

# **EMBSAY WITH EASTBY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7:30pm**

Held at the Village Institute Main Street Embsay

**Present: Chairman Cllr Judith Benjamin, Cllr Brian Shuttleworth Vice Chair, Councillors: - Vince Smith, Robert Stead, Stella Kirkbride, David Hill, Tom Lovatt and Andrew Ayrtton.**

**4 Members of the Public and The Clerk.**

**Apologies; None**

Chairman opened the meeting thanking the few members of the public who were present.

**Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting** – distributed prior to the meeting were approved by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Hill.

**Resolved**

**Madam Chairman's Report – distributed with the Annual Parish Report**

Cllr Benjamin highlighted key points in her report. Congratulations were given to District Councillor Shuttleworth, on his re-election.

**District Councillor Shuttleworth's Report.**

May 2018 saw no change to the balance of elected representatives on CDC. I retained my seat on Planning, Select and Spatial Planning (LD Plan) committees. I was also a CDC appointed member to the Airedale Internal Drainage Board.

Despite a claim that no smaller, affordable houses were being built in Craven, analysis showed 67% of new homes on developments in excess of 5 houses were of 1 and 2 bedroomed form. Smaller developments are outside Govt. regulation control.

July 2018 saw a revised scheme submitted for the development to the rear of the Village Hall which had been allowed on appeal. Subsequently I campaigned successfully for this to be altered to a more appropriate visual form to complement the Conservation Area location and have since promoted the availability of the two 'affordable' homes required to be incorporated in the scheme, to be available on a shared ownership basis with CDC, to effectively reduce the deposit required for young people to qualify for a mortgage and take the first steps on the 'property ladder'. CDC was awarded £5 million from Central Government. funds towards the redevelopment of the area around Skipton railway station, Engine Shed Lane and the neighbouring canal area. A detailed scheme is now being drawn up which hopefully, will be presented later this year. The Blue Bin (recyclable waste) scheme was extended to a greater range of materials. Successful (and financially significant) fly-tipping prosecutions were awarded in the Courts.

In August the Ward Member Grant scheme was re-introduced to run over a further 3year period for boosting community events, projects and facilities, each member being allocated £1000 per financial year for suitable schemes. I am pleased to have been able to offer assistance to the Village Hall, E w E Playgroup and Friends of the Recreation Ground in this regard. Further fly tipping surveillance was undertaken under the title of Operation Eyeball in conjunction

with NYCC, NY Police, the Environment Agency, Network Rail and the NFU. Low Lane and Brackenley Lane are two specific and susceptible areas.

In September, I successfully influenced a revised planning decision for a proposed development on Shires Lane (in respect of viability relating to the number of affordable homes) to incorporate 'actual' affordable housing to be included on site, rather than an equivalent financial allocation being commuted towards affordable homes elsewhere in the CDC area. A visually disruptive project within the Conservation Area on land designated in the draft Local Plan as 'Local Green Space' was rapidly restored following action by the CDC planning enforcement team.

October saw the Public Examination of the CD Local Development Plan which lasted 3 weeks. Various minor amendments were made and more recently, particularly following a further public consultation exercise in respect of the Park Hill area of Skipton. The final decision from the Government Inspector is due shortly and the Plan will be (hopefully) approved. As the level of consented development for Embsay with Eastby is calculated to be sufficient until into the 2030s and 3 areas of Local Green Space in the Parish appear to have withstood the Government Inspector's scrutiny this should offer improved protection against future development.

A revised scheme of officer delegation in respect of planning application processing was adopted in order to speed up the processing of applications but which will not preclude the role of the Parish Council as a statutory consultee.

The New Year (2019) saw an increase in the level of anti-dog fouling measures including the availability of covert surveillance facilities in areas where problems are reported to be persistent. A development proposal for 2 bungalows to the north of Low Lane was refused on the grounds of the importance of the proposed Local Green Space designation and an adverse impact on the adjacent Conservation Area.

February saw a lengthy and concerned debate on the decline of town centres and possible remedies and incentives which may reverse this trend. Clearly any reversal of this trend will have an impact on the availability of services to Embsay and Eastby.

The 2019/20 budget was set with a 2.99% increase attributable to CDC, significantly less than other authorities and bodies which go to make up the total chargeable Council Tax level. This is particularly creditable as Revenue (formerly Rate) Support Grant from the Government has now been reduced to zero.

It was necessary to increase the Brown Bin annual collection charge, in view of the reduced credit payable by the recipient processor.

As a CDC appointed member of the Airedale Internal Drainage Board it has been pleasing to see the only significant period of heavy rainfall earlier this year did not result in the degree of flooding often experienced in the Bow Bridge area and suggests that the Environment Agency flood relief scheme to Eller Beck, commissioned in 2018 has had a beneficial effect on local tributary watercourses.

Finally, may I thank the electorate most sincerely for the incredible support given in my re-election last week. I will endeavour to continue to represent the Parish and wider Craven Area in the best interests of the local community and other aspects of the locality in which we are all fortunate to have opportunity to reside and enjoy.

**County Councillor Report** – Madam Chairman read out a summary from CC Quinn on her behalf.

**BLUE BADGE SCHEME - REVISION OF PROCEDURE** It is now possible to check eligibility on line before you start the process by a checking procedure that allows you to find if you should proceed with the application. There is also a warning about unauthorised charging for applications as information has been received that people are being asked by some sites to pay £50 to apply for a blue badge. These are unauthorised online services. The application process is free, the fee of £10 will be taken after the application is made and is refunded if your application is not successful. There is help available to complete the forms at your local library.

**SURFACE DRESSING OF ROADS** Every year there is a regular programme of surface dressing to improve the county's 9,000 km of roads. The countywide surface dressing programme starts in April and continues into August. Advance warning signs are put out a day or two before the work will start. However, whilst the aim is to start work on the advertised date delays or issues such as weather may affect the advertised date. Advance warning signs will be kept as accurate as possible, but please bear with date changes if they occur. Kex Gill will be closed for one week from 13<sup>th</sup> May to resurface the road and diversions will be in place via Otley and Ilkley .

**VAS SIGNS ( Vehicle Activated Signs )** It will now be possible for Parish Councils to purchase their own VAS signs and there is a new protocol available for all interested parties.

**NYCC WEBSITE** There is a vast amount of information and accessible sites to report issues including traffic management, speeding, highways issues various allowances and the call centre operatives are always available to direct you to the appropriate department who will be able to be of assistance to you.

### **Annual Report/Presentation of Un-Audited Accounts**

The Annual Report was distributed including the Un- Audited Accounts.

### **Parishioners' Forum**

The meeting was opened to members of the public.

- There was a request from two parishioners to attach "Fairy Doors" to benches around the villages and the pathway alongside the Nature Reserve from Millholme to the Tannery as part of a summer project "Fairy Trail". This involves residents purchasing and decorating each door. The trail will be open to the public over the summer holiday period. Any fixing of the doors to benches will involve clear ties and all will be removed after the event.

### **All Agreed and Resolved**

- A member of the public wished to thank the Parish Council for doing an excellent job which was reflected on all being re-elected unopposed. He was disappointed by the turnout from the residents to show their support. He thanked the members for being open and transparent in their dealings for the parish. It was again suggested that the lack of attendees at this annual parish meeting reflected the fact that parishioners were on the whole happy and had no complaints. He also gave his congratulations to District Councillor

Shuttleworth, on his re-election, knowing how difficult the job was having been a past council member himself.

The Chairman thanked the parishioner for his kind and encouraging words. However, she would also have liked to see more parishioners taking an interest in this event.

### **Chairman's Concluding Remarks and Acknowledgements**

The Chairman thanked the members for their hard work over the last 4 years, not only attending monthly meetings but as individuals on working groups with time given freely to ensure every aspect of the parish receives attention.

The Chairman also thanked The Clerk and Cllr Smith for putting together the Un-audited accounts and working with the Internal auditor. Thanks also went to Mr Howard for his assistance over the past years helping to produce the-accounts. Finally, thanks went to the many volunteers who are happy to help when called upon and without whose help the village would not look its best.

### **Meeting Closed at 8:00 pm**

**The Next Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 7:00pm. Venue Village Institute, Main Street, Emsay**

**Contact Parish Clerk: Gillian Alcock [Tel:07414850766](tel:07414850766) or Email: [Alcockg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Alcockg@hotmail.co.uk)  
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