

Minutes

For The Craster Parish Meeting

Tuesday 23rd January 2018 Memorial

Hall 18:30pm

Present

Chairman

Cllr Bryn Owen

Clerk

Mr Adam Shanley

Parish Council Members

Margaret Brooks, Elizabeth Pearson, Ann Fettis, Mark Green, Rosie Robson, Henry Cummins and Martin Smith

In attendance

Members of the public

25 members of the public and 2 Officers from NCC Mr Alex Thompson and Mr Paul Jones

Apologies for absence

County Councillor Wendy Pattison

There was a formal agenda for the meeting and Cllr Bryn Owen chaired the meeting. Clerk to Craster Parish Council Mr Adam Shanley was in attendance at this meeting. Adam took the Minutes for the meeting.

- 1. Minutes of the last meeting.** The Minutes of the last Craster Parish Meeting, held on the 1st November 2017, were unanimously agreed as an accurate record. **Proposer: Marian Gallon. Seconder: Ann Fettis.** Minutes were signed by Parish Council Chair Bryn Owen.
- 2. Car Park Petition.** Director of Local Services at Northumberland County Council (NCC) Mr Paul Jones attended the Parish Meeting and presented proposals for an extension to the existing public car park in Craster. Cllr Owen opened the item by advising that 300 people had signed a petition for better car parking provision at Craster and advised that he had attended the June 2017 Petition meeting at NCC as a representative of the Parish. Cllr Owen advised that this had been a 20 year effort to have something done with the car park in Craster and Mr Jones advised that the need for this had arisen due to the issues of excess car parking in the Parish at peak times during the year. Mr Jones advised that this represented a £225,000 investment for the Craster Parish and would be self-funding over a period of 3 years with the suggested increase of car parking charges put forward by the Parish Council. Mr Jones advised that the works would be carried out between Nov 2018 – Feb 2019 if this was approved. The reason being that there was a 16% usage only of the existing car park during this period and the quarry would need to be closed for health and safety during this period. There were some concerns expressed about health and safety with the proposed works to the quarry and Mr Jones advised that high and heavy-duty net fencing would be put in place to mitigate from dangers caused by rock fall.

Concern was also expressed by a member of the public in relation to the issue of access into and out of the car park and the lack of any footpath for the public and that there is no provision for fencing against the East face or entry between the outer and inner car park.

Some members of the public also asked about provision for coaches which often parked in the car park and Mr Jones advised that this scheme would not cater for coaches as this would mean a reduction in spaces in the existing car park.

Mr Jones did advise that there would be a provision of new EV charging car spaces in the new car park.

Cllr Owen asked for an overall view of the Parish meeting and this was unanimously agreed as a good investment to the Parish.

The Clerk was asked to write directly to Mr Jones and Cabinet Member for Local Services at NCC, Glen Sanderson to formally advise them of the outcome of the Parish meeting on this item. Mr Jones also advised that there would likely be a joint public exhibition of the plans in due course, pending NCC approving the funding for the scheme and once the plans were in a presentable final state.

- 3. Opening of the new footpath.** Cllr Owen advised that the work for the LEADER programme known locally as the Craster Trail was ongoing and the bridge had been installed recently. The scheme would go over the original January deadline but this won't be a problem.

Cllr Robson advised that volunteers are being sought to help with the repair of the dry stone wall for this project.

There was some concern expressed about the position of the grit bin at the bottom of the trail which members of the public advised had been moved closer to the road. The Chairman said he would look into this and investigate.

Some concern was also expressed about Health and Safety for young children running out into the road at the top of the trail by the lifeboat centre. The Chair advised that it has been suggested that a trail be made to go up to the arch but this was separate to the Craster Trail project.

- 4. Level of the precept for 2018/19.** Cllr Owen advised that the time had come for the Parish Council to submit their Precept request to the County Council. Cllr Owen reported that the Parish Council currently has approximately £20,000 in the bank but had also earmarked £8,500 for the Community Trust to buy new play park equipment and had also committed to buy new noticeboards for the community at a cost of around £500. The cost for the footpath and signage would be around £12,000. The normal running costs for the Council are around £3,000 per year. The Parish Council would be reclaiming their VAT at around £2,500 and the Leader Grant claim request would be around £7,500. Therefore, the Parish Council would still have a surplus of £6,000 – twice the normal running costs. Cllr Owen advised that there were two proposed options for the present. Option 1 : Neutral budget with precept at £3,000. Option 2 : Reduce reserves with precept at £2,500. The Parish unanimously agreed option 2. **Proposer: Michael Craster. Seconder: Kevin Brown.**

- 5. Planning Applications.** Cllr Owen reported on the status of three recent planning applications in the Parish.

Haven Hill – application approved subject to conditions on the forecourt

Allotments site – pending a decision, but objections from Highways

39 Dunstanburgh Road – extension to the north, still open for comments

- 6. Creation of a Conservation Area.** Cllr Owen reported that a suggestion had been received from CCllr Wendy Pattison that consideration is given to applying for the harbour area to

become a conservation zone. Cllr Owen reported that it was the view of the County Councillor that this is an iconic part of the village and the AONB were also seeking the views of local residents to this proposal. Councillor Pattison is prepared to support the residents' wishes and obtain the necessary funds for the work it was reported.

The Parish Meeting unanimously voted against making any part of Craster a Conservation area.

- 7. Listing of community assets.** Cllr Owen put forward the proposal that the Parish look into buildings/areas that they believe could be listed as community assets. The main benefit of doing this would be to provide some limited protection to the community should assets they use go on the market for sale.

The Clerk reported that the Parish would have to prove that the assets were used by the public and that they added to the ongoing social wellbeing of the Parish.

The meeting agreed that assets should be considered, however there was concern expressed that doing too much of this may not be in the best interests of the Parish. It was resolved that the parish Council would review all assets.

Open Forum. A member of the public asked if the Parish Council would looking into funding the replacement of the waste bins in the Parish and Cllr Owen said that the Council would look into this.

Another member of the public asked if the Parish Council would look into purchasing some litter pickers for those living in the Parish who were interested in keeping the area clean and tidy. The Clerk advised that NCC may be able to provide these and that he would correspond directly with the County Council to try and procure some.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contribution to the work of the Parish Council.