



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 27th April 2026, at the Creighton Hall, Embleton

Present:

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

Clerk Sarah Trushell

County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Members of the Public: 3

1/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Greenhoff

2/26 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

3/26 Public Participation

Members of the public spoke regarding the playpark and future fundraising proposals. Comments included the condition of existing equipment, potential replacement options, and wider ambitions to refurbish the play area. Suggestions included the use of crowdfunding, approaching local businesses and holiday let owners for contributions, and installing donation facilities.

4/26 Minutes of the Meeting of 23rd March 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2026 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5/26 Reports

a) County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Updates included the completion of the library consultation, with concerns raised regarding reduced frequency of mobile library visits and reduced opening hours at some libraries.

b) Embleton Joint Burial Committee

The Council noted a change of managing agent, with a reduction in fees and a more controlled service. Works to recarpet parts of the property for health and safety reasons were discussed.

c) Quarry Working Group.

It was noted that planning permission was not required for reroofing works. Three quotations had been obtained, and the lowest quote was being progressed, subject to confirmation. An application had been submitted to the National Lottery for funding, with alternative funding options identified if unsuccessful. Four wooden recliners had been installed for stargazing, and the site is in the process of being put forward for designation as a Dark Skies Discovery Site.

d) Playpark Working Group

The Council considered a proposal to purchase a play tower with slide at a quoted cost of £8,199.11 including VAT. It was noted that attempts had been made to obtain three quotations. Following discussion, it was resolved to approve the purchase, with further

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work to be undertaken to negotiate costs and explore potential external funding contributions.

The Council also considered proposals for wider fundraising activities and unanimously agreed to support these, working alongside the Clerk.

e) Biodiversity Working Group

No meeting has taken place since the last Parish Council meeting. It was noted that an advert had been placed in the Whinstone Times and that it would also be shared online.

f) Matters Arising

An update was provided on some listed dovecots in the Parish.

6/26 Community Matters

a) Bleed Kits

The Council considered the provision of bleed control kits. It was resolved to purchase one standard kit and one kit with a cabinet, at an approximate cost of £85 plus VAT and £229 plus VAT respectively, in order to assess suitability before further rollout.

b) Christon Bank Chapel

The Council received an update regarding the future of the chapel. It was noted that the final service would take place on 3 May. Members discussed the potential to register the building as an Asset of Community Value. It was unanimously resolved to proceed with an application.

c) Sea Lane Bench

The Council considered the replacement of a failed bench with a donated bench. It was agreed that the bench would be installed, with any existing memorial plaque to be retained where appropriate.

7/26 Administration Matters

a) Governance Framework

i) Complaints Policy

It was unanimously resolved to adopt the policy presented.

ii) Children and Young Persons Strategy

A draft strategy will be distributed and brought forward to a future meeting.

8/26 Financial Matters

a) Grants

The Council considered two grant applications from the primary school. It was resolved to award the full cost of each project, being £300 for leavers' hoodies and £350 towards the summer fair.

Members considered support for the parish newsletter and resolved to award £400 under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972.

b) Transaction Report

The list of transactions for the period was noted

c) 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 27 April 2026 are as follows:

EPC £1,195.79

Savings £55,846.11

Quarry £20,695.58

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EJBC £3,303.05

d) Payments for Authorisation

The following payments were authorised:

Clerk's Wages (amount redacted)

NALC Subscription £259.84

Wel Medical (defib pads) £158.40

Mazars (Audit fee) £252

9/26 Items for Information or Future Agenda

No items were raised

10/26 a) Date of Next and Future Meetings

It was resolved that the next meeting would take place on Friday 29 May 2026 at Creighton Hall, comprising the Annual Parish Meeting, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, and the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, commencing at 6:30pm.

b) Future Meeting Dates (all meetings commence at 7:00pm; meetings are generally held on the 4th Monday of each month)

It was noted that all meetings will, until further notice, be held at Creighton Hall, Embleton, due to the unavailability of the Christon Bank venue.

22nd June 2026

27th July 2026

There is no Ordinary Meeting in August

28th September

26th October

23rd November

There is no Ordinary Meeting in December

The meeting closed at 20:30

Signed as a true record _____ Dated _____