

**MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – 6.00pm via Zoom**

**Agenda**

**Join our meeting via Zoom via the link below:**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88051240574>**

**Meeting ID: 880 5124 0574**

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 17<sup>th</sup> September 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 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**2364 Matters Arising**

**2365 Public participation**

**2366 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison** – report attached

**2367 Craster Residents Permit Parking consultation** – report attached

**2368 Update on bulb planting project in the Parish**

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

**2370 Update on the purchase of new bins in the Parish**

**2371 Report following footpaths officer visit to Craster**

**2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**

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

**2374 Northumberland County Council Local Transport Plan consultation**

**2375 Items for Next Agenda**

**2376 Date and time of next meeting**

15<sup>th</sup> October 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 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – 6.00pm via Zoom**

**Councillors present:**

**Chair:** Martin Smith

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

**In attendance:** 8 members of the public

**Clerk:** Adam Shanley

**2361 Co-option of Parish Councillors**

Mr Steven Bagley and Mrs Marilyn Bagley advised that they would like to be considered for the Parish Council. Both advised that they would like to make a contribution to the life of the parish.

It was agreed that Standing Orders relating to the need for co-option candidates to present a CV to the Parish Council should be suspended.

Councillors unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr and Mrs Bagley to the Parish Council.

**2362 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Elizabeth Pearson and County Councillor Wendy Pattison

**2362 Declarations of interest**

None received

**2363 Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 21st May 2020**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**2364 Matters Arising**

None received.

**2365 Public participation**

Concerns were expressed by members of the public about the "No cycling" signage in parts of the village and also about the Bark Pots development. The Clerk advised that he would be contacting the Footpaths Officer as soon as possible to look into the signage issue and the planning enforcement officer regarding the Bark Pots development.

**2366 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**

The Chair highlighted the latest report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison in her absence and invited any Member of the Council and member of the public to direct any queries to Councillor Pattison in writing.

**2367 Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20**

- (i) Members agreed the internal audit report 2019-20
- (ii) Members approved the annual governance statement 2019-20
- (iii) Members approved the draft annual accounts for 2019-20
- (iv) Members approved the accounting statement and explanation of variances 2019-20
- (v) Members approved the certificate of exemption form 2019-20

**2368 Update on progressing the proposal of an anaerobic digester**

**2369 Update on Craster car park and toilets**

The Clerk advised that he had received a notification from NCC that the toilets would be reopened in line with other NCC managed toilets in coastal areas. NCC has undergone a full risk assessment for each site and assured the Parish Council that the toilets would be cleaned on a regular basis.

**2370 Report on planting and cutting back of grass verges**

The Clerk reminded Members that this issue was raised for consideration on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 and it was agreed that a project proposal would be considered at this meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase £500 worth of bulbs for planting in the Parish in September/October time and to work with the local community on suitable locations.

**2371 Items for Next Agenda**

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

**2372 Date and time of next meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> July 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**

# CRASTER PARISH COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

County Councillor Wendy Pattison

[wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk) - Tel. 07779 983072 and also on Facebook – Cllr Wendy Pattison Craster Parish

**Coastal Villages in the Longhoughton Ward** – On August 21<sup>st</sup> I wrote to NCC Cabinet Members about my concerns regarding the current infrastructure and the unprecedented number of visitors travelling to our local coastal villages and not coping with such a huge influx. The Cabinet were extremely keen to address these issues and a Coastal Summit is to be arranged in the coming weeks.

I will be liaising with all Coastal Parish Councils in regard to what they feel is required in order to cope with the rise in tourism and to ensure we are prepared for the future.

**Temporary Traffic Regulation Order as follows:** 118059222 C76 Hocketwell to Craster Junction C76 Hocketwell To Craster Junction Craster, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021.

C76 Hocketwell To Craster Junction Craster Details of the disruption can be viewed here <https://one.network/?tm=118059222>

Please call 0345 600 6400 and quote the reference number for further information.



**Resident Car Parking Permit consultation** – Residents have voted in favour of a permit scheme and I have paid £2k from my Members Allowance to allow for the appropriate signage and other works to take place. This initiative will hopefully be starting in January 2021 and will be for a 12 month trial period.

**Craster Public Toilets** – Chemical toilets have been temporarily installed in the Craster car park to cope with demand and to ensure there is emergency back-up for the public conveniences which have been frequently breaking down.

**9 Parishes Meeting, Longhoughton Division** - A meeting with all nine Parish Council Chairmen/Vice Chairmen has been arranged with MP, Anne Marie Trevelyan and this will take place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm at Brownieside. Small business rate relief and the lack of a mobile phone signal in Craster, Howick and Eglington are on the agenda to be discussed.

**Social Distance Signage** – A resident has requested social distancing signage to be placed in Craster to remind visitors to the village of the need to protect not just themselves but to protect others. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

## Free trees to help tackle climate change

Free Trees - Northumberland County Council has launched a pioneering new initiative to help residents, schools and community groups help make Northumberland greener by planting free trees.

The council is one of the first in the country to launch such a scheme which gives every resident the opportunity to play their part in helping tackle climate change.

Nine different species of trees are on offer, which are suitable for small, medium and large gardens, with hedge, copse or native harvest packs available for community groups.

Residents that do not have areas where they can plant a tree will be offered a small cell grown shrub which they can plant in their own container and will be suitable for properties with limited garden space, balconies or rented properties.

Cllr Glen Sanderson, cabinet member for Environment and Local Services, said: "We are delighted to be able to offer 10,000 free trees to households and community groups across the county.

"This is one of our ways we're helping residents in the county be involved in climate change and once all trees have been reserved, requests will be added to a waiting list and given priority for next year's programme.

"This fantastic new scheme will help Northumberland tackle the climate crisis by planting more trees, which in turn will help absorb our carbon emissions and help make our county even cleaner and greener than ever before. This initiative also fits in with our target of halving the council's carbon footprint by 2025, and making Northumberland carbon neutral by 2030."

Collection points are currently being established, but will open in Autumn/Winter and will follow social distancing guidance and be held in easily accessible areas to help minimise residents' travel and reduce their carbon footprints.

The trees are small cell grown plants, sourced from the UK and provided along with a biodegradable shelter guard, cane and an electronic link to planting and aftercare instructions.

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/News/2020/Aug/Free-trees-to-help-tackle-climate-change.aspx>

## **Active pools open to the public - but swimmers must pre-book**

Pools open to the Public - Active Northumberland swimming pools have reopened to the public but swimmers must pre-book a time slot, before taking the plunge.

It is lane swimming only with the option of a slow, medium or fast swimming lane. Swimmers must also register and pre-book online as numbers in the pools will be restricted to ensure there is plenty of space for social distancing.

As government lockdown restrictions eased, nine key sports centres in the county reopened their doors on July 25th. Initially the swimming pools had a members only policy while numbers and demand for swimming was monitored.

Now Active Northumberland feels it has the capacity to be able to safely open the pools to non-members, aged 14 years of age and above.

In order to pre-book the pay-as-you-go public will need to register an account with Active Northumberland at [www.activenorthumberland.org.uk](http://www.activenorthumberland.org.uk) in order to get a member ID and Pin Number. This will enable them to book a time slot, a day in advance, on the website or Active Northumberland app.

There are some new health and safety guidelines in place to ensure people are kept safe so those

looking to start swimming are advised to log on to the Active Northumberland website <https://bit.ly/WelcomeBackToSwim> to familiarise themselves with the new procedures.

Mark Warnes, Acting Chief Executive of Active Northumberland said:

“ The safety of our customers and our staff is our top priority and we have stringent new hygiene and social distancing practices in place, as well as limiting the number of people taking part in various activities.

“ We are reopening our facilities in a phased and careful manner and after monitoring the swimming pools we have the capacity to open them up to the wider public. Numbers in the pool at any one time will always be restricted so pre-booking a time slot is essential and at this stage, because of the safety precautions that we are asking people to adhere to, the swimming will only be open to those who are 14 years of age and above.”

Active Northumberland has sought industry advice from Swim England, UK Active and Public Health England. There are new safety and social distancing guidelines in place, while cleaning schedules have been ramped up considerably and numbers in the centres are restricted.

The pools that will be open for public lane swimming are

Ashington  
Alnwick - Willowburn Sports Centre  
Berwick - Swan Centre  
Blyth Sports Centre  
Concordia Sports Centre - Cramlington  
Hexham - Wentworth Sports Centre  
Morpeth - Riverside Leisure Centre  
Ponteland Sports Centre  
Prudhoe Waterworld.  
Concordia, Cramlington

## **New service will protect Northumberland's shorebirds**

Northumberland Shorebirds - A new coastal wildlife ranger service is being launched this week by Northumberland County Council.

'Space for Shorebirds' has been designed to help safeguard important shorebird populations on the Northumberland coast and conserve the county's beautiful flower-rich dune grasslands.

The Northumberland coast is internationally renowned for its wildlife, particularly for birdlife and dune grasslands, but this is under ever-increasing pressure from recreational activities such as walking and dog walking.

Space for Shorebirds has been established to enable people to continue to enjoy the magnificent coastline while ensuring that its important bird populations can thrive as well.

The service will also be tackling a prickly problem in the dunes - a non-native species called pirri-pirri bur that can displace important dune plants and also make a nuisance of itself as its remarkably sticky seedheads become embedded in people's clothing and dogs fur.

Space for Shorebirds is being funded by contributions that housebuilders and new tourism developments make through the planning system, providing a simple and cost-effective way of addressing the impact that their new developments will have on coastal wildlife.

Councillor John Riddle, cabinet member for planning, housing and resilience at Northumberland County Council said: “The council is committed to providing the homes that people need and enabling the tourism industry to thrive, with the much-needed jobs that this provides.

“However, we are also determined to protect the wonderful wildlife that we are so lucky to have in Northumberland. Balancing these important objectives is not easy, and Space for Shorebirds offers an exciting and innovative approach to this. I very much look forward to seeing how this project develops over the coming years.”

Richard Willis, senior wildlife ranger in the Space for Shorebirds service added: “Almost all of our wintering shorebirds such as turnstone and purple sandpiper migrate thousands of miles to the high arctic to breed. However they spend the rest of the year here with us on the Northumberland coast, so we have a special responsibility to make sure that they can feed and rest without being disturbed.

“Even though they are amazingly hardy they are vulnerable because they are so dependent on this narrow ribbon of shore where they find their food, and our wildlife rangers will be asking everyone using the coast to simply look out for wildlife and give birds such as the purple sandpiper plenty of space to thrive.

“I’m very keen that the wildlife rangers at Space for Shorebirds are part of the coastal community, so if you see us out and about please stop and tell us about the wildlife you’ve seen along the coast.”

More information about visiting the Northumberland coast and the wildlife you might be lucky enough to see there can be found on the new website [www.spaceforshorebirds.co.uk](http://www.spaceforshorebirds.co.uk)

You can also follow and like the service on social media at [twitter.com/ForShorebirds](https://twitter.com/ForShorebirds), [facebook.com/SpaceforShorebirds](https://facebook.com/SpaceforShorebirds), and [instagram.com/spaceforshorebird](https://instagram.com/spaceforshorebird)  
<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/News/2020/Aug/New-service-will-protect-Northumberland-s-shorebirds.aspx>

## **ITEM 2367: CRASTER RESIDENTS PERMIT PARKING CONSULTATION**

As Members are aware, over six weeks ago the Parish Council launched a formal consultation with local residents on the subject of a Resident Permit Parking scheme in Craster. This consultation ended on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

The decision to carry out this consultation followed an overwhelming vote by members of the public in favour of holding this consultation at the November 2019 meeting of the Parish.

At that time, it was hoped that this would include the whole of the Parish however, following consultation with NCC officers, Dunstan is not able to be included in the scheme.

As part of the consultation, consultation letters were delivered through letter boxes in Craster, the Parish Council website was updated with a link to the consultation letter and response form and the consultation was also covered in the local press. The consultation letter also included a set of Frequently Asked Questions about the scheme. This covered all of the main questions raised at the November meeting but members of the public have posed additional queries which the Clerk has responded to.

Parking issues are by far the biggest source of complaints from local residents to the Parish Council and this scheme has been proposed as a potential solution to this issue and follows months of discussions with NCC officers.

The results of this consultation are shown in the table included in this report. Though the results vary from street to street, the majority of residents (approx. 68%) have voted in favour of this scheme being adopted on a trial basis for 12 months only.

These results will now be passed on to the NCC Highways Design team who will be taking this forward and it is hoped that a scheme can be introduced by January 2021. As agreed when the Parish Council launched the consultation, if accepted by the community, there will be a further public consultation to gain residents' views on the effectiveness of this scheme towards the end of the 12-month trial period.

NCC's Highways team will need to decide how the scheme is to be implemented based on the results of this consultation.

County Councillor Wendy Pattison has agreed to fund the implementation of this scheme and the Community Trust has also stated that it may be able to support local residents with the purchase of a permit. Currently the cost per permit is £25.

It is hoped that a further meeting will take place with NCC officers in September to discuss the next stages of this scheme. This will also be an Agenda item for the November 2020 meeting of the Parish should Government guidelines permit such a meeting.

## Results of the 2020 consultation in Craster on Permit Parking scheme

<u>Voted yes</u>	<u>Voted no</u>
Church Street = 6	Church Street = 2
Dunstanburgh Road = 15	Dunstanburgh Road = 3
Haven Hill = 6	Haven Hill = 0
Heugh Road = 21	Heugh Road = 11
Heugh Wynd = 15	Heugh Wynd = 15
Whin Hill = 11	Whin Hill = 0
South Acres = 8	South Acres = 4
Chapel Row = 0	Chapel Row = 4
<b>Total: 82</b>	<b>Total: 39</b>