

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 15th October 2020 – 6.00pm via Zoom

Agenda

Join our meeting via Zoom via the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86910551623>

Meeting ID: 869 1055 1623

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with both the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of local authority and Police and Crime Panel meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, I hereby give you notice that a meeting of the Full Council will be held in via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 15th October 2020 at 6pm to transact the following business:

2361 Apologies for absence

2362 Declarations of interest

2363 Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 17th September 2020

2364 Matters Arising

2365 Public participation

2366 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison – report attached

2367 Update on Craster Neighbourhood Plan – report by Clerk

2368 Update on bulb planting project in the Parish

2369 Latest advice from the Government on Covid-19 restrictions

2370 Update of roads and paths issues in the Parish

2371 Craster trail – update on production of map of the Parish and drystone wall

2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

2373 Craster Community Trust report

2374 Items for Next Agenda

2375 Date and time of next meeting

19th November 2020 – 18:00pm via Zoom.

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named acts, I hereby summon you to attend the said meeting.

Adam Shanley

Clerk of Craster Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 17th September 2020 – 6.00pm via Zoom

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members: Mark Green, Margaret Brooks, Elizabeth Pearson, Michael Craster, Steve Bagley and Marilyn Bagley.

In attendance: 6 members of the public

Clerk: Adam Shanley

2361 Apologies for absence

None received.

2362 Declarations of interest

None received.

2363 Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 18th June 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th June were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2364 Matters Arising

None received.

2365 Public participation

Ms Jacquie Mellor expressed concern about people climbing on the walls of Dunstanburgh Castle. Ms Mellor advised that she had witnessed this on a number of occasions and wondered if the Parish Council may be able to do something about this. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write directly to English Heritage to echo the concerns expressed at the meeting and to see if they may be able to take action on this matter.

2366 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison – report attached

Cllr Pattison began her remarks by stating that she was receiving a lot of concern from local residents in coastal villages who feel that they have been left without any support during the Covid-19 pandemic. Cllr Pattison advised that she had raised this directly with NCC Cabinet and asked that additional support be given to her Ward.

Cllr Pattison also advised that she and Cllr Glen Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Local Services were hoping to arrange a coastal summit in November to address a number of coastal related matters.

Cllr M Green asked why the decision had been taken to include Northumberland with areas such as Newcastle and Sunderland with the introduction of a local lockdown. Cllr Green expressed concern that the areas are very different from one another and a "one size fits all" approach may not be the best way to approach this issue. Cllr Pattison advised that she would be writing to Liz Morgan, Director of Public Health for Northumberland on this issue.

It was also **agreed** that the Clerk should write to NCC to seek further clarification on rules relating to the letting of holiday properties, etc.

2367 Craster Residents Permit Parking consultation – report attached

The Chair presented the results of the parking consultation to the meeting, stating that it was clear that a good majority of residents were in favour of trialling this scheme.

The Clerk reminded all present that the scheme would most likely not come in until January 2021 and a further round of public consultation would take place between months 10-11 of the scheme to see if the public were still keen to continue this.

The Parish Council **agreed** the results of the consultation and **agreed** to take this forward for introduction.

A number of members of the public asked that Dunstan be included in the scheme to avoid the issue of a parking displacement issue elsewhere in the parish. The Clerk advised that NCC officers had discounted the possibility of including Dunstan in the scheme and felt that this would be inappropriate. The Parish Council was also asked, in addition to the resident only parking scheme, to investigate possibilities for additional parking spaces in the parish. North Hills, the open land between Craster and Dunstanburgh Castle and the old football fields were put forward as possibilities and the Clerk **agreed** to investigate these further.

2368 Update on bulb planting project in the Parish

The Clerk reminded all present that £500 had been agreed for the purchase of bulbs to be planted along the bogue road and that the Parish Council would be purchasing these for planting in October time.

Cllr M Brooks **agreed** to help coordinate the planting by marking out the specific sections to be planted.

This scheme was very much welcomed for the village.

2369 Report from Parish Council Chair following 9 Parishes meeting with Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP

The Chair advised that neither he nor Cllr M Brooks was able to attend the meeting with Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

That being the case, the Chair advised that the issues of no mobile phone signal and business rate relief were being looked into. Anne-Marie is writing to Ofcom on the issue of no mobile signal and to the Minister regarding the issue of business rate relief.

2370 Update on the purchase of new bins in the Parish

The Clerk advised that the bins had been purchased and were due to be installed in the coming weeks by NCC. The Clerk advised that he would need to purchase flagstones to hold the bins down with, however Mr Michael Robson advised that he has a number of these and would be willing to offer these free of charge. The Council thanked Mr Robson for his kind offer.

A few complaints were received regarding the issue of bin doors being left unlocked and allowed to swing open rather dangerously. The Clerk advised that he would contact NCC about this and request that they be locked at all times outside of being emptied.

2371 Report following footpaths officer visit to Craster

The Clerk advised that the Footpaths Officer had recently visited Craster and erected some "No cycling" signs along the coast road. It was felt that the size and type of signs erected were inadequate however and it was **agreed** that the Parish Council should purchase some larger, more hardy signs for this area.

2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Cllrs M Brooks and E Pearson provided a report to the Parish Council on the EJBC as Parish Council representatives.

Cllr E Pearson advised that the house is now complete and is looking excellent. Cllr M Brooks agreed and advised that the contractor had done a very good job indeed. It is now intended to let the properties out to a local family.

Cllr M Green asked if the three local parishes who supported the scheme would have a say on who becomes the tenant. Cllrs M Brooks and E Pearson advised that this was being managed by a specialist company.

Cllr E Pearson reminded Members that the Burial Committee had attempted to locate the families of those with gravestones in the Cemetery. In cases where the families could not be found, the contractor was laying the stones on top of the graves in a respectful and proper manner.

2373 Craster Community Trust report – including reopening of Community Hall and AGM

Cllr M Craster provided a report to the meeting as Parish Council representative on the Community Trust.

Cllr Craster advised that the Hall had reopened in August and this had been working well with social distancing arrangements in place. However, due to the introduction of the "rule of six", the Hall has now had to close again for health and safety reasons.

Cllr Craster thanked Cllr Wendy Pattison and advised that, thanks to her kind financial contribution and the successful grant application to Awards For All, the kitchen to the Hall has now been renovated and is looking excellent.

Cllr Craster also advised that the playpark is also looking very good indeed and thanked those involved in ensuring this is the case.

Cllr Craster also advised that the Trust is looking for ideas of how to fundraise for community projects. One member of the public suggested an online auction.

2374 Northumberland County Council Local Transport Plan consultation

Members considered proposals for the NCC Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the parish and it was **agreed** that the following be proposed to NCC:

- Introduction of a footpath to the lower part of Tower Bank.
- Introduction of double yellow lines throughout Dunstan.
- Extending double yellow lines to the junction on the Bogue Road after the sewerage works.
- Introduction of a mini roundabout in front of the entrance to the quarry car park.
- Introduction of further traffic calming measures on Heugh Wynd.

2375 Items for Next Agenda

The Chair reminded Members to request for any items to be added to the Agenda in writing to the Clerk.

2376 Date and time of next meeting

15th October 2020 – 18:00pm via Zoom.

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

Signed,

**Chair of Craster Parish Council
(15th October 2020)**

CRASTER PARISH COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



COUNTY COUNCILLOR WENDY PATTISON

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

Craster Parish

Affordable Community LED Rented Housing – It is vitally important that local people, both individuals and families have access to stable, high quality, affordable, rented housing.

Approximately two years ago, the idea was formed at a meeting of the Embleton Joint Burial Committee to renovate the former Cemetery House which is located at the entrance to Spitalford Cemetery, near Embleton, to make this property into a high quality, rented, Affordable Home for a local family. Local Parish Councillors were very much aware of the need for decent, rented, affordable housing in the area. This initiative was a Community LED Housing project which can be run by small individual community groups such as the EJBC. Community-led housing is where people and communities play a leading role in addressing their own housing needs. Support for this project was given by Community Action, Northumberland.

Spitalford Cemetery and Cemetery House (now renamed Gatehouse Cottage) belong jointly to Craster, Embleton and Newton by the Sea Parish Councils. The former Cemetery house had fallen into disrepair and it needed complete renovation.

The EJBC comprises of the Chairman, Cllr Terry Howells, Embleton PC, Cllr Andrew Chillingsworth, Embleton PC, Cllr David Cooper, Embleton PC, Cllr Margaret Brooks, Craster PC, Cllr Elizabeth Pearson, Craster PC, Cllr Derek Gerrard, Newton by the Sea PC and Cllr John Roper, Newton by the Sea PC.

As this kind of initiative is so very important to our area, I wanted to convey my thanks to the Embleton Joint Burial Committee and also show my appreciation for the incredible support given towards this project by three small, coastal Parish Councils, Craster, Embleton and Newton by the Sea.

The former Cemetery House is now ready for occupation and tenants will be found via Northumberland Homefinder.

9 Parishes Meeting – A meeting with MP Anne Marie Trevelyan took place on Friday September 11th at Brownieside.

Due to concerns regarding the new Government regulations which were due to come into force on Monday, September 14th for 6 people only allowed to meet together, parish member numbers attending the meeting were lower than expected.

Matters Discussed at the meeting were as follows;

Lack of a mobile phone signal at Craster and surrounding area – Anne Marie was surprised that this issue had not already been addressed and promised to look into this further and speak with phone companies/providers.

Holiday Lets and Small Business Rate relief - If you own a property in England and it is available to let for short periods that total 140 days or more per year, it will be rated as a self-catering property and valued for business rates. The Valuation Office works out the rateable value of the property based on its type, size, location, quality and how much income you're likely to make from letting it. If you only let out one property and the rateable value is less than £15,000, you may be eligible to claim small business rate relief.

This means that you may not have to pay any Business Rates or Council Tax!

Parish Councillors and residents have expressed concern that this situation is unfair to local residents mainly because the property owner is not paying anything towards local facilities/services in the villages /towns and which are all completely free and this benefits not just the owner of the property but the numerous visitors who stay at the property (this does not include trade refuse). Anne Marie will look into the concerns arising from this.

Concerns regarding trade refuse provision not being paid for by the property owner, were allayed by NCC Officer, Mr Paul Jones. It is NCC's policy to charge self catering accommodation owners for any waste collection services provided to them as they are legally categorised as a commercial waste producer (The Controlled Waste Regulations 2012). NCC charge full commercial waste rates that would look to charge any other business, which includes both collection and disposal costs and Duty of Care administration fees. There are internal arrangements in place to ensure that any new business rate registrations for holiday lets are notified to us so that people who purchase a domestic property and use it for holiday lets are listed.

Longhoughton Division Coastal Summit - I expressed my concern to NCC Cabinet Colleagues about our small coastal villages being completely overwhelmed by visitors during the summer and the ongoing and problematic parking issues. The format of the summit is currently being discussed and more information on the date etc will be given shortly.

Anne Marie was very interested in the plans to hold a Coastal Summit possibly in November and extremely keen to be involved. Northumbria Police have also expressed interest in joining the summit.

ALNWICK LIBRARY - SELECT & COLLECT SERVICE TIME-LIMITED BROWSING /ACCESS TO PUBLIC COMPUTERS

Alnwick

From 1/10/20 - To be confirmed

I have provided a link below which gives further details about the above provision which I hope you will find helpful:

<https://northumberland.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

Whilst library members can access time-limited browsing 'on spec' as it were, in order to avoid queuing, it may be prudent for them to contact the relevant library in advance to arrange a convenient time.

Northumberland's first local COVID testing Centres set to open

Northumberland's Local Testing Centre - The County's first Local COVID-19 Testing Centres are to open in Ashington and Blyth.

The Centres, at the People's Park car park in Ashington (NE63 8HP) and the Marine Terrace car park in Blyth (NE24 2LL) form part of the Government's UK-wide drive to improve the accessibility of coronavirus testing for communities.

These Local Testing Sites are semi-permanent facilities, and can be accessed on foot, as opposed to the three Mobile Testing Units in the county which can be moved around to other areas and are drive-through only.

The sites and the booking process to make appointments for a test at these sites are run by the Government's Department of Health and Social Care, as part of their drive to improve the accessibility of COVID-19 testing for communities.

Only those with coronavirus symptoms should book a test. Tests **MUST** be booked as soon as symptoms begin at nhs.uk/coronavirus

Residents **MUST** book at test to attend either of these sites – these are by appointment only.

Testing at the new sites, chosen due their easy walking access, will start on Saturday, September 19, when Ashington opens, with more appointments available each day. Blyth is set to open early next week. Testing is available for everyone who has symptoms, with additional support for vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.

Anyone that tests positive for the virus in England will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help them track their contacts. This will help people to identify who they may have been in close contact with, protecting others from further transmission.

Close contacts of those testing positive will also hear from NHS Test and Trace, advising them to stay at home for 14 days to prevent them from unknowingly spreading the virus. They will be advised to also book at test only if they develop

symptoms.

Public Health Consultant, Jim Brown said: “These testing sites are purpose-built locations where people who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 can be tested for the virus.

“These are walk-through sites which means they are accessible on foot, as opposed to by car, but we must stress appointments are still required before attending to ensure that sites have enough capacity to meet demand and prevent them from becoming overcrowded.”

The Department of Health and Social Care are responsible for the operation of the site, and any appointment slots must be booked online via nhs.uk/coronavirus

Disabled Parking Bays - If you'd like to request a new 'on-street' disabled parking bay introduced at a public building or home address, email highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk.

To qualify for a residential disabled parking bay near your home, you must be a blue badge holder and:

- demonstrate a genuine need for the bay requested
- not have access to private parking within or near the premises
- receive the higher rate mobility component of the disability living allowance
- drive your own car or nominate a carer who drives you and resides at your address
- provide copies of your driving licence and vehicle registration documents displaying your name and address

The application form also needs to be signed by a doctor or occupational therapist.

Applications for new bays take a minimum of three months. We will deal with applications as quickly as possible.

However, creating new parking places involves consultation with the local community, which can take time.

Covid Update - Informal childcare

Some of you will be aware that the restrictions on the north east did at first prevent "informal childcare" arrangements where grandparents or other non-household members help out with looking after children outwith a formal childcare setting. An exemption has now been agreed to allow for the informal care of under-14s and vulnerable adults. This allows for household mixing if it is necessary for the care of children to allow parents to work, where they otherwise would not be able to.

Face coverings

The Prime Minister has announced that face coverings will now be compulsory for passengers in taxis and private hire vehicles, and for customers in restaurants and bars until you are seated at your table. Staff in retail and hospitality settings will also now be required to wear a face covering.