

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 25th January 2021 – 5.00pm via Zoom

Agenda

Join our meeting via Zoom via the link below:

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87409513330>
Meeting ID: 874 0951 3330

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 **Monday 25th January 2021 at 5pm** to transact the following business:

2361 Apologies for absence

2362 Declarations of interest

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

2364 Matters Arising

2365 Public participation

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

2367 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison – report attached

2368 Parish Council budget 2021-22 – report attached

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

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

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

2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

2373 Craster Community Trust report

2374 Planning Matters:

- **20/04293/FUL** - Land West Of Heugh Wynd Whin Hill Craster Northumberland
- Correspondence regarding new constructions at Dunstan

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

2376 Request from Embleton Primary School for the Parish Council to fund Chromebooks for its pupils – letter attached.

2377 Items for Next Agenda

2378 Date and time of next meeting

18th February 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 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

CRASTER PARISH COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



County Councillor Wendy Pattison

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk - Tel. 07779

983072 and on Facebook – Cllr Wendy Pattison

CRASTER PARISH

Happy New Year from my screen to yours!!

Wishing you all, a safe, healthy and a prosperous New Year.

New Year bin collections

Collections for the **week commencing Monday 28 December** will take place either one or two days later than your usual collection days. Please refer to the table below:

Normal collection day	Day collection has been moved to
Monday 28 December	Tuesday 29 December
Tuesday 29 December	Wednesday 30 December
Wednesday 30 December	Thursday 31 December
Thursday 31 December	Saturday 2 January

Residents encouraged to have a green HOLIDAY PERIOD

Green Holiday period - Over the holiday period, households often produce increased amounts of waste, from leftover festive food to gift wrapping paper.

The council is encouraging everyone to practice effective recycling this festive season and help move toward an even greener, cleaner and climate friendly Northumberland.

There are number of facilities across the county to help residents achieve this.

They can recycle from home using their household waste recycling bin. Items such as plastic bottles, cardboard packaging, paper cards and food tins can go in household recycling bins.

The county's household waste recovery centres (HWRCs) also accept a variety of items, such as glass bottles and jars, old or broken electricals, and even Christmas trees.

They're open throughout the festive period, except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Due to the current local Covid restrictions in place, residents are strongly advised to limit their time outside the home and therefore should make as few journeys to HWRCs as possible.

Residents are also encouraged to practice better battery recycling. All household batteries, including 'button' batteries from watches, can be recycled at HWRCs.

There are additional battery recycling facilities in local supermarkets and shops where used batteries can be recycled free of charge.

The council have also arranged for additional Christmas tree recycling points to be located throughout the county, where people can drop-off their real trees.

Residents should also be mindful of reducing their food waste over the festive season by practicing smart shopping and being mindful of how much perishable food they buy.

Second phase of business support grant schemes underway

The second versions of schemes to support businesses which have been severely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions are underway in Northumberland.

Northumberland County Council is writing directly to businesses which have already applied for the first phase of three different types of support, and are now eligible for version 2, making the

process of securing grants more straightforward.

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) Version 2 is for hospitality, hotel, bed and breakfast and leisure industry businesses which have remained open but were severely affected by the COVID restrictions, and are liable for business rates. This second phase of the scheme will provide support for the 4-week period starting on 2 December 2020.

Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Version 2 is for businesses that have been required by legislation to close due to local or national Covid restrictions, for example during lockdown and Tier 3 restrictions, and which are liable for business rates. Phase two will provide support for the 4-week period starting 2 December 2020.

Businesses such as nightclubs which have successfully applied for Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector) will also be contacted so that they can gain ongoing support.

For those businesses which haven't yet applied for phase one of the grants but think that they may be eligible applications will remain open until Sunday 10 January 2021 for the 'Open' scheme. Applications for the 'Closed' scheme will continue after that date.

Full details of all grants available, and how to apply, are available

at www.northumberland.gov.uk/businesshub

Council to investigate possible move of Alnwick museum

Alnwick Museum - Northumberland County Council will work with partners in Alnwick to look at the possibility of a move of an Alnwick museum.

The council is now in discussion with the Trustees of the Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery and Alnwick Town Council about the possibility of relocating the Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery into the more spacious Northumberland Hall in the centre of the town.

The feasibility study would fully evaluate whether the historic hall is suitable for such a use and also look at its use for other council services in the town.

The Bailiffgate Museum and Gallery is currently located in a Grade 2 listed former church. It is run by volunteers and delivers high quality exhibitions which celebrate the history, traditions, culture and arts of north Northumberland. It also showcases the work of local national and international artists.

It currently attracts around 10,000 visitors a year but relocating it to a more central location could help increase visitor numbers and audiences and provide more room for additional exhibitions.

Jean Humphrys, chair of the Trustees said: "We love our Museum building in Bailiffgate, and appreciate that being able to lease this building through His Grace, The Duke of Northumberland's Trust, put us in a very privileged position which has allowed the Museum to grow and develop over the years. When the Museum started in 2002, we had no idea how successful we would become.

"Our success and our wish to do more to tell the story of Alnwick and to bring new and exciting exhibitions to local people has made us realise that we need more space. It is a testing time for Trustees and, in the current climate we need to be forward looking, resilient and sustainable."

Lynda Wearn, Mayor of Alnwick said: "The potential of having a major tourist attraction in the town centre is an extremely exciting prospect. We also however understand that current users and the residents of the town need to be consulted on the proposals once they are developed and we look forward to receiving more detail as the feasibility study progresses."

ITEM 2368 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2021-22

Members are reminded that the Parish Council is required to submit a precept request for the financial year 2021-22 to the County Council by the end of January 2021.

In order to assist Members in deciding an appropriate precept level, it is also necessary for the Council to agree a budget for the forthcoming financial year.

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 below offers a guide on the 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
Total	£7,813.88

DECISION REQUIRED	For Members to formally agree a budget for the financial year 2021-22
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ITEM 2369 PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT REQUEST FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22

Budget

Please refer to Item 2368 for consideration of budget priorities for 2021/2022.

Information on Council Tax base

Council Tax base is calculated by taking the number of houses in the parish area, allocating a weight to them based on their council tax banding and adding up the total of the weighted households. For example, higher council tax band properties carry a higher weighting and lower council tax base properties carry a lower council tax weighting. The Council Tax Base can therefore fluctuate from year to year based on the number of properties in each area. For example, council tax base will increase if any new houses have been built and the occupants have started to pay council tax but may decrease if for example any houses have been demolished in an area or have moved into another parish following a community governance review.

The 2021/22 Craster Parish Council Tax Base was calculated at 148.97. For 2020/21 the Tax Base was 161.44. Our 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 current Band D charge for the Parish Council is £37.17.

The precept for the current financial year is £6,000.

External funding

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.

Precept request

The precept request must be submitted to Northumberland County Council by the end of January 2021.

DECISION REQUIRED	Councillors are asked to consider the above information and decide on a precept level for the financial year 2021-22.
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ITEM 2375 PATHWAY PROPOSAL

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.

Anna and Mark Turner