

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 25th November 2019

Craster Memorial Hall at 18:00pm

In attendance: 32 members of the public, including Parish Councillors.

Also in attendance: Adam Shanley (Parish Clerk) and Ms Sylvia Pringle (iNorthumberland).

1. Confirmation of Minutes of last Parish meeting

The minutes of the Parish meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2019 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2. Chair's update on the Parish Council

The Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Martin Smith provided an update on works carried out by the Parish Council since May 2019.

Cllr Smith advised that the Parish Council were continuing with its programme of work to deliver a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. Cllr Smith took the opportunity to thank the Parish Clerk for his work in doing this. Cllr Smith advised that the Plan is intended to combat the growing numbers of holiday let accommodation in the parish.

Cllr Smith advised that the work to the Craster Trail was now complete and the Parish Council hoped to have an official opening in due course with Lord Howick and others invited to take part. Cllr Smith advised that this had been a big project, grant funded and again thanked the Clerk for his work with this.

A member of the public asked when the map would be installed into the board at the car park and Cllr Margaret Brooks advised that she is continuing to work with the designer to get this done and completed and this would hopefully be ready for the trail's official opening.

Cllr Smith advised that the Parish Council is also working to have all of the bins within the Parish which are damaged/ no longer suitable replaced with new bins.

Cllr Smith also advised that the Parish Council has been in ongoing dialogue with the County Council regarding residents' complaints about displaced/ inconsiderate car parking and the Parish Council is pushing for solutions to these issues.

3. Discussion with Northumbria Police

A representative (PCSO) of Northumbria Police attended the meeting and advised that the parish remains a safe place to live with very few complaints being reported to the police via 101 or 999. Some residents complained about the issue of boy racers coming into the village over the summer months. The officer advised that he would keep an eye on this but implored residents to try and capture the registrations of the vehicles so that the police may take action against this.

Some residents also complained that the quarry car park is being used as boy racer track and asked if CCTV could be installed to be able to tackle this. The officer advised that this would need to be justified by the number of 101 complaints being reported to the police about this and at present there are no 101

complaints that he is aware of about this.

4. Update on the work of Craster Community Trust

Michael Craster and Jackie Reeves provided an update to the meeting on the work of the Community Trust.

Jackie advised that the Hall continues to take regular bookings from local community/ activity groups and continues to be a real hub of the community. Jackie advised that the renovations to the Hall were complete and members of the public agreed that these renovations were great and highly welcome. Jackie took the opportunity to show the sound system of the Hall by playing a piece of music and members of the public remarked on the good quality of the sound.

Michael Craster advised that the Trust had looked into acquiring a license for the Hall to host events where the sale of alcohol could take place.

Michael and Jackie also advised that the works to the playpark were now complete and thanked the Parish Council for their contribution towards this.

5. Proposals on resident only car parking

Cllr Martin Smith advised that the Parish Council is receiving near weekly complaints regarding inconsiderate parking. Martin advised that the Parish Council had been looking for solutions to these issues and had asked NCC to look into this. One of the proposals being investigated is the introduction of a residents-only permit parking scheme in the Parish.

Members of the public agreed that parking was a serious problem in Craster village. 30 Members of the public voted in favour of a residents-only permit parking scheme and 2 Members of the public abstained from the vote. Martin advised that the Parish Council would take this on board and progress this proposal with NCC.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Clerk Adam Shanley advised that the Parish Council had met with David English and Sarah Brannigan (NCC Planning Officers, Neighbourhood Planning) and had agreed a way forward to progress a one-policy Neighbourhood Plan document to tackle the issue of holiday accommodation in the parish. The Clerk advised that he was underway drafting the document and he would be trying to gain grant funding for professional support for the production of the Plan. Members of the public felt that this was a very good idea and hoped that this could be progressed quickly.

7. Precept

Cllr Martin Smith presented a budget for the Parish Council to the meeting, reminded those present that the current precept for 2019-20 was £4,500. Martin advised that, based on the current reserves and projected expenditure for the forthcoming financial year, the Parish Council would be proposing a precept of £6,000. Those present unanimously agreed that this would be needed. The Parish Clerk also highlighted that the Parish Council had been successful in securing grant funding from a number of sources to support its work in the parish.

8. Mobile phone coverage for Craster

Ms Sylvia Pringle, representative of iNorthumberland, attended the Parish meeting to advise that NCC is aware of the concerns and issues of no mobile phone signal in Craster. Sylvia advised that the County Council had no direct control over mobile

phone signal and this is instead the responsibility of service providers such as O2, EE, Vodafone, etc. Sylvia advised that the County Council continues to lobby these companies for an extension of the signal and service to rural communities in Northumberland. Members of the public expressed concern that this is a health and safety issue, if a medical emergency takes place and there is an urgent need to contact paramedics, etc. Sylvia and the Clerk advised that this would be raised with the relevant Cabinet Member and the Clerk advised that the County Councillor Wendy Pattison is also looking into this matter for the Parish Council and local residents.

9. AOB

A local resident raised the issue of the poor condition of the coastal footpath as a result of cyclists using the path. The Clerk advised that he would raise this with NCC to see if they could do anything about this.

The Chair thanked all present for their attendance and contributions and closed the meeting.