



EMBLETON PARISH COUNCIL

<https://northumberlandparishes.uk/embleton>

Clerk: Sarah Trushell | clerk@embletonparishcouncil.gov.uk | 07455 004164

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Embleton Parish Council held on Monday 23rd March 2026, at the Methodist Church, Christon Bank.

Present:

Councillors: Andrew Chillingsworth (Chair), Raymond Carrs, Monica Cornall, Karen Greenhoff, Terry Howells, James Robertson and John Young

Clerk Sarah Trushell

County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Members of the Public: 0

107/25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Manners

108/25 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

109/25 Public Participation

No members of the public attended the meeting

110/25 Minutes of the Meeting of 2nd March 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2026 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair

111/25 Reports

a) County Councillor Wendy Pattison

An update was received, including confirmation that works relating to flooding at the Newton Road crossroads are programmed for the next financial year.

b) Embleton Joint Burial Committee

It was reported that work is ongoing to explore options to reduce the running costs of the cemetery. Correspondence has been sent to Northumberland County Council regarding potential change of use and the status of the affordable housing restriction.

c) Quarry Working Group.

There have been no updates since the previous Parish Council meeting

d) Playpark Working Group

The Working Group will meet on 1 April. Edging boards have been removed and repairs to the seesaw are underway, previously approved prior to the resignation of a councillor. Replacement parts for the junior climbing equipment are being explored and will be brought back to Council in due course.

e) Biodiversity Working Group

The first meeting has taken place. An advert will be issued to recruit volunteers, with a focus on those with relevant skills. A further meeting is planned for June, prior to the Parish Council meeting. A biodiversity survey event is being considered. A recent grant application was unsuccessful and feedback will be sought.

f) Matters Arising

An update was provided on parish mapping and supporting residents to access online services.

Signed as a true record _____ Dated _____



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112/25 Communication Received

a) Bench Request

It was agreed that the Parish Council does not currently have suitable land available.

113/25 Community Matters

a) Dunstan Steads Gate

It was reported that a pedestrian gate has been removed by Northumberland National Landscape without formal request to the Parish Council. The matter had previously been discussed informally with a councillor but not formally approved. Concerns were raised regarding safety, particularly children accessing the road. It was agreed that a councillor would write to request reinstatement of the gate and associated signage.

b) Village Water Fountain

It was noted that the Guides retain unspent grant funding which must either be used or returned. The Parish Council reiterated concerns regarding reinstating the water supply due to cost, feasibility and health and safety considerations. The Guides may investigate the requirements to restore the fountain and report back.

114/25 Administration Matters

a) Governance Framework

The Governance Framework was considered. Resolved to approve the updated policies, excluding the Complaints Policy which will be brought back to a future meeting.

b) End of Year Preparations

i) The Asset Register was received for review.

ii) The Risk Register was received for review

iii) It was resolved to appoint Terry Gillet as Internal Auditor for 2025–26.

c) Casual Vacancies

It was noted that an election has been called for both vacancies.

115/25 Planning Matters

a) 26/00440/LBC and 26/00439/FUL Blue Bell Inn, Embleton

The application was considered. It was noted that there are no external changes or increase in floor space and that the building remains an asset of community value within the Neighbourhood Plan. Parking implications were discussed.

Resolved to support the application (6 in favour, 1 against).

116/25 Financial Matters

a) Transaction Report

The list of transactions for the period was noted

b) Bank Reconciliation

The reconciliation for the Treasurer's Account was reviewed in line with Financial Regulation 2.2 and confirmed to be accurate.

Bank Balances as of 02 March 2026 are as follows:

EPC £1915.74

Savings £46826.10

Quarry £20,806.56

EJBC £2837.28

c) Payments for Authorisation

The following payments were authorised:

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Clerk's Wages (amount redacted)

Website Build Remaining Balance: £443.82

Website hosting, support and domain renewal 26-27 £350.64

It was agreed to amend the Clerk's pay schedule to align with the current month, with a transitional adjustment to be made over the coming months.

117/25 Items for Information or Future Agenda

It was reported that the Methodist Church will cease services in May and may be sold. The potential loss of the building as a community asset was noted.

It was agreed to obtain further information and to explore the option of registering the building as an Asset of Community Value.

118/25 a) Date of Next and Future Meetings

The next meeting of Embleton Parish Council will be held on Monday 27th April 2026 at 7:00pm, at the Creighton Hall, Embleton

b) Future Meeting Dates (all meetings commence at 7:00pm; meetings are generally held on the 4th Monday of each month, alternating between Christon Bank and Embleton unless stated otherwise):

18th May 2026 - Christon Bank

22nd June 2026 - Embleton

27th July 2026 - Christon Bank

There is no Ordinary Meeting in August

28th September - Embleton

26th October - Christon Bank

23rd November - Embleton

There is no Ordinary Meeting in December

The meeting closed at 21:07

Signed as a true record _____ Dated _____