

Embsay With Eastby Parish Council Newsletter

Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 28 April 7:00PM

PCSO Ruth Pearson will be the guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 28 April 2009, Embsay Village Hall, 7:00 PM. Ruth, who is well known to many local residents, will be concentrating her remarks on local policing issues including youth behaviour and activities. Her appearance will provide local electors with an ideal opportunity to raise any local policing problems, issues or concerns.

The traditional annual parish meeting is not a normal meeting of a council but is intended to provide local electors with an annual forum for raising matters of concern, asking questions, etc. Local electors in the parish are therefore invited to come along to this meeting and use the opportunity it provides to make their views known.

Besides a guest speaker and an open forum, the meeting will include reports on various Parish Council activities and achievements over the past year as well as post meeting light refreshments.

Council News and Achievements

- A £4600 grant has recently been awarded to the Parish Council for the purchase and installation of a new slide at the Recreation Ground (due for completion in April).
- Special action is being taken by the Parish Council to better engage with local youths and to work directly with them to provide much needed local activities.
- The Village Lengthsman continues to address a number of priority local maintenance matters including improvements to benches, Recreation Ground and Memorial Gardens and special litter picking duties.
- Confirmation on the outcome of a grant application from the Parish Council for the special Caretaker's Scheme being organised by Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority will be made in June. If successful, the grant will enable the Village Lengthsman to work additional hours in the coming year to further improve the appearance of the two villages.
- A budget and precept was recently approved for the 2009-2010 financial year at the same level as the previous budget, resulting in no additional financial burden on local ratepayers from the Parish Council.
- An Annual Report has been produced (which will be unveiled at the Annual Parish Meeting) as a means of further improving communication between the Parish Council and local electors.
- Small grants from the Parish Council to local organisations are available upon application to the Parish Clerk.
- Local residents have successfully lobbied the Parish Council against a proposal to erect a youth shelter at the Recreation Ground.
- A Strategic Plan and Vision Statement has recently been approved which will enable the Parish Council to have greater direction and focus.

Concern Over Housing Development Plan

Embsay with Eastby Parish Council has acted quickly to Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority recent action to assess some 100 potential sites having development potential for affordable homes, using various planning criteria. A decision is to then be taken by the Authority about which sites are the most suitable so that they can be shortlisted. One of the potential sites identified is a large open field located in Embsay off Pasture Road and Brackenley Lane.

At the April meeting of the Parish Council members expressed concern about future housing development in the area and felt that Embsay had already contributed more than 50 houses at the Tannery. It was also noted that the local population had already expressed their views in the Village Plan questionnaire that they wished to have no more future housing development.

A small working group has been formed to put together a response, based on the views of local people and local housing needs, which will then be reported to the Annual Parish Meeting on 28 April. The views of local electors at the meeting will then be taken into account and a formal response to the housing development plan will be made to the Authority by the Chairman of the meeting. In addition, a formal response from the Parish Council will be presented to its next meeting on 14 May which will also be eventually communicated to the Authority.

Local residents are also being encouraged to respond to the proposal by first viewing the sites on the Authority's website on www.yorkshiredales.org.uk and then making their views known to the Strategic Planning Officer by e-mail on peter.stockton@yorkshiredales.org.uk or by contacting the local newspaper.

Obnoxious Local Smell

At the March Parish Council meeting, concerns were expressed about the continuing obnoxious smell emanating from the nearby Skibden landfill site. Members suggested that local residents should once again be reminded of a special telephone hotline number should they also have concerns. The number is **0800 80 70 60**. The Parish Council has been told that registering an individual, formal complaint through the hotline number whenever there is a strong smell will be the most effective way of ensuring that the problem is eventually addressed.

TIMETABLE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS (2009-2010)

The Parish Council meets monthly on the dates below. At each meeting there is a 15 minute slot for public participation. The council actively promotes feedback and interaction from members of the public and extends a warm welcome to anyone wishing to attend.

Date:	Time:	Venue:
14 May 2009	7:30 pm	Embsay Village Hall
11 June 2009	7:30 PM	Embsay Village Hall
9 July 2009	7:30 PM	Embsay Village Hall
13 August 2009	7:30 PM	Embsay Village Hall
10 September 2009	7:30 PM	Embsay Village Hall

Proposal for Youth/Parent Shelter

At the February meeting of the Parish Council, the proposal for an open sided wooden hut like structure to be erected at the Recreation Ground for use by both local youths and parents when their children are playing on the playground was rejected. The idea arose from a suggestion made by a number of local youths and was based on the success of a similar structure in the Settle area.

A written survey, in the form of a letter drop, of those residents living adjacent to the Recreation Ground had been conducted by the Parish Council and there was general opposition to the proposal. In addition, a number of objectors had attended Parish Council meetings to raise their opposition to the facility. There were concerns that the shelter would merely exacerbate already existing problems at the Recreation Ground and would serve as a magnet for future anti social behaviour.

"The Parish Council was always conscious that while there were many positive benefits in having a structure like this in our community, there would also be serious concerns," according to Cllr Mark Wilson, Chairman of the Parish Council. "Our members made a concerted effort to evaluate local opinion – most especially those people who live close to the Recreation Ground who might feel the full impact of this scheme - and their voices have obviously been heard."

In rejecting the proposal, the Parish Council agreed that it was important to look into ways of improving community engagement and addressing the needs of local young people. A working party was set up to explore possible ways of providing activities and a social facility for the youth of the villages. The working party will undertake special action to ensure that both parents and young people are actively involved and engage with any future proposals or projects.

New Look Website Goes Live

www.embsaywitheastby.org.uk

Embsay with Eastby Parish Council has recently launched a "new look" website as part of a campaign to keep the local community better informed about the activities and services of their Parish Council.

The initiative has been the brainchild of Cllr Ian Snelling, an IT expert, who has donated his time and creative energies to improving the old site. "While the former website served a useful purpose, we feel that the new site is much more visually attractive and, therefore, much more appealing to potential users," according to Cllr Snelling.

"Most importantly, it contains more items of key information in a much more user friendly way. The new design will enable us to regularly post such key items of information as agendas and minutes as well as standing orders, financial regulations and a publications scheme. In addition, we plan to run a current news page with up to date items of useful information for members of the local community."

A number of award winning parish council websites were examined for ideas and approaches and as a basis for ensuring that Embsay with Eastby Parish Council's website contains key, essential items of information common to other parishes.

"We plan for the website to be an ever evolving project, beginning with the most basic items of information," states Cllr Snelling. "We therefore hope everyone will be patient as the site develops over time. We welcome the views of local people about the new look website as well as suggestions about present and future improvements."

The new Embsay with Eastby Parish Council website can be accessed by keying in www.embsaywitheastby.org.uk or by Googling "Embsay with Eastby Parish Council

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