

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 17th October 2018

Councillors Present

Chair: Cllr Ann Fettis

Parish Council members: Elizabeth Pearson, Rosie Robson, Martin Smith, Margaret Brooks and Jennifer Doherty

In Attendance: 3 guest speakers and 6 members of the public

Clerk: Adam Shanley

Questions from the public: no questions were received from the members of the Public present.

2361 Declarations of interest

Cllr Rosie Robson declared an interest in respect of planning application 18/03379/FUL

2362 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Green, Cummins and Pattison.

2363 Presentation by iNorthumberland on mobile phone coverage

Officer from NCC iNorthumberland department Nathan attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of a new project helping to provide mobile phone signal to the communities of Craster and Dunstan. Nathan advised that Craster had been identified as a target area for the rollout of mobile phone coverage in North Northumberland at a recent conference in Edinburgh. He advised that he intended on speaking with the organisation WIG to see what the financial implications would be of providing a mast, which mobile phone suppliers could then use to provide coverage to the community and its visitors. Cllrs Smith and Robson proposed that the Parish Council take this project forward and the Clerk advised that he would invite Nathan and a representative from WIG along to the next Annual Parish meeting on 7th November to discuss this with the community.

2364 Presentation by Victoria Telford on Bark Pots development

Victoria Telford and her colleague Keith, Architects working on the latest Bark Pots development proposals, attended the meeting to discuss the proposals with the Parish Council and address the concerns raised in the original application. Cllr Margaret Brooks asked for further information about the materials being used and the architects confirmed that the development would be using local whinstone as the material of choice in order to be sympathetic to the local area. Cllr Rosie Robson asked about the proposed 'Northumbrian approach' to the development and what this meant and also inquired about the eco-credentials of the new scheme.

There were also concerns expressed about the parking on the site. The architect advised that whilst their scheme was in keeping with the requirements they had been advised on, that they would look at any other proposals the Parish Council may have. Cllr Smith advised that he felt that plots 5 and 6 should site further back in the development as a better layout to the scheme.

The Chair thanked the architects for their time and the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council would be formulating their response to the new scheme this evening.

2365 Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of 20th September 2018

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th September 2018 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors present.

Proposer: Cllr Martin Smith

Seconder: Cllr Elizabeth Pearson

The Chair signed the Minutes.

2366 Matters arising

No matters arising from the previous meeting or the Minutes.

2367 Financial matters

a. **Bank Balance** – £8,353.09 at 11/10/2018

b. **Received since 20/09/2018**

Contribution towards bin at Proctors Stead - £75.00

VAT reimbursement - £2,659.72

c. **Spent since 20/09/2018**

Clerk wages & expenses (Aug-Sept 2018) - £240.00

PAYE (Aug-Sept 2018) - £60.00

Playdale Ltd - £947.52

Mark Green (Reimbursement for new laptop for Clerk) - £609.98

Wybone (Purchase of Bins) - £997.20

d. **Payments required**

Clerk wages & expenses (Sept-Oct 2018) - £240.00

PAYE (Sept-Oct 2018) - £60.00

The Clerk advised that he had written to HMRC to enquire about the VAT refund as the Parish Council had submitted a refund request of closer to £3,200 and ask why the amount returned is less than expected. The Clerk advised that he would keep the Parish Council updated on this.

2368 County Council report – in County Councillor Wendy Pattison's absence, the Chair asked all present to direct all queries about the report circulated to the County Councillor directly.

2369 Public Right of Way – Councillors were asked to consider a report by NCC on a requested amendment to Public Right of Way of Public Footpath No. 5. The Parish Council agreed to approve this request, however they would like to see a caveat to this that a gate be installed and better signage illustrating the change to the Right of Way. The Clerk advised that he would respond to the County Council footpath officer who had requested their view on this as part of an informal consultation.

2370 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee – Parish Council EJBC representatives Cllrs Robson and Pearson provided a verbal update on recent projects on the Committee. Cllr Robson advised that work was progressing slowly with the Cemetery House project. She advised that, due to the outlay of the works, the Burial Committee may be left £2,000 down if grants were not forthcoming. As such, it may be the case that the committee will need to make a joint grant application to all three Parish Councils involved with the committee to seek this funding. This will be in 2020 if so. Cllr Robson also advised that the committee had recently co-opted members to assist with the grant applications only. Cllr Pearson advised that there had been a good attendance at the recent meeting and there continues to be good feedback for Stephen Tennant the contractor on the work that he is doing to maintain the area. Cllr Pearson advised that there may be a Friends of the Cemetery group starting and if anybody knew of anyone with free time who would like to volunteer, please ask them to get in touch with the committee.

2371 Planning Matters –

18/01592/FUL | Re-siting of a static caravan | Land North West Of Dunstan Steads Farm Embleton Northumberland.

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.

18/02326/CCD | Expansion of existing car park area at Craster plus provision of 2 EV charging bays | Upper Car Park Craster Quarry Car Park West End Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TW

18/02966/FUL | Proposed rear porch extension and new conservatory to lounge. Remove external rendered skin and replace in natural stone. Clad rear rendered walls in grained light grey shiplap boarding. Remove concrete roof tiles and replace with slate. Remove brown stained windows and doors and replace in dark grey aluminium. | Avala The Skeres Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TN

18/03379/FUL | Erection of 1 residential unit (C3 use) | Land West Of 15 Dunstanburgh Road Dunstanburgh Road Craster Northumberland

The Clerk advised that there were no further developments on ongoing planning matters, however the Council would need to formulate their response to planning applications **18/03379/FUL** and **18/01976/REM** this evening. On **18/03379/FUL**, the Council decided to object to this application siting the concerns already expressed by Highways as the potential road safety implications such a scheme would have on the community and in particular for residents using Dunstanburgh Road.

On **18/01976/REM** the Parish Council decided to respond that, whilst the new scheme was an improvement of the original, they would seek to have the scheme brought down from 6 dwellings to 5 to allow for more parking space on the site, insist that Whinstone is the material of choice used on the development and that the dwellings be used for permanent residents only rather than as holiday lets.

2372 Christmas Tree – Councillors were asked to consider plans for the festive season.

Cllr Pearson reported that Hobberlaw Plants, where the Parish Council usually gets their Christmas tree from, had recently changed ownership. Cllr Smith advised that the Parish Council usually sets a budget of around £150 for the project, with a donation also coming from Craster Community Trust for the purchase of the Tree for the community. The Clerk advised that he would seek the relevant quotes for a 15ft tree. Cllr Robson advised that a neighbouring Parish Council had reported that they had been able to secure such a tree from the Woodland Trust free of charge. The Clerk advised that he would look to see whether Craster could do the same as a first point of call and would report back to the Parish Council.

It was also decided that the lighting of the tree and a choir service singing should take place at the Memorial Hall on Friday 7th December at 17:30pm. Cllr Brooks advised that she would look to get the Hall booked for this date and would also check with Howick Coastal Choir to see if they would be coming along to sing Carols.

Cllr Brooks advised that people last year gave very generously to donations.

2373 Noticeboards – Cllr Robson asked if the community could have a noticeboard to stick posters up for events. She had recently struggled to gain access to the existing boards.

The Clerk advised that he would look to get more keys cut for accessing the existing boards.

It was also decided that the old noticeboard should be reinstalled on the wall in Craster. Cllr Pearson advised that her husband would be willing to carry out some maintenance repairs to the old noticeboards to facilitate this.

2374 LEADER Grant update – Cllr Margaret Brooks provided the Council with an update following the recent LEADER inspection which had taken place on the path.

Cllr Brooks advised that the inspectors had requested an update on when the map would be installed. The Council decided to go with the supplier “Image by Hand” for the creation of the map, having received 3 different quotations and this one being the best value for money.

Cllr Brooks also advised the inspectors had asked for better signage of the path and for way markers to be installed as part of the project too. The Clerk advised that he would write to the footpath officer at NCC to try and acquire these.

It was also reported that there had also been instances of visitors getting lost on Whin Hill trying to find the car park. The Clerk advised that he would look to get a “Car Park This Way” sign installed to try and resolve this issue.

It was reported that the path coming down to harbour lights was retaining water and, when cold weather set in, was freezing over and becoming very slippery. The Clerk advised that he would ask the footpath officer to install coming whinstone chippings to resolve this issue.

A member of the public also advised that the coastal footpath between the Jolly Fisherman and the exit from the play park (on the seaside side) had eroded and was becoming dangerous for walkers, especially as cyclists were using the path when they shouldn't be.

Cllr Brooks also advised that the inspectors of the path had asked about the repairs to the dry-stone wall. Cllr Brooks had advised them that this was in hand with the Council as part of Stage 2 of the project.

2375 Mobile phone coverage – Councillors decided to proceed with this further and seek the community's views on this as mentioned above.

2376 Bins – The Clerk advised that the bins had been ordered based on the Council's preferred choice and supplier Wybone. The amount agreed as a budget for this project was £1500 and the Clerk reported that the overall cost of replacing the most urgent 4 bins in the Parish had come in at almost half this amount as he had been able to get a discount from the supplier and there had been a generous donation of £75.00 from the business at Proctors Steads towards the cost of the bin being installed then. The Clerk reported that the bins would be delivered to the NCC Alnwick Depot on October 26th.

2377 Transparency Fund update – a verbal report was provided by the Clerk in Cllr Mark Green's absence. The Clerk reported that the direct debit had been set up with the supplier of the phone line and WIFI for the Hall and that these would both be installed by 18th October as originally advised. The Clerk also reported that he is currently in conversation with iNorthumberland to see if the Council could access any funding for this as this was for the benefit of the entire community.

2378 Craster Community Trust report – Parish Council representative on CCT Cllr Rosie Robson provided a verbal report on recent activity with the Trust. She advised firstly that the postcode of the Hall needed to be changed from Heigh Wynd to Whin Hill. The Clerk advised that he would look to have this amended. Cllr Robson also reported that the damp in the ceiling of the Hall had been looked into and it was felt that this was now sorted.

CCT were also looking to amend the times of their meetings so that these took place every 2 months now instead.

Cllr Robson also reported that, following the LEADER project to update the play park, the CCT were relatively low on funds. As such, a fundraising Halloween party was being organised for the 24th October. The Clerk advised that he would put this on the Council website.

Cllr Robson also reported that there would be a Health and Safety update to Hall users.

Cllr Ann Fettis confirmed that she would be representing the parish Council at the upcoming WI Dinner.

2379 Correspondence received

Correspondence received from a visitor to Craster to complain about disabled access within the village. Clerk updated the Council that Paul Jones, Director of Local Services had looked into the matter and advised that, as part of the works on the expansion to the car park, the County Council will undertake a review of safer disabled access around Craster.

Correspondence received from Cllr Wendy Pattison about the free trees from the Woodland Trust – Council decided to look into having a Christmas Tree provided by the Trust. The Clerk to update the Council on this at the November meeting.

Correspondence received from Mrs Marian Gallon requesting that the Parish Council purchase stronger magnets for the noticeboards. The Parish Council decided to change the position of the noticeboards so that they open sideways on rather than upwards, which was proving difficult for those wanting to post something on the noticeboards. It was also decided that the old noticeboards would allow for more space to post details of events and goings-on in the community.

2380 Parish Council Administration – Post box for the Hall. Cllr Smith advised that he had purchased the post box and this had now been installed.

The Clerk also advised that there had been no applications to date for the vacancies currently on the Parish Council.

2381 Items for Next Agenda – the Clerk reminded everyone to write to him directly if they would like anything on the Agenda for the upcoming November Parish Council meeting.

2382 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council is to be held at 7.00pm on 15th November 2018.

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