

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 19th September 2019 – 7.00pm

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members:

Elizabeth Pearson, Margaret Brooks, Mark Green, Neil Wallworth and Jennifer Doherty

In attendance: 3 members of the public.

Clerk: Adam Shanley

Question from members of the public.

A resident asked about footpath safety and asked whether Northumberland County Council may be able to look into this further. The Clerk advised that he would continue to report this to the local services team at Northumberland County Council.

2380 Apologies for absence

None received.

2381 Declarations of interest

The Clerk declared an interest in the item relating to the Neighbourhood Plan as the proposal for professional fees under consideration had been received from the same consultant who completed the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan.

2363 Co-option of a Parish Councillor

The Clerk advised that he had received a request from Mr Michael Craster to be co-opted on to the Parish Council. The Clerk had invited Mr Craster along to the meeting but he was unable to attend. The Chair proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in respect of request a CV from Mr Craster, which was agreed unanimously. Cllr Wallworth proposed Mr Craster be co-opted on to the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Elizabeth Pearson and unanimously agreed by the Council.

2364 Confirmation of the Minutes for the Meeting of 24th July 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2365 Matters Arising

None received.

2366 Financial matters

a. **Bank Balance** – £7,352.49

b. **Received since 24/07/2019**

Parish Council precept - £2,250.00

c. **Spent since 24/07/2019**

Clerk wages & expenses - £320.00

PAYE - £80.00

PAYE - £100.00

Plusnet - £39.00

NCC insurance - £175.07

d. **Payments required**

Clerk wages & expenses (Aug 2019 - Sept 2019) - £240.00

PAYE (Aug 2019 - Sept 2019) - £60.00

NCC charge for removing bins - £79.70

2367 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee)

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Cllr Elizabeth Pearson provided an update to the Council as Parish Council representative on Embleton Joint Burial Committee. Cllr Pearson advised that the selected contractor was still committed to the task of renovating the Cemetery house. Work is due to start on the renovation by the contractor at the end of the year. Cllr Pearson advised that the contractor had been provided with a set of keys and had carried out a survey of the property. All was looking good for an end of year start.

2368 Planning Matters

19/01508/FUL | Outline application for erection of four dwelling houses (Some Matters Reserved) | Land South Of Dunstan Hall Dunstan Village Dunstan Northumberland. No updates on this application.

19/01388/FUL | Front and rear extensions to house; conversion of outbuildings | Hare House 6 Dunstan Square Dunstan NE66 3TG. The applicant attended the meeting to discuss this application with Parish Councillors. Councillors felt that the revised scheme under consideration was an improved one from the last application which was removed at the applicant's request. It was **agreed** to note this application with no objections.

19/03577/BT | proposal to remove phone box at Dunstan. It was **agreed** to object to this application and to request that the phone box remain in place.

2369 Craster Trail update

Cllr M Brooks presented the latest version of the map. Councillors felt this was a much-improved version and Cllr Brooks advised that the final copy should be with the Council at the October Full Parish Council meeting for final sign off. The Council thanked Cllr Brooks for all her great work on this. The Chair reported that former Parish Council Rosie Robson had arranged a volunteer day through the coastal care team and they would soon be repairing the stone wall. The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council had agreed to fund the cost of food for the volunteers. The Parish Council thanked Rosie Robson for her work on this. The Chair reported that he had discussed the installation of the gates with the chosen contractor and this would hopefully be completed by end of next month. The Clerk advised that he would thereafter be submitting a right of way application to the County Council for the trail.

2370 Update on the bins

The Clerk advised that the bins had been ordered through the County Council and seven new bins ought to arrive in due course. The Clerk also advised that he had had to request that the two bins in the playpark be removed by NCC as they had become damaged and rats were gaining access to these bins.

2371 Advertising A frames in Craster

The Chair advised that an issue had been raised with the Parish Council regarding a local business's use of land which belonged to the wildlife trust. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should write to this business and request that this no longer happen.

2372 Proposal by Cllr N Wallworth on Boy racers

Cllr Wallworth highlighted the issue of the boy racers in the Parish and advised that he felt that more CCTV was needed. It was felt that this was beyond the scope of the Parish Council to organise. Furthermore, the Clerk advised that he had been trying for some time to have the local police officer at the Parish Council meeting but had so far received no reply at all. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write on behalf of the Parish Council to the Police and Crime Commissioner to request that urgent action be taken on this issue.

2373 Proposal to reduce the number of seats on Craster Parish Council

The Clerk highlighted that there had been some difficulty for some time now in filling the full number of seats on the Parish Council and asked whether the Council would consider

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reducing the number of seats on the Parish Council. It was **agreed** to keep the number of seats the same.

2374 Craster Community Trust

No report was provided to the meeting from the Parish Council representative, however Cllr Mark Green advised that the Trust were currently in the process of seeking new speakers for the cinema events.

2375 Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk advised that he had now completed as far as he was able the draft copy of the Neighbourhood Plan. A pre-consultation letter had gone out to all residents with overwhelming support for the proposed Plan. The Clerk advised that there was now a need to seek professional support for the remaining stages of the Plan. As part of this, the Clerk advised that he would be seeking a grant from Locality to help complete the Plan. The Clerk also advised that he had received a proposal and a quote from one consultant to assist with the remaining stages of delivering the Neighbourhood Plan. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should seek two further quotations and submit an application to Locality for the grant. The Chair thanked the Clerk for all the work carried out to date on the Neighbourhood Plan.

2376 Proposal on resident only car parking

The Clerk advised that he was still receiving complaints about off street parking in Craster village and the advice he consistently receives from NCC officers is that Craster needs a resident only car parking scheme in place. It was **agreed** to move this to the next stages and ask NCC to consult on this proposal.

2377 County Councillor's report

Cllr Wendy Pattison provided a report as County Councillor. On Heugh Road and Heugh Wynd, Cllr Pattison advised that she had been out in Craster during August and had spoken with residents regarding their concerns about speeding traffic on both roads. After speaking with NCC traffic management, the SLOW sign on Heugh road is to be renewed and consideration was given to installing two new SLOW signs near to the Church and also on Heugh Wynd. However, after speaking with a Senior Traffic Manager, Cllr Pattison advised that a suggestion has been made to install 20mph signage in these particular areas.

Cllr Pattison also reminded the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council of her 9 Parish meeting on 4th October.

2378 Correspondence received

Correspondence received from resident as follows:

Parking signs. The new parking regulations in the quarry state charges for 24, 48 and 72 hours, meaning cars can clearly be left in there overnight (good, given how tight the village is). So can the 'No Overnight Parking' signs be removed please?

Dog Fouling. This is getting worse and worse and is, in my opinion, directly degrading the status and appeal of the village. Over recent visits I have experienced piles of excrement on the open drives of properties on Whin Hill, on the gravel and verges at the top of Whin Hill, and significantly on the footpath to the quarry. What action can the Parish Council take? The first time somebody is caught and fined, or named and shamed, then news will soon get about. There needs to be a great deterrent in terms of signs, a cheap concealed CCTV camera, and occasional plain clothes warden visits.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk report these issues to Northumberland County Council and ask for further action to be taken.

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2379 Items for Next Agenda

The Chair reminded Councillors to write to the Clerk with any new Agenda items for the next Parish Council meeting.

2380 Date and time of next meeting

17th October 2019 – 19:00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

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