

Embleton & District Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2014

Present: Councillors Petecki (chair), Brandwood, Teasdale, Pickering, Graham, Hewitson, Brown

Apologies: Councillor Airey (and resignation), Boardman, Richardson, Hind

Also Present: Becx Carter (Clerk), Alan Bowness (Cumbria County Councillor), 1 member of the public

With the resignation of Cllr Airey Embleton & District Parish Council now has 2 vacancies for councillors.

14.14 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Brandwood wrote to the clerk requesting a dispensation to remain in the room during the discussions on agenda items 13d, and 13e. Her dispensation was granted on the basis it was a personal and not a pecuniary interest

No other declarations were given.

15.14 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: that references to arrival time of councillors be removed from the minutes, this alternation was made on the hard copy.

Concern was raised regarding the tone of the minute regarding the availability of email for parish councillors but it was felt that no change was needed since the minute asked councillors to consider email and it was perfectly acceptable if some did not have that facility or chose not to use it.

Subject to the above alterations the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record by the councillors present and the chair duly signed them.

Proposed by Cllr Brandwood, Seconded by Cllr Graham all present were in favour

16.14 Public Participation

Sheila Wood- Parish Resident- Re Fluoride being added to the water

Ms Wood attended the meeting and presented the councillors with the information that as of November 2013 fluoride was once more being added to the water at the CornHow water treatment plant (that supplies areas including Embleton & District). Prior to this Fluoride ceased to be added to the water at this plant in 2006.

Ms Wood raised concerns about this mass medication of all residents of the parish. She provided statistics including the fact that 97% of Europe is not fluoridated, 90% of the UK is not fluoridated and 76% of Cumbria is not fluoridated, which raised the question why was the Cornhow Treatment plant (and Ennerdale) different to the majority of the rest of the country?

Ms Wood informed the councillors that from research she had undertaken there were links between the addition of Fluoride to water sources and detrimental medical effects including reduced Thyroid function.

Cllr Petecki informed the meeting that under the Water Act 03 a Health Authority can direct a Water Company to add Fluoride to its water sources.

Action Point: Clerk to pass C/Cllr Bowness' contact details to Ms Wood

Action Point: C/Cllr Bowness to look into this matter, in particular for what reason is fluoride being added to the water source, and are the health authority aware of local concern?

Action Point: Clerk to write to the Health Authority & CCC requesting information on why Fluoride is being added to the water source

17.14 Matters Arising

01.14- Copies of maps for marking Highways Issues on- A map for Embleton has been received but not one for Setmurthy & Wythop

Action- Clerk to chase up these remaining maps

02.14- Speeding Issues in Embleton 30MPH zone- Cllr Petecki attended a public meeting at Booths regarding the Community Speed Watch Scheme, which offers groups (6-8 people) training and the necessary equipment to use a 'speed gun'. The data from the 'gun' is then downloaded and sent to the police with all the relevant detail including registration plate data. Drivers of vehicles found to have been speeding would be sent a warning notice by the police. Repeating offenders would be targeted by the police with a view to prosecution..

Resolved that a group of residents set up a Community Speed Watch group to work on the Embleton 40MPH zone, Cllr Petecki, Brown & Graham agreed to be part of this group.

Action Cllr Brown to organise a group of 6-8 people to form this group, and then liaise with Cllr Petecki to get the relevant training session organised

Action: Clerk to contact the council's insurance company to ask if this activity can be added to the council's insurance policy and if so at what cost. If it is possible to get a temporary addition to the policy this should be considered.

109.13- Maintenance of noticeboards- Work can't commence until the weather improves, Cllrs Brandwood, Teasdale & Hewitson reported that it was getting very difficult to open the noticeboards.

Action Cllrs Brown, Boardman & Pickering to commence this work as the weather allows

12.14- Bassenthwaite Station- Clerk confirmed she had written to ABC but no response has yet been received.

Action- Clerk to chase this matter up w/c 24th February

08.14- Dog Fouling at Wythop- Following the last meeting the Clerk reported this matter to ABC and within a matter of days the Street Scene officer for the area had erected signs & a new bin. A phone call of thanks was received from the resident who raised the original comment

12.14- Litter Bin at SlateFell Layby- Street Scene officer has confirmed that this bin will be replaced imminently

18.14 Police Report

Community Speed Watch Covered above.

Clerk informed the council that the Traffic Data Unit had been sited in the relevant area between 21st-27th January and the results are that the average speed was 30MPH so in the police's opinion there is no issues. The Clerk has requested the individual vehicle data (speeds) but as of yet this hasn't been provided by the police.

Concern was raised that the TDU unit may have been sited in the wrong place (by the Wheatsheaf) where traffic is already slowed. It was felt that hopefully the Community Speed Watch scheme may help act as a deterrent.

No further matters raised

19.14 Co-Option of New Councillor

No applications have been received

There are now two vacancies on the Parish Council

20.14 Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report is included as an appendix to these minutes

21.14 Clerks Report

Noticeboard Policy- Following a recent enquiry by the National Trust on if they could display a poster recruiting volunteers in the parish noticeboards the clerk asked the council if there was a formal noticeboard policy.

Resolved- there is no formal policy but in general the noticeboards are for public notices not for advertising by commercial firms, and if notices could be in A5 format.

Email Summons- Following the last meeting the Clerk checked on the legality of the servicing of a meeting summons by email to councillors. It has been confirmed by CALC that this is legally acceptable as long as an electronic signature is displayed on the minutes, and that paper copies are provided to those who require them. A resolution (as was done by Embleton in Jan 2012) is sufficient, best practice states that the standing order should also be modified (and this has been taken into account by the Procedures Sub Committee who are currently working on a new set of standing orders).

Cllr Bowness informed the meeting he had to leave at this stage and asked for any other matters he needed to be aware of:

Action- Cllr Bowness to chase up the installation of the sign post as raised at the September Meeting

Concern was raised regarding branches overhanging the carriage way on Vicarage Hill causing vehicles to move into the centre of the road. Cllr Bowness confirmed that this would normally be an issue for the land owner. He confirmed that CCC would provide support if an initial approach to the landowner wasn't successful

Resolved: Council to write to the landowner with this concern

Action: Clerk to write FAO The Occupier, at the Old Vicarage/Ling Garth raising this issue.

In addition to the above a clerks report has been circulated and read by all councillors

Correspondence Item 3- Leconfield estates Mineral Right- **Resolved** That the council would like to object to this application

Action: Clerk to action

Correspondence Item 6- Report from CCC re the bus stop meeting that's that took place in late October. Cllr Brandwood (who attended the meeting) informed the council that the report had

omitted mention of a discussion regarding the bus stop post that had disappeared by the Gables, where there isn't a west bound post opposite it

Action: Cllr Brandwood to write back to Mr Moss raising the above issue.

22/14 Planning

Ref 7/2014/2012 High Abbey, Embleton- Erection of a general farming building & separate field shelter

The council had no objections to this application and felt that it was consistent with their parish plan. However two issues were raised:

- 1) The drawings are not accurate, the elevations appear to have been transposed- The parish council would appreciate it in future if the drawings could be more accurate
- 2) The field shelter is already up

Action: Clerk to inform the LDNPA of the above

23/14 Consultations

ABC Consultation on Main Modifications- No Comment

24/14 Highways & Parish Maintenance

Maps Showing Property Names for noticeboard- Adjourned to March Meeting

Action: Clerk to add to March agenda

25/14 Council Finances & authorisation of payments

Following the recent announcement by the Secretary of State that small councils will not be capped on their precepts it was **Resolved** that the precept for Embleton & District remain the same as the current financial year.

Budget for 14/15 **Resolved** that the budget be accepted

The above two resolutions were passed unanimously

All items for payment were approved by the council and signed by two signatories

- 1) Clerks Expenses £34.34

Applications for funding support:

Embleton Rural Safety Group towards Play Area Insurance Costs

Application from this group for £525.99 to cover the insurance renewal cost for 14/15.

This application was considered by the council, a similar application had been received & granted in 2013 with advice provided regarding other funding sources and encouragement for a proper business plan etc to be prepared

Following a robust discussion it was **resolved** unanimously that a S.137 grant of £525.99 be given to cover the insurance renewal cost for the coming year considering the urgency, but that a letter be written restating the need for the playground management to be put on a stable financial footing to secure its future.

Action: Clerk to write to the group with the cheque and the above message, draft copy to be sent to Cllr Petecki first

Action: Clerk to research the available S.137 funds for the parish, and provide an update at the next meeting

St Margaret's Church- Request for contribution towards graveyard upkeep

It was resolved by the parish council in Jan 12 (minute number 13.12) that each of the three churches in the parish would be allowed to claim up to £100 per churchyard from the parish council upon production of receipts associated with the maintenance of the churchyards.

This resolution still stands and applies to all three churches

Action: Clerk to contact St Margaret's and re-iterate the above offer subject to provision of receipts for work

St Cuthbert's Church- Request for contribution towards graveyard upkeep & advice re wall repair funding

Re the churchyard upkeep the same applies as above

Action: Clerk to contact St Cuthbert's and re-iterate the above offer subject to provision of receipts for work

The parish council discussed the issue of the wall repair and it was agreed that the clerk contact St Cuthbert's and state that the council is minded a to make a contribution towards the repair of the wall (of in the region of £100), how much is it likely to cost?

Action: Clerk to contact St Cuthbert's re estimate for cost of works for the wall repair.

Citizens Advice- Request for funding

Resolved to offer a £50 under S.137.

Toma Fund- Request for contribution towards the purchase of a caravan for respite holidays for children with childhood cancers

It was agreed that Cllr Brown would do some more research into this charity and report at the next meeting

Action: Cllr Brown to do some research

Action: Clerk to agenda for the March Meeting

26/14 Matters for next meeting

None raised

27/14 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 19th March at 7:15pm in Embleton Village Hall

Meeting closed 21.29

Signed..... (Chair)

Dated.....

NOTES FROM CALC EXECUTIVE MEETING, PENRITH, 20TH JANUARY 2014

Broadband Update:

Cumbria is one of the pilot areas for the roll out of super-fast broadband across the county. 24 megabits for 93% and at least 2 megabits for all. End of 2015 most of Cumbria will have super-fast.

The roll-out is going well, way ahead of targets, 93% will have it by the target date.

BT are laying out the means, supplying the plumbing, individuals will have to apply for the service and pay a little more than we are paying now.

The biggest problem is lack of information on the ground, nothing to say to local champions.

The issue is that CCC has signed a fixed price contract and BT are not obliged to disclose where they are spending the money and this is why they are not saying anything about where the super-fast will be. CCC is blaming BT where actually it is weak contract and it is not BT that is at fault. BT will not be aware of what the costs are until they start really rolling it out. Who do they leave out is a last minute decision based on the difficulty of connecting that property relative to the cost.

But we are seeing a marginalization of rural businesses, which may have to move to urban areas to get the super-fast broadband. The success of this project will depend on the uptake, if we fail there will be penalties from BT; if we exceed then there will be more money available for rural connections. CCC will try to help those areas that have been left out.

Let's look at the good news, most of Cumbria will see super-fast broadband in less than 2 years; let's concentrate on those who will not get it.

Bad weather help

No provision for the repairing and protection of coastal roads, as yet

Precepts

The Secretary of State can cap but is unlikely to, but we wait for guidance. Allerdale cannot stop us raising it.

Localisation of council tax support grants,

No change in South Lakeland, Carlisle but Allerdale are proposing to reduce by 30% and Eden by 15% and it is impossible to gauge Copeland.

Big reduction in Allerdale but the minister understood why they should so it looks like they will get away with it.

The **Parish Charter** seems to have stalled, and it looks like CCC seem to have lost enthusiasm for the process.

NOTES FROM ALLERDALE CALC MEETING TROUT HOTEL TUESDAY 4TH FEB

This meeting was called to fix the agenda for the upcoming joint Allerdale/CALC meeting in March. Geoff Smith sent a letter to Alan Smith, Leader of Allerdale BC regarding the reduction in concurrent grant and the reduction in grant re Council Tax reduction scheme. As we know, the government intended for the full amounts to be passed on to Parish Councils. However, Allerdale is proposing a cut in grant of 31% to reflect the amount of its own cuts. A reply is expected before the meeting.

Allerdale's refusal to take part in any discussions regarding footway lighting and ENW was also discussed and a strategy arrived at.

Margaret Throp (CALC's new Broadband contact) said that it was now possible to find out which properties would be getting high speed broadband down to the six-figure postcode.

It was noted that there seems to be a decline in the service of cleaning leaves and debris from the roads, causing blocked gullies and surface water, particularly on the rural roads around Lorton.