

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 19th November 2020 – 6.00pm 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: 8 members of the public

Clerk: Adam Shanley

2361 Apologies for absence

None received.

2362 Declarations of interest

None received.

2363 Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 15th October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2020 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2364 Matters Arising

Mr and Mrs Drage presented a report to the Parish Council on the subject of the spraying of grass verges in Craster. In particular, the concern related to the negative impact of the product used for spraying on the local ecology.

The report included the following recommendations:

First and foremost, a trial in 2021 where herbicide is not used on these verges. This will improve the appearance and enhance biodiversity by allowing native plant species to re-emerge whilst avoiding damage from Glyphosate to pollinating insects. Mr and Mrs Drage offered to monitor this and report back at the end of the growing season.

Secondly, where bulbs have been planted the first mowing needs to be delayed at least until the bulb foliage has died down, usually six weeks after flowering. It was suggested that for the annual first cut just a narrow strip is mown along the road and pavement edges to tidy the verges without damaging the bulbs. Then allow native wildflowers to emerge and set seed before a second cut.

Subsequently longer mowing intervals through to autumn could leave the grass slightly longer than at present to enhance biodiversity. This could halve the number of mowing visits and reduce costs for the Council, whilst improving the appearance and biodiversity of the entrance to the village.

The Parish Council unanimously accepted these recommendations and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk should approach the County Council with these recommendations.

2365 Public participation

Mrs Marion Gallon advised that the new gate to the castle field was broken and was unable to close. Cllr M Brooks advised that she would be speaking with Scott about this.

Mrs Jackie Reeves asked if there would be a socially-distanced lighting of the Christmas tree. Cllr M Smith advised that there wouldn't be an official lighting event but that Mr Pearson had kindly agreed to put up the tree and have this lit.

2366 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Cllr Wendy Pattison provided an update on NCC matters to the meeting. Cllr Pattison advised that Anne-Marie Trevelyan is looking into the issue of no mobile phone signal in Craster on our behalf following a meeting she had arranged with the MP.

2367 Craster Residents Permit Parking scheme

The Clerk advised that he had been seeking a meeting with Highways Officers to progress this proposal. The Clerk advised that recent feedback from NCC suggested that the scheme would not be introduced until April 2021.

The Full Parish Council unanimously agreed to accept the results of this consultation and to progress the Permit Parking scheme.

2368 Report following the Coastal Summit, held on 11th November 2020

Cllr M Brooks advised that she felt that the Summit had been very positive and an opportunity to raise the issues which had been brought up to the Parish Council during Covid-19. The main issues being parking, tourism, growing levels of holiday lets and the use of National Trust land. Cllr M Brooks advised that there should hopefully be a follow up meeting in February 2021 to further look at the issues.

2370 Update on bins in the Parish

Concerns were raised at the meeting about the level of litter on the North side of the village. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had recently purchased 7 new bins with the support of County Councillor Wendy Pattison.

Mrs Marion Gallon asked if three additional bins could be placed on the North side of the village. The Chair advised that the Parish Council would need to precept for this in the coming financial year. In the meantime, it was agreed that the Jolly Fisherman should be asked to fund one bin, in view of feedback that food being sold to their customers were appearing around the village.

It was also agreed that one of the bins from the playpark should be re-positioned on Dunstanburgh Road.

2371 Update on LTP submission

The Clerk advised that he had been asked this to be put back on the Agenda in relation to the proposed traffic calming measures for Heugh Wynd.

Mr Kevin Brown attended the meeting and expressed his concerns about the level of speeding going on on this road.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should request a further speed survey to take place on Heugh Wynd.

2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Cllr E Pearson provided an update to the meeting as the Parish Council representative on the EJBC.

Cllr Pearson advised that the Gatehouse is now on the 'Homefinder' website and advised that the quality of the house had been vastly improved by the contractor.

Cllr Pearson advised that she hoped that this would be a lovely family home for a local family.

Cllr Pearson advised that the Norwegian Memorial had been made safe again as it was leaning slightly and there were concerns that this may fall on a visitor of the burial ground.

Cllr M Craster advised that he had been in touch with the Norwegian Consul about this and he hoped to have an update for a future Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Pearson advised that the EJBC had done their best to find family members of those who are buried in the burial ground.

Cllrs Pearson and Brooks also advised that the EJBC would not be requesting a precept from the three Parish Councils this year and the financial position of the Committee remained strong.

Cllr M Craster congratulated all those involved with the EJBC for the overall appearance of the burial ground.

2373 Craster Community Trust report

Mrs Jackie Reeves and Cllr M Craster advised that the Trust were awaiting further guidance from the Government on when the Hall could be reopened for usual social activities again.

2374 Planning Matters:

20/03089/FUL | Retrospective application to raise the level of rear lower patio by 385mm above the former timber deck level. | Harbour Cottage 5 Haven Hill Craster NE66 3TR. It was **agreed** to note this application.

20/03217/FELTPO | Tree preservation order application for - Removal of Cherry (T1) from the rear of property | The Bogie Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3ST. It was **agreed** to note this application.

2375 Update on Craster Neighbourhood Plan and implications for pending planning applications within the Craster Neighbourhood Plan area

The Clerk advised that he had now received the Examiner's report and, subject to some minor amendments, the Examiner has now confirmed that she is happy for this to proceed to a referendum. The Clerk advised that the referendum at present could not take place before May 2021, owing to legislation and Government rules on Covid-19. However, the Clerk did advise that the Neighbourhood Plan may now carry significant weight when considering new planning applications in the Parish area.

The Council considered all pending planning applications in the parish and felt that this would not be applicable to any existing applications but would be mindful of this for all future applications in the Parish.

The Chair thanked the Clerk for all his hard work on the Neighbourhood Plan and the meeting agreed that they looked forward to this proceeding to referendum and, hopefully, formal adoption. The Chair remarked that this would hopefully have a long and meaningful impact on the community.

2376 Items for Next Agenda

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

2377 Date and time of next meeting

21st January 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
21st January 2021