

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 17th September 2020 – 6.00pm via Zoom

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

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

In attendance: 6 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 18th June 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th June were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2364 Matters Arising

None received.

2365 Public participation

Ms Jacquie Mellor expressed concern about people climbing on the walls of Dunstanburgh Castle. Ms Mellor advised that she had witnessed this on a number of occasions and wondered if the Parish Council may be able to do something about this. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write directly to English Heritage to echo the concerns expressed at the meeting and to see if they may be able to take action on this matter.

2366 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison – report attached

Cllr Pattison began her remarks by stating that she was receiving a lot of concern from local residents in coastal villages who feel that they have been left without any support during the Covid-19 pandemic. Cllr Pattison advised that she had raised this directly with NCC Cabinet and asked that additional support be given to her Ward.

Cllr Pattison also advised that she and Cllr Glen Sanderson, Cabinet Member for Local Services were hoping to arrange a coastal summit in November to address a number of coastal related matters.

Cllr M Green asked why the decision had been taken to include Northumberland with areas such as Newcastle and Sunderland with the introduction of a local lockdown. Cllr Green expressed concern that the areas are very different from one another and a "one size fits all" approach may not be the best way to approach this issue. Cllr Pattison advised that she would be writing to Liz Morgan, Director of Public Health for Northumberland on this issue.

It was also **agreed** that the Clerk should write to NCC to seek further clarification on rules relating to the letting of holiday properties, etc.

2367 Craster Residents Permit Parking consultation – report attached

The Chair presented the results of the parking consultation to the meeting, stating that it was clear that a good majority of residents were in favour of trialling this scheme.

The Clerk reminded all present that the scheme would most likely not come in until January 2021 and a further round of public consultation would take place between months 10-11 of the scheme to see if the public were still keen to continue this.

The Parish Council **agreed** the results of the consultation and **agreed** to take this forward for introduction.

A number of members of the public asked that Dunstan be included in the scheme to avoid the issue of a parking displacement issue elsewhere in the parish. The Clerk advised that NCC officers had discounted the possibility of including Dunstan in the scheme and felt that this would be inappropriate. The Parish Council was also asked, in addition to the resident only parking scheme, to investigate possibilities for additional parking spaces in the parish. North Hills, the open land between Craster and Dunstanburgh Castle and the old football fields were put forward as possibilities and the Clerk **agreed** to investigate these further.

2368 Update on bulb planting project in the Parish

The Clerk reminded all present that £500 had been agreed for the purchase of bulbs to be planted along the bogue road and that the Parish Council would be purchasing these for planting in October time.

Cllr M Brooks **agreed** to help coordinate the planting by marking out the specific sections to be planted.

This scheme was very much welcomed for the village.

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

The Chair advised that neither he nor Cllr M Brooks was able to attend the meeting with Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

That being the case, the Chair advised that the issues of no mobile phone signal and business rate relief were being looked into. Anne-Marie is writing to Ofcom on the issue of no mobile signal and to the Minister regarding the issue of business rate relief.

2370 Update on the purchase of new bins in the Parish

The Clerk advised that the bins had been purchased and were due to be installed in the coming weeks by NCC. The Clerk advised that he would need to purchase flagstones to hold the bins down with, however Mr Michael Robson advised that he has a number of these and would be willing to offer these free of charge. The Council thanked Mr Robson for his kind offer.

A few complaints were received regarding the issue of bin doors being left unlocked and allowed to swing open rather dangerously. The Clerk advised that he would contact NCC about this and request that they be locked at all times outside of being emptied.

2371 Report following footpaths officer visit to Craster

The Clerk advised that the Footpaths Officer had recently visited Craster and erected some "No cycling" signs along the coast road. It was felt that the size and type of signs erected were inadequate however and it was **agreed** that the Parish Council should purchase some larger, more hardy signs for this area.

2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Cllrs M Brooks and E Pearson provided a report to the Parish Council on the EJBC as Parish Council representatives.

Cllr E Pearson advised that the house is now complete and is looking excellent. Cllr M Brooks agreed and advised that the contractor had done a very good job indeed. It is now intended to let the properties out to a local family.

Cllr M Green asked if the three local parishes who supported the scheme would have a say on who becomes the tenant. Cllrs M Brooks and E Pearson advised that this was being managed by a specialist company.

Cllr E Pearson reminded Members that the Burial Committee had attempted to locate the families of those with gravestones in the Cemetery. In cases where the families could not be found, the contractor was laying the stones on top of the graves in a respectful and proper manner.

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

Cllr M Craster provided a report to the meeting as Parish Council representative on the Community Trust.

Cllr Craster advised that the Hall had reopened in August and this had been working well with social distancing arrangements in place. However, due to the introduction of the "rule of six", the Hall has now had to close again for health and safety reasons.

Cllr Craster advised that, thanks to the successful grant application to Awards For All, the kitchen to the Hall has now been renovated and is looking excellent. Cllr Craster also advised that the playpark is also looking very good indeed and thanked those involved in ensuring this is the case.

Cllr Craster also advised that the Trust is looking for ideas of how to fundraise for community projects. One member of the public suggested an online auction.

2374 Northumberland County Council Local Transport Plan consultation

Members considered proposals for the NCC Local Transport Plan (LTP) for the parish and it was **agreed** that the following be proposed to NCC:

- Introduction of a footpath to the upper part of Tower Bank.
- Introduction of double yellow lines throughout Dunstan.
- Extending double yellow lines to the junction on the Bogue Road after the sewerage works.
- Introduction of a mini roundabout in front of the entrance to the quarry car park.
- Introduction of further traffic calming measures on Heugh Wynd.

2375 Items for Next Agenda

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

2376 Date and time of next meeting

15th October 2020 – 18:00pm via Zoom.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed,

M. S. T.

**Chair of Craster Parish Council
(15th October 2020)**