

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 15th April 2021 – 6.00pm via Zoom

Agenda

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Meeting ID: 864 5417 8228

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 Zoom** on Thursday **15th April 2021 at 6pm** to transact the following business:

This meeting will commence with a two-minutes silence in memory of HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

2361 Apologies for absence

2362 Declarations of interest

2363 Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 18th March 2021

2364 Matters Arising

2365 Public participation

2366 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison – report attached

2367 Update on the appeal letter to all holiday let owners to contribute towards the Parish Council's precept.

2368 Update on proposal to introduce additional cycle parking to Craster

2369 Report from fundraising/community project scoping committee

2370 Update on "Adopt a Craster Barrel" scheme, organising the competition and matters relating to the pedestrian zone scheme.

2371 Update on proposal to develop a retail area in the parish

2372 Update on correspondence with Anne-Marie Trevelyan on a proposal to tackle the growing number of holiday lets in the parish

2373 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

2374 Craster Community Trust report

2375 Proposal to purchase additional bins for the parish

2376 Consideration of the Government's decision not to extend powers of local Councils to hold meetings in a virtual setting beyond 7th May 2021.

2377 Consideration of ongoing footpaths issues

2378 Consideration of correspondence from the AONB on the merits of conservation area designation for the historic core of Craster.

2379 Planning Matters:

21/01008/FUL | Proposed single storey extension, replacement of garden shed and associated works. | 9 Whin Hill Craster NE66 3TP

21/00727/VARYCO | Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission 17/03658/FUL for amendment to details on window, flues and shutters on drawings | Land South East Of Lifeboat House Haven Hill Craster Northumberland

21/00013/FUL | Removal of front porch, construction of a two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, glass balcony to first floor front elevation and internal and external alterations | Seahaven 37 Dunstanburgh Road Craster NE66 3TT

Update on 21/00319/FUL | Erection of a log cabin | Orchard Cottages Dunstan Village Dunstan Northumberland NE66 3TE

2380 Consideration of ongoing planning enforcement matters in the parish

2381 Items for Next Agenda

2382 Date and time of next meeting

20th May 2021 – 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 18th March 2021 – 6.00pm via Zoom

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

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

In attendance: 16 members of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Clerk: Adam Shanley

2361 Apologies for absence

None received.

2362 Declarations of interest

Cllrs Marilyn Bagley and Stephen Bagley both declared an interest in application 21/00319/FUL and took no part in the discussions on this item.

2363 Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 18th February 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings, with the following amendments:

Under minute 2368, the additional sentence be added: *"Cllr Margaret Brooks raised the fact that the electricity company had notified residents of the power cut and associated updates via mobile phone text. Cllr Brooks advised that this is problematic in Craster as there is no mobile phone signal in the village"*.

Under minute 2369, the sentence *"Mrs Fiona Robson agreed with this and advised that she felt that cycle parking by the Shoreline café would also be a good location for cycle parking"* be changed to *"Mrs Fiona Robson agreed with the provision of cycle parking to stop cyclists parking on the pavement at the Shoreline café making pedestrians have to walk on the road"*

2364 Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that he had now delivered letters to all of the holiday lets in the village, as agreed at the previous meeting, and already a donation of £500 had been received.

The Chair advised that there had been ongoing correspondence with BT about mobile phone coverage in the parish. The Chair advised that although there is a scheme nationally to help improve coverage, Craster is not included in this. The Chair advised that he was aware that the contact at BT had made the case for Craster to be included in this, however, as yet, no further correspondence on this matter had been received.

2365 Public participation

Mrs Fiona Robson advised that the positioning of the new barrels, as part of the new pedestrian scheme, is such that it makes it difficult to turn left in a vehicle into the car park coming from Craster village.

Mrs Fiona Robson asked if it is clear who is responsible for replacing the barrels if one is stolen or damaged and also who is responsible if there is an accident involving a barrel and a driver submits an insurance claim for any damage caused. The Clerk advised that NCC would be responsible for all of this.

Mr Michael Doherty advised that Northumbria Police have confirmed that they did not know anything about the new pedestrian scheme in Craster and have advised that they are unable to enforce this scheme. Mr Doherty advised that this is not what is stated in the decision documentation of 17th February from NCC on the new scheme. Mr Doherty advised that he felt that the success of the scheme depended upon enforcement and monitoring. Mr Doherty asked for this to be clarified. The Clerk advised that he would look into this.

Cllr Michael Doherty asked for the installation of a camera to help monitor the level of cars coming into the village.

Cllr Elizabeth Pearson expressed her concerns about the safety aspect of the new scheme.

The Clerk reminded all attendees to raise all matters directly to **highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk**

Mrs Marion Gallon raised her concerns about ongoing littering issues as a result of the fish and chip boxes filling the litter bins. The Chair asked if NCC could be asked to empty the bins more regularly. The Clerk advised that new bins would be purchased for Craster and he would be continuing to try to contact the owner of the premises in question to ask if the fish and chip boxes could be changed to paper.

Mr Doherty advised that there is now a rat problem at the harbour as a result of the overflowing bins.

Mrs Marion Gallon raised her concerns about the refurbishment taking place at Middle Rigg. Mrs Gallon advised that workmen had been parking on the pavement and, following these works, there seemed to only be space for one car to park at this site. The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with enforcement about the ongoing issues at this site and there is nothing that can be done about the parking situation. It was **agreed** to continue to monitor this.

Mr Mark Turner asked if there had been any progress on an earlier request he had made for a new footpath to be introduced on the short section of the C74 between Dunstan and Craster, from the junction with the U3014 (Dunstan to Embleton road). The Clerk advised that he is in ongoing dialogue with NCC about this. It may be that funding is not available for this and therefore the Parish Council would need to seek alternative methods of funding for this.

2366 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Cllr Wendy Pattison advised that she is in ongoing dialogue with local MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan on the issue of mobile phone signal for the parish. Wendy advised that Anne-Marie has contacted BT about this. In addition, Wendy advised that a further £4million is being made available via the Borderlands Growth Deal towards digital projects and she hoped that this would include funding for mobile phone signal to Craster. Wendy advised that she had spoken with the relevant Cabinet Member at NCC about this for Craster.

Wendy advised that the barrels would look much better with some greenery installed inside them. Wendy advised that, if the pedestrian scheme does not work, this can be removed within one day. Wendy asked all attendees to give the new scheme a try to see whether it succeeded or not.

2367 Update on proposal to introduce additional cycle parking to Craster

The Clerk advised that the National Trust had advised that they would not be funding any additional cycle parking for Craster. The Clerk advised that the Trust had recommended that the Parish Council contacts the AONB about this. This the Clerk had done and the AONB advised that they also would not be funding this.

The Clerk advised that he had still not heard back from anyone at Sustrans about this.

The Chair advised that he was in contact with an officer at NCC about this.

Cllr Mark Green asked whether cycle parking could be considered behind where the barrels are located at present as part of the pedestrian scheme. The Clerk advised that he would look into this proposal.

2368 Report from fundraising/community project scoping committee

The Clerk reminded attendees that it was agreed at the last Full Parish Council meeting that a working group of local stakeholders be established to investigate possible funding initiatives towards local projects.

Accordingly, a working party including representatives of the Parish Council, St Peter's Church, the Community Trust, the WI, the RNLI and the harbour were invited to a meeting last month and the following was proposed:

- Donation boxes be erected in two locations: at the harbour (attached to the finger post) and at the end of Dunstanburgh Road (attached to the top of the bin there at present).

- These boxes should be low cost (currently costed at just over £100 incl. clips and bolts, etc) but durable and demonstrably temporary so as to ensure that no planning application be required for their installation.
- These boxes should be emptied on a daily basis using a rota of local volunteers and there ought to be two people involved with the collection of the funds.
- Subject to the Trust's agreement, the funds would be collected and deposited into a separate and secure account for that of the Trust's account.
- The funds raised ought to be directed to local projects, including a donation to the harbour for the use of their land for this activity. Possible other local projects include the installation of footpaths and supporting the blooming of the village, particularly the new barrels which have been installed as part of the pedestrian zone scheme for Craster.
- These boxes are intended to be for a trial period of 1 year to see how much is raised and how successful this scheme turns out to be.
- It was agreed that a sign stating "Help keep Craster special" be installed with the box at the harbour and stickers saying "honesty box...all funds towards local projects" be put on to the box at the end of Dunstanburgh Road.
- During the first few months of the instalment of these boxes, an assessment of funds raised will be carried out in case of the need to require an additional level of auditing for the Trust as the recipient.
- The working group needs to have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of each respective organisation which forms part of the working group on the allocation of this funding.

Mrs Jackie Reeves advised that the Trust would soon be meeting to discuss the proposal of the funds being deposited to a restricted account of the Trust.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should fund the two new boxes at the locations agreed at this scoping meeting.

It was also **agreed** that a sign should be included with this saying "Help keep Craster special" and "all funds raised will go towards community projects".

2369 Update on "Adopt a Craster Barrel" scheme, organising the competition and matters relating to the pedestrian zone scheme.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had agreed to launch an "adopt a barrel" scheme; whereby members of the public can add some plants to a barrel and these would be judged in August by a panel of judges. The Chair encouraged anyone interested to contact the Clerk about this.

Cllr Michael Craster recommended that small trees might be a good addition to the barrels.

Cllr Margaret Brooks reminded attendees that there is no water available in this location for watering of the barrels, so this needs to be considered.

2370 Proposal to develop a retail area in the parish

Cllr Mark Green presented a proposal to develop a retail area in the parish.

Cllr Mark Green advised that there is sufficient space to the right of Pipers Pitch in the area opposite the Tourist Information Centre for some additional huts/ businesses; similar to those in Amble. Cllr Mark Green advised that these could be used as starter businesses for people who have a craft activity or do farmer's markets etc.

Cllr Mark Green advised that he would be happy to discuss this proposal with the relevant officers at NCC, if the Parish Council is happy to progress this.

Cllr Mark Green advised that any agreement would need to be on the basis that the Parish Council is able to keep the rent paid for the use of each hut.

Cllr Mark Green advised that he had shared the briefing note for this proposal with Andy at Piper's Pitch and Andy had expressed some concern about the lack of space in this area. Cllr Green advised that there is space measuring 12m x 9m available in this area.

Cllr Mark Green advised that the exact nature of the businesses would be determined by who applied to lease the huts but the criteria for applications could include:

- non-food businesses, to prevent direct competition with the Piper's Pitch
- emphasis on local crafts and traditions
- help for people within the parish to develop their ideas into a viable business

Cllr Mark Green advised that he hoped that this proposal could create additional employment in the area and also enhance the current business offer in the village.

Councillors noted the sensitivity of the wildlife area and agreed that this should not be impacted by business operations in this area.

It was **agreed** that Cllr Mark Green should investigate this proposal further with NCC and that this proposal should then be brought forward to a meeting of the parish for consideration.

2371 Proposal to tackle the growing number of holiday lets in the parish

The Clerk advised that he had been investigating what measures could be put in place to tackle existing dwellings becoming holiday lets. It transpires that the Use Class for both a dwelling house and a holiday let is the same and therefore there is no requirement for an owner to submit a planning application for a Change of Use. The Clerk recommended that the Parish Council writes to the local MP about this to see whether this could be changed via the relevant planning minister.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council writes to Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP about this, in order to investigate what solutions may be found.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Neighbourhood Plan deals with the issue of the newly built dwellings.

2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Cllr Margaret Brooks advised that the Cemetery House is now rented to a gentleman who is well settled in this property. Cllr Brooks advised that this rent is covering the costs of the loan and prevents the precept being requested from all three of the parish councils involved for the EJBC.

2373 Craster Community Trust report

Cllr Michael Craster advised that there is nothing to report from the CCT but that the Trust hoped that the Hall may be opened soon, depending on the Covid-19 situation.

2374 Planning Matters:

21/00319/FUL | Erection of a log cabin | Orchard Cottages Dunstan Village Dunstan Northumberland NE66 3TE. It was **agreed** to object to this application.

21/00416/FUL | New double detached garage. Single storey extension off kitchen to provide living/orangery. Replace windows/doors with dark grey aluminium to match adjoining dwellings. | Seascape The Skeres Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TN. It was **agreed** to note this application.

2377 Items for Next Agenda

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

2378 Date and time of next meeting

15th April 2021 – 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 April 2021)**

CRASTER PARISH COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



County Councillor Wendy Pattison

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

CRASTER MOBILE SIGNAL

Following on from a meeting with MP Anne Marie Trevelyan held in October 2020 with the 9 Parish Councils which comprise the Longhoughton Division and also recent contact by residents regarding the lack of an emergency mobile signal in Craster village, Anne Marie's office has responded with the following information.

A discussion has taken place with Mr Henry Parker, Senior Manager of Policy and Public Affairs at BT. Mr Parker was extremely sorry to hear that Craster residents are in this very difficult situation and he did think there was possibly an EE 2G service in some areas of the village which could possibly facilitate emergency calls outdoors

A report received from an engineer who visited the Craster location over the past few days, advises, that, unfortunately, the local geography means that it would be difficult for them to simply redirect the signal from infrastructure outside the village into to provide better coverage, which was the approach they were considering. That signal, whichever way they alter the masts nearby would be blocked or shoot over the top of the village.

Mr Parker knows that this is not encouraging news. They are going to have to consider whether any new mobile infrastructure can be placed into the village that could solve the issue. BT have developed some new technology (they call it a 'rural 4G small cell') that is designed for situations like this, and they have demonstrated proof of concept for it. Currently they are looking at a series of locations around the UK where they might trial it more extensively. Mr Parker has asked the team running that if they could place Craster on the trial list. He thinks this would be the quickest way they can try to resolve this.

BT would hope they can start to get such a trial underway when lockdown lifts fully. The whole project has been delayed as it obviously requires work to be done on the ground, and they have to prioritise the work their engineers are doing at the moment.

As soon as he has some further indications of how and when this can move forward he will let Anne Marie know.

Northumberland homes to receive free energy efficiency boost

More than 300 households in Northumberland could soon be offered free energy efficiency improvements to their homes in a bid to help reduce fuel poverty and tackle the climate emergency.

Northumberland County Councillors have formally accepted a government grant for up to £3.4m and approved the installation of carbon reducing technologies into 200 private and 140 council owned properties.

The work will be carried out on properties that hold Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings

of 'D' and below to help these homes move to band 'C' and above, lowering utility bills and providing additional disposable income to those households.

Cllr Glen Sanderson, leader of Northumberland County Council, said: "Fuel poverty is a very real issue to many of our residents, and as a Council we are thrilled to be awarded this grant which will undoubtedly provide support to those having to spend more money to stay warm in their homes.

"We will be working with E.ON to carry out these improvement works, which will include a mix of air source heat pumps, solar PV and external wall insulation. This investment is an important first step towards implementing a large-scale low carbon retrofit which will support our goals to tackle climate change and create a carbon neutral county by 2030."

To be eligible, you must:

- Own your home
- Have a household income below £30,000
- EPC rating D, E, F or G

Eligible households will be able to apply for the full cost of these works which will be installed by E.ON, but residents do not need to be an existing E.ON customer to benefit from the scheme.

Nigel Dewbery, director of residential solutions at E.ON, said: "Improving the energy efficiency of homes across the UK is key to meeting the nation's net-zero targets, and can dramatically improve people's living conditions, by helping to increase their comfort and reduce their energy bills.

"We're delighted to be bringing these benefits to households across the region, as we work with Northumberland County Council to install energy efficiency measures, such as insulation, solar panels or air source heat pumps, in the homes of eligible residents."

Construction and retrofitting activities could begin as early as April 2021 and is estimated to be complete by end of September 2021.

This investment has been awarded by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as part of their Local Authority Delivery aspect of the Green Homes Grant. The Green Homes Grant voucher scheme offers households funding of up to £5,000 to cover two-thirds of the costs towards energy efficiency improvements to their homes, with low income households offered vouchers to cover full improvement costs under £10,000.

Residents can apply online by visiting www.eonenergy.com/home-heating/green-homes-grant or by emailing GreenHomesGrant@eonenergy.com with their contact details, and a member of E.ON's customer services team will be in touch. Alternatively, residents can call the E.ON Green Homes Grant team on 0333 202 4820. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

To find out more and to read the Climate Change Action Plan for 2021-23 visit: www.northumberland.gov.uk/climatechange

Consultation helps to shape future library service

Northumberland residents' views on the county's library service are helping to shape its future, following an extensive consultation.

The consultation was carried out between December 2019 and March 2020 with more than 5,000 people, both library members and non-members, responding.

The findings of the consultation have given a clear insight into the views of not only residents but also staff and stakeholders on the strengths of the service, and areas for improvement.

The County Council will now use the robust consultation to build a library service to meet the current and future needs of residents, developing a strategy for delivery.

The self-completion survey was carried out both online and in paper format. It was supported with information drop-in sessions and telephone interviews.

The results from the different consultation exercises across all audiences demonstrate the important role the Library service plays in the lives of the Northumberland residents, in particular amongst the county's population of older persons and those who use the service regularly. In addition to the provision of books, computers and resources, the value of the Library service is that it provides a safe, inclusive, social space which is free to all members of the community. The key findings of the survey showed that:

- 88% of respondents rated the service as either excellent or good
- A third (34%) of respondents visit the library as part of their daily or weekly routine
- For 1 in 10 library users, the library is the main way that they access computers or the internet, and this rises to 46% of those who are out of work and looking for work.
- Three-quarters of library users with a child under the age of 11 visit the library to spend quality time with their children.
- 85% see the library as a space the community can use
- Over 90% of respondents agreed with the following statements
- The library staff are helpful
- I feel welcome in my local library
- My local library is a pleasant place to visit
- The staff at the library are knowledgeable
- It is easy to access my local library

Building on the findings of the consultation a redesign of the service was approved by the County Council's Cabinet this week.

This will include establishing 5 Hub Libraries, serving each locality area. These would be based at Berwick, Blyth, Cramlington, Hexham and Morpeth. The hub libraries would co-ordinate provision based on local needs and demands in each area. Each hub would have flexible community space, offer the full range of IT resources and an events programme suited to the area.

As well as the hub libraries it is also proposed the service will further improve its digital offer. During the Covid-19 pandemic the library service has responded with an enhanced digital offer for members including an extensive online library, as well as the development of virtual groups, events and activities which are helping to tackle loneliness and isolation and the introduction of a Digital Helpline for anyone in the county to use. The establishment of the library hubs will allow more understanding and to better co-ordinate what provision is needed in each area.

Self-service kiosks will now also be rolled out into more libraries, a project which had to be delayed due to Covid-19.

Growing Up in Northumberland



Young people with special education needs and/or disability growing up in Northumberland can now access advice and guidance to help them get prepared for the next stage in their lives.

From around the age of 14, young people, with their families, peers and teachers start to talk about what they may want to do when they 'grow up', and it is around this age that they'll start to plan for those next steps.

Northumberland County Council in partnership with Northumberland Clinical Commissioning Group and Northumbria Healthcare Trust have pulled together a 'Growing Up in Northumberland' booklet to help support those decisions, and help young people, their families and carers consider all the things they need to think about and all the avenues they can take.

In consultation with 100 children and young people in years 9 to 12 and a number of parents the booklet has been developed to incorporate a variety of key areas such as independence, friendships and relationships, education and training, money, getting around and support available.

Whilst the 'Growing Up in Northumberland' booklet has been created with young people with special educational needs in mind, it can be beneficial for all those in year 9 – 12 as they too begin those vital conversations.

Kate O'Brien, senior head of commissioning for child health, learning disabilities and mental health at NHS Northumberland CCG, said: "We know how important it is to support our young people through every stage of their lives. This booklet will hopefully help them to navigate through some of the difficult decisions they will need to make such as, where to go to college, how to budget and manage finances as well as staying healthy and having an active social life. This has been made with input from our very own young people in Northumberland so that it gets right to what matters to them as they transition into young adults."

New online fitness experience launched

Active Northumberland has launched a new online fitness experience which brings professional group exercise classes to your home.

With the help of the latest technology, the new Active at Home sessions allow you to join the fitness team at Active Northumberland for your favourite exercise classes either live or on-demand.

The monthly subscription of £7.99 offers fantastic value for money, launching with over 20 live classes a week and access to workouts you can do at any time, delivered by Active Northumberland instructors.

Classes include Yoga, Pilates, Les Mills Body Combat, Body Balance and Body Step, HIIT and Zumba so there is something for everyone.

Mark Warnes, Acting Chief Executive of Active Northumberland said:

“Over the last year, due to the pandemic, residents have increasingly used online platforms for work, social events, shopping and services. While the gyms have been closed during lockdown many of our customers have been accessing exercise online too.

“This new online monthly subscription membership is separate from our centre membership. It offers an alternative digital solution for residents who want to keep fit, experience professional exercise classes delivered by some of their favorite instructors, but can't get to the gym.

“We hope that many people will enjoy the live exercise experience which will help to keep them motivated and connected and enjoy the many benefits that exercise brings to our physical and mental health.”

For further information on timetables and how to join go to <https://bit.ly/ANactiveathome>