- 49.13: Clerk to inform Highways Hotline of pot holes along Golf Club road: Done.
- 50.13: Clerk to send off payment: Done
- 51.13: Clerk to contact Cockermouth TC re: Speed Indicator Device, cost of hire and information from previous installation: Done (See below).

47.13: Cllr. Teasdale asked if the Council had taken any action as a result of the planning appeal, re: 7/2012/2069: Byresteads, Cockermouth. The Chair informed Cllr. Teasdale that no councillor had raised this as an issue but asked the Clerk to find out if the Council could comment.

ACTION: Clerk to contact LDNPA Planning regarding this issue.

48.13: The Chair reported that the launch of the Parish Plan had taken place as planned. He felt that the number of people attending was disappointing though other councillors felt that the turnout was reasonable. The Chair asked the Clerk to thank the Fire Service, Trading Standards and the Police for their attendance. The Clerk confirmed that he had already undertaken this action.

60.13: Public Participation:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

61.13: Chairman's Report:

The Chair reported that he had recently attended the CALC Executive meeting at which the following issues were discussed:

- Connecting Cumbria: it is hoped that 98% of the population of Cumbria will be covered by superfast broadband by the end of 2015.
- Street lighting: Street lights attached to Electricity Board poles will not be replaced when they either need new bulbs or become damaged. There are some of these types of street lights in the Wythop area of the parish. There is to be a meeting with Allerdale BC to discuss this issue.

The Chair also updated councillors on the Bassenthwaite Lake/Ouse Bridge 'off-road' footpath. Letters have been sent to the two land-owners, Mr. Fisher and Smiths Gore representing Lady Egremont. There has been a positive response from Mr. Fisher, though he has stated that he would not be in favour of a multi-use footpath. There has yet to be a response from Smiths Gore.

The Chair informed councillors that he had been contacted by Cllr. McGrath who wished to resign from the Parish Council.

ACTION: Clerk to inform Allerdale BC of the resignation and advertise the vacancy.

62.13: Clerk's Report:

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

- Soil Association: review of Forest Management (Setmurthy Woods).

ACTION: Cllr. Petecki to respond to the Soil Association.

63.13: Police Report:

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had not received a report from the police, probably due to PCSO Megan Jones continuing absence from work due to illness.

The Chair asked councillors if they had noticed an increase in the presence of the police in the parish. He felt that, as a result of discussing this matter with the police representative at the Parish Plan launch, there had been an increase in the number of patrols in the area. A number of councillors agreed that there had been increased visibility of the police in the parish recently.

64.13: Procedures Sub-group Report:

The revised set of Standing Orders, as recommended by both NALC and CALC, were discussed and a number of concerns were raised by councillors. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk, in liaison with CALC, would undertake a number of changes, prior to resubmitting the Standing Orders for agreement by the council at the June meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to contact CALC and revise the Standing Orders accordingly for the June meeting.

The revised paper on councillor expenses, as discussed at the April meeting, was further discussed. The mileage rates agreed by Allerdale Borough Council, were felt not to be suitable and it was agreed that there should be a flat rate of 50p per mile. Additional note 2 was discussed by councillors and it was agreed that there should be an additional, clarifying sentence included in this section prior to the agreement of councillors.

ACTION: Clerk to make the appropriate changes to the paper for the June meeting.

65.13: Planning:

There were no planning applications to discuss.

66.13: The Parish Mail Out List:

The final list of organisations that councillors felt should receive a copy of the Parish Plan was agreed.

ACTION: Councillors to deliver copies of the Parish Plan.

ACTION: Clerk to send out copies of the Parish Plan to the organisations as agreed above.

67.13: The Summer Newsletter:

It was agreed that there should be articles on Silver Meadows, Community Messaging Service, Trading Standards Service and one from Cllr. Helling on running a guest house in the parish. It was also agreed to put the Speed Indicator Device figures from Embleton in the newsletter. The deadline for articles is the end of June.

68.13: Highways Matters and Parish Maintenance:

The figures from the six days in July 12 that the Speed Indicator Device was placed in Embleton were discussed. The average speed of all vehicles was 39.45mph, slightly below the 40mph speed limit. Given the figures, councillors were of the opinion that speed of vehicles through Embleton was not a problem at this time. The Clerk reported that it would cost £100.00p to hire the SID from Cockermouth TC for a further week.

ACTION: Clerk to place the figures in the next edition of the newsletter.

Cllr. Pickering reported that he had now purchased and placed the 'No cycling' signs on the network of public footpaths on Sale Fell. The Chair thanked him for his work on this issue.

Cllr. Petecki reported that he had received an email from Mr. Dodds regarding the poor condition of the minor road leading to Highside Farm from the Hundith Hill road. It is particularly bad between Jenkin Farm and Highside Farm with many potholes and erosion of the edges of the road. Mr. Dodds feels there may well be accidents if the road is not repaired in the near future.

ACTION: Clerk to report the above to the Highways Hotline and copy in Mr. Dodds.

69.13: Council Finances & Authorisation of Payments:

The Clerk reported that Cllr. Brown, after reviewing the two quotes from Aon and Zurich Municipal, was recommending that councillors accept the quote from Zurich Municipal of £309.13p for the annual insurance cover, thus providing the council with a saving of £114.55p. This recommendation was:

Proposed: Cllr. Pickering

Seconded: Cllr. Helling

All those present agreed.

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

- CALC subscription 13/14: £149.00p
- 'No cycling' signs: £33.73p
- Zurich Municipal insurance: £309.13p

Total: £491.86p

Councillors agreed these payments.

ACTION: Clerk to send off payments.

The Clerk referred councillors to the bank reconciliation for the 22nd May showed a balance as at the latest bank statement (5/5/13) of £9,507.54p. With yet to be cleared payments and receipts together with the payments agreed at the May meeting, the reconciled balance of the Parish Council account as of 22nd May was £8,990.68p. The Chair initialled both the bank reconciliation and the latest bank statement.

70.13: Matters for the next meeting:

- Bus stop: Fell Close Embleton
- Councillor vacancy

71.13: Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 26th June 2013 at 7.15pm in Embleton Village Hall

Signed:

Chair

Date: