

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL

Thursday 18th February 2021 – 6.00pm via Zoom

Agenda

Join our meeting via Zoom via the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84869220127>

Meeting ID: 848 6922 0127

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 18th February 2021 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 25th January 2021

2364 Matters Arising

2365 Public participation

2366 NCC Experimental Pedestrian Zone for Craster village

2367 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison – report attached

2368 Recent power cuts and update to the electricity network – report attached

2369 Increasing the provision of cycle parking in the parish

2370 Progressing the letter to all holiday lets in the parish requesting a voluntary contribution to the Parish Council precept

2371 Registering land outside Bark Potts development with the Parish Council

2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

2373 Craster Community Trust report

2374 Planning Matters:

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

21/00219/FUL | Remove existing first floor bedroom Juliet balcony to South elevation & replace with new balcony. | Aidan Cottage 3 Whin Hill Craster NE66 3TP

21/00316/FUL | Retrospective Change of Use of Garden Space to Holiday Let with Associated Hot Food Takeaway (Sui Generis) and Coffee Shed (Use Class E) | Land South West Of Cemetery House Embleton Northumberland

2375 Proposal to develop a retail area in the parish

2376 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan – report attached.

2377 Proposal to install donation post at Craster Harbour – report attached.

2378 Items for Next Agenda

2379 Date and time of next meeting

18th March 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
Monday 25th January 2021 – 5.00pm via Zoom

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

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

In attendance: 28 members of the public, County Councillor Wendy Pattison and Terry Luck and Neil Snowdon, DCC Highways team.

Clerk: Adam Shanley

2361 Apologies for absence

None received.

2362 Declarations of interest

CLlr M Green declared an interest in item 2376 of the Agenda and took no part in the discussions on this item.

2363 Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 19th November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2364 Matters Arising

None received.

2365 Public participation

Mrs Marion Gallon expressed a concern about the continued high number of visitors Craster is receiving in spite of the Covid-19 lockdown measures. Mrs Gallon asked if a sign could be installed in Craster reminding people of the regulations and the stay at home message.

The Clerk advised that he had raised this with the Director of Local Services at NCC and had received the following response:

"We will be placing a VMS sign at the cross roads on the B1339 / Windyside Hill to reinforce the 'Stay Home - Essential Travel Only' message so that we pick up traffic travelling on one of the main routes to Craster before they get to the village (as once at the village it's very unlikely they will be deterred from continuing their journey and parking up), whilst also picking up people also travelling towards Embleton and Longhoughton."

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should request an additional sign for Craster village and also ask the Police how they are approaching enforcing the rules when they come across visitors in Craster.

2366 Presentation by NCC Highways Officers on a proposed new parking scheme for Craster.

The Chair welcomed Terry Luck and Neil Snowdon, DCC Highways Officers, to the meeting to discuss the results of the Residents Permit Parking scheme.

The Chair reminded everyone that 67% of residents in Craster had voted in favour of this last year.

Neil began by stating that NCC Highways had reviewed the results of the consultation, and whilst the majority of respondents had voted in favour of the scheme, the total number of responses represented only 60% of the village and the highways criteria for introducing the scheme meant that 70%+ of respondents needed to be in favour of the scheme before it is considered.

Neil advised that NCC Highways team had looked at the Residents Permit Parking scheme and felt that this would not work for Craster. In particular, there was a concern that this would lead to neighbourhood disputes in the village.

Neil advised that the results of the consultation had however highlighted the serious issue of parking within Craster village and the strength of public opinion on this matter. As a result, an alternative experimental pedestrian zone scheme was now being proposed for Craster.

Terry presented the plans for this experimental scheme and indicated that this has a number of advantages over the Residents Permit Parking scheme. Mainly that the legal process to introduce the scheme would be much shorter and could therefore be introduced prior to the Easter holidays where there are concerns about visitor numbers. In addition, the scheme would have a number of road safety and environmental advantages.

Terry also advised that the scheme could be adapted at any point during the 12 month trial period, in line with the ongoing feedback which is available for this Order.

Terry also advised that the Parish Council and local County Councillor could be part of a 6 month review of the scheme, following the date of its introduction.

The scheme would include:

- The removal of the existing tourism parking signs and the erection of "no visitor parking beyond this point" signs.
- The introduction of planters in wooden barrels to control traffic and add to the aesthetics of the area once planted up. This would include the introduction of oak half whiskey barrel planters behind edge of carriageway markings to visually narrow road to Craster whilst reinforcing the change in priority at the quarry car park access.
- The introduction of a chicane to provide for priority traffic flows.
- The erection of "pedestrian zones, no vehicles" signs.
- Priority of road amended with traffic heading west from the village giving way to traffic entering quarry car park.
- The erection of an overflow car park sign.

Some members of the public were unhappy that the Residents Permit Parking scheme was not going ahead and felt that NCC were ignoring a democratic decision by local residents. Neil advised that the Permit Parking scheme was not being scrapped completely and committed that, should this Order be deemed not to be working, the Permit scheme would again be considered by NCC as an alternative. Neil insisted that the work the Parish Council had carried out on this had highlighted the issue of parking as a serious concern in the village.

Some residents of Dunstan asked why they had not been given the opportunity to respond to the consultation as they would have voted in favour of this scheme. Neil advised that this was a Craster consultation only as the scheme would only apply to Craster and not to Dunstan.

Some residents expressed concern about the introduction of the chicane as part of this scheme. Neil and Terry advised that this is integral to the scheme as a whole and the scheme would not work without this. The introduction of the chicane is based on evidence and will be introduced in a manner which does not cause risk to health and safety.

Neil and Terry advised that a similar scheme had recently been introduced in Holy Island and this was proving popular and effective. Mr Michael Robson advised that he was aware that this is not the case.

The Chair highlighted that parking is a significant issue for Craster and he is aware of growing concerns in the community about the potential for a high number of visitors again to Craster over the Spring and Summer months. It was therefore imperative that a scheme to alleviate the parking problems be introduced in time for this period. Terry advised that the Permit scheme could not be introduced in time for Easter though the Experimental Order as described at the meeting could be.

The Chair asked Members to vote on whether to accept the Experimental Order as set out in the Officers' report. It was agreed that this scheme should be trialled and reviewed in 6 months' time.

Terry Luck finished by stating that the Order would come into force by 4th April.

At this point, Terry and Neil left the meeting.

2367 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

County Councillor Wendy Pattison advised that she was aware of parking problems in the village, particularly as lockdown eased and she felt that there needed to be action taken to resolve these problems, particularly with Easter approaching.

Councillor Pattison advised that the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine seemed to be going well, with lots of the most vulnerable receiving their vaccine.

Councillor Pattison advised that the second round of support from Government during the pandemic for local businesses is to be rolled out and details of this can be found on the County Council's website and the Government's website.

2368 Parish Council budget 2021-22

The Clerk advised that it is expected that the Parish Council will finish the current financial year with approximately £3,000 remaining in the bank account. This is needed to be held in reserves in case of any unforeseen expenditure.

The following was **agreed** as proposed expenditure for the forthcoming financial year:

Item of expenditure	Expected expenditure
Staffing costs (including on costs)	£3,600
Insurance	£177.88
Wifi and telephone to the Hall	£468
RBL Appeal	£20
Christmas tree	£150
Cutting of grass verges	£340
Bins	£1,500
NALC subscription and website	£170
EJBC precept request	£1,000
Stationery and printing	£100
Hall hire	£288
Charity donation	£1,000
Total	£8,813.88

2369 Parish Council precept request for the financial year 2021-22

The Clerk reported that the 2021/22 Craster Parish Council Tax Base has been calculated at 148.97. For 2020/21 the Tax Base was 161.44. Craster Parish's Tax Base has therefore decreased by 12.47. This is due to 2 x Band C dwellings moving from Craster to Longhoughton Parish following a Community Governance Review, carried out by NCC.

The precept for the forthcoming financial year was **agreed** at £10,000. The Band D charge for the Parish Council precept would therefore be £67.13.

It was also reported that, in addition to the precept request, the Parish Council has successfully acquired external funding over and above the amount precepted for each year for at least the last 3 years; for instance the LEADER grant, the Transparency Fund, the Locality grant, funding from the Local County Councillor Wendy Pattison, voluntary contributions towards the precept, etc.

2370 Proposed letter to all holiday lets in the Parish requesting a voluntary contribution to the Parish Council precept

The Clerk advised that over £700 had been raised in the previous financial year from the letter to all holiday let owners in the Parish, requesting a voluntary contribution towards the precept. It was **agreed** that another letter should be sent to all holiday let owners again this financial year requesting the same and specifying what projects this would go towards funding.

It was also suggested that the Parish Council looks to have a donation box installed in the parish in order to capture funds from visitors towards the upkeep of the village. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should draft a proposal to the next Full Parish Council meeting for consideration.

2371 Proposal to have land outside Bark Potts development registered with the Parish Council

The Chair advised that the owner of the land outside the Bark Potts development, local resident Mr Michael Robson, has offered this plot of land to the Parish Council and, if accepted, there would be a need for the Parish Council to have this land registered in the Parish Council's name with land registry.

The Clerk advised that, if accepted, there would be a need for the Parish Council to instruct a solicitor to act on its behalf in order to scope any risk to the Parish Council and also to get the

land registered. The Clerk advised that he had received an initial cost estimate of £650 for this to be done by a local solicitor.

Cllr M Green advised that he had carried out many of these in the past as a lawyer and would be happy to act on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was **agreed** that the land should be gratefully accepted from Mr Robson and that Cllr M Green should act on behalf of the Parish Council on this matter.

2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Cllrs E Pearson and M Brooks advised that the Cemetery House has now been let to a family and again took the opportunity to thank the contractor who had done such marvellous work on this.

Cllr M Brooks also advised that the EJBC would not be requesting a precept this financial year.

2373 Craster Community Trust report

Cllr M Craster advised that the Hall remains closed for public use due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

2374 Planning Matters:

- **20/04293/FUL - Land West Of Heugh Wynd Whin Hill Craster Northumberland.**

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

- **Correspondence regarding new constructions at Dunstan**

The Clerk advised that he had received complaints from members of the public about the installation of a number of constructions at the development site on land to the north of Heugh View in Dunstan. The Clerk advised that he had corresponded with the planning enforcement officer at NCC on this matter and had been assured that they were put in place to support the development works, were temporary and benefited from permitted development rules. It was **agreed** to both monitor the situation and also to write to the developer to ask that he remain in communication with the parish council on key stages of the development and to also request that the developer carry out the works on site in accordance with the agreed Construction Method Statement for the development.

2375 Pathway proposal on the C74 between Dunstan and Craster, from the junction with the U3014.

Members considered the following proposal from Mr and Mrs Turner of Dunstan village:

"We would, firstly, like to commend the Parish Council for funding the recent installation of the new pathway from Craster Tower to the Howick Coastguard Rescue Station, which we use regularly and which has markedly improved the safety of pedestrians and drivers in the vicinity.

In the light of this, we would appreciate consideration of a feasibility study on the construction of a similar pathway on a short section of the C74 between Dunstan and Craster, from the junction with the U3014 (Dunstan to Embleton road). This particular stretch of road is a steep hill with 'blind' bends at the top and bottom of it.

The C74 necessarily accommodates larger vehicles including lorries, buses and motorhomes, which are unable to safely pass under Craster Tower. This, together with relatively high volumes of pedestrians, especially in summer months, can lead to potential hazard for walkers and drivers alike. Indeed, this stretch of road was once described by a Parish Councillor as 'an accident black spot' in discussions about a planning proposal on adjacent land.

In addition, the area is populated by many overhanging trees thereby reducing natural light and potentially resulting in increased hazard.

Whilst the road width appears to be relatively narrow, the verge on the left (descending) is covered with bushes which it may be possible to clear back to the boundary fence of the adjacent field (now a building plot) leaving adequate space for construction of a new pathway.

We acknowledge that there is an existing diagonal pathway from the left side of the hill (ascending) taking pedestrians south west towards the centre of Dunstan. However, this is not helpful for those wishing to venture northwards from Craster nor south east towards Craster from the north of Dunstan. Furthermore, when

using this pathway from the centre of Dunstan down the hill, the exit brings walkers out directly into oncoming traffic travelling round the blind bend at the bottom of the hill.

We would be happy to discuss further any aspect of this request should this be helpful and, in the meantime, would like to thank the Committee in advance for kindly considering the proposal”.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should contact the Footpaths Officer at NCC in order to investigate this matter further.

2376 Request from Embleton Primary School for the Parish Council to fund Chromebooks for its pupils

Members considered the application by Embleton Primary School to fund Chromebooks for its pupils. It was noted that this was necessary due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the schools being closed to all but certain children and the need therefore for most children to be educated at home. It was also noted that there were a number of children from Craster Parish who attended this school. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should provide sufficient funding towards the funding of two Chromebooks for the school, at a total cost of £333.32.

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

18th February 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
(18th February 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

Doing the right thing and staying local

Staying Local - While most people are doing their bit to follow the guidance on staying at home to help protect the NHS and save lives, the county's countryside and coastal hotspots and villages are still seeing a large influx of visitors, especially at weekends. Huge electronic signs have now been placed on key roads in Northumberland reminding people of the "Essential Travel Only – Stay Local" message, with more signs in production.

Council Leader Glen Sanderson said: "We want to thank all of those who are doing their utmost to stick with the guidance and either stay at home or stay very local when they do go out.

"We know it's difficult and none of us enjoy these restrictions but our hospitals are still under immense pressure supporting increasing numbers of patients becoming seriously ill.

"With the more transmissible variant of the virus now accounting for approximately half of the current cases, it's vital we all follow the regulations at all times.

"Currently people are asked to stay at home except for a few exceptional reasons, including for exercise. However the guidance is clear that people should stay local if they do have to go out, and if they go somewhere that is already busy, turn around and go home.

"We're doing all we can to reinforce that message, with electronic signs out at key points across the county. We would really ask people to do the right thing. Do they really need to travel any distance to do their exercise or get fresh air?"

"We must all continue to stay at home except for the permitted exemptions and avoid mixing with other households, maintain social distancing, hand hygiene and the use of face coverings and do everything we can now to prevent our NHS services from becoming overwhelmed and vulnerable people in our communities from dying."

Northumberland Libraries

The Library Service are organising doorstep deliveries to the most vulnerable customers in partnership with the Support Planning team. If you know a resident who might welcome a doorstep delivery of books, please let the library service know.

Unfortunately the mobile library will not operate its normal schedule, however the library service will be reinstating befriending telephone calls. Alnwick Library is to remain closed. Fines on overdue books are currently suspended.

The digital library continues to be available and members can access hundreds of eBooks, eAudio and magazines.

The Digital Helpline is also still available for anyone who needs help and with getting online or accessing online services. Call 0345 600 6400 and request a call back.

Library website - <http://mylibrary.co.uk>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/northumberlandlibraries/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/NlandLibs>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/nlandlibs/>

Northumberland Community Bank



Genuinely for people not profit

Northumberland Community Bank is very different from a traditional high street bank – the main reason is that they are genuinely for people not profit.

Our History

Northumberland Community Bank (NCB) was launched in April 2017 after bringing together 2 existing credit unions: The Credit Union for South East Northumberland and Tynedale Community Bank.

The aim was to benefit more people in Northumberland by creating an organisation which could offer a sustainable source of lending for individuals and micro businesses together with a safe home for savings.

By generating deposits from members, a fund is created allowing Community Bank to lend to local people, including those vulnerable to high interest lenders such as Pay Day and Door Stop lenders and Loan Sharks.

We use technology to ensure we are easy to deal with but still offer a personal service by phone or face-to-face at various locations across the county.

Members own the community bank

As a financial co-operative, we don't have external shareholders, we are owned by our members and they have a say in how it is run.

Created to help build financial resilience...

The Bank exists to help members by offering financial products and services. We encourage our members to save with us, regularly if possible, because that really helps them be financially prepared when the unexpected happens and provides a fund for the better things in life. Everyone needs a safe home for their savings, and we hope people choose to have theirs with us.

... and offer affordable credit

As a responsible lender, we provide loans to our members at rates they can afford. Most people need a helping hand at some point, and many find it difficult to access affordable finance via high street banks or with other lenders. We don't charge setting up fees or make early repayment charges and by calculating interest on a daily basis our members are never paying more than they need to. If their circumstances change, we look to help them navigate trickier times by being flexible and understanding. We are not a 'computer says no' organisation!

We offer loans from £300, unlike a lot of high street lenders who only offer much higher amounts or provide a credit card or overdraft as an alternative.

We believe in saving at the same time as borrowing too, even small amounts. It's amazing what little and often can build into.

We know that what we do has a real positive impact on people's lives because we see people week in, week out that come to us for help.

What We Do

- Savings accounts for individuals, micro businesses, charities and community groups
- Loans to Individuals and micro businesses (including start-up loans for entrepreneurs)

- Loans to individuals via employer payroll deduction schemes
- Provision of bank accounts and debit cards to individuals (coming soon)
- 3rd party secured loans for targeted disadvantaged groups
- Signposting financially vulnerable individuals to appropriate support services
- Provision of basic bank accounts (coming soon) and loans to support Universal Credit roll out
- Financial Education for young people
- Junior saver accounts

We Are Different

- We genuinely exist for people, not profit
- We offer ethical loans, from £300 – £15,000, tailored to individual requirements
- Loan applications are looked at by a person not a computer
- Loans are competitively priced with no hidden fees
- We do not charge setting up or early repayment fees
- We will be flexible if your personal circumstances or income changes

Our Member Benefits Include

- A safe home for their savings* and potential for an annual dividend
- Knowledge that their money held with us is helping local people
- Free savings and loan insurance protection (terms and conditions apply)

*Savings up to £85,000 are automatically protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. By Supporting, you know your community will benefit.

- To find out more visit www.northumberlandcommunitybank.co.uk



Share your lockdown stories

[Share your lockdown stories](#)

Have you been keeping a diary of your time in lockdown, or maybe you have been writing poems about your experiences?

Then Northumberland County Council's [Discover our Land](#) campaign wants to hear from you.

The campaign team is looking for submissions from people of all ages and abilities of pieces of art, diary entries, poetry, song lyrics, sculpture, paintings, drawings, collage, knitting or anything else that you used to express yourself during lockdown.

Some of these pieces will be saved into the Northumberland Archives so that future generations can look back and know what it was like during lockdown. Other pieces will be featured in an exhibition which will go live on the Discover our Land website on March 23, to mark the one year anniversary of the first national lockdown.

Due to the nature of the storage we are only able to select a limited number of pieces to preserve, but we will do our best to include as many submissions as we can.

As well as artwork submitted, the exhibition will also include audio and videos from people who have been volunteering or working through the lockdowns.

To submit your entry go to www.discoverourland.co.uk/lockdown-stories. The following formats are accepted:

- Image - jpeg, png, bmp, tiff
- Video - mp4, mpg, mkv, avi
- Audio - mp3, wav
- Documents- Word files or pdfs

There is no limit on file size, but remember it may be difficult to attach and send very large files. If you are sending a large file, please complete the online and form and then separately email your entry to discover@northumberland.gov.uk. The deadline for entries is Monday, February 18.

ITEM 2368: RECENT POWER CUTS AND UPDATE TO THE ELECTRICITY NETWORK

As Members are aware, there have been a number of power cuts in the local area recently. The latest of which occurred on 6th February between 7am and 5pm.

A number of local residents have contacted the Parish Council about this to see what can be done to either avoid this from happening or mitigate the negative impacts of this occurring. A particular concern has been raised about vulnerable members of the community.

The Clerk has written to the Chief Executive of Northern Powergrid to highlight concerns from residents about the most recent power cuts and asked what action is being taken to address this.

In doing so, the Clerk also asked for an update on proposed upgrades to the network, as reported some months ago.

Northern Powergrid has advised that they look after the overhead cables that supply the Craster area and unfortunately, unforeseen faults can sometimes happen, causing residents to experience a power cut. There can be a number of reasons why the power cuts happen, including windborne debris and tree branches meeting the overhead lines. Sometimes, extreme weather and even wildlife can cause the power to go off. This may have been the cause of any particularly short power cuts.

Although they are unable to prevent the power cuts, Northern Powergrid has advised that they remain pro-active in trying to minimise the disruption that they can cause residents. For this reason, they install specialist equipment on the overhead network. When a fault occurs that causes a power cut, the equipment automatically turns the power back on when the fault clears.

This means that the power cuts for this type of fault are usually very short, meaning that residents do not have to wait a long time for the power to come back on.

The latest power cut that affected the area on 6 February 2021, was caused by a snapped overhead pole, that was supporting the overhead network; as a consequence a piece of equipment known as a wishbone, became detached on the high voltage that supplies the area, resulting in loss of power to customers.

The power cut on 21 January 2021, was due to an overhead line conductor becoming detached from the network, Northern Powergrid's investigations indicate that this may have been caused by a bird coming into contact with our equipment.

Regardless of the cause of the power cut, or the duration, Northern Powergrid fully appreciates why the Parish Council has raised concern on behalf of the residents.

Northern Powergrid has advised that they were able to deploy their customer service vehicle on the most recent power cut, the purpose of the vehicle is to support their most vulnerable customers. Northern Powergrid does this by making calls to those customers who are registered as Priority Service Members; they offer hot drinks and, in some cases, will carry out a personal welfare check. The Parish Council has been advised that the vehicle was very well received, however at present it is unclear as to where the vehicle was located.

Anyone who is vulnerable and who has not already done so, is encouraged to register as a priority service member. The following link provides more information on this: <https://www.northernpowergrid.com/care>

Northern Powergrid has confirmed that a scheme of work has been raised and authorised, to replace approximately 45 – 50 spans of overhead line in the area, with various pole changes, as well as additional protective devices installed to improve reliability. Due to the size of the scheme of work, Northern Powergrid will need to approach a number of land owners to agree

access to their land, in addition they have advised that they need to approach the local government planning department.

Northern Powergrid has advised that they are unable to provide a start date for the work at this time, however, would welcome the opportunity to attend a parish council meeting in the future, with the appropriate team to provide a progress report, once more information regarding potential time scales for the work to be carried out is available.

The request for a meeting aside, it is the Parish Council's understanding that there is no requirement for planning permission to be granted for the change to the overhead power line serving Craster and Dunstan but Northern Powergrid do need to put in a pro forma application which is automatically granted under statutory powers. Pro forma **19/04788/OHL** was registered with Northumberland County Council on 04/12/19 and the formal assent given on 20/02/20. There has since been a new application for a slight variation of the route between Little Mill and Craster South Farm and pro forma **20/04371/OHL** was registered on 17/12/20 and which has not been updated further by the County Council.

DECISION REQUIRED	For Councillors to decide what further representations ought to be made to Northern Powergrid on this matter.
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ITEM 2376: UPDATE ON CRASTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Northumberland County Council has now provided the Parish Council with an update on the programme for the referendum on the Craster Neighbourhood Plan.

The Government recently confirmed that elections will be held in May. This means that NCC will now be able to plan to hold referendums on neighbourhood plans after current restrictions are formally lifted. NCC's Planning team has been in discussions with the Council's Elections Manager and can now confirm that a referendum on the Craster Neighbourhood Plan will be held on **Thursday 10 June 2021**.

NCC Planning will work with colleagues in the Elections Team to arrange all necessary publicity about the referendum and will publish an information statement on their website in due course in accordance with the relevant Regulations. Craster Parish Council will be kept updated on the plans for the referendum.

Members need to be aware that there are certain restrictions concerning activities and publicity at elections and during election periods, including referendums. There is a Government code of practice, published in 2011, which addresses these issues and remains valid. The main principles require publicity by a local authority, which includes town and parish councils, to remain unbiased and factual.

The Parish Council, and anyone involved in supporting plan preparation should remain neutral in any publicity about the Neighbourhood Plan. Publicity should be factual. The Parish Council should not encourage people to vote one way or another. Whilst this is often met with disappointment by people involved in preparing neighbourhood plans, it is important to follow this guidance to minimise the risk of subsequent challenge to any decision made by the County Council on bringing neighbourhood plans into force formally following a referendum.

There are limits on expenditure for any publicity, similar to those that apply during elections. Members should also be aware that the Covid-19 rules specifically ban any leaflets/flyers which aren't sent via Royal Mail at present.

The Clerk has asked whether an earlier date than 10th June 2021 for the Neighbourhood Plan referendum may be possible, for example timing this at the same time as the local elections, would not only cut costs but would also be easier logistically. However, this will not be possible. Unfortunately, due to the work involved in holding three ballots on the same day in May, NCC has advised that this will make it impossible to organise the referendum any earlier than 10th June 2021.

Members should be aware that, at this stage, the Plan now carries significant weight in the determination of new and pending planning applications in our Parish.

DECISION REQUIRED	For Councillors to note the information set out in the report and await further details on the preparations for the Neighbourhood Plan referendum.
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ITEM 2377: PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A DONATION POST IN CRASTER

At the January Full Parish Council meeting, Members requested that the Clerk investigate further a proposal to have donation posts installed in Craster.

This followed the report in which Members agreed to draft a letter to all holiday let owners in the parish, requesting a voluntary contribution towards the Parish Council's precept.

The aim of this donation post is to ensure that funding is captured from visitors of Craster towards the upkeep of the Parish, to ensure that holiday let owners are not the single source of external finance requested by the Parish Council. In addition, whilst tourism is very much welcome in Craster and helps to sustain our local economy and employment, it has often been raised that residents are subsidising a growing tourism market in Craster.

The Clerk has investigated this proposal further and has identified a supplier of these posts, which can be fitted securely into the ground. The post would be similar to the following image:



One option is at the harbour itself next to where the A boards used to be located – this would capture visitors to the village, whether they were visiting Dunstanburgh castle or not. This option has been discussed with the landowner and the harbour operator and they are happy to support this but have asked if the Parish Council may be able to make a percentage donation from all funds raised to support the harbour. If agreed, it is recommended that this agreement be formalised.

Option 2 – At the end of Dunstanburgh Road

Another option is at the end of Dunstanburgh Road in order to capture the visitors to the castle. This area is well overlooked and would therefore be a more secure location. However this option would not capture those visitors who come into Craster village only and do not walk to the castle.

If agreed, it is proposed that the sign includes a graphic and reads something like:

PLEASE DONATE
Suggested donation £X.
Help us keep Craster clean, green and beautiful for all
Craster Parish Council

This sort of initiative is done at other major tourist areas and helps to raise funds for the local area or the organisation involved with this.

For the Parish Council to deliver on projects such as new footpaths, Northumbria in Bloom, cycle parking and more, it cannot rely solely on the precept and therefore external funding must be sought.

NALC has confirmed that they are happy for the Parish Council to raise funds in this way. If approved, this post would be included in the Parish Council’s list of assets and would be covered by the Parish Council’s insurance.

DECISIONS REQUIRED	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) For Members to approve the installation of the donation post as set out in the above report.2) If 1) is agreed, for Members to decide on a suitable location for the post.3) If 1) is agreed and the decision at 2) is for location Option 1, for Members to agree an arrangement with the harbour for a donation towards the harbour.
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