

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 17th January 2019 – 7.00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Ann Fettis

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public, David English and Sarah Brannigan (NCC Neighbourhood Planning Officers).

Clerk: Adam Shanley

Questions from the public: none received

2381 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Green and County Cllr Wendy Pattison

2382 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received from Members.

2383 Presentation by David English, NCC Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Manager on Neighbourhood plan

David English and Sarah Brannigan attended the meeting in their capacity as NCC Neighbourhood Planning Officers.

The Chair welcomed both of them to the meeting and thanked them for attending the evening meeting outside of usual working hours.

The Clerk opened discussions by advising that David and Sarah had attended the last Annual Parish meeting to discuss the idea of setting up a Neighbourhood Forum for Craster. At this particular meeting, David reported that a Neighbourhood Forum was not possible in Northumberland as all of the County is parished and therefore any plans for introducing a Neighbourhood Plan ought to be led by the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that at the last Annual meeting, there had been enthusiasm for Craster setting up a Neighbourhood Plan. A constant issue coming up in planning considerations for the Parish - for new developments in Craster - is the issue of future occupancy and the need for more permanent residents as opposed to more holiday lets. The Clerk asked if a neighbourhood plan could help in influencing this. David advised that this could and in fact a Neighbourhood plan could be made entirely of one policy alone.

The Clerk did advise that the idea of setting up a Neighbourhood plan had been discussed in the past but had been turned down at the time.

Cllr Smith asked what the cost implications of setting up a Neighbourhood plan would be. David English advised that this could be done quickly and costs weren't really a big implication as Government grant funding was available for this and NCC would pay for the plan to go out to referendum.

Cllr Fettis asked what the next steps would be to set up a Neighbourhood plan. Sarah Brannigan advised that the Chair would need to sign an application for a Neighbourhood plan designation area to start the ball rolling on the process.

The Clerk asked whether about whether a Neighbourhood plan could influence the maximum number of times a planning application could be made without material changes. David English advised that this would not be possible.

Councillors were asked to vote on whether or not to progress a Neighbourhood plan and agreed unanimously to do so.

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David and Sarah left the meeting and the Council thanked them again for their time.

2384 Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of 15th November 2018

The Minutes of the meeting of the 15th November were agreed unanimously as a true and accurate record.

Proposer: Martin Smith

Seconder: Henry Cummins

2385 Matters Arising

Cllr Cummins asked the Parish Council and all present to be mindful of previous things which had occurred in Northumberland and in Craster and reminded everyone of the need to support those most vulnerable in the community.

2386 Financial matters

a. **Bank Balance** – £6,469.10 at 12/01/2019

b. **Received since 15/11/2018**

Donation towards bins project - £75.00

c. **Spent since 15/11/2018**

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

PAYE (Oct-Nov 2018) - £60.00

Royal British Legion - £16.00

NCC Insurance payment - £177.79

Contractor payment (grass cutting) - £450.00

Contractor payment (installation of bins) - £200.00

Hobberlaw plants (Christmas tree) - £130.00

Clerk wages & expenses (Nov-Dec 2018) - £240.00

PAYE (Nov-Dec 2018) - £60.00

Councillors also wished to express a note of thanks to Hobberlaw plants for providing the wonderful Christmas tree and to all those who helped put this up and decorate it.

The Clerk also advised that a payment had been made to the Community Trust for the use of the Hall for the November Annual Parish meeting. The cost of this being £24.00 in total.

2387 County Councillor's report

In Cllr Pattison's absence, the Chair asked all Members to direct any queries they may have on Wendy's report directly to Wendy in writing.

2388 Aln Valley Greenway development

The Clerk advised that he had received correspondence from Adrian Hinchcliffe, in his capacity as AONB representative for the Parish, to ask if the Parish Council would support the Aln Valley Greenway development.

The Clerk advised that Adrian hoped we would support the scheme so as to help green tourism in Northumberland.

The Clerk had been advised of the following from Adrian:

- A prime reason for creating a continuous safe direct 'Greenway' between Alnwick and the coast as soon as possible is because the most direct route, the A1068 is entirely unsuitable for use by vulnerable walkers, cyclists and horse riders with its unsighted curves and brows and constant speedy use by local traffic of all sizes

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- Greenways are based on a popular and proven access model which works well.
 - The Aln Valley Greenway will provide a shared-use traffic-free path between Lionheart Station and Alnmouth Station some sections of which may occasionally be used by local farmers to access fields
 - The Greenway will provide a safe direct commuting route to/ from Alnmouth Station which will lower use of the A1068 by commuter vehicles and in turn, reduce car parking pressure at Alnmouth station
 - The Greenway will provide a safe walking and cycling link between Lionheart Station and Alnmouth Station for residents and visitors
 - The Greenway will provide a safe walking and cycling link between the town of Alnwick and a number of coastal villages, the Northumberland coastline and in particular to / from the Coast & Castles Cycle Route
 - The Greenway will be used to access local walking and cycling routes currently not easily available, if at all
 - If agreed, with appropriate safety measures, the Greenway will provide a link route to / from existing bridleways for horse riders and hopefully, with landowner agreement, to some new bridleways
 - High quality traffic-free routes mainly attract families and older people – two groups with spending power
 - Walkers and cyclists are attracted to safe, level shared-use traffic-free Greenways; they need to buy food and drink and require accommodation on their travels which in turn provides employment for local people which is vital to sustain small community businesses to the benefit of all
- The Aln Valley Greenway will improve quality of life for local residents and visitors, be an opportunity to improve health and wellbeing for all users and provide safe access to nature
- Because of its location, boundaries and agreements, the path will have minimum impact on farming practice yet benefit so many
- The Council agreed unanimously to send a letter of support for the scheme.

2389 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee) – Cllrs Robson and Pearson provided an update on the EJBC as Council representatives. The Council were informed that the Join Burial Committee had been successful in receiving a grant towards the renovation of the Cemetery House and were keen to press on with their application to the Public Work Loans Board for a loan of £25,000 for the same project.

Cllr Robson advised that a meeting would be taking place with the EJBC, Parish Council representatives and Stephen Rickett (Chief Officer of NALC) to answer any queries the three Parish Councils had on the project.

Some members felt that they couldn't vote on whether to proceed with the loan without further information. The Chair asked if an extraordinary meeting could be called of the Parish Council after this meeting, in light of the need for a swift decision on this following receipt of all the information. It was agreed unanimously that such an extraordinary meeting should be called to vote on whether to proceed with the loan.

2390 Internal auditor appointment

Councillors formally agreed the appointment of Fraser Suffield as the Parish Council's internal auditor for 2018/19.

2391 Planning Matters

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

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

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The Clerk advised that there were no updates regarding application **18/01592/FUL** and also advised that planning application **18/03379/FUL** had been refused following the meeting of the local Area Council. Cllr Margaret Brooks had represented the Parish Council at this meeting.

2392 Craster Trail update

A verbal update from the Clerk on recent works to the Craster Trail was provided. The Clerk advised that he was still awaiting a reply from Ivan at NCC re additional funding for other works outside the LEADER project.

The Clerk also advised that Margaret Brooks had been working closely with the designer of the map and a copy of this would hopefully be ready soon for the Council to approve.

2393 Bins Appeal

Councillors considered a way forward for the bins project.

The Clerk advised that there had been much enthusiasm for the Parish Council to replace the bins in the Parish and indeed a number of offers of contributions towards the project had been received.

The Council agreed to do the following on the bins:

Bins to be removed:

1 outside bark pots

3 at the harbour

3 outside the play park

New bins:

1 at harbour where wooden frame currently is (the frame to be removed)

1 by the picnic area (to account for the three being removed outside the playpark)

1 by the Jolly Fisherman

1 at South Acres

1 at Craster bus shelter

The Clerk advised that this work would not be undertaken until after April 1st however as we have received a very kind offer of funding from Cllr Wendy Pattison to carry out this work and we have also received funding from some local businesses towards this project too.

The Clerk advised that he would consult with NCC on this and report back to the next Full Parish Council meeting as it is likely that this would be carried out by NCC.

2394 Precept

The Clerk advised Councillors of the need to decide on the precept request for 2019/20. The Clerk reminded Members that this matter had been discussed at the last Annual Parish meeting, where the Parish was consulted and the figure of £4,500.00 for 2019/20 had been discussed.

Councillors formally agreed the figure of £4,500.00 as their precept request for 2019/20.

2395 Broadband for the Hall

The Clerk advised that he had received correspondence from Cllr Mark Green on the installation of WIFI to the Hall to state that he had met with the contractors putting in the cables, they had finished laying an underground line up to the west end of the village hall. They are due to complete their bit tomorrow had estimated that Openreach would do their bit in the next

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week. The Clerk reported that Cllr green would be keeping the Parish Council updated on an installation date.

2396 Craster Community Trust

No CCT report was provided owing to the Trust not having had their meeting for January yet.

2397 Correspondence received

The Clerk advised that he had received correspondence from a non-Parishioner regarding a tragic accident, which had resulted in the death of a young man over the weekend. The individual had asked about putting a memorial bench in Craster for the young man. The Clerk advised that he had pointed the person contacting in the right direction for such a request.

2398 Parish Council Administration

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the need to fill the two vacancies on the Parish Council.

2399 Items for Next Agenda

The Clerk reminded Councillors that if they'd like anything on the Agenda for the February meeting, to contact him in writing about this.

2400 Date and time of next meeting – The next meeting of the Council is to be held at 7:00pm on 21st February 2019.

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