

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 20th July 2017 - 7:15pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

Councillors Present

Chair: Bryn Owen, Vice Chair, Martin Smith

Parish Council members: Elizabeth Pearson, Margaret Brooks, Henry Cummins, Ann Fettis, Mark Green, Rosie Robson

In Attendance: Wendy Pattison (NCC Councillor), Neil Snowden (NCC Officer), 4 members of the public

Acting Clerk: Geoff Newcombe

Neil Snowden, NCC Officer – Gave a presentation on the road traffic control measures outlined in item 2316.

2304 Parish Council vacancy

An application and statement was received for the current vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The application from the candidate was circulated to the members.

Standing Order (SO) 12.3 allows suspension of any SO for a time limited period to progress business. It was proposed to suspend SO 13.4 and 13.5 for this meeting only to allow consideration of co-opting a member at this meeting under this agenda item rather than after acceptance of minutes.

Proposer: Cllr Bryn Owen

Seconder: Cllr Martin Smith

Unanimous

Rosaleen Robson, a Councillor under a previous administration expressed an interest in standing again as a member of the Parish Council. It was proposed that Rosaleen Robson be co-opted as a Councillor to Craster Parish Council as she was already experienced and a previous member.

Proposer: Cllr Henry Cummins

Seconder: Cllr Mark Green

Unanimous

Rosaleen Robson was co-opted onto the council, signed the declaration of acceptance of office and participated in the business of the meeting.

2305 Declaration of interests

Cllr Henry Cummins declared an on-going interest in provision of alternative car parking and said he would refrain from any discussion of such an item.

2306 Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Alan Punton.

2307 Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of 15th June 2017

The minutes were unanimously accepted as an accurate record of the meeting

Proposer: Cllr Martin Smith

Seconder: Cllr Ann Fettis

Unanimous

2308 Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

None

2309 Review the standing orders

Consider incorporation of the "Seven Principles of Public Life" into the standing orders reported in item 2060. The "Examination of Standing Orders" report of 10/06/17 (attached) produced by Cllr Owen was discussed. Although the general aims of the Seven Principles are incorporated into the "Northumberland ALC model code of conduct for local councils" (NALC COP) members felt that it was not specific enough. It was proposed that the "Seven Principles of Public Life" be incorporated into the NALC COP as Appendix C. (attached)

Proposer: Cllr Ann Fettis

Seconder: Cllr Henry Cummins

Unanimous

2310 Parish Council Clerk/HR update

It was reported that there have been 8 enquiries and 2 applications to date for the position of Council Clerk. It was proposed that there should be an extraordinary meeting arranged for early August 2017 to consider the applications and interview questions. The acting clerk was asked to arrange a venue.

Cllr Martin Smith took over the Chair for the remainder of the meeting and thanked Cllr Pattison for her interventions detailed in her report.

2311 County Councillor's update

County Councillor Wendy Pattison gave a report (attached).

2312 Report on gutters, drainage & pavements

Cllr Margaret Brooks gave an update report:-

- where old gully's could not be repaired because new whinstone sets were no longer available then contractors were using old

- sets from damaged gully's where appearance not paramount and repairing them with new materials;
- Some small areas of tarmac still to be repaired near Bark Pots;
- Opposite Bark Pots drains still to be cleared out (requested gully sucker);
- The hole near the church has been temporarily filled with whinstone chippings, advice requested from CPC on how to proceed in longer term. CPC members suggest leave as it is at the moment and observe it over the summer.
- Overhanging trees adjacent to the "Cottage" and the "Archway"; clerk to contact NCC highways to see if they can be trimmed.
- Vegetation has been cut back on Tower Bank; clerk to send thanks to Michael Craster.

2313 Planning Matters

- 17/00875/FUL - Land North East of Dunstan Hall Dunstan Village Dunstan Northumberland - Construction of new dwelling house. The NCC web site shows that permission has been granted; Decision Notice is available on the NCC Website.
- 17/01419/FUL- 12 Heugh Road Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TJ- Proposed new side extension to match height of existing property and new single storey rear extension with flat roof to form new orangery extension. This application has been approved.

2314 Petition on a Fair Deal for Craster and its visitors

Update report; minutes are not yet available as the meeting was cancelled and re-scheduled for October 2017.

2315 Tourist Information Centre

Update report on potential closure; no new information available

2316 Update on Local Transport Plan Priorities 2016 / 2017

Neil Snowden NCC Officer made a presentation showing the proposed speed limits and areas they would apply to (attached).
Councillors commented:-

- That they would prefer 30mph speed limit where 40mph proposed; Mr Snowden responded that the non-built up areas did not fit the criteria for 30mph limits;
- That they would prefer a chicane rather than the proposed rumble strips;
- The current problem of coaches parking on double yellow lines;
- Notice of bend required on Bogue Road;
- Bus turning area – signage missing and people are parking in the turning area.

Mr Snowden commented:-

- The current proposed speed control scheme does not need to be proposed for the next round of LTP suggestions;
- The Bogue Road feasibility study is being undertaken; leave in the LTP;
- Mention the parking issues in the next LTP.

CCllr Wendy Pattison update; as above and 2311.

Priorities for next year – three new LTP suggestions needed:-

- 1 – Bogue Road footpath
- 2 – Footpath up north side of Smithy Bank.
- 3 – Extension to quarry car park by expansion?

Red Zone around harbour to prevent all parking including "blue badge" holders or a polite notice asking motorists not to park blocking access, emergency vehicles and us turning? It was thought that this issue should be raised at the next Parish Meeting to gather public opinion.

A vote was taken on proposal item 3.

Proposer: Cllr Mark Green

Seconder: Cllr Bryn Owen

For – 3; Against - 3; Abstain 1.

It was then proposed that the vote on item 3 be held over until the next full meeting when further information and consideration could be given.

Proposer: Cllr Mark Green

Seconder: Cllr Ann Fettis

For – 5; Against - 0; Abstain 1.

Carried.

2317 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee)

Update report – The new maintenance contract is running satisfactorily; EJBC members say that cemetery is neatest it has ever been. Cemetery House still on market for bids until 31st July; EJBC will consider options at their meeting on 4th September 2017.

2318 Craster Community Trust (CCT)

- **Return cheque update**
Refund cheque now received for £550.00 for shed
- **CCT website and new e-mail system**
Nothing to report – await appointment of permanent clerk
- **PC representative**
Cllr Pearson, agreed to report back on the activities of the Trust.

It was proposed that Cllr Ann Fettis be the future PC representative.

Proposer: Cllr Bryn Owen

Seconder: Cllr Mark Green

Unanimous

2319 AONB (Northumberland Coastal Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)

2320 Fixed asset maintenance

A complaint was received regarding an unpainted seat in a poor condition next to lifeboat house. Is it a Craster PC asset? After discussion it was thought to be a North Side Association asset and that is why it is not on the CPC list of assets. Cllr Rosie Robson volunteered to paint it.

2321 Tourist Amenities and Grant Funding

• **Leader Grant Application**

Update report – Cllr Bryn Owen thought that NCC Highways formal permission may be needed for path creation; he will check.

2322 Transparency Fund

a. **Parish Council Website** - await appointment of permanent clerk.

b. **Purchase of Scanner using Transparency Grant** – further funds available; await appointment of permanent clerk.

c. **Internet Connection in the Memorial Hall** – CCT issue.

2323 Financial matters.

a. **Current Account Balance** - £20,733.98 on 06/06/2017

b. **Spent since 18/05/2017**

Northern Garden Sheds - £550.00

Clerk wages & expenses (Feb & Mar 2017) - £363.87

Clerk wages & expenses (Apr 2017) - £193.78

Clockwork AV (projection Screen) - £597.60

NALC membership (2017/18) - £85.27

PAYE (not presented) (Feb/Mar £69.20, Apr £42.57) - £111.77

c. **Received since 18/05/2017**

Transfer - £11,115.50

NCC Payments - £37.39

CCT Shed Refund - £550.00

CCT playground Rent - £1.00

d. Clerk/HMRC wages & expenses

Clerk wages & expenses (Jun 2017) - £265.06

PAYE (Jun) £60.39

e. Cheques required

Clerk wages & expenses (Jun 2017) - £265.06

PAYE (Jun) £60.39

Updating of bank details, mandate, HMRC and submission of annual return to be undertaken by temporary clerk when in possession of records.

2324 Correspondence received

Circulated by e-mail

Small Business Rates Guidance

Green Dog Walking

Flag Flying on Death of Senior National Figure

Community Governance Review

2325 Items for Next Agenda

Local Traffic Plan options

Community Governance

National Trust/English Heritage Parking

Councillor Portfolio

Permanent Clerk Recommendation

2326 Information Share

None

2327 Date and Time of Next Meeting

There will be an Extraordinary Meeting on at 6:00pm on Thursday 10th August 2017.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is to be held at 7.15pm on 21st September 2017.

Open to Public & Press

Examination of Standing Orders

Whilst it is excellent that the Parish Council considers the content of the Standing Orders, and realises the importance of the Seven Principles of Public Life, it does not follow that change is required. At the Annual meeting every Parish Council is required to examine its Standing Orders and confirm that they are suitable for its activities. I was not at the Annual meeting, but take this opportunity to share my views.

There are many documents that govern and guide how Parish Councils operate. These vary from Acts of Parliament, the 1972 Local Government Act being the most important, to various guides produced to help Councillors understand their duties. These are available on the web and simple google searches will elicit much useful information. Referring to all of these documents to decide how we should conduct our affairs would be a nightmare and consequently we, like other Local Councils, have a set of Standing Orders which are unique to us and can be changed by us.

Standing Orders are the rules that govern the activities of the Council. They are there to ensure we can easily see the correct procedure we should follow. At the last meeting being able to read out the paragraph relating to dispensations for those with conflicts of interest enabled us to ensure we operated legally. The rules embodied in the Standing Orders can be traced back to legislation and remove the need for us to have the Acts of Parliament as first line reference documents. The Standing Orders are there to enable us to know what we should do and it was for that reason I sent copies to the new Councillors on their election to the Council.

The other key document which assists us stay within the law is the Code of Conduct and I have appended a copy of the Code the Parish Council has adopted, based on a National Association of Local Councils model. A Code of Conduct sets out the standards of behaviour for Councillors as they carry out the business of the Council. Like the Standing Orders it is a document that is the responsibility of the Parish Council and the model can be changed, but to date this has not been considered necessary.

I think if Councillors read the Code of Conduct they will find that it covers all of the seven principles and there is no need for any alteration.

I can see that the issue of the incorporation of the seven principles arose because new Councillors did not have the Code of Conduct as a reference document. Hopefully now this has been remedied the Parish Council can close this issue.

Bryn Owen, 10/6/17

Northumberland ALC model code of conduct for local councils

Introduction

Pursuant to section 27 of the Localism Act 2011, Craster Parish Council ('the Council') has adopted this Code of Conduct to promote and maintain high standards of behaviour by its members and co-opted members whenever they conduct the business of the Council, including the business of the office to which they were elected or appointed, or when they claim to act or give the impression of acting as a representative of the Council.

This Code of Conduct is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code, a 'co-opted member' is a person who is not a member of the Council but who is either a member of any committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a member of, and represents the Council on any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Council, and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee.

For the purposes of this Code, a 'meeting' is a meeting of the Council, any of its committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees.

For the purposes of this Code, and unless otherwise expressed, a reference to a member of the Council includes a co-opted member of the Council.

Member obligations

When a member of the Council acts, claims to act or gives the impression of acting as a representative of the Council, he/she has the following obligations.

1. He/she shall behave in such a way that a reasonable person would regard as respectful.
2. He/she shall not act in a way which a reasonable person would regard as bullying or intimidatory.
3. He/she shall not behave in a manner which a reasonable person would regard as likely to bring the Council, or his/her office as a member of the Council, into disrepute.
4. He/she shall not seek improperly to confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.
5. He/she shall use the resources of the Council in accordance with its requirements.
6. He/she shall not disclose information which is confidential or where disclosure is prohibited by law.

Registration of interests

7. Within 28 days of this Code being adopted by the Council, or the member's election or the co-opted member's appointment (where that is later), he/she shall register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Appendices A and B.
8. Upon the re-election of a member or the re-appointment of a co-opted member, he/she shall within 28 days re-register with the Monitoring Officer any interests in Appendices A and B.
9. A member shall register with the Monitoring Officer any change to interests or new interests in Appendices A and B within 28 days of becoming aware of it.
10. A member need only register the existence but not the details of any interest which the Monitoring Officer agrees is a 'sensitive interest'. A sensitive interest is one which, if disclosed on a public register, could lead the member or a person connected with the member to be subject to violence or intimidation.

Declaration of interests at meetings

11. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A the member shall:
 - (i) declare what his/her interest is;
 - (ii) not participate in a discussion or vote on the matter;
 - (iii) leave the room while the matter is discussed and voted upon.
12. Subject to paragraph 11, where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A which is a sensitive interest, the member shall disclose he/she has an interest but not the nature of it.
13. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix B, the member:
 - a. shall declare what his/her interest is
 - b. may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting
 - c. shall not vote on the matter.
14. Subject to paragraph 13, where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix B which is a sensitive interest, the member shall disclose he/she has an interest but not the nature of it.
15. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate (other than an interest in Appendix A), the member:
 - a. shall disclose the nature of the interest
 - b. may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting
 - c. shall not vote on the matter.

If it is a 'sensitive interest' the member shall declare the interest but not the nature of the interest.

16. If a Council function can be discharged by the member acting alone, and he/she is aware that they have an interest in Appendices A or B, he/she shall not deal with that matter except to enable the matter to be dealt with by someone else.

Dispensations

17. On a written request made to the Council's clerk, the Council may grant a member a dispensation to participate in a discussion and vote on a matter at a meeting even if he/she has an interest in Appendices A and B if the Council believes that:
 - a. the number of members otherwise prohibited from taking part in the meeting would impede the transaction of the business
 - b. it is in the interests of the inhabitants in the Council's area to allow the member to take part or
 - c. it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

Promotion and maintenance of standards

18. A member shall:
 - a. familiarise him/herself with the Council's Code of Conduct and any other policies or standing orders of the Council which relate to members' conduct
 - b. support the Council in the promotion of high standards, and in ensuring access by the public to the Council's records regarding the registration and declarations of members' interests.
 - c. ensure that the Council seeks guidance as appropriate, from the Council's Monitoring Officer, before it makes any material alterations to its Code of Conduct or to any other policies or standing orders of the Council which relate to members' conduct.

Appendix A: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Interests defined by regulations made under section 30(3) of the Localism Act 2011 and described in the table below. They include interests which are held by: the member; his/her spouse or civil partner; a person with whom he/she is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom he/she is living as if they are civil partners, and the member is aware that the other person has the interest.

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made to the member during the 12 month period ending on the latest date referred to in paragraph 7 above for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a member, or towards his/her election expenses.
	This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the member or between his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a body in which such a person is a partner in a firm, a director of an incorporated body or holds the beneficial interest in securities*) and the Council —
	(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
	(b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the Council.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the member's knowledge)—
	(a) the landlord is the Council; and
	(b) the tenant is a body in which the member, or his/her spouse or civil partner/ the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—
	(a) that body (to the member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the Council; and
	(b) either—
	(i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
	(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

*'Securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Appendix B

An interest which relates to or is likely to affect:

- (i) any body of which the member is in a position of general control or management and to which he/she is appointed or nominated by the Council;
- (ii) any body—
 - (a) exercising functions of a public nature;

- (b) directed to charitable purposes; or
 - (c) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which the member of the Council is a member or in a position of general control or management;
- (iii) any person from whom the member has received within the previous three years gifts or hospitality worth more than an estimated value of £50 which the member has received by virtue of his or her office.

Northumberland ALC model Code of Conduct for Local Councils

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This Code of Conduct is based on the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership as stated in Appendix C.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code, a 'co-opted member' is a person who is not a member of the Council but who is either a member of any committee or sub-committee of the Council, or a member of, and represents the Council on any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Council, and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee.

For the purposes of this Code, a 'meeting' is a meeting of the Council, any of its committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees.

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21. He/she shall not behave in a manner which a reasonable person would regard as likely to bring the Council, or his/her office as a member of the Council, into disrepute.
22. He/she shall not seek improperly to confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.
23. He/she shall use the resources of the Council in accordance with its requirements.
24. He/she shall not disclose information which is confidential or where disclosure is prohibited by law.

Registration of interests

25. Within 28 days of this Code being adopted by the Council, or the member's election or the co-opted member's appointment (where that is later), he/she shall register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in Appendices A and B.
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30. Subject to paragraph 11, where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix A which is a sensitive interest, the member shall disclose he/she has an interest but not the nature of it.
31. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix B, the member:
 - a. shall declare what his/her interest is
 - b. may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting
 - c. shall not vote on the matter.
32. Subject to paragraph 13, where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to an interest in Appendix B which is a sensitive interest, the member shall disclose he/she has an interest but not the nature of it.

33. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate (other than an interest in Appendix A), the member:
 - a. shall disclose the nature of the interest
 - b. may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting
 - c. shall not vote on the matter.

If it is a 'sensitive interest' the member shall declare the interest but not the nature of the interest.

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 - c. ensure that the Council seeks guidance as appropriate, from the Council's Monitoring Officer, before it makes any material alterations to its Code of Conduct or to any other policies or standing orders of the Council which relate to members' conduct.

Appendix A: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Interests defined by regulations made under section 30(3) of the Localism Act 2011 and described in the table below. They include interests which are held by: the member; his/her spouse or civil partner; a person with whom he/she is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom he/she is living as if they are civil partners, and the member is aware that the other person has the interest.

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
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	This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the member or between his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a body in which such a person is a partner in a firm, a director of an incorporated body or holds the beneficial interest in securities*) and the Council —
	(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
	(b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the Council.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the member's knowledge)—
	(a) the landlord is the Council; and
	(b) the tenant is a body in which the member, or his/her spouse or civil partner/ the person with whom the member is living as if they were spouses/civil partners has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—
	(a) that body (to the member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the Council; and
	(b) either—
	(i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
	(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

*'Securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Appendix B

An interest which relates to or is likely to affect:

- (iv) any body of which the member is in a position of general control or management and to which he/she is appointed or nominated by the Council;
- (v) any body—
 - (d) exercising functions of a public nature;
 - (e) directed to charitable purposes; or
 - (f) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which the member of the Council is a member or in a position of general control or management;
- (vi) any person from whom the member has received within the previous three years gifts or hospitality worth more than an estimated value of £50 which the member has received by virtue of his or her office.

Appendix C

The Seven Principles of Public Life

1. Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2. Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organizations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3. Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6. Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

7. Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behavior. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behavior wherever it occurs.

This Code of Practice was adopted by the Craster Parish Council at a meeting of the Council held on 20th July 2017 (Min: 2309).

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Wendy Pattison

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

Craster Parish

Joint Meeting with Longhoughton Ward Parish Chairmen - I have organised an informal meeting with all nine Chairmen of the Parish Councils within the Longhoughton ward, Ellingham, Edlingham, Eglingham, Longhoughton, Rennington, Craster, Embleton, Newton by the Sea and Powburn/Hedgeley and I have given a date of September 1st 2017 at the Thrunton Trout Fishery at 6.30pm. One of the most important things we can do is to find out what we all have in common and when we share something with the people around us – no matter how small or insignificant it seems – it can help us all make connections that we never realised we could. Councillor Bryn Owen, Chairman of Craster Parish Council has agreed to attend the meeting on behalf of Craster Parish Council.

Petitions Committee – Fair Deal for Craster - Councillor Bryn Owen gave an excellent presentation to the Petitions Committee at County Hall on 21st June.

Car Park Meeting – One week after the petitions committee meeting took place, the Chairman of Craster Parish Council, Cllr Bryn Owen, County Cllr Glen Sanderson, County Councillor Wendy Pattison and Mr Paul Jones, NCC Director for Local Services and Housing Delivery at Northumberland County Council met at the car park at Craster on June 29th to discuss the possibility of extending the Craster car park.

Craster Church - The hole which appeared outside Craster Church near the edge of the car parking area, has now been filled. The missing Whinstone kerb stone will be dealt with shortly.

Traffic Management in Craster - Mr Neil Snowdon, NCC Senior Programmes Officer (Highway Safety) will attend the Parish Council meeting on July 20th 2017 with his proposals. I will be present at the parish council meeting, although, it does conflict with the area committee which will be taking place in Berwick. However, I do feel very strongly that this meeting is extremely important for Craster, and I have made my apologies to the Area Committee Chairman.

Northumberland County Council

Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders

Leader of the Council - Cllr P Jackson

Deputy Leader – Cllr W Daley

Corporate Services and Cabinet Secretary Cllr N Oliver

Economic Development – Cllr R Wearmouth

Environment and Local Services – Cllr G Sanderson

Planning, Housing and Resilience – Cllr J Riddle

Culture, Arts and Leisure – Cllr C Homer

Adult Well-being and Health – Cllr V Jones

The Core Strategy – Consideration was given at the Council meeting on 5th July 2017 regarding a motion in relation to the Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy which was submitted to Government for independent examination on 7th April, following approval given at the meeting of 22nd February 2017.

It was proposed at Council to **rescind** the previous decision to approve it and to formally withdraw the Core Strategy from the independent examination process and to advise the Secretary of State of this decision. - To instruct officers to undertake a full review of the housing and employment numbers, and strategic land use allocations, required during the plan period to sustain Country wide and regional economic growth; and, Resolve, to undertake the work to carry out the review and progress any necessary associated work and public consultation to enable the Council to reconsider approval of the Core Strategy for submission to Government as soon as practicable. ***This was agreed.*** Existing local plans such as the Morpeth Local Plan and the Alnwick and Denwick Local Plan, which have recently been adopted via referendum, will retain their existing considerable weight in planning applications when the NCC Core Strategy is rescinded.

North Northumberland Area Councils

There will now be 5 new Area Councils, North Northumberland, Ashington and Blyth, Tynedale, Castle Morpeth, Cramlington and Bedlington. These meetings replace the former Area Committees. Meetings in North Northumberland will take place at the Northumberland Hall, Alnwick and also at Berwick. It was felt these meetings will give control back to local communities. The membership is made up of the County Councillors who represent the 13 electoral divisions in the North Northumberland area. Northumberland County Council will make decisions which affect the whole County whilst local Councils will be responsible for their own areas. The first meeting of the North Northumberland Area Council was held at the Northumberland Hall, Alnwick on June 29th. The next meeting will be at Berwick at the Jubilee Club, Spittal on 20th July.

Tour of Britain

Scores of the county's communities are to get a grandstand view of some of the world's top cyclists after route details of the UK's largest and most prestigious cycle race were revealed. The Ovo Energy Tour of Britain will travel through the heart of Northumberland on Monday 4 September, passing through 26 communities and covering 117 miles.

The race will start in Kielder Water and Forest Park at 10.15am and head out through Bellingham and Otterburn before heading towards the coast via Elsdon, Rothbury, Alnwick, Eglington, Chatton, Belford and Bamburgh.

It will then head down the stunning Northumberland coastline passing through the communities of Seahouses, Beadnell, Embleton, Longhoughton, Lesbury, Hipsburn Warkworth and Amble. This is a very exciting day for all of our local communities and the cyclists will be passing through the villages of Embleton and Longhoughton.

Full Northumberland route details can be found at www.nlandtob.com, or for further information about the National Tour, please visit: tourofbritain.co.uk

Draft Speed Limits

