

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 – 6.00pm via Zoom**

**Councillors present:**

**Chair:** Martin Smith

**Parish Council members:** Mark Green, Margaret Brooks and Michael Craster

**In attendance:** 9 members of the public, County Councillor Wendy Pattison and Ms Stephanie Linnell

**Clerk:** Adam Shanley

**2361 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr Elizabeth Pearson.

**2362 Declarations of interest**

Cllr Mark Green declared an interest in application 20/01350/FUL and took no part in the discussions on this item.

**2363 Confirmation of the Minutes for the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The Minutes of the meeting from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**2364 Matters Arising**

None received

**2365 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**

Cllr Wendy Pattison congratulated the Parish Council on carrying out a Zoom meeting so successfully and said it was fantastic to see so many residents at the meeting.

Cllr Pattison advised that the County Council is continuing to monitor the issue of its car parks being closed and, in its judgement, felt that the car parks ought to remain closed for the time being. Cllr Pattison advised that there would be electric flashing signs erected to inform members of the public that the car parks are closed. Cllr Pattison advised that she felt that they ought to remain closed and that the County Council would be guided by risk assessments of each individual sites to check that it is suitable and safe to re-open any car parks.

Parish Council members agreed that the car park ought to remain closed for the time being and, should the County Council be minded to re-open the car park, the toilets must also be re-opened and cleaned as well.

Cllr Pattison advised that she aware that the Parish Council is keen to progress the issue of the resident only car parking scheme, however she had doubts that it would work in Dunstan but felt this was necessary for Craster village.

Cllr Martin Smith thanked Cllr Pattison for her presentation. Cllr Wendy Pattison left the meeting at this point.

**2366 Public participation**

Mrs Karen Oxley asked if a notice could be put on to the toilet doors directing visitors to the nearest available public toilets which are open. The Clerk advised that he would look into this.

Mrs Fiona Robson asked if the Parish Council could look to acquire some large "no cycling" signs to be put on the entrances to the coastal path east of Heugh Road and also on the gate access to the National Trust's land going to Dunstanburgh Castle. The Clerk advised that he would contact the County Council's Footpaths Officer to request these.

**2367 Appointment of Independent Auditor**

The Clerk reported that the Council's previously agreed Internal Auditor is sadly unable to carry out the audit for 2019/20 owing to poor health. The Clerk advised that he had passed on the Parish Council's best wishes to the auditor and thanked him for his work on behalf of Craster Parish Council.

The Clerk advised that the Internal Auditor used by Embleton Parish Council has indicated that he would be willing to carry out Craster's audit for 2019/20 free of charge. It was **agreed** that this auditor would be Craster Parish Council's auditor for the 2019/20.

### **2368 Planning Matters**

**20/01350/FUL** | Change of use of woodland to tourism accommodation for 3no: Treehouses and associated car-parking | Land South Of Burnside Lodge Embleton Northumberland

The Chair welcomed the applicant Mr Richard Clark and his planning agent Ms Stephanie Linnell to the meeting.

Members considered the application and particular concern was raised regarding the access and egress of the proposed site location on to the C74 road.

Cllr Margaret Brooks also highlighted that the area was based in the AONB and expressed concern at the loss of trees in the area.

Mr Richard Clark advised that a key component of the application is to ensure that the development fits in appropriately within the AONB. Mr Clark advised that this was a key consideration for him in this process.

Mr Richard Clark advised that he was aware of the concerns regarding the access and egress of the site. This had been raised at pre-application stage and, in order to address this, Mr Clark advised that he had undertaken a 7 day ATC Speed Survey in January of this year and the data from this survey demonstrates that the traffic speeds on the C74 road are significantly lower than the 60mph speed limit and that therefore the visibility splays from the proposed site are acceptable for the traffic speeds in this location.

Cllr Margaret Brooks expressed concern at the timing of this survey being undertaken, with January typically being a very quiet part of the season in the area, and therefore the results of this survey perhaps won't accurately reflect the movement of traffic in this area.

Ms Stephanie Linnell advised that the regulations state that these surveys are not permitted during school holidays. Ms Linnell also advised that the issue was more about the speed of the traffic.

Cllr Margaret Brooks advised that she felt that the application may cause greater risk to pedestrians on the C74 road.

Cllr Martin Smith advised that cars also typically drive slower during the winter months too.

Cllr Martin Smith advised that this road was also used by motorcyclists who don't keep to the 60mph limit.

Mr Clark advised that in the design of the proposal, design alterations to the access and egress of the site had been identified which would increase visibility, however, based on the information from the speed survey, it was felt that the visibility is adequate.

Ms Linnell also advised that she and Mr Clark were liaising with the County Council's Highways department to see what their judgement of the application is.

Ms Linnell also highlighted that an ecological report has been undertaken to support the application. Ms Linnell advised that she and the applicant had worked together with the ecologist in order to identify the best locations for the proposed accommodation within the site.

Cllr Margaret Brooks asked how many trees were being felled in order to accommodate the proposed car park for the development.

It was **agreed** to object to this application.

The Chair thanked Mr Clark and Ms Linnell for attending the meeting. Mr Clark and Ms Linnell left the meeting at this point.

### **2369 Consultation on resident only car parking for Craster and Dunstan**

The Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from Northumberland County Council that the Parish Council may commence a consultation of local residents on the issue of the resident only car parking scheme. The Clerk presented a draft letter proposed to be sent out to local residents seeking their views.

Some members of the public felt that the letter ought to include an FAQs section so that residents better understood what the scheme involved.

There was some concern expressed about what impact such a scheme would have on the users of the Community Hall. The Clerk advised that he would look at this. Cllr M Craster proposed that the grasscreted area outside the Hall be an area of exemption from the permit scheme in order to avoid any adverse impact on the Hall.

Some members of the public asked how it would be decided if the scheme is introduced in the Parish. The Clerk advised that this depended entirely on the results of the consultation.

Residents felt that the scheme should apply to the full Parish or not at all.

The Chair reminded all present that this is intended to be a 12-month trial scheme only at this stage.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should draft an appropriate letter and response form and the consultation be sent out as soon as possible.

### **2370 Items for Next Agenda**

Rosie Robson asked that the Parish Council considers the issue of the anaerobic digester at its next Full Council meeting.

Cllr Mark Green asked that the Parish Council considers the issue of cutting back of roadside grass and hedges and possibly carrying out some bulb planting at its next Full Council meeting. Cllr Green advised that he had been contacted by a member of the public about this issue.

### **2371 Date and time of next meeting**

18<sup>th</sup> June 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**