

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 19th October 2017 – 7.15pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

Agenda

The Parish Council may, by resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; S1, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies.

THE MEETING WILL OPEN WITH PUBLIC QUESTIONS

2361 Declaration of interests

2362 Apologies for absence

2363 Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of 21st September 2017

2364 Matters Arising

Overhanging trees adjacent to the "Cottage" and the "Archway"

2365 Financial matters

a. **Bank Balance** – £21,334.33 on 13th October 2017

b. **Received since 21/09/2017**

Nil

c. **Spent since 21/09/2017**

Clerk wages & expenses (Aug 2017: £299.78 - £3.44 correction for PAYE) - £296.34

PAYE (Aug 2017) £69.20

d. **Cheques required**

Clerk wages & expenses (Sep 2017) - £TBC

PAYE (Sep 2017) £TBC

e. **Notice of Conclusion of Audit**

2366 Leader Grant –

Update on present position and future actions – report attached.

2367 County Councillor's update –

Report attached

2368 Parish Council Clerk/HR Issues

Consider a recommendation on the appointment of a Permanent Clerk.

2369 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee)

Renovation of Cemetery House for affordable housing.

2370 Affordable Housing in Craster

Report attached

2371 Planning Matters

None

2372 Training and Conferences

- Town and Parish Council Conference; 5th October 2017 @ County Hall, Morpeth – Delegate report
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) – Delegate report

2373 Craster Community Trust (CCT)

- CCT website and new e-mail system
- Front page wording required
- Nothing to report – await appointment of permanent clerk

- Position on notice boards
 - PC representative
- Report on the activities of the Trust

2374 Correspondence received

Circulated by e-mail; and
Letters from Fiona and Michael Robson
Dangerous crossroads e-mail

2375 National Trust/English Heritage Parking

2376 Councillor Portfolio

2377 Parish Council Administration

- Proposed change to SO's to agree end time for meetings/new ways working to clear agenda items in shortened timescale.
- PC Policy Checklist – await appointment of permanent clerk

2378 Information Share

2379 Items for Next Agenda

2380 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council is to be held at 7.15pm on 16th November 2017.

Open to Public & Press

Craster Trail Implementation

Background

The Craster Trail Leader grant essentially combines two projects that have been addressed by the Parish Council over the past few years: the creation of a new footpath down the Tower Bank and the introduction of new tourist signage in the village.

The new footpath will be to the south of the road and will start to the east of the coastguard station and go down the field to the burn. A footbridge will be constructed across the burn and the footpath will go through the woods to the road. This footpath was originally a LTP in 2015 and to assist the NCC permissions were obtained from Lord Howick and the Greys, the landowners concerned, and when NCC took no action it was proposed in March 2017 that the Parish Council should seek a Leader Grant and take responsibility for the creation of the new footpath.

The need for signage in the village has been discussed for several years. Local businesses have been approached and have agreed to help with the funding of these signs and to remove their own unofficial ones once the new signs are in place. The proposal is that there will be one finger post at the harbour indicating the direction of the castle, Jolly Fisherman, Shoreline Café, Play Park, Gallery, Smokehouse and Restaurant and one by the car park indicating the Castle and Radar Station, Dunstan, the Cottage Inn, Stableyard Tearooms and the harbour. There will also be a large display case by the entrance to the car park with a map of the parish indicating local businesses and tourist locations with short descriptions of each.

Leader Grant

The Leader Grant applied for by the Parish Council was for 80% of the cost of the project. The Parish Council agreed to fund the remaining 20%, though as indicated above it is expected that local businesses will make contributions to the costs. Based on the submission the total cost of the project, excluding VAT which the Parish Council will have to pay and then reclaim, is £9373.00 and the Parish council contribution is £1874.00. The grant system does not allow the applicant to include any contingencies so any extra costs which arise will have to be covered by the Parish Council, but the contributions from the businesses will off-set this.

Applying for the grant has not committed the Parish Council to proceed with the project and before that can happen there needs to be a formal resolution passed by Council to commit to spend the funds. The grant application did require the council to submit three quotations for each element of the project and this has been done, and hence placing orders for the selected suppliers at this stage is in accordance with Standing Orders.

The Leader Grant process requires the applicant to place the orders and pay for the work and then reclaim that proportion of the cost covered by the grant. With the VAT the Parish Council will be required to spend £11,250, plus any contingencies, before it can reclaim the grant and the VAT and collect contributions from the businesses. The reserves held by the Council will allow this to happen.

Proposal

The Parish Council approves the expenditure of the funds necessary to complete the project defined as the Craster Trail. In making this resolution the Council understands that the total project cost is in the region of £12,000, but that VAT, a grant of 80% from Leader and contributions from businesses will be received on completion of the project. The total net cost to the Council is not to exceed £2,000 without further approval.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Wendy Pattison

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk – Tel. 07779 983072

Craster Parish

9 Parish Council meetings - The September meeting was extremely successful and everyone will meet again next year on **Friday March 9th 2018**. Mr Bob Hodgson, NCC Area Manager for Neighbourhood Services will attend this meeting and he will be able to look at any issues Parish Councils may have regarding Refuse, Litter Bins, Hedges, Grass Cutting etc.

Friends of Spitalford Cemetery – On a recent visit to Embleton Village, a resident at Turnstone Gardens suggested the formation of a group of like-minded people who want the very best for Spitalford and would look after the cemetery to ensure it was kept neat and tidy. This would enable enhancement and improvement of the cemetery for the future and assist relatives and friends visiting the graves of loved ones to be comforted by a respectful and peaceful environment. Embleton Joint Burial Committee are discussing this suggestion. Grants are available from the Heritage Lottery Fund re Parks for People funding which helps to conserve the heritage that makes both historic parks and cemeteries special. And this gives local people a say in how they are managed in the future. Projects improve people's wellbeing and knowledge of their area, and make communities better places to live, work and visit.

<https://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/our-grant-programmes/parks...>

Churchcare has announced that Grants are available for fabric repair for Grade 1 and 2 Churches <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/funding-and-grants/our-grants/fabric-repairs>

Craster Mobile signal or lack of!! – I am quite certain the Parish Council will have tried many times to negotiate and try to receive a signal in the village for all mobile phone users. However, I have been requested by a resident to look at this and I will let everyone know how I get on. It must be extremely frustrating for everyone and this matter does needs resolving.

Post 16 Home to School Transport – I am a member of the Committee discussing Post 16 Home to School Transport which is chaired by County Councillor Glen Sanderson. Discussions are going well and I will report back to the Parish Council once a final decision has been made.

Construction and building sites – This work can cause problems to local residents.

Permitted hours of work will normally be:

- **Monday to Friday - 0800 - 18.00**
- **Saturday 0800 - 1300**
- **Sundays & Bank Holidays - No Working**

If a company wishes to work outside of these hours (on a Construction Site) they will normally be required to submit an application for prior consent.

NOISE

Noise from construction sites is controlled by the Control of Pollution Act (COPA) 1974. Construction companies and contractors are required to take all reasonable steps to control noise and to demonstrate that they are applying 'Best Practicable Means'.

DUST

Dust from construction sites is controlled by the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and can often be minimised by:

- carefully siting transport routes
- providing hard-surfaced roadways
- imposing speed limits on site
- damping stockpiles of materials and roadways with water
- keeping roadways clear
- adjusting working methods e.g. to minimise demolition or crushing dust
- storing fine material under cover.

It is important to note that the environmental legislation controlling dust is for the protection of human health and the environment in general. If dust only affects your property or possessions, Environmental Health will not be able to help.

If a company wishes to work outside of these hours (on a Construction Site) they will normally be required to submit an application for prior consent.

BURNING

It is an offence under Section II of the Clean Air Act 1993 to burn anything on an industrial or trade premises which is likely to cause dark smoke. A person found guilty under this section can be liable to a fine on summary conviction not exceeding £20,000. In addition, under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Part III, nuisance legislation applies where a nuisance is defined as something which unreasonably interferes with someone else's enjoyment of their home or garden. If we confirm that a nuisance does exist, we are able to serve a legal document called an Abatement Notice on the person responsible, requiring that the nuisance is stopped. If the Abatement Notice is ignored, then any further nuisance will be an offence which, on conviction in the magistrate's Court, could result in fines of up to £20,000 and £2,000 per day for each day the offence continues. The Environment Agency also have powers to deal with the burning of waste on trade premises. Under Part II of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, you have a duty of care concerning the disposal of trade waste. Section 33 of this Act states that a person shall not dispose of controlled waste in a manner likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health. The maximum penalty under this section is £20,000. Any burning of waste is therefore an offence under this legislation.

Exemptions from the Environment Agency powers relate to the burning of wood, bark and plant material at the site of production provided fires do not cause persistent problems to neighbours. These fires still have to be registered with the [Environment Agency](#) and it is an

offence not to do so. Action can still be taken by the Council under the Clean Air Act or Nuisance legislation.

Officers to contact if any concerns are –

Enforcement officer Liz.OBrien@northumberland.gov.uk

Environment officer rosemary.ayre@northumberland.gov.uk

A1 dualling – Highways England have announced the route(s) they have chosen, enabling the project to move on to the planning phase, and the works to remain on schedule.



They have declared that their Green route option will be the preferred route between Morpeth and Felton, and the Orange route option will be the preferred route between Alnwick and Ellingham. For Morpeth to Felton, this involves constructing a new stretch of dualled carriageway to the west, and for the section between Alnwick and Ellingham, the existing road will be widened. In both cases the choices represented the favourite option among local residents who took part in the extensive consultation events. The next step is for Highways England to complete the design, survey and environmental impact work ahead of submitting their application for a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate in 2018.

Affordable Housing in Craster

The Right to Buy legislation of the 1980's resulted in many of the affordable houses in Craster moving into the private sector. They are no longer available to local families as residences and this has made it difficult for young people to stay in the Parish.

To address this situation the Government launched an initiative in July to make grant available for local councils, including Parish Councils, to re-establish affordable housing in locations where holiday homes have replaced residences. Clearly Craster falls into this category.

This is the initiative which is being explored by the EJBC to obtain a grant to renovate the Cemetery House and make it available at an affordable rent to a local family. Any shortfall in funding will be raised by a government loan to be repaid over an agreed period at interest rates of around 1%. The interest rate is fixed for the duration of the loan.

This same government initiative could be used by Craster Parish Council to bring back houses, lost to the private sector by the Right to Buy, into the affordable housing market.

Currently there is a 3 bedroomed house in Heugh Wynd on the market for £200,000. It is understood that a sale was agreed but fell through because of a clause in the deeds preventing it being used as a holiday house. If the Parish Council were to purchase this house they would be eligible for a grant towards the cost of up to £50,000. The remaining funds could be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board on the basis indicated above.

I would like to suggest that the Parish Council investigates the feasibility of taking such an initiative and presents a paper on the findings to the Parish Meeting on 1st November. This paper would set out the cost involved, analyse the risks and identify the benefits. If the model works for this house then it could be used as other houses come onto the market.

Bryn Owen
Chair Craster parish Council
12/10/17

To The Parish Council,

Further to the Parish Council meeting I attended in August I would like to put in writing the points I raised at the meeting regarding the car park.

The area between the outer and inner car park has a rock face on either side yet Northumberland County Council has made no attempt to mesh the face to protect the public who enter and exit the car park by foot.

Northumberland County Council although finding reserves to lower kerbs on footpaths in the parish to assist parents with push chairs and disabled members of the public has made NO EFFORT to make a footpath in and out of the carpark.

There is no priority for vehicles going in or coming out on this single lane entry. There is no sign to state the public coming along the Lonnen from the overflow car park will be crossing at a blind exit. Money has been spent on relaying and remarking the inner carpark to raise even more revenue yet nothing was spent on the safety of using this facility.

As an owner of land within the car park area I believe I am more aware of these issues than councillors. I am requesting the Parish Council raise these safety issues with Northumberland County Council and have the visitors experience improved when they visit Craster.

Yours Sincerely,
Michael Robson.

To the Parish Council,

As the car park and transport topics are on the agenda for the September meeting I am writing to strongly urge the Parish Council to take this opportunity to make finding an alternative coach parking facility a priority.

Given that no alternative coach parking facility has been provided since the decision not to allow coaches to use the car park we are increasingly experiencing coaches been driven into the village resulting in irresponsible and unsafe parking putting the safety of both pedestrians and road users at risk.

With no designated safe drop off / pick up point the safety of the coach passengers is put at risk when they are dropped off on the road on the way into the village or as happened on Saturday 26th August a coach stopped at the harbour dip opposite the Lifeboat House blocking the road to traffic and pedestrians. It then moved to West End and parked on double yellow lines restricting traffic to single lane at a dangerous point on the road while the passengers wandered around the village. Recently three coaches on a school trip parked for the duration of their stay in the entrance to the car park, even though there are double yellow lines (photo enclosed) causing a hazard to both drivers and pedestrians using the car park or the road traffic passing by.

More coaches are driving along Heugh Road which is narrow and parking in South Acres.

Mini buses park in the gateway entrance to the overflow carpark on the bend, even though there are double yellow lines there, restricting the bend at that part of the road to single file traffic.

While the income from coaches may not have been great I would say that public safety MUST come first.

I do not consider that enforcement of the illegal coach parking is the solution as Craster for many many years has attracted coach tours and school/university field trips and will continue to do so therefore appropriate parking for coaches should be a priority for the safety of both those who live in and those who visit the village.

Yours Sincerely,
Fyona Robson.

