

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 19th July 2018

Councillors Present

Chair: Cllr Ann Fettis

Parish Council members: Elizabeth Pearson, Mark Green, Henry Cummins, Margaret Brooks, Martin Smith and Jennifer Doherty

In Attendance: NCC Councillor Wendy Pattison and 6 members of the public

Clerk: Adam Shanley

Questions from the public: a number of residents who attended the meeting raised the issue of car parking at South Acres and requested what the Council intended to do on this matter. The Clerk advised that this was matter for the County Council's Highways department. That said, correspondence had recently been received from NCC to the Parish Council to state that they would be consulting on the provision of grasscrete could on part of the grassed area. Grasscrete is a mesh system that strengthens the ground while letting the grass grow through it so that the appearance of the green is maintained. An example can be seen nearby in Heugh Wynd. The Clerk advised that NCC had stated to the Council that this would provide additional parking while protecting the grass from being worn by vehicles. It was unclear if all residents of South Acres would be receiving a copy of this letter as part of an informal consultation and the Clerk advised that he would check this out with NCC but the Parish Council appreciated this idea may not be universally welcomed by residents.

2361 Declarations of interest

Cllr Henry Cummins declared an interest in all matters relating to car parking in the Parish due to the use of land as an overflow car park. Cllrs Green and Fettis also declared an interest in the matter of the boat house for the Boat club.

2362 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Rosie Robson. Cllr Ann Fettis also reported that Cllr Bryn had decided to resign from the Parish Council. Cllr Fettis thanked Cllr Owen for his service to the Parish.

2363 Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of 21st June 2018

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st June 2018 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors present.

Proposer: Cllr Ann Fettis

Secunder: Cllr Mark Green

The Chair signed the Minutes.

2364 Matters Arising

No matters arising.

2365 Financial matters –

a. **Bank Balance** – £2,574.07 at 11/07/2018

b. **Received since 21/06/2018**

Compensation payment from Lloyds - £100.00

c. **Spent since 21/06/2018**

Clerk wages & expenses (May-June 2018) - £192.00

PAYE (May-June 2018) - £48.00

NALC – annual subscription costs - £88.48

NALC – annual website fee - £75.00

Cllr Mark Green – cost of ink cartridge - £19.19

Cllr Mark Green – cost of printer for Parish £52.99

d. Cheques required

Clerk wages & expenses (June-July 2018) - £240.00

PAYE (June-July 2018) - £60.00

CCT (Hall Hire - April 2018 to March 2019) - £240.00

CCT (Hall Hire – May 2018) - £24.00

The Clerk advised that the sum of £100 had been debited to the Parish Council bank account owing to the delays in the Bank sorting out the electronic banking application.

2366 County Councillor's report – County Councillor Wendy Pattison provided her report to the Parish Council.

Councillor Pattison provided an update on the resident parking difficulties at South Acres and advised that residents' views on how to tackle the parking problems were being sought by County.

Cllr Pattison provided an update on this year's programme of verge cutting. This is getting underway as the county gears up for the main tourist season.

Cllr Pattison advised that vital grass cutting along highway verges will be taking place across Northumberland over the coming weeks.

Each year over 7,000 km of verges are cut during the summer months. Last year this was done more quickly than in previous years and again in 2018 it's the council's aim to have cut all the verges once by late July or early August as this will enable a second cut of key junctions and other areas.

The work is vital to ensure that vegetation does not restrict visibility for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. In addition to the road safety benefits, these works also improve the look of an area and keeps the network in better condition by preventing plants taking hold on the side of roads.

Cllr Pattison also advised that residents' views were being sought on Alnmouth Station parking plans. Residents were invited to a special drop-in event to give their views on plans for new trial parking arrangements at Hipsburn village and Alnmouth Railway Station.

This follows long-standing issues about parking at the station and the neighbouring village of Hipsburn, with residents' drives being blocked, access difficulties for bus operators and some people leaving cars at the council owned station car park for weeks on end.

There are currently two car parks at the station, one owned by the county council and the other managed by Northern Rail. Neither currently charges for parking.

Now the council is proposing a pilot scheme which involves introducing charges of £3 a day on their carpark to help manage demand, with a maximum 72-hour stay restriction already due to come into effect this summer being implemented so spaces are prioritised for use by regular commuters.

This would be supplemented with a resident only permit parking scheme in Hipsburn and extra single yellow lines in the village to prevent illegal and anti-social parking in the area.

Income generated from the charges will cover the cost of implementing the new arrangements and also help contribute towards a study to identify long-term improvements to parking capacity and facilities at the station, as well as any changes to existing layouts/landscaping within the car park that can be implemented quickly to provide some extra capacity.

Finally, Cllr Pattison advised that Northumberland County Council's cabinet has approved a full draft of the new Northumberland Local Plan for public consultation.

A six week consultation opened on Wednesday 4 July and will run until Wednesday 15 August.

During this time the council will run 23 drop in events at venues across Northumberland, where members of local communities will be able to come along to discuss and ask questions about the plan. Feedback and comments on the plan will be invited by all interested parties.

2367 Local Transport Plan submissions – Councillors were asked to consider their priorities for the LTP plan for 2019. The Parish Council unanimously decided to maintain the 3 priorities from the previous year which were currently at phase 1 investigation stage only. The priorities being:
Provide a footpath along the Bogue Road between Craster and Dunstan
Provide a footpath up Smithy's Bank to Dunstan
Provide a footpath at the top of the bank between the Coastguard premises and the tower.

2368 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee) report – verbal update provided by Parish Council representative Cllr Elizabeth Pearson. Cllr Pearson reported that the Burial Committee were still awaiting an update from CAN in respect of the grant to renovate the Cemetery House to become an affordable property for a local family in the Parish. Cllr Pearson advised that she would keep the Parish Council updated on any developments in this regard.
Furthermore, feedback had been received that Steve Tennant, the contractor for the grass cutting, was doing a fantastic job in his works.
Cllr Pearson advised that adverts had also been posted locally to seek volunteers to carry out works within the Cemetery House, so far only 3 volunteers had come forward and all of these were members of the EJBC. Cllr Pearson again called on anyone who may be interested in helping out to get in touch.

2369 Planning Matters –

18/01401/FUL | Erection of 1 no. residential unit (C3 use) | Land West Of 15 Dunstanburgh Road Dunstanburgh Road Craster Northumberland. The Clerk advised that this application had been refused.

18/01592/FUL | Re-siting of a static caravan | Land North West Of Dunstan Steads Farm Embleton Northumberland. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Parish Council had objected to this application and that a decision on this scheme had yet to be received.

18/01976/REM | Reserved Matters Application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale relating to approved outline planning permission 14/04120/OUT | The Bark Pots Tea Room 9 West End Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TS. The Clerk reminded the Council that the Parish Council had objected to this application and that a decision on this scheme had yet to be received.

18/02026/FUL | Change of use from burial ground to private garden and installation of sewage treatment plant and associated works | Cemetery House Spitalford Embleton Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3DW. The Clerk advised that the meeting must decide on their response to this planning application. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support this application. The Clerk would also look to ascertain whether or not this application impacted upon consecrated land.

18/02326/CCD | Expansion of existing car park area at Craster plus provision of 2 EV charging bays. The Clerk advised that the meeting must decide on their response to this planning application. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support this application.

2370 Northumberland County Council Local Plan – Councillors were asked to consider their response to NCC's draft local plan 2018. It was agreed that a working group would be set up to look at the local plan in depth and respond on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that there were a number of public events happening up and down the County seeking residents' views on the Draft local plan and advised that he could provide a copy of the local plan to the working group.

2371 Council Policies – Councillors were asked to approve Equality and Diversity policy. The Clerk

advised that a report had been provided by Cllr Rosie Robson for Councillors' consideration and that this was something Cllr Robson felt very strongly in favour of. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the new policy.

Proposer: Cllr Ann Fettis

Secunder: Cllr Martin Smith

2372 LEADER Grant update – report from Clerk updating Parish Council on LEADER project. The Clerk reported that the claim for the LEADER grant had been submitted to the Officer at NCC following the completion of all works. Correspondence had been received however from the Officer to state that, due to the changing of the contractor for the provision of the noticeboard following the initial grant submission, LEADER would not be able to cover the costs for this expenditure. The Clerk advised that every effort had been made to receive the funds for this. He advised the Council that the VAT for the item would still be refunded and that the Chair and he were looking at ways to cut costs for the production and printing of the map.

2373 Transparency Fund update – Cllr Green advised that he had registered the postcode of the Village Hall with Royal Mail however there was some debate over what the postcode should actually be. Cllr Green also advised that he would be looking to set up a direct debit payment with the Parish Council for the payments towards the phone line and wifi to the Hall to be used for the benefit of the community. He would be arranging this via the Clerk. Cllr Green also confirmed that a Facebook page had been set up for the Parish Council for which he is the administrator.

2374 Boat house at the quarry car park – Councillors were originally asked to consider a request by the Chairman of the rowing club to support the installation of a boathouse at the car park. However since this request had been received, correspondence between NCC and the Boat club had taken place. The Chair of the Boat club attended the meeting to state the NCC were supportive of a boat house but not in the new quarry car park owing to the number of spaces that this will impact upon. The Chairman stated that the club had been seeking an appropriate location for a boat house for nearly two years and this search would continue.

2375 Standing orders - Councillors were asked to consider an amends to the Standing Orders and formally approve this amends. The amends related to the advertising of the Agendas for Parish Council meetings. The Clerk advised that this had to be done within 3 clear working days of the meeting taking place (not including the day of posting the advert nor the date of the actual meeting). Owing to time constraints in getting the hard copies of the Agendas posted on the notice boards previously, it was agreed that the standing orders should specify that the Agenda "had to be made available to the public" within 3 clear working days. The Clerk advised that the Agendas were always published online within the specified timeframe and there is a notice in the boards to advise all residents where copies of these could be obtained.

2376 Craster Community Trust – no formal report was provided to the Parish Council in Cllr Robson's absence. However, Cllr Pearson advised that the equipment in the play park had been installed and was looking great. Cllr Pearson also advised that the Trust are intending on doing an official opening of the park in August – date to be confirmed.

2377 Correspondence received

Correspondence received from the AONB requesting that the Council considers amending the finger

post at the harbour from “Coastal path to Dunstanburgh Castle” to “Northumberland Coastal path to Dunstanburgh Castle” and we clear the street furniture at the site. It was decided that the sign should not be changed as requested.

2378 Parish Council Administration – the Clerk reported that the same process would be followed to advertise the vacancy on the Parish Council following the resignation of Cllr Bryn Owen as following a previous resignation. The Council agreed that the vacancy should be advertised and that the Clerk should contact the Elections Office at Northumberland County Council accordingly.

2379 Items for Next Agenda – the Clerk reminded everyone to write to him directly if they would like anything on the Agenda for the upcoming September Parish Council meeting.

2380 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council is to be held at 7.00pm on 20th September 2018.

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