

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 18th March 2021 – 6.00pm via Zoom

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

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

In attendance: 16 members of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Clerk: Adam Shanley

2361 Apologies for absence

None received.

2362 Declarations of interest

Cllrs Marilyn Bagley and Stephen Bagley both declared an interest in application 21/00319/FUL and took no part in the discussions on this item.

2363 Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 18th February 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings, with the following amendments:

Under minute 2368, the additional sentence be added: *"Cllr Margaret Brooks raised the fact that the electricity company had notified residents of the power cut and associated updates via mobile phone text. Cllr Brooks advised that this is problematic in Craster as there is no mobile phone signal in the village"*.

Under minute 2369, the sentence *"Mrs Fiona Robson agreed with this and advised that she felt that cycle parking by the Shoreline café would also be a good location for cycle parking"* be changed to *"Mrs Fiona Robson agreed with the provision of cycle parking to stop cyclists parking on the pavement at the Shoreline café making pedestrians have to walk on the road"*

2364 Matters Arising

The Clerk advised that he had now delivered letters to all of the holiday lets in the village, as agreed at the previous meeting, and already a donation of £500 had been received.

The Chair advised that there had been ongoing correspondence with BT about mobile phone coverage in the parish. The Chair advised that although there is a scheme nationally to help improve coverage, Craster is not included in this. The Chair advised that he was aware that the contact at BT had made the case for Craster to be included in this, however, as yet, no further correspondence on this matter had been received.

2365 Public participation

Mrs Fiona Robson advised that the positioning of the new barrels, as part of the new pedestrian scheme, is such that it makes it difficult to turn left in a vehicle into the car park coming from Craster village.

Mrs Fiona Robson asked if it is clear who is responsible for replacing the barrels if one is stolen or damaged and also who is responsible if there is an accident involving a barrel and a driver submits an insurance claim for any damage caused. The Clerk advised that NCC would be responsible for all of this.

Mr Michael Doherty advised that Northumbria Police have confirmed that they did not know anything about the new pedestrian scheme in Craster and have advised that they are unable to enforce this scheme. Mr Doherty advised that this is not what is stated in the decision documentation of 17th February from NCC on the new scheme. Mr Doherty advised that he felt that the success of the scheme depended upon enforcement and monitoring. Mr Doherty asked for this to be clarified. The Clerk advised that he would look into this.

Cllr Michael Craster asked for the installation of a camera to help monitor the level of cars coming into the village.

Cllr Elizabeth Pearson expressed her concerns about the safety aspect of the new scheme.

The Clerk reminded all attendees to raise all matters directly to **highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk**

Mrs Marion Gallon raised her concerns about ongoing littering issues as a result of the fish and chip boxes filling the litter bins. The Chair asked if NCC could be asked to empty the bins more regularly. The Clerk advised that new bins would be purchased for Craster and he would be continuing to try to contact the owner of the premises in question to ask if the fish and chip boxes could be changed to paper.

Mr Doherty advised that there is now a rat problem at the harbour as a result of the overflowing bins.

Mrs Marion Gallon raised her concerns about the refurbishment taking place at Middle Rigg. Mrs Gallon advised that workmen had been parking on the pavement and, following these works, there seemed to only be space for one car to park at this site. The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with enforcement about the ongoing issues at this site and there is nothing that can be done about the parking situation. It was **agreed** to continue to monitor this.

Mr Mark Turner asked if there had been any progress on an earlier request he had made for a new footpath to be introduced on the short section of the C74 between Dunstan and Craster, from the junction with the U3014 (Dunstan to Embleton road). The Clerk advised that he is in ongoing dialogue with NCC about this. It may be that funding is not available for this and therefore the Parish Council would need to seek alternative methods of funding for this.

2366 Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Cllr Wendy Pattison advised that she is in ongoing dialogue with local MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan on the issue of mobile phone signal for the parish. Wendy advised that Anne-Marie has contacted BT about this. In addition, Wendy advised that a further £4million is being made available via the Borderlands Growth Deal towards digital projects and she hoped that this would include funding for mobile phone signal to Craster. Wendy advised that she had spoken with the relevant Cabinet Member at NCC about this for Craster.

Wendy advised that the barrels would look much better with some greenery installed inside them. Wendy advised that, if the pedestrian scheme does not work, this can be removed within one day. Wendy asked all attendees to give the new scheme a try to see whether it succeeded or not.

2367 Update on proposal to introduce additional cycle parking to Craster

The Clerk advised that the National Trust had advised that they would not be funding any additional cycle parking for Craster. The Clerk advised that the Trust had recommended that the Parish Council contacts the AONB about this. This the Clerk had done and the AONB advised that they also would not be funding this.

The Clerk advised that he had still not heard back from anyone at Sustrans about this.

The Chair advised that he was in contact with an officer at NCC about this.

Cllr Mark Green asked whether cycle parking could be considered behind where the barrels are located at present as part of the pedestrian scheme. The Clerk advised that he would look into this proposal.

2368 Report from fundraising/community project scoping committee

The Clerk reminded attendees that it was agreed at the last Full Parish Council meeting that a working group of local stakeholders be established to investigate possible funding initiatives towards local projects.

Accordingly, a working party including representatives of the Parish Council, St Peter's Church, the Community Trust, the WI, the RNLI and the harbour were invited to a meeting last month and the following was proposed:

- Donation boxes be erected in two locations: at the harbour (attached to the finger post) and at the end of Dunstanburgh Road (attached to the top of the bin there at present).

- These boxes should be low cost (currently costed at just over £100 incl. clips and bolts, etc) but durable and demonstrably temporary so as to ensure that no planning application be required for their installation.
- These boxes should be emptied on a daily basis using a rota of local volunteers and there ought to be two people involved with the collection of the funds.
- Subject to the Trust's agreement, the funds would be collected and deposited into a separate and secure account for that of the Trust's account.
- The funds raised ought to be directed to local projects, including a donation to the harbour for the use of their land for this activity. Possible other local projects include the installation of footpaths and supporting the blooming of the village, particularly the new barrels which have been installed as part of the pedestrian zone scheme for Craster.
- These boxes are intended to be for a trial period of 1 year to see how much is raised and how successful this scheme turns out to be.
- It was agreed that a sign stating "Help keep Craster special" be installed with the box at the harbour and stickers saying "honesty box...all funds towards local projects" be put on to the box at the end of Dunstanburgh Road.
- During the first few months of the instalment of these boxes, an assessment of funds raised will be carried out in case of the need to require an additional level of auditing for the Trust as the recipient.
- The working group needs to have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of each respective organisation which forms part of the working group on the allocation of this funding.

Mrs Jackie Reeves advised that the Trust would soon be meeting to discuss the proposal of the funds being deposited to a restricted account of the Trust.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should fund the two new boxes at the locations agreed at this scoping meeting.

It was also **agreed** that a sign should be included with this saying "Help keep Craster special" and "all funds raised will go towards community projects".

2369 Update on "Adopt a Craster Barrel" scheme, organising the competition and matters relating to the pedestrian zone scheme.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had agreed to launch an "adopt a barrel" scheme; whereby members of the public can add some plants to a barrel and these would be judged in August by a panel of judges. The Chair encouraged anyone interested to contact the Clerk about this.

Cllr Michael Craster recommended that small trees might be a good addition to the barrels.

Cllr Margaret Brooks reminded attendees that there is no water available in this location for watering of the barrels, so this needs to be considered.

2370 Proposal to develop a retail area in the parish

Cllr Mark Green presented a proposal to develop a retail area in the parish.

Cllr Mark Green advised that there is sufficient space to the right of Pipers Pitch in the area opposite the Tourist Information Centre for some additional huts/ businesses; similar to those in Amble. Cllr Mark Green advised that these could be used as starter businesses for people who have a craft activity or do farmer's markets etc.

Cllr Mark Green advised that he would be happy to discuss this proposal with the relevant officers at NCC, if the Parish Council is happy to progress this.

Cllr Mark Green advised that any agreement would need to be on the basis that the Parish Council is able to keep the rent paid for the use of each hut.

Cllr Mark Green advised that he had shared the briefing note for this proposal with Andy at Piper's Pitch and Andy had expressed some concern about the lack of space in this area. Cllr Green advised that there is space measuring 12m x 9m available in this area.

Cllr Mark Green advised that the exact nature of the businesses would be determined by who applied to lease the huts but the criteria for applications could include:

- non-food businesses, to prevent direct competition with the Piper's Pitch
- emphasis on local crafts and traditions
- help for people within the parish to develop their ideas into a viable business

Cllr Mark Green advised that he hoped that this proposal could create additional employment in the area and also enhance the current business offer in the village.

Cllr Martin Smith advised that any applications would be accepted from businesses wishing to take a unit in the retail area, except from those who would be in direct competition with existing businesses.

Councillors noted the sensitivity of the wildlife area and agreed that this should not be impacted by business operations in this area.

It was **agreed** that Cllr Mark Green should investigate this proposal further with NCC and that this proposal should then be brought forward to a meeting of the parish for consideration.

2371 Proposal to tackle the growing number of holiday lets in the parish

The Clerk advised that he had been investigating what measures could be put in place to tackle existing dwellings becoming holiday lets. It transpires that the Use Class for both a dwelling house and a holiday let is the same and therefore there is no requirement for an owner to submit a planning application for a Change of Use. The Clerk recommended that the Parish Council writes to the local MP about this to see whether this could be changed via the relevant planning minister.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council writes to Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP about this, in order to investigate what solutions may be found.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Neighbourhood Plan deals with the issue of the newly built dwellings.

2372 Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Cllr Margaret Brooks advised that the Cemetery House is now rented to a gentleman who is well settled in this property. Cllr Brooks advised that this rent is covering the costs of the loan and prevents the precept being requested from all three of the parish councils involved for the EJBC.

2373 Craster Community Trust report

Cllr Michael Craster advised that there is nothing to report from the CCT but that the Trust hoped that the Hall may be opened soon, depending on the Covid-19 situation.

2374 Planning Matters:

21/00319/FUL | Erection of a log cabin | Orchard Cottages Dunstan Village Dunstan Northumberland NE66 3TE. It was **agreed** to object to this application.

21/00416/FUL | New double detached garage. Single storey extension off kitchen to provide living/orangery. Replace windows/doors with dark grey aluminium to match adjoining dwellings. | Seascape The Skeres Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TN. It was **agreed** to note this application.

2377 Items for Next Agenda

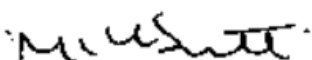
The Chair reminded Members to request for any items to be added to the Agenda in writing to the Clerk.

2378 Date and time of next meeting

15th April 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
(15th April 2021)**