

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.

2361 Apologies for absence

None received.

2362 Declarations of interest

None received.

2363 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.

2364 Matters Arising

None received.

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)

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.

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

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.

2369 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 Ceili would be taking place on Saturday 16th February 2020.

2370 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.

2371 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.

2372 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.

2373 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.

2374 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.

2375 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.

2376 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.

2377 Items for Next Agenda


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

2378 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.

Signed,



Chair of Craster Parish Council