

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Councillors Present**

**Chair:** Cllr Ann Fettis

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

**In Attendance:** NCC Councillor Wendy Pattison and 3 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 18/02966/FUL

**2362 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Margaret Brooks.

**2363 Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were unanimously accepted as an accurate record by all Councillors present.

Proposer: Cllr Martin Smith

Seconder: Cllr Mark Green

The Chair signed the Minutes.

**2364 Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

**2365 Financial matters –**

**a. Bank Balance –** £8,473.07 at 13/09/2018

**b. Received since** 19/07/2018

NCC precept - £1,250.00

LEADER Grant repayment - £6,080.00

**c. Spent since** 19/07/2018

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

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

PAYE (July-August 2018) - £60.00

**d. Cheques required**

Clerk wages & expenses (August-September 2018) - £240.00

PAYE (August-September 2018) - £60.00

The Clerk also reported that the invoice for the piece of playground equipment the Parish Council had offered to fund had arrived and was substantially less than originally envisaged. In addition to this, the Council would not need to be charged for delivery or installation of this piece of equipment.

The Clerk also reported that he had carried out a VAT refund claim with HMRC (taking in from 01/03/2015 – present day) and the sum of nearly £2,660.00 was to be returned to the Parish Council.

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

Cllr Pattison asked for the Council's views on her offer of purchasing a Christmas Tree for Craster and Dunstan. She advised that she understands that not all Parish Councils may wish to have a tree.

However, Cllr Pattison advised that her Members Allowance is for Capital Projects only, and, to date (20th September) she was still awaiting special permission to do this as this kind of expenditure is not current policy and could be refused.

Cllr Pattison also reported that the adjacent Longhoughton Ward Parishes which lie near to the Parish of Eglington and those parishes in particular which look directly across to the wind turbines which are hugely dominant against the skyline had expected that, after 3 years total exclusivity to Eglington Parish, the Middlemoor wind farm monies would be made available to adjacent Parishes to apply for and to assist with local community projects. This appears to be not quite as straight forward as first thought and I have received several queries from outside of Eglington Parish asking for more information in regard to the terms and conditions.

The Fund was reviewed after 3 years exclusivity to Eglington Parish and was extended out to groups from adjacent communities as long as the activities that were being proposed were of benefit to Eglington residents. The fund criteria, Innogy Renewables UK Ltd, Middlemoor Windfarm Community Benefit Fund at the Community Foundation will receive £81,000 per year (index linked for 25 years from its inception in 2014) for payment of community grants to voluntary/community groups, charitable organisations and grants to individual people. The fund year is from October to September. Groups can apply for a minimum of £250 up to £81,000. Individuals can apply for a minimum of £250 up to a maximum of £2,000, subject to periodic review. Cllr Pattison reported that Individual residents within the parish of Eglington; constituted Voluntary Community Groups and Charities based within the Parish of Eglington; Consideration will also be given to constituted voluntary community groups and charities which operate outside the Parish, if, they can demonstrate that a project will benefit people living within the Parish of Eglington. Any enquiries on this, please contact 0191 2220945 for further information. Cllr Pattison also provided an update on Broadband in the area and advised that there was a company in Alnwick which provided access to Broadband and if an area receives less than 2mbps speed, each household can benefit from a £250 voucher towards the cost of broadband installation.

**2367 Local Transport Plan submissions** – Councillors were reminded that their submissions for the LTP plan for 2019 had now been submitted. 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.

The Clerk promised to provide an update on this matter as soon as he heard anything back from Highways at NCC.

**2368 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee) report** – verbal update provided by Parish Council representatives Cllr Elizabeth Pearson and Cllr Rosie Robson.

Cllr Pearson reported that the Burial committee had met with NCC Housing Officer and were keen to advance the Cemetery House project following their planning application being granted.

Cllr Pearson also reported that at the AGM, following the resignation of EJBC Chairman Mr Bryn Owen, the Committee had elected Messrs Howles and Foster-Smith to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

Cllr Robson reported that two tender submissions had been received so far for the works to the Cemetery house. The Council were keen to advance this work and Cllr Robson also reported that grant funding was available for different projects in the County and the EJBC project is one of five bidders for finance from this fund. Cllr Pearson also reported that the Committee would potentially be looking for

some grant funding for the installation of a septic tank as part of the project. Cllr Pearson reported that Stephen Tennant had made a nice job cutting the outside area back. Cllr Pearson also reported that the Clerk of the EJBC had recently been on two courses as part of his work for the Committee.

## **2369 Planning Matters –**

**18/01592/FUL** | Re-siting of a static caravan | Land North West Of Dunstan Steads Farm Embleton Northumberland. The Clerk reported that no decision has been made on this scheme but that a number of public objections had been submitted to the online portal.

**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 reported that no decision has been made on this scheme but that a number of public objections had been submitted to the online portal.

**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. Permission on this application has been GRANTED

**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. The Clerk reported that no decision has been made on this scheme but that both the Parish Council and AONB supported the scheme.

**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. The Clerk reported that no decision has been made on this scheme and the Council decided not to object to this.

**2373 Northumberland County Council Local Plan** – Councillors were asked to approve the response from the Working Party to the Draft Local Plan, however Cllr Ann Fettis advised that the Working Group had not yet had the opportunity to meet and a report on this would be provided at the next Parish Council meeting.

## **2374 Traffic Matters**

Cllr Pearson reported that she had received correspondence from a resident regarding concerns re: speed limits and potential dangers in village specifically from Tower Bank & Heugh Road/Play Park road, very poor signage; none on road. It was decided the Clerk should write to Highways to ask what options were available to resolve these matters.

Cllr Ann Fettis also raised the concerns about signage for parking/ emergency vehicle access around the holiday cottages near Whin Hill. It was decided the Clerk should also write to Highways to ask what options were available to resolve this matter too.

Cllr Mark Green also raised the concern about a planting pot blocking a public Right of Way in the Parish and an overgrown hedge in the area too. It was decided that Cllr Green would write informally to the residents and ask them to remove the planting pot and cut back the hedge in question.

**2375 LEADER Grant update** – report from Clerk updating Parish Council on LEADER project.

The Clerk reported that the LEADER fund had been repaid to the Parish Council, excluding the amount for the notice board as previously reported. Councillors advised that they had received positive feedback about the Trail over the summer. However it was requested that Purvis take another look at the path as there was still some water damage. The Clerk advised that he would look into this with the company again. Cllr Robson also advised that she would be putting together a proposal for “stage 2” of the Craster trail project. It was agreed that the official opening of the path should only take place once the dry stone walling was carried out.

The Clerk also reported that reps from the LGA and LEADER were looking to visit the site with Cllrs present. The Clerk advised that he would send out the details and we could all diarise a date for such a meeting.

It was also decided that the Clerk should seek 3 quotes for the production, printing and supply of a map for the noticeboard.

**2376 Bins** – Councillors were asked to consider an update on the renewal of the bins in the Parish. it was decided that the Council wishes to allocate £1500 to the renewal of 4 of the bins in the Parish.

The following locations were identified as the top priority areas for this: Procter Steads (where we will look to temporarily place one of the play park bins owing to recent complaints in the immediate term as bins will take a few weeks to arrive), Bottom and Top of the Craster Trail and the Top of Smithy Bank.

It was also decided that the Clerk should ask for a financial contribution towards the replacement of the bin at Procter Steads from the caravan site as a priority, owing to the number of complaints of dog fouling in the area.

**2377 RNLI Boat proposal** – Councillors were asked to consider writing formally to the RNLI to have their boat named after former Embleton Parish Cllr Adam Moody. It was agreed that the Clerk should firstly write to the Clerk of Embleton Parish Council where Adam was a former Parish Councillor and ask for their support with this proposal. Cllr Smith advised that the local RNLI were supportive of the idea.

**2378 Transparency Fund update** – Cllr Green advised that from the 17<sup>th</sup> October, the Hall would have WIFI and a phone connection. The chosen supplier being Plusnet. Once these were installed, the printer would also be installed in the Hall too. Cllr Green advised that he would work with the Clerk to set up a direct debit for payments for the broadband and phone line and a handheld phone device would also need to be purchased.

The Clerk also advised that a new laptop for Parish Council work would need to be purchased as the current laptop was no longer fit for purpose. Cllr Fettis thanked Cllr green for all his work on this and said it would make a big difference to the community to have WIFI and a phone line in their community Hall.

**2379 Craster Community Trust** – a verbal report was provided by the Parish Council representative on the Community Trust Cllr Rosie Robson. Cllr Robson advised that the Trust were looking to continue the warm hub stations which took place every Tuesday and proved very popular. The current organiser of the events is moving out of the Parish. Cllr Robson also reported that the Trust were currently working to resolve the issue of damp in the Hall and she believed this matter had now been resolved.

Cllr Ann Fettis remarked that it would be great to organise a Christmas garlands event in the Hall in the run up to Chirstmas.

**2380 Correspondence received**

Correspondence received from Mr Michael Doherty asking the Council to consider the formation of a Neighbourhood Forum with the Parish Council, Community Trust, WI and business representatives involved. A discussion on this matter took place and it was decided that the matter ought to be considered with further information at the Full Parish Annual meeting in November.

**2381 Parish Council Administration** – Post box for the Hall. Councillors were asked to consider who should have keys for this. Cllr Smith advised that he had purchased the post box and it was agreed that a set of keys should go with a member of the Trust.

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

The Clerk also asked for ideas on what should go on the Agenda for the November Annual Parish meeting. It was decided that the Neighbourhood Forum, the Leader project, the Bins, traffic matters, precept and future projects should all go on the Agenda for the November meeting.

**2382 Items for Next Agenda** – the Clerk reminded everyone to write to him directly if they would like anything on the Agenda for the upcoming October Parish Council meeting.

**2383 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council is to be held at 7.00pm on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

**Open to Public & Press**