

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 20th February 2020 – 6.00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

Agenda

The Parish Council may, by resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960; S1, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings; and where such a resolution is passed, this Act shall not require the meeting to be open to the public during proceedings to which the resolution applies.

THE MEETING WILL OPEN WITH PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 2361 Apologies for absence**
- 2362 Declarations of interest**
- 2363 Discussion with Mr Philip Soderquest, NCC Head of Housing and Public Protection on social housing allocation.**
- 2364 Confirmation of the Minutes for the meeting of 16th January 2020**
- 2365 Matters Arising**
- 2366 Financial matters**
 - a. **Bank Balance** – £11,683.19
 - b. **Received since 16/01/2020**
 - HMRC VAT refund - £429.12
 - NCC grant (Cllr Wendy Pattison) - £2,269.68
 - Voluntary precept contribution from holiday lets - £300.00
 - c. **Spent since 16/01/2020**
 - Clerk wages & expenses (Dec 2019 – Jan 2020) - £320.00
 - PAYE (Dec 2019 – Jan 2020) - £80.00
 - Shoreline Café (Food for volunteers on stone wall) - £30.00
 - Plusnet (Internet) - £39.00
 - d. **Payments required**
 - Clerk wages & expenses (Jan 2020 – Feb 2020) - £320.00
 - PAYE (Jan 2020 – Feb 2020) - £80.00
 - Wybone (new bins for the Parish area) - £1,645.44
- 2367 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee)** – update from Council representatives on EJBC.
- 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 – **APPEAL FOLLOWING REFUSAL**
 - 19/04842/FUL** | 2 storey side extension and single storey rear extension with enclosed balcony above. | 9 Heugh Road Craster NE66 3TJ – **PERMITTED**
 - 20/00243/OUT** | Outline application (Some Matters Reserved) for erection of three dwelling houses with private gardens and parking. Shared access is to be provided via an existing access and driveway which is to be moved northward to improve visual lines | Land North And East Of Dunstan House Dunstan Northumberland - **REGISTERED**
- 2369 Craster Trail update** – discussion on map and drystone wall for the Trail.
- 2370 Craster Community Trust** – report from Parish Council representative
- 2371 Neighbourhood Plan** – update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and feedback from the Regulation 14 consultation.

- 2372 Recent footpath concerns in Craster** – verbal update from the Clerk following discussions with NCC footpaths officer
- 2373 Preparation for meeting with Cabinet Member for Local Services**
- 2374 County Councillor's report** – circulated for Questions to County Councillor Wendy Pattison.
- 2375 Items for Next Agenda**
- 2376 Date and time of next meeting**
19th March 2020 – 19:00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 16th January 2020 – 7.00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members:

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

In attendance: 6 members of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Clerk: Adam Shanley

Queries from members of the public:

A member of the public raised the issue of a new iron gate across the path/bridleway that continues up from Whin Hill and curves round the back of the village, past the substation and along to the Howick Scar Heugh gate. The land is part of Craster Estates and there was some confusion as to who and why this gate has been put across the path.

A member of the public also raised the issue of the steps which form part of the path that comes down from Harbour Lights, across the stream and up the bank behind the RNLI hut to the road. There was concern about this path being dangerous for pedestrians.

The Clerk advised that he would again chase these issues with the footpaths officer at NCC to see what can be done.

2377 Apologies for absence

None received.

2378 Declarations of interest

None received.

2379 Confirmation of the Minutes for the meeting of 21st November 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2380 Matters Arising

None received.

2381 Financial matters

a.	Bank Balance – £9,153.39	
b.	Received since 21/11/2019	
	Locality grant (Neighbourhood Plan) -	£5,700.00
c.	Spent since 21/11/2019	
	HMRC	£80.00
	Clerk (Wages Oct 2019- Nov 2019)	£320.00
	Plusnet	£39.00
	RBL Poppy Appeal (Wreath)	£16.00
	Stableyard (grass cutting and fence)	£776.00
	Hobberlaw plants (Christmas tree)	£130.00
	HMRC	£100.00
	Clerk (Wages Nov 2019- Dec 2019)	£400.00
	JO-ANNE G LTD	£720.00
	Plusnet	£39.00
	CCT	£24.00
d.	Payments required	

Clerk wages & expenses (Dec 2019 – Jan 2020) - £320.00
PAYE (Dec 2019 – Jan 2020) - £80.00

2382 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee)

Cllr E Pearson and Cllr M Brooks provided an update on the Burial Committee as Parish Council representatives.

Cllr E Pearson advised that the asbestos survey had been carried on the Cemetery House and nothing significant had been identified. Cllr E Pearson also advised that the crack to the outside wall of the property is still being looked into.

Cllr E Pearson advised that the contractor is due to begin renovation of the property on 1st February 2020 and the criteria for letting out the property is being prepared by the burial committee.

Cllr M Green asked if the Parish Council could see the criteria agreed by the Committee on letting out the property. Cllr E Pearson advised that she would query this with the Committee but the property is definitely to be let to a local family.

Cllr E Pearson also advised that the burial committee would be asking for a precept for a first time in a number of years to retain the cemetery as a special place for local families to respect those who have passed away. Cllr E Pearson advised that the burial committee was a unique committee, whose work relied on the burial funds and the committee regularly receives good feedback from local families at the good condition of the cemetery.

The Chair thanked Cllrs E Pearson and M Brooks for their report.

2383 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 – **APPEAL FOLLOWING REFUSAL**

19/03819/FUL | Proposed replacement of front/rear extensions to house; conversion of outhouses; replacement of garage. | Hare House 6 Dunstan Square Dunstan NE66 3TG - **PERMITTED**

19/03577/BT | proposal to remove phone box at Dunstan - **REFUSED**

19/04217/FUL | The installation of 11. no all-weather pitches within the existing Camping and Caravanning Site | The Camping and Caravanning Club Dunstan Hill Dunstan Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TQ – **PERMITTED**

19/04842/FUL | 2 storey side extension and single storey rear extension with enclosed balcony above. | 9 Heugh Road Craster NE66 3TJ - **REGISTERED**

2384 Craster Trail update

Cllr M Brooks advised that she had received no communication from the company involved in designing the map and it now appears that the company is no longer trading. Cllr M Brooks advised that she would continue to try and contact the company or see if an alternative company can be found to start the work again.

Cllr M Brooks also advised that the dry stone wall volunteers had really appreciated the Parish Council funding the food on the voluntary day. The Chair proposed that the Parish Council continue to do this for future volunteer days and this was agreed by the Parish Council.

2385 Craster Community Trust

Cllr M Craster provided an update to the Parish Council on the Community Trust as the official representative of the Parish Council.

Cllr M Craster advised that the Christmas pantomime had been a huge success with the theatre company exceeding all expectations.

Cllr M Craster also advised that work had commenced on the new website for the Community Trust and this should be ready for Easter.

Cllr M Craster advised that the Trust had also submitted a grant application for £10,000 towards work to the Hall and, in particular the kitchen.

Cllr M Craster also reminded everyone that the Craster Ceilidh would be taking place on Saturday 16th February 2020.

2386 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors formally agreed the pre-submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan along with the Housing Background Paper to go out to Regulation 14 (public) consultation.

Councillors also agreed that the consultation drop-in event should take place on 8th February 2020, starting at 09:00am

The Chair also advised that the Clerk must be paid for his many hours work on the Plan.

The Chair, the Clerk and Cllr M Craster agreed to be present at the consultation drop-in event.

It was agreed that the Head of Housing at Northumberland County Council should be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to answer specific queries on housing.

2387 Update on actions arising from Annual Parish meeting on 25th November –

The Clerk advised that the police had been in touch to state that as there were no reports of boy racers in Craster, they could now not support the request to have CCTV installed in the car park. The Police advice is for members of the public to report all incidents of such crimes to 101.

The Clerk also advised that the parking department at the County Council is considering the proposal of resident only car parking following the agreement at the Annual Parish meeting to carry out a consultation on the plans.

The Clerk also advised that Cllr Glen Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Local Services at NCC and Paul Jones, Director of Local Services at NCC would be attending the March Full Parish Council meeting to discuss the motion at the annual Parish meeting on the income from the quarry car park going back into community.

2388 NCC libraries consultation

The Clerk advised that Northumberland County Council (NCC) was about to embark on a public consultation with the residents of Northumberland to help decide the future of library services provided by Northumberland County Council. This will cover both branch libraries and the mobile library service across the county as a whole. The Clerk advised that the Library Service needs to be redesigned to

- clearly identify its priorities for future provision, ensuring that it is a 'comprehensive and efficient' service
- determine the most effective way of delivering those priorities based on evidenced and agreed need
- deliver the national framework of Universal Offers pertinent to local needs and wants
- contribute more directly to the County Council's vision

It was agreed that Councillors should provide their feedback to the Clerk to provide a formal response to this consultation.

2389 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2019-2020

Councillors agreed to the appointment of Fraser Suffield as the Internal Auditor for this year's financial accounts.

2390 Parish Council Precept

Councillors agreed a precept of £6,000 for the financial year 2020/21.

Councillors also agreed a letter to all holiday lets requesting a voluntary contribution to the Parish Council precept.

2391 County Councillor's report

County Councillor Wendy Pattison provided a report to the Parish Council on recent activity at the County Council.

Cllr Wendy Pattison advised that chicanes are proposed to be introduced at Chilton Bank.

Cllr Wendy Pattison asked whether the Parish Council would like to have a meeting with local MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan to discuss the issue of business rate relief on holiday lets and also the issue of the lack of mobile phone coverage in Craster. The

Parish Council thanked Cllr Pattison for this and agreed they would like to have a meeting with the MP.

2392 Report to Council on meeting in relation to anaerobic digester

The Chair advised that he had attended a meeting with an NCC officer along with other local residents and groups at the home of Rosie Robson to look into the issue of installing an anaerobic digester in Craster. At present, the officer is scoping the proposal and more details would be made available soon on the proposal.

2393 Items for Next Agenda

The Chair reminded Councillors to contact the Parish Clerk to have any items on the Full Council Agenda in February.

2394 Date and time of next meeting

20th February 2020 – 19:00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall.

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

Craster Parish Council - Financial Position @ 14th February 2020			
RECEIPTS			This Year
	Precept		£ 4,500.00
	Bank/VAT		£ -
	Refunds		£ 501.12
	Misc		£ 8,269.68
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 13,270.80
PAYMENTS			This Year
	Salary		£ 3,360.00
	HMRC		£ 840.00
	Grants/ Donations		£ -
	Travel		£ -
	Postage Etc		£ -
	Burial Cmttee		£ -
	Admin		£ -
	Misc		£ 2,898.61
	VAT		£ -
	Bank		£ -
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 7,098.61
	Increase/Decrease in Funds		£ 6,172.19
	Funds at start of the year		£ 5,511.00
	Funds at end of the year		£ 11,683.19



CRASTER PARISH COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Wendy Pattison

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk - Tel. 07779 983072
and also on Facebook – Cllr Wendy Pattison

Craster Parish

Potholes – I have reported to NCC Highways a number of potholes in around the Longhoughton Ward. However, please don't hesitate to report them as a Parish Council or as a member of the public on the Northumberland County Council Website
<http://mapreport.northumberland.gov.uk/potholes/>

AONB – I have recently been appointed as a member of the Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership which was first formed in 2003. I have replaced Alnwick County Councillor, Robbie Moore, who was elected as an MP for Keighley and Ilkley at the December 2019 General Election. I look forward to helping and ensuring that the natural beauty of the Northumberland coast is conserved and enhanced.

Public rights of way - Northumberland County Council

On a restricted **BYWAY**, you have **ALL** the rights of a bridleway. In addition, you can take a non-mechanically propelled vehicle. On a **BYWAY OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC**, **ALL** users have a right to use the path, including those in mechanically propelled vehicles.

The county council, as highway authority, is responsible for asserting and protecting the rights of the public to use public rights of way. They ensure that:

- the public rights of way network is properly maintained
- public rights of way are free from obstructions
- public rights of way are signposted where they leave metalled roads (surfaced roads)

They also ensure landowners and managers comply with their legal responsibilities regarding the maintenance of stiles and gates on public rights of way and the reinstatement of paths that have been disturbed through cultivation.

The landowner or occupier is responsible for:

- providing and maintaining stiles and gates
- cutting back overhanging vegetation that may obstruct a public right of way
- not obstructing or damaging the surface of a right of way
- ensuring that field edge paths are left free from cultivation for the legal minimum width of 1.5m for a public footpath and 3m for a public bridleway
- reinstating cross-field paths so the route is visible on the ground within 14 days of ploughing or 24 hours of any subsequent disturbance of the path surface
- ensuring paths through arable crops are free from obstructing crop growth to the legal minimum width of 1m for a footpath and 2m for a bridleway

Have your say on the future of library services in Northumberland



People in Northumberland are being asked for their views on the future shape of library services in Northumberland.

The county council has launched a public consultation, which went live on Wednesday 18 Dec, asking for people to submit their comments and ideas of how the service should be delivered in the future.

The consultation is open to all, whether they are a regular library user or not, and the council is also engaging with schools in order to get the opinion of youngsters in the county.

People have until March to respond to the questionnaire which is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCCLibraryConsultation> and as a paper copy in all libraries in the county.

It is hoped the consultation will help identify the most valued aspects of the service and the barriers to library use across the county. The results of the consultation will help the council focus on how the service is delivered in the future.

As a statutory service the council is required to carry out a public consultation exercise if changes to the service are proposed.

Cath Homer, cabinet member for Culture, Arts, Leisure and Tourism at the county council said: "Northumberland's library service has undergone many changes in recent years, however we feel that now is the time to take a thorough look at the service and make sure that it is serving the needs of our communities both now and into the future.

"We have been committed, since bringing the service back into the council in 2017, to building a stronger and more consistent service, but we now need to ensure that we understand what people value about their library and what they think we could do more of, or improve.

"This consultation will offer people the opportunity to have their say to help us design a library service that works for all. Even if you're not currently a regular user of the service we want to hear from you to understand what could be done to encourage more people to use their library."

A series of drop-in sessions will also be held for residents to ask questions or provide verbal feedback.

To find out when and where the drop-ins will be held go to www.mylibrary.co.uk

HOME COMPOSTING

Why start home composting?

Home composting is a very cheap, easy and effective way for keen gardeners to be environmentally friendly, help their gardens flourish and save money.

Composting assists in reducing waste and 40% of your household waste can be composted, meaning it saves money on buying compost through retailers.

It also helps improve the condition of your soil, and allows plants and flowers to flourish by suppressing plant disease.

Get started – order your home composting bin

To get started, the first thing you will need to do is buy a home composting bin.

NCC are working with getcomposting.com to offer residents a range of home compost bins, wormeries and accessories at special offer prices.

- Compost bins start from £18.50 for 220 litres, or £20.50 for the 330-litre bin.
- There will also be a delivery charge of £5.99 per order (sorry, the local collection option is no longer available).
- Why not take advantage of the 'Buy One Get one half price' offer and pay just the same £5.99 delivery charge.
- Please allow up to 28 days for items to arrive with you.

Guide to home composting

Here are some top tips for creating compost at home.

Home composting bins should be placed in a reasonably sunny area on bare soil. If this is not possible, ensure there is a layer of paper and twigs, or existing compost underneath so garden insects can colonise.

Once your compost has turned into a crumbly, dark material and gives off an earthy fresh aroma, you know that it's ready to use. This usually occurs between nine and 12 months.

Don't worry if your compost looks a little lumpy – this is perfectly normal. Use it to enrich borders and vegetable patches, patio containers, or feed the lawn. If there are any bits too lumpy to use, simply put it back in the bin.

WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR HOME COMPOSTING BIN

Like any recipe, compost relies on the right ingredients to work. Specific things to include are 'greens', which are quick to rot and provide moisture and nitrogen.

There are other things you can include that provide fibre and carbon, as well as allowing air pockets to form in the mixture. These are called 'browns'. Here is a small guide on what features as a green or a brown:

Greens	Browns
Tea leaves and teabags (some teabags contain plastic- please avoid composting these ones)	Crushed egg shells
Grass cuttings	Egg and cereal boxes
Vegetable peelings, salad leaves, fruit scraps	Corrugated cardboard and paper (scrunched up)
Old flowers and nettles	Toilet and kitchen roll tubes
Coffee grounds and filter paper	Tissues, paper towels and napkins
Spent bedding plants	Garden prunings
Rhubarb leaves	Twigs and hedge clippings
Young annual weeds (e.g. chickweed)	Straw and hay
	Bedding from vegetarian pets

	Ashes from wood, paper and lumpwood charcoal
	Sawdust and wood chipping
	Wool, cotton threads and string (natural fibre)
	Woody clippings
	Feathers
	Vacuum bag contents
	Old natural fibre clothes (cut into pieces)
	Shredded documents
	Corn cobs and stalks

Things that should never be included in your bins include:

- cooked vegetables, meats and dairy products –unless they have first been treated with a specialist kitchen composter
- diseased plants, animal waste or baby nappies

Putting these in your bin encourages unwanted pests and creates odour. Also avoid adding perennial weeds, such as dandelions and thistles, or weeds with seed heads. Remember also that plastics, glass and metals are not suitable for composting and should be recycled separately.

Northumberland County Council has proposed that it should take direct charge of providing links for broadband into some residents’ homes.



It wants to direct the efforts at connecting isolated homes and communities across the county through taking responsibility for laying the cables into specific areas.

The authority has begun discussions with Digital and Broadband minister Matt Warman and Hexham MP Guy Opperman, with the former asking it to provide a full business case ahead of the Government’s Budget.

This follows the earlier provision of £12 million under the Government’s Local Full Fibre Networks Programme to provide fibre internet connections to public buildings.

Nick Oliver, the county council’s cabinet member for corporate resources, said: “It is one of those lightbulb moments when you start to think about how we connect some of our most rural homes to broadband, when major companies are unwilling or unable to link them up.

“Within the council we already have in-house vast expertise in terms of planning, laying trenches, building infrastructure and IT.

“So rather than waiting for other organisations to develop longer-term solutions we just want to get on with installing broadband and connecting communities - something that many of just take for granted.”

The council said that if the scheme wins approval the work could begin later this year.