

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 16th January 2020 – 7.00pm 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 Confirmation of the Minutes for the meeting of 21st November 2019

2364 Matters Arising

2365 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

2366 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee) – update from Council representatives on EJBC.

2367 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**

2368 Craster Trail update – discussion on map and drystone wall for the Trail.

2369 Craster Community Trust – report from Parish Council representative

2370 Neighbourhood Plan

- Members are asked to formally agree the pre-submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan (attached) along with the Housing Background Paper to go out to Regulation 14 (public) consultation.
- Members are also asked to agree organisation for consultation event.

2371 Update on actions arising from Annual Parish meeting on 25th November – report from Clerk on resident only car parking consultation, CCTV at the quarry car park and motion for income from car park to go back into community.

2372 NCC libraries consultation – report included.

2373 Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2019-2020 – Councillors are asked to agree to the appointment of Fraser Suffield as the Internal Auditor for this year's financial accounts.

2374 Parish Council Precept

- Councillors are asked to agree a precept for the next financial year.
- Councillors are asked to consider a proposed letter to all holiday lets for a voluntary contribution to the Parish Council precept.

2375 County Councillor's report – circulated for Questions to County Councillor Wendy Pattison.

2376 Report to Council on meeting in relation to anaerobic digester – report from Parish Council Chair.

2377 Items for Next Agenda

2378 Date and time of next meeting

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 21st November 2019 – 7.00pm

Councillors present:

Chair: Margaret Brooks

Parish Council members:

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Clerk: Adam Shanley

Question from members of the public.

None received.

2361 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Martin Smith.

2362 Declarations of interest

None received.

2363 Confirmation of the Minutes for the meeting of 17th October 2019

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2364 Matters Arising

Cllr Elizabeth Pearson reminded Members that the Christmas light switch on and the drinks following this would take place on 7th December from 6pm.

2365 Financial matters

- a. **Bank Balance** – £6,097.39
- b. **Received since 17/10/2019**
- c. **Spent since 17/10/2019**

Clerk wages & expenses - £400.00

PAYE - £100.00

Plusnet - £39.00

d. **Payments required**

Clerk wages & expenses (Oct 2019 – Nov 2019) - £320.00

PAYE (Oct 2019 – Nov 2019) - £80.00

Royal British Legion (Wreath for Remembrance Day) - £16.00

Stableyard Landscapes (grass cutting throughout 2019 and Craster trail gates) - £776.00

2366 EJBC (Embleton Joint Burial Committee)

Cllr Elizabeth Pearson provided a report as one of Craster Parish Council's representatives on the Joint Burial Committee.

Cllr Pearson advised that the Burial Committee were still being charged services including council tax for the house despite the House currently being empty.

Cllr Pearson advised that the selected contractor hoped to begin work on the house in January as previously advised at the October Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Pearson advised that an asbestos survey was needed in the property and quotes for this had come in at £320. Cllr Pearson also reported that a masonry crack in cemetery house had been identified and costs were currently being sourced to repair this. Cllr Pearson also advised that the Clerk to the Burial Committee would be writing to the Clerks of all three Parish Councils with a precept request for the next financial year for the Burial Committee. At present, the Burial Committee had £1,200 remaining in its account.

Cllr Green expressed some concern over the possibility that Craster may become liable for more costs in relation to the renovation of the Cemetery House.

The Clerk advised that he had not yet received correspondence from the Burial Committee. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Clerk of the Burial

Committee to ascertain the financial implications to Craster Parish Council in relation to the new request for funding.

2367 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. There were 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. There were no updates on this application.

19/03577/BT | proposal to remove phone box at Dunstan. There were no updates on this application.

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. There were no updates on this application.

2368 Craster Trail update

It was reported that the gates had now been installed to the trail and the Clerk advised that he would be submitting the application for the path to become a public Right of Way. Cllr Margaret Brooks advised that despite much chasing on her part, she had still not heard back from the contractor on the map.

The Council expressed its gratitude to the volunteers currently working on the stone wall. The Council felt that they were doing a marvellous job and the Council expressed willingness to continue funding food for volunteers should this be needed.

2369 Craster Community Trust

Cllr Michael Craster provided an update to the Parish Council as representative on Craster Community Trust.

Cllr Craster advised that the Trust had decided against going for a full license for Craster Community Hall and instead it would be the responsibility of individual hirers of the Hall to apply for a temporary license if needed.

Cllr Craster advised that the playpark was looking very good and the Trust had recently undertaken to having the new goal posts and accompanying nets put in place.

Cllr Craster also advised that the noticeboards had also been erected as requested and he thanked Mr Richard Pearson for his work on these noticeboards which would make publishing notices easier.

Cllr Craster also advised that the pantomime in Craster this year is "The Snow Queen" and this would be showing on 27th December starting at 15:30pm

2370 Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk advised that he had submitted the grant request to locality on the basis of the consultant's fee. The Clerk also advised that he had also requested adequate funding for staffing, room hire and printing costs.

Cllr Margaret Brooks thanked the Clerk for his work to date on the Neighbourhood Plan and advised that the Clerk must be paid for his time in getting the Neighbourhood Plan to this stage and going forward.

2371 Preparation for Annual Parish meeting on 25th November

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish meeting was due to take place on 25th November and the Agenda items included the proposals on resident only parking, an update on the Neighbourhood Plan, the Chair's report, a discussion with Northumbria Police and an update on getting mobile phone coverage for Craster.

2372 County Councillor's report

Cllr Wendy Pattison provided her report to the Parish Council as County Councillor.

Cllr Pattison began by suggesting to Cllr Pearson that the Cemetery House may not be liable for Council tax whilst it is empty and the Burial Committee should look into this further as there may be an option to receive a rebate.

Cllr Pattison reminded Members that there is currently a consultation under way in relation to a proposed 'No waiting at any time parking restrictions (Double Yellow Lines), for C76/C74 Junction, Craster'. Cllr Pattison advised that she felt that this dangerous junction at the bottom of Tower Bank where visibility is often obstructed due to parked vehicles should be protected by double yellow lines.

Cllr Pattison also advised that her 9 Parish meeting had been very successful with the Chairs of all the Parish Councils in her Ward able to raise issues in their Parishes.

Cllr Pattison also thanked Cllr Margaret Brooks and Cllr Elizabeth Pearson for attending the Civic Head's "At Home" event as her selected volunteers.

2373 Items for Next Agenda

The Chair reminded Members of the need to contact the Clerk should they wish to have anything on the Agenda for January's Full Council meeting.

2374 Date and time of next meeting

16th January 2020 – 19:00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall.

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

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNT	Craster PC 2019/20		
Craster Parish Council - Financial Position @ 11th January 2020			
RECEIPTS			This Year
	Precept		£ 4,500.00
	Bank/VAT		£ -
	Refunds		£ 72.00
	Misc		£ 5,700.00
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 10,272.00
PAYMENTS			
			This Year
	Salary		£ 3,040.00
	HMRC		£ 760.00
	Grants/ Donations		£ -
	Travel		£ -
	Postage Etc		£ -
	Burial Cmttee		£ -
	Admin		£ -
	Misc		£ 2,829.61
	VAT		£ -
	Bank		£ -
	TOTAL PAYMENTS		£ 6,629.61
	Increase/Decrease in Funds		£ 3,642.39
	Funds at start of the year		£ 5,511.00
	Funds at end of the year		£ 9,153.39

Northumberland libraries consultation - briefing from NCC to Parish and Town Councils

The Library Service is 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 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

"To make Northumberland a county which you regard as a great place to live, and in which you can access the things you enjoy, whilst having the opportunity to learn and thrive"

We will be seeking the views of users and non-users alike - to understand how they use the library service at the moment; what services are important to them; what are the barriers that prevent them from using it and how we can improve these services in the future.

Whilst it is envisaged that there will be a digital core to the service with a number of hub libraries that will offer the full range of services that contribute to the Universal Offers, we need to test out opinion on the whole of the service provision and community appetite for involvement.

There will be a media campaign to raise awareness of the consultation that will run from 18th December 2019 to 18th March 2020. During this time, there will be a drop-in information session at each library.

There is a consultation drop-in event for this on 14 January at Alnwick library between 9am – 12 noon.

The consultation will include a questionnaire that will be available online, see link below, and in paper format from libraries with reply paid envelopes for our Home and Mobile library customers.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCCLibraryConsultation>

We have also created an email address: libraries.consult@northumberland.gov.uk to receive submissions from groups. Where there are specific concerns, we will attend interest group meetings.

Findings from the consultation will form the basis of a report to Cabinet.

We welcome your support to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage participation within your communities.

Proposed letter to all holiday lets for voluntary contribution to Craster Parish Council precept.

Dear Craster/ Dunstan Property Owner,

As you may be aware, home-owner residents in the Craster and Dunstan Parish pay council tax, which includes the precept paid to Craster Parish Council. This is the only source of the Parish Council's income. In the Craster and Dunstan Parish, this money goes towards funding the Parish Clerk, grass cutting, general maintenance of the village, the provision of telephone and broadband to the Hall and insurances. Capital items are also purchased using the precept such as benches, bins, notice boards, signs, repairs to assets, etc.

In the U.K. we currently have a tax loophole that allows owners of holiday lets to have 100% business relief available on properties with a rateable value of £12,000 or less.

In Craster and Dunstan, we are now in the position that a significant number of properties are being used as holiday lets. Many of these are now registered as commercial properties paying business rates. As you can see, this has a financial implication for the Parish Council and the precept may have to be raised for the residents paying Council Tax on their properties as a result. This is a national problem within the U.K. with similar problems being reported in Cornwall, Suffolk and the Lake District.

Our Parish is a special place which we all hold very close to our hearts. We, the Parish Council, are charged with the responsibility of helping to maintain this beautiful Parish of ours. To this end, we are asking all holiday let property owners if they would be willing to make a minimum voluntary contribution of £50 per year. (Please see payment details overleaf) towards the upkeep of the Parish.

Many thanks for considering this contribution which will help significantly within the Parish.

If you have any queries, please contact our Parish Clerk, by email parishcouncil@crastercommunity.org.uk

Kind regards,

Craster Parish Council

Craster Parish Council Payment Details:

- **Standing Order**
Annual Standing Order from your bank account to Craster Parish Council:
Account number - xxxxx
Sort Code - xxxxx
Ref: Your business name or property name & number
- **BACS**
Payment directly from your bank account to Craster Parish Council:
Account number -xxxx
Sort Code - xxxxx
Ref: Your business name or property name & number
- **Cheque**
Cheques made payable to 'Craster Parish Council'
Please write the name of your business on the back, then this should then be sent direct to our Clerk at the address on the letter header.



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

Wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year. Here's to an exciting year ahead and all of the wishes and promises it has to offer you.

Snow Wardens sought for new scheme

Community volunteers are being sought to help clear snow and ice from Northumberland's pavements and paths this winter.

Following its success in other parts of the country, the council is introducing a Snow Warden Scheme where an individual or a group of community volunteers can sign up to help clear snow and ice from public footpaths in their local area during periods of severe winter weather.

While there are residents out there already who get involved and are keen to help in their communities the council want to grow this and introduce a more formal scheme where these important volunteers are supported.

For more information and to sign up to the scheme go to www.northumberland.gov.uk/snowwardens

The council will provide volunteers with a snow warden kit, which includes a snow shovel; salt, a thermal hat with head torch, a pair of thermal gloves and a hi-vis vest.

Paul Jones, the council's Director of Local Services, explained: "As the weather starts to turn colder we've done a lot of planning to ensure we have the right resources in place when wintry conditions arrive.

"Our dedicated Winter Services programme, including scores of staff, a fleet of gritting vehicles and the latest technology, mean clear arrangements are in place to treat our road network and high priority footpaths in town centres during periods of snow and ice.

While we continue to provide this priority service it's simply not possible to do everything or be everywhere and that's why we're appealing to residents to play their part.

"We know from the past where we've had snow the great community spirit here in Northumberland, with people clearing their local paths and looking out for their neighbours.

"We want to build on that spirit and ensure people have the right kit to do the job when they're helping out.

"And while it's never too late to join up I'd encourage anyone who'd like to volunteer to get in touch as soon as possible.

Recycling your Christmas cards in the New Year

You can recycle Christmas cards in your kerbside recycling bin.

Please **do not** recycle any Christmas cards which contain glitter or any other 'bling'. The paper mills which process our recycling are unable to cope with plastics such as glitter.

Recycling your Christmas wrapping paper in the New Year

All **paper** wrapping paper can be recycled in your kerbside recycling bin. However, wrapping paper containing foil or plastic should be put in your general rubbish bin along with any ribbons and bows.

You can find out if your wrapping paper is recyclable by trying **the scrunch test**:

- squash the paper into a small ball in your hand
- open your hand
- if the paper stays in a ball-shape, it can be recycled
- if the paper bounces back, then it will have a high-content of foil or plastic, so it cannot be recycled

Recycling your real Christmas tree in the New Year

You can take real Christmas trees to your local [household waste recovery centre](#) at any time, where they are collected and recycled along with other items of garden waste.

The council has also arranged some additional **Christmas tree recycling points for real Christmas trees**. Tel. 0345 6006400 for more details

Garden waste reminder Garden waste collections will start again in March 2020. Existing users will receive a letter inviting them to renew their subscription. New customers will be able to apply for the service in January / February 2020.

Notice of Consultation (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order

This consultation is for a proposal to be put forward to make a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the control of dogs.

Notice of Consultation

The Council made a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control under section 59 of The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 in 2017. Section 60 of the Act confirms that the duration of any such PSPO shall remain in force for a period not exceeding three years, unless it is extended under the provisions of that section.

Rather than extending the existing PSPO, the Council is now making a new PSPO to replace the same to take account of some alterations which do not fall within the scope of variations permitted under section 61 of the Act (principally the arrangements and definitions of "assistance dogs") but otherwise the new PSPO will be of substantially the same effect as that currently in force.

Full details are set out in the Notice of Consultation on the NCC website and comments are welcome via any of the methods shown in that Notice.

climate change



CLIMATE CHANGE - Northumberland County Council is taking the next step in its climate change commitment and is asking the public to play their part.

This summer the council declared a 'climate emergency' - vowing to half its carbon footprint by 2025 and make Northumberland carbon neutral by 2030.

Since 2010 the council has reduced its carbon emissions by a third and the area is now ranked as one of the greenest in the country. However it's acknowledged it has a significant role to play in further reducing greenhouse gas emissions and cutting its carbon footprint.

The council is now developing a draft action plan, focusing on five key themes, and has identified a number of projects where the council and others can make a real difference.

Councillor Glen Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services, said: "This green county is our legacy and we must ensure we're leaving it in good health for future generations.

"Whilst we will be doing everything we can to reduce our carbon emissions and are already one of the greenest local authority areas in the UK, a key part of our response to climate change is promoting and facilitating wider behaviour change - this is not an issue just for the council - it's an issue for every one of us.

"That's why we want to start an early discussion with our communities as we develop our action plan, and we hope people will sign up to come along to our event, and be part of that conversation."

The council is already assessing a number of innovative new strands of work including micro hydro electricity generation, installation of solar car ports and using heat from mine water to provide a new, clean heat source.

On a more day-to-day level, the council is already looking at initiatives to expand its household waste recycling, including glass and more plastics, create more footpaths and cycling tracks, and increase the number of electric vehicle charging points in the county.



Hundreds of new trees to be planted in our county

More than 600 new trees are to be planted across Northumberland - making the county greener and cleaner.

The council has been successful in its bid to the Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge Fund - securing £265,000 for a new two-year tree planting programme.

The initiative will involve 633 trees being planted at 29 locations across Cramlington, Seghill, Seaton Delaval, Blyth, Bedlington, Choppington, Prudhoe and Hexham.

The project aims to improve the county's urban tree cover, improving the landscape and making them more appealing areas for recreation and for wildlife. The extra trees will also make a contribution to carbon capture.

Councillor Glen Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Local Services, said: "We're delighted to have secured this funding. After declaring our climate emergency earlier this year, we must do everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint.

"This scheme will not just improve the environment, it contributes to our carbon capture proposals under the climate change action plan

"We're also planning to engage with local schools to encourage participation with the planting, giving the next generation a real sense of ownership."

The newly planted areas will all be in parks or public open space that is owned by the county council and involves the planting of larger, low-maintenance trees to give immediate impact.

All the sites are in densely populated areas and most are also in the south east's former coalfield areas which currently have low tree numbers.

The projects in Hexham will create two new community orchard areas which will involve local children in the tree planting and benefit local communities with healthy fruit crops.