

Embsay With Eastby Parish Council Newsletter

2010-2011 Budget Set Lower Than Previous Year

The 2010-2011 budget (and precept) for Embsay with Eastby Parish Council has been set at a lower level than the previous year, resulting in no additional financial burden on local ratepayers from their Parish Council for the forthcoming financial year (1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011).

The budget and precept were formally confirmed at the December meeting of the Parish Council, following a period of detailed review by members stretching over several months. This process had also encouraged local ratepayers to have their say through a "Village Forum" held in November.

The annual budget for 2010-2011 amounts to £15,185 with a precept of £14,710.

"Although the budget and precept will not increase next year, this does not mean that there will be fewer or reduced services or activities," states Mark Wilson, Chairman of the Parish Council. "We have once again made a special effort to look into each and every council expenditure and activity. This has resulted in a prudent and effective budget and one which reflects the current economic climate. Many important expenditure categories for next year have remained constant, and these should continue to have a positive impact on our local villages. This includes the services of our Lengthsman and expenditure on village general maintenance and bench painting and repairs"

According to the Chairman, "Once again we have made a conscious and successful effort to try and reduce our administrative costs and overheads. This has enabled us to channel the savings into those areas which most directly affect local people. This includes the maintenance and upkeep of the two villages the provision of grants to local groups and assistance to those people who require local public transportation through the Little Red Bus service."

A copy of the new budget has been posted on the Council website at www.embsaywitheastby.org A hard copy can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk on 01282 850851.

Holiday Greetings

Embsay with Eastby Parish Council extends its warmest best wishes to everyone living and working in the two villages for a joyous holiday season and a new year filled with good health and much happiness.

The Parish Council has played an important part in spreading the holiday festive spirit by providing the lighting on the community elm tree on Main Street .

Grants to Community Groups

Each year, the Parish Council budgets a sum of money to assist local community groups or charities in their important work and activities. The assistance is in the form of small grants which are awarded for a number of purposes including the purchase of equipment or the funding of trips, activities, etc. There are still funds available in the current budget and local groups or charities are encouraged to obtain further information by contacting the Parish Clerk on 01282 850851

Engaging With Local Young People

The Parish Council is continuing to place a high priority on the needs of local youths (and their parents) who have previously expressed concern about the lack of activities and facilities in the immediate area. A special Youth Working Party was formed by the Parish Council in the summer and it has since been regularly addressing this important local issue and helping to co-ordinate corrective action by engaging local young people to help come up with a solution.

A group of young lads, working with an experienced youth leader, subsequently came up with a suggested pre-fabricated design for a shelter (which has see through walls, a substantial roof and seating), identified sources of outside funding and agreed a preferred location for the shelter – the Recreation Ground.

Housing Development Plan

The Parish Council has recently received an update on Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's action to assess three local sites in Embsay, each having development potential for affordable homes, using various planning criteria. One of the three sites – North of Main Street near the car park – has been dismissed as development would be harmful to the character of this part of the Embsay Conservation Area. The other two sites – land adjacent to Wood View and land between Brackenley Lane and Pasture Road – are being further investigated by the YDNPA for their "technical suitability." Formal representation from the public and the Parish Council is not being invited at this stage but will happen when YDNPA publish a draft Housing Development Plan for public consultation – probably next spring. Members considered this latest information at a recent Parish Council meeting and YDNPA were advised that the Parish Council still objected to the two remaining proposals and requested that it be given sufficient lead time so that it can canvass local opinion about the proposals when formally considering the matter next spring.

News in Brief

- Action is continuing to complete Phase 1 of the Parish Council Strategic Plan which is designed to highlight key priority issues and activities and to provide councillors with greater focus and clarity of direction.
- The Parish Council recently joined local electors in opposing a proposal from Craven District Council to regulate the use of the car park on Main Street, Embsay.
- The Village Lengthsman continues to address a number of local priority maintenance matters including improvements to local benches, the Recreation Ground and War Memorial as well as special litter picking duties.
- The Bolland and Colton Charitable Trust has been revived through the support and encouragement of the Parish Council and is now awarding small grants for the relief of local residents who are in need, hardship or distress.
- Action is being taken in conjunction with Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to address a number of issues which appear to be outstanding from the Planning Consent for the former Tannery site. These include the continuing muddy and unsightly appearance of the duck pond water, poor condition of the dams and the absence of tree planting.
- The views of local residents on a proposal from Craven District Council to alter the arrangements for domestic waste collection were sought and ultimately communicated to the District Council.
- A planning application from Yorkshire Water to construct a single storey pumping station with ancillary car park and new access from Kirk Lane, opposite St Mary's Church, was opposed by the Parish Council. A subsequent amended application and design was considered by members and while there were still objections to the application, the design amendments were, in general, acceptable. The Parish Council is to work closely with Yorkshire Water on future aspects of the project.

TIMETABLE OF FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS (2010-2011)

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 January 2010	7:30	Village Hall
11 February 2010	7:30	Village Hall
11 March 2010	7:30	Village Hall
8 April 2010	7:30	Village Hall
13 May 2010	7:30	Village Hall

Staying in Touch With the Parish Council

Members of the Parish Council give the highest possible priority to ensuring that the Parish Council is as open and transparent as possible and that local residents are given every opportunity to become directly involved with the work of their council. It does this in many ways.

Agendas for Parish Council meetings are displayed on the public notice board outside the Village Hall one week in advance of Parish Council meetings. The agendas are also posted up on the Parish Council website. The agenda always contains an item, "Public Participation," which sets aside up to 15 minutes at each meeting for members of the public to ask questions, raise concerns, comment on local issues, etc.

The unconfirmed minutes of each meeting are then posted on the Parish Council website (normally within 7 days of a meeting) and hard copies are also put in a special folder in the Village Hall Library. News articles on special issues, activities and services are regularly posted on the Parish Council website and also appear in the Village Magazine and the *Craven Herald* newspaper.

Finally, members of the public are regularly encouraged to attend a special monthly drop-in "surgery" conducted by Councillor Hazel Chatwin on the first Friday of each month, Village Hall, 2:30 – 3:30 PM, to raise any concerns, ask questions, etc. These are then reported back to the Parish Council by Councillor Chatwin for formal consideration and action at the meeting on the following Thursday

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council continues to engage in action to further improve its website so that it is visually attractive, easy to navigate and contains important, up to date information on the work and services of the Parish Council. The website now has a new look design, complete with colourful photographs of local sites, contact details for every member of the Parish Council and a number of new, key documents. "The website is probably the best way for local people to keep up with the work and interests of their parish council and so it is important that we continue to make improvements which will encourage greater interest and usage." states Cllr Ian Snelling, a member of the Parish Council and IT Security Consultant who has donated his time and expertise to improving the site. "We hope that as many local people as possible will regularly use the website to stay better informed and to monitor the work of their parish council." The Embsay with Eastby Parish Council website can be accessed by keying in **www.embsaywitheastby.org**

Member's Contact Details

HAZEL CHATWIN: Hmchatwin@btinternet.com 01756 793308

PETER GALLAGHER: Pg10jeeper@aol.com 01756 799002

BRYAN HUME: bee.jay@live.co.uk 01756 701141

TREVOR KENT: trevor_kent2002@hotmail.com 01756 792719

STELLA KIRKBRIDE: 01756 790469

ANDREW QUINN: andygill.quinn@virgin.net 01756 700746

GILLIAN QUINN: andygill.quinn@virgin.net 01756 700746

IAN SNELLING: ian.snelling@btconnect.com 01756 709967

MARK WILSON: (Chairman) 07983 337285 (M)

PARISH CLERK: Robert Kandt Stock Green Farm, Bracewell, BD23 3JS 01282 850851 embsay.clerk@tiscali.co.uk