

Embleton & District Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2013

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

Apologies: Councillors Boardman & Brown

Also Present: Becx Carter (Clerk), CC Cllr Alan Bowness.

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: No declarations of interest were received. A brief discussion was held regarding a potential declaration of interest by Cllr Airey regarding the path at Bassenthwaite Lake but it was felt that there was no pecuniary interest at this stage.

101.13 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24.07.13:

There was a minor correction to be made to the minutes, the correction being Shelia Wilson's name in the Present section.

The above alteration was made on the minutes and as such the July minutes were agreed to be an accurate record by the councillors present and the Chair duly signed them.

Cllr Teasdale requested that a correction be printed in the September 2013 minutes regarding section 91.13. Cllr Teasdale had specifically felt that the roads were deteriorating significantly and to prevent any further deterioration it would be beneficial for the roads to all be tar sprayed to prevent further deterioration. Cllr Petecki confirmed that the responses to the issue of suggestions for the Scrutiny Committee had been collated and submitted.

Action: Cllr Petecki to provide the Clerk with a copy of this report to be added as an appendix to the September 2013 minutes

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

89.13 (81.13)- Cllr Brandwood queried if a response had been received from this letter. Clerk confirmed that no response had yet been received. Background to this issue is that there are no bus stops on the north side of the road when travelling from West to East through Embleton. All the current bus stops are on the south side of the road where the pavement is. There is only one footway light (lamppost number 2) on the north side of the road and it is the councils believe that this light used to be in the vicinity of an old bus stop (at the Gables) that is no longer there. Residents of the parish would like this bus stop reinstated.

Action: Clerk to write again regarding this issue referring to the earlier letter.

96.13- Strawberry How Development- Cllr Teasdale raised the issue that Sandra Manson had clearly stated that they would undertake a detailed consultation exercise with CCC & Highways regarding the access issues. Yet in the News & Star (19/9/13) it was implied that this may not be taking place and that a dedicated A66 access wasn't being planned. The Council remains concerned that whilst the development isn't within the Embleton & District Parish Boundaries the volume of traffic on the parish roads would increase dramatically.

Action: Clerk to locate all relevant letters and write again to relevant parties including Cockermonth Planning Officer stating that whilst Embleton & District Parish Council are not adjacent to the development they would be affected and on that basis strongly object to the development, and further to the fact that they are not planning to install a dedicated A66 access point for the development.

92.13-Footway Lighting- Cllr Petecki has now undertaken a survey of all lights within the parish and identified those attached to NWE poles. In light of this survey Cllr Petecki informed the council that there were 12 lights that would be affected by this change. In particular Cllr Petecki highlighted the issue of the street lighting in Embleton where all the lights on the road past the Embleton Parish hall are on NWE poles. Cllr Petecki further informed the council that in the process of doing his survey he discovered two additional lampposts that were not on the plans provided by ABC.

Action: Cllr Petecki to send a copy of his updated maps to ABC highlighting the additional lampposts.

92.13- CCC Chairman's Appeal- Cllr Petecki has undertaken some additional research on this appeal, and confirmed to the council that the aim is for any interested councils to raise £1000 to be paid into a fund held at a local building society. This would then be used to fund the purchase of 1 outdoor defibrillator for each contributing council. The contributing council would nominate the location for the siting of the defibrillator. In addition to the fund raising it would require a commitment from someone to check the unit every 2 weeks, and a financial commitment from the council of approx. £30 per annum for the electricity required to charge/maintain the temperature of the unit. Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service has committed to provide training on the use of the unit to relevant people.

Cllr Wilson suggested a fundraising idea to the council; her daughter is a florist and each year holds a Christmas Wreath making evening, which in 2011 raised circa £800. Cllr Wilson's daughter has indicated that if the council wished she would be willing to hold this year's event in aid of the Chairman's Appeal for Embleton Parish Council.

The council confirmed their general support for the above idea, and further indicated that if the fundraising event went ahead and didn't quite raise the target of £1000 the council may be minded to top up the funding to the required £1000.

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

Action: Cllr Wilson to let Cllr Petecki know as soon as practicable if the event is unable to be held due to the on-going works to Cllr Wilson's barn.

97.13- Public footpath between Low Abbey & High Abbey, Cllr Teasdale informed the meeting that these works have now been completed.

103.13 Footway Lighting

This was covered as part of 102.13

104.13 CCC Chairman's Appeal

This matter was covered as part of minute 104.13

105.13 Co-Option of New Councillors

The Clerk confirmed that confirmation had been received from ABC that no requests for an election had been made and as such both vacancies should be filled as soon as possible via co-option.

Cllr Petecki informed the council that the procedure for anyone wishing to be co-opted would be for them to submit a letter to the clerk, which would then be forwarded to all councillors who would then make a final decision at the next applicable council meeting.

106.13 Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance

107.13 Chairman's Report

Cllr Petecki informed the council that he and Cllr Brandwood had attended a meeting during the summer that was concerned with the idea of cluster group/working links between groups of parishes, in particular Cockermouth & its surrounding 15 parishes coming together (including Embleton & District). During the meeting it became clear that Cockermouth weren't interested in being a part of such a scheme. Cllr Petecki felt that if the town council don't want to be part of a cluster then it wasn't worth being part of it.

CC Cllr Bowness arrived 19:55.

Footway Lighting- This matter was further discussed here following the arrival of CC Cllr Bowness. CC Cllr Bowness informed the council that if the lighting poles are higher than 3m they are classed as highway lighting which is the responsibility of CCC and he further confirmed that CCC had funds set aside to replace such lights. Lighting lower than 3m would be classed as footway lighting and would be responsibility of ABC.

He further confirmed that other options were being considered around having a 'safety zone' on the poles- if lights were far enough away from the electricity wires they maybe ok, alternatively another option under consideration was for the electricity company to take over responsibility for the maintenance of any such lights, however work is still on going on these options.

108.13 Clerks Report

A clerk's report has been circulated and read by all councillors. The following items were highlighted:

- CALC emails- Do all Councillors who use email wish to receive all CALC email? Councillors confirmed that they would like to continue to receive all CALC emails. Councillors without email requested hardcopies of the CALC Circular be posted to them.
- Clerk's Remuneration & PAYE- Cllr Petecki put the proposal to the council that the clerk's PAYE would now be handled by an external company at a cost of £14 per quarter (total cost of £56 per year).
Proposed: Cllr Pickering
Seconded: Cllr Graham
All those present agreed
- Consultations- Clerk requested clarity from the council on how consultations should be handled. It was resolved that notice of consultations to be considered a future meetings would be included in the clerks report, consultations that require discussions would have their own agenda item.
- The clerk informed the meeting that their were a number of items still outstanding from when David Smith was the clerk:

- 1) Asset Register
- 2) Risk Assessment- Related to all PC activities
- 3) Financial Regulations- Should be reviewed each year
- 4) Tenancy Agreement between Embleton Parish Council & Mr Hind- It is currently unclear as to the status of this agreement, it was agreed that this should be placed on the agenda for the October meeting

Action: Clerk to agenda for the October Meeting

Action: Clerk to provide a copy of the most recent agreement to Mr Hind

109.13 Police Report

The clerk informed the meeting that Megan Jones would not be able to attend this meeting. A written report received from the Police stated that no incidents had occurred within the parish since the previous meeting. The Police Report also highlighted that there had been a number of sneak in burglaries recently in the area, the report urged people to be cautious and to ensure doors and windows are kept locked, and valuables kept out of sight.

The council raised concerns that it had been some time since there was any police representation at a Parish Council meeting

Action: Clerk to contact PCSO Megan Jones and invite her to the next Embleton & District Parish Council meeting as an opportunity for the new clerk to meet the PCSO representative for the parish.

Action: Issue of sneak in burglaries and preventative measures to be highlighted in the next parish newsletter.

Cllr Brandwood raised an issue regarding the size of the postcode that covers the area from Embleton Spa – Bully House, which results in people's Satellite Navigation Systems (in particular those on heavy goods vehicles supplying Caterite, and visitors to Embleton Spa) directing them to the wrong place/up unsuitable roads (in particular HGV's being directed up the small road between Close Farm & Close Barn). Cllr Brandwood has raised this issue with the Highways Hotline who informed her that an engineer would undertake a site visit to see if the signage on this small lane/road could be improved.

CC Cllr Bowness offered a suggestion to help with the above issue- In other areas parish councils have started to produce detailed plans/maps of their areas including street names, and house names. These are then erected on the village noticeboards and delivery drivers are starting to refer to them.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways Hotline again to reinforce the need for signage to prevent unsuitable vehicles using the lane between Close Farm & Close Barn.

110.13 Planning

There were no new planning applications to be discussed.

7/2012/2161- Mayson's Lodge, Dubwath- Cllr Petecki updated the council on the conditions that this application had been approved with (the full document was circulated at the meeting for interested councillors to read).

Cllr Brandwood queried if a timescale had been attached to the condition regarding planting trees on the site of the old Mayson's Lodge- Cllr Petecki confirmed that this had to be satisfied within 18 months of occupation of the dwelling.

111.13 Dubwath Footpath.

Cllr Petecki updated the council that after many months of work, agreement has finally been reached from both Landlords (Higham Estates & Lord Egremont) to provide land for a footpath (a permanent right of way) between Ouse Bridge to the Sailing Club. The LDNPA have confirmed that once the work is completed they will adopt the footpath, and maintain its surface/gates etc. CCC has also confirmed that their highways team would maintain the hedge along the path. Cllr Petecki would like the council's agreement to continue with this project by approaching Natural England Paths with Communities for funding to do the work. The only cost to be incurred by the council would be the £88 for the planning application.

Cllr Petecki acknowledged that the issue of the lost of revenue from Single Farm Payments to the effected farmers still needs to be dealt with.

Approved by all in favour for Cllr Petecki to continue with this project.

112.13 Highways & Parish Maintenance

Clerk informed the council that she had received a report of a highways issue from a parish resident and has reported the matter to the Highways Hotline.

CC Cllr Bowness requested that the parish council consider making a plan of all gullies/culvert/drains etc in the area that he could then pass on to the highways teams to ensure that all relevant works were done when the teams are in a parish area. Cllr Petecki confirmed that he was happy to do a share of this work on the Dubwath to Ouse bridge area.

Action: Cllr Petecki to bring a map to the next meeting, and for the parish area to be divided up between councillors who will mark all gullies/culverts/drains on their patch.

Grit Boxes- Cllr Teasdale highlighted the fact that despite a request last year no grit box has been sited at the Routen Beck Brow (just above the forestry entrance).

Cllr Hewitson also raised the issue of a grit box being required at the cross roads (Low Bark House) where the new Distillery is located.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways Hotline regarding these grit bins

Cllr Wilson & Graham reported issues with flooding from the beck where it goes under the bridge at the bottom of Vicarage Hill. The issue is that the beck has no banking, and due to old works there is a concrete level under the bridge which causes water to back up above the bridge and causes flooding out on the to the field. Cllr Wilson has raised this issue with ABC.

CC Cllr Bowness requested the location of the bridge and said he would look into who would be the correct people to talk to

Action: CC Cllr Bowness to action the above

Action: CC Cllr Bowness to chase up the issue of the missing sign at Bouch House Corner.

113.13 Council Finances

There where no accounts for payment.

Cllrs Brandwood & Petecki signed letters to BlackRock & HSBC changing the contact details for the clerk.

114.13 Matters for the next meeting

- Flooding Issue @ Vicarage Hill Bridge
- Dubwath Footpath
- Mapping of Culverts/Drains
- Review of tenancy agreement with Mr Hind
- MRWS Consultation

115.13 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 16th October at 7:15pm in Embleton Village Hall

Meeting closed 20:51

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chair

From: RICK PETECKI <rick.petecki@btinternet.com>
To: "Linda.Graham@cumbria.gov.uk" <Linda.Graham@cumbria.gov.uk>
Sent: Saturday, 3 August 2013, 15:23
Subject: Service Reviews, Scrutiny

Dear Ms Graham,

we have been asked to take part in service reviews/scrutiny by the County Council.

We have discussed this in our meeting and see two areas, both related to highways, which we feel are inadequate and need urgent review.

Verges

1. Verges need to be cut before they become so long that they impede vision for traffic and are a road safety hazard. It should not be necessary for Parish Councils to request urgent cutting to prevent accidents.
2. Verges beside pavements should not be allowed to grow to the extent that pedestrians cannot use the footways and have to risk injury by walking on the road. This danger is exacerbated by the large amount of vegetation that fall on the pavements, are not cleared away and subsequently compost down which allows seed to germinate, resulting in a significant narrowing of the width of the pavement. this is often made worse by the failure to put weedkiller on any growth on the road side of the pavement.

While it is appreciated that there is a wish to preserve flora and fauna in country areas, it is felt that safety of road users and pedestrians should be a priority.

Road surfacing, pothole repairs

1. Condition of rural roads in Embleton Parish is poor. Potholes are repaired when reported but often not to a suitable quality. Water ingress to the subgrade is a common cause of damage to the road surface.
2. Ditch clearance and gully emptying is essential to reduce water damage

to the road subgrade and this is not being done on a regular basis.

3. Tar Spray and Chip used to be widely used to prevent water ingress and increase the durability of the road surface.

We suggest the routine maintainance would be self funding and prevent further deterioration to our rural roads and the need for costly emergency repairs.

Rick Petecki
on behalf of Embleton & District Parish Council

(Receipt of this was acknowledged by Linda Carter)