

Embleton & District Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2013

Present: Councillors Petecki (chair), Brandwood, Graham, Wilson, Teasdale, Hewitson, Pickering, Hind, Boardman

Apologies: Councillors Airey & Brown, John Hayton (LDPNA)

Also Present: Becx Carter (Clerk),

The Chair introduced Becx Carter the new clerk to the council. Becx was chosen following an application process that received 8 applications, and interviews of 4 applicants.

Declarations of Interest: Two declarations of interest were received from Councillors Hind & Brandwood regarding agenda item 4.a (Tenancy Agreement).

116.13 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25.09.13:

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record by the councillors present and the chair duly signed them.

This motion was proposed by Cllr Graham, and seconded by Cllr Hind.

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

109.13- Issue regarding vehicle using Sat Nav systems and being directed on to inappropriate roads. Cllr Brandwood referred back to the idea suggested by CC Cllr Bowness at the last meeting of putting up detailed maps of localities on village noticeboards to help delivery drivers. Cllr Brandwood pointed out that in the current noticeboards there would not be room for these.

Cllr Brandwood further went on to request a notice be put in the Christmas newsletter requesting that when other people are using the noticeboards they don't move or obscure parish council notices which have to be there by law.

Action: Cllr Petecki to create some small printed signs to be put in the notice boards reminding people not to obscure the parish council notices which legally have to be displayed

Action: Clerk to ensure that a notice about this matter is included in the Christmas Newsletter

Cllr Petecki informed the council that with relation to the discussion regarding maps of individual houses, that there are some of these already available on the Allerdale Borough Council website, in the section community maps. Cllr Petecki went on to say that if space on noticeboards was an issue, the Parish Council could consider paying for some maps to be mounted on weather proof boards and erected next to the noticeboards.

Action: Cllr Petecki gave a copy of the maps of to Cllr Wilson

Action: Consideration to be given at a future meeting of if to purchase weather proof maps for erection next to the Parish noticeboards

111.13 Dubwath Footpath. Cllr Petecki informed the council that unfortunately the opportunity to apply for funding for this project from Natural England Paths for Communities has now passed. Cllr

Petecki confirmed that he would continue to work on this project to get all the written consents (still outstanding from Lord Egremont) and then commence looking for additional funding.

89.13- Bus Stops in Embleton- Cllr Brandwood enquired as to if a response had been received following the action point from the previous meeting. The clerk confirmed that a meeting has been scheduled to take place on Thursday 31st October at 14:15 in Embleton with Christian O Moss from CCC to look at this matter.

It was agreed that Cllr Brandwood & Cllr Boardman would attend this meeting.

Action: Clerk to confirm the location of this meeting to Cllr's Brandwood & Boardman.

92.13 – Footway lighting- The Parish Council have received notice from ABC that the electricity post just outside of the Embleton Village Hall is to be replaced and therefore the lamp attached could be removed as is now the policy of Electricity Northwest . The Clerk has written to ABC, CCC, EN, and Cllr Bowness stating that it was the understanding of the parish council (following information provided by Cllr Bowness at the last meeting) that any lamp on a post over 3m's was classed as Highway Lighting and was the CCC responsibility. A response has been received from ABC implying that this is not the case.

Action: Clerk to write again to ABC stating that Embleton & District Parish Council have no funds to replace this lamp (or the other 11 that are likely to be affected by this change), and that we cannot enter into a dialogue about whose responsibility it is between ABC & CCC only that we believe it to be a health & safety issue, and we would request assurance from one of the authorities that provision will be made for these lamps to be replaced without any break in service.

92.13- Chairmans Appeal- Cllr Wilson confirmed that the fundraising event was provisionally scheduled to take place on 4th December venue to be confirmed

Action: Cllr Wilson to confirm this arrangement

Action: Once arrangements are confirmed Parish Council to help with publicity (clerk?)

112.13- Flooding @ Vicarage Hill Bridge- Cllr Bowness agreed at the last Embleton & District Parish Council meeting to look into this.

Action: Ongoing – Waiting for Cllr Bowness to update on this issue

Cllr Wilson reported that in the locality of Vicarage Hill Bridge there is a drain running continually. Cllr Petecki requested that this matter be raised under agenda item 13.

108.13- Tenancy Agreement

Cllr's Hind & Brandwood left the room in accordance with their declaration of interest on this matter.

Cllr Petecki provided the following background, Embleton & District Parish Council are the owners of two small pieces of land (totalling .49hectares). This land was last rented to a W Hind for £15 per annum on the 1st June 2004 on an agreement which ended on the 31st December 2006. This agreement states that it should be reviewed every 3 years and rent should be reviewed in accordance with the Agricultural Tenancy Act. The issues before the council are should this tenancy agreement be renewed? Is £15 a reasonable rent? Cllr Teasdale confirmed following a question from the floor that at the moment the Parish Council don't incur any costs for setting this agreement up as we drafted the initial agreement ourselves.

Cllr Petecki pointed out that whilst a tenancy agreement being signed with a W.Hind was acceptable, if the agreement were to be moved into G.Hind's name then an external party should provide some scrutiny of this as G.Hind is a Parish Councillor.

Proposal from Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Teasdale is:

That the tenancy is offered to Mr Hind on the same conditions and the same rental as before.

This proposal was approved by all councillors present.

Cllrs Hind & Brandwood re-entered the meeting

Cllr Petecki then informed Cllr Hind of the outcome of the above discussions. Cllr Hind requested that the new tenancy agreement be put in his name. As such Cllr Petecki will seek some independent advice/scrutiny on the terms of the new tenancy agreement to Cllr Hind.

Action: Cllr Petecki to seek some independent advice/scrutiny on this matter from an appropriate body

Action: Clerk to send a new tenancy agreement to Cllr Hind following the outcome of the advice as per the action above

Action: Review of tenancy agreement to be diarised for review in early 2016

Action: Following the above is for the clerk to ensure that this land is include on Embleton & District Parish Council Asset register.

112.13- Mapping of Culverts & Drains. At the last Embleton & District Parish Council meeting it was agreed that each councillor would take a section of road and be responsible for mapping all the culverts & drains that falls on their section. Following consideration it is felt that is a large an onerous task. Cllr Petecki suggested that this matter be placed on hold until the new highways officer has attended a parish council meeting. Cllr Petecki met the new highways officer at a recent meeting he attended (information included in the Chairmans' Report). The new officer stated that he was hoping to attend all parish council meetings in the coming months and present them with an 'information pack' including a list of jobs that he and his team will commit to do. It will then be up to Parish Councils to prioritise additional works on top of this list.

All members present agreed that the mapping of culverts & drains should be put on hold until we have met with this new officer.

Action: Cllr Petecki to pass the relevant contact details on to the Clerk
Action: Clerk to contract the officer and invite him to our next meeting

118.13 Speeding Survey

Cllr Boardman requested that this item be included on the agenda. People have contacted Cllr Boardman since the circulation of the last newsletter which stated that the average speed used on the top road was 50MPH. (People were concerned that the average is irrelevant it is how fast the fastest vehicles are traveling which is the issue). Cllr Boardman informed the council that he has recently read an article in the press about local people being trained to used speeding guns, which then pass registration details to the police who then issue a 'warning' letter.

Cllr's Wilson & Graham confirmed that they felt there is a continuing issue with speeding on the top road.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the PCSO Megan Jones stating that the council are concerned about this particular problem and requesting that the police come and set up a speed trap/number of traps along the top road (From the Wheatsheaf towards Cockermouth).

Action: Clerk to contact the police regarding the above matter.

119.13 Co-Option of New Councillors.

No requests for co-option have been received.

It was agreed that Cllr's Petecki & Brandwood contact the people known to them who maybe interested in being a parish councillor. Anyone who is formally interested should apply in writing to the Clerk.

Action: Cllr's Petecki & Brandwood to action this.

120.13 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present at the meeting

121.13 Chairman's Report

All councillors confirmed that they had received and read both parts of the Chairman's Report. No further questions were asked.

Cllr Petecki notified the council that in attending one of the meetings mentioned in the report he had incurred mileage of 34miles. He requested that the Clerk keep a running total of his mileage and at the end of the financial year Cllr Petecki would donate any expenses incurred to the Great North Air Ambulance.

Action: Clerk to check on the mileage figures (see Expenses file)
Action: Clerk to keep a running total of Cllr Petecki's mileage.

122.13 Clerks Report

A clerk's report has been circulated and read by all councillors.

Cllr Brandwood proposed that a donation of £150 be made to the Great North Air Ambulance in response to their letter requesting funding. This was seconded by Cllr Graham with all councillors in support

Action: Clerk to process this donation.

Additional items that the clerk raised:

- Review of Voting & Polling Stations from Allerdale Borough Council- This was a consultation that had arrived after the agenda was circulated and a response is required prior to the next scheduled meeting.

It was agreed by all councillors present that they were happy with the current arrangements and they didn't wish to make any further comments.

- Model Standing orders- CALC have recently circulated a new set of Model Standing Orders. It was agreed that these be sent to the relevant sub group members (Cllr's Brandwood, Brown & Boardman) once the Clerk has contacted CALC to ask if it is possible to have a

copy with the changes highlighted on it for them to consider and then provide a report back to the whole council in due course

Action: Clerk to contact CALC regarding the above matter

Action: Cllr's Brandwood, Brown & Boardman to review these and report back to the whole council.

The clerk confirmed that where responses were yet to be received from actions raised at the September meeting that she would continue to work on these.

123.13 Police Report

There was no member of police in attendance, and no report had been received

Cllr Petecki informed the council that at the CALC Exec meeting the matter was raised once again that the Police & Crime Commissioner would like to see a member of the police or at the very least a written report from them at every parish council meeting.

Action: Clerk to contact PCSO Megan Jones and enquire as to if the Keswick Newsletter/Report is still published and if a copy could be received.

124.13 Planning

7/2013/2240- Land at the Larches, Wythop Mill- New Proposed three-bedroomed family dwelling with integral garage

Following a robust discussion the Parish Council agreed:

That they had concerns about the proposed development due to the adverse visual impact it would have on its surrounding because of the height and elevation. In addition to this comment the Councillors requested that it be a condition that if any development were to proceed that it must be subject to a local occupancy clause (as evidenced by the current Embleton & District Parish Plan which states that any new development should be subject to a local occupancy clause).

Action: Clerk to write to the LDNPA with the above concern and condition.

125.13 Consultations

Allerdale Local Plan Part 2- Site Allocations- Cllr Petecki has looked at this consultation and informed the councillors present that no response was required as the consultation doesn't cover land within the LDNP.

MRWS- Cllr Petecki informed councillors that they have until the 4th December to file a response to this consultation. CALC have sent guidance on this consultation to councils this afternoon and this will be circulated to all councillors.

It was agreed that all councillors would come prepared to the November meeting having read at least the CALC guidance on this matter. With a view to the council preparing its response at the November meeting.

Action: Cllr Petecki to print the CALC guidance for Cllrs Brandwood, Teasdale & Wilson.

Action: Clerk to agenda this matter for the next meeting.

126.13 Highways & Parish Maintenance

A number of issues have been raised:

- The continually flowing drain near Vicarage Hill Bridge (Raised by Cllr Wilson)
- The burst main/flowing drain on beside Rose Bank (Raised by Cllr Teasdale)

It was agreed that with regard to the above matters Cllr’s would contact the relevant hotline (Highways/United Utilities) in the first instance, if the matter is not satisfactorily resolved then they should be brought to a council meeting and the clerk will then take over trying to find a solution.

Cllr Brandwood raised the issue of the weak bridge sign being obscured by overgrowing branches from (Cllr Brown’s) hedge.

Action: Cllr Brandwood to speak with Cllr Brown to see if it is possible for the hedge to be trimmed back slightly to allow a longer line of sight to the sign for approaching drivers.

127.13 Council Finances & authorisation of payments.

Cllr Petecki signed Septembers financial reconciliation and bank statement as a true & accurate record.

Action: Clerk to check figures on the October financial reconciliation and bring to the November meeting.

All three payment were authorised by the council and were signed by two signatories: The payments were:

- Rick Petecki- Reimbursement for advertising costs for clerk’s position £260.16
- Rick Petecki- Reimbursement for maps for culvert/gully mapping £33.98
- Becx Carter- Reimbursement for stationary expenses & stamps £33.92

Cllr Petecki informed the council that the issue of budget & precept would be on the November agenda for preparation/discussion.

128.13 Matters for the next meeting

No matters were raised here

129.13 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 20th November at 7:15pm in Embleton Village Hall

Meeting closed 21.05

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chair