

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 20th May 2021 – 6.00pm via Zoom

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members: Steven Bagley, Margaret Brooks, Michael Craster, Michael Doherty and Elizabeth Pearson.

In attendance: 12 members of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Clerk: Adam Shanley

1. Election of Chair and Acceptance of Office

Councillor Martin Smith was elected as Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr M Craster and seconded by Cllr M Brooks.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Councillor Margaret Brooks was elected as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr E Pearson and seconded by Cllr M Smith.

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Green

4. Declarations of interest

Cllr S Bagley declared an interest in application 21/00319/FUL and took no part in the discussions on this item.

5. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 15th April 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2021 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6. Public participation

None received.

7. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

County Councillor Wendy Pattison made all attendees aware of a scheme started by Prince Charles to plant a tree in time for the Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Councillor Pattison advised that there is a lot of information online about this and she hoped Craster would take up the opportunity to plant a tree for the Jubilee.

8. Update on proposal to introduce additional cycle parking to Craster

The Clerk advised that he and Cllr M Brooks had met with the footpaths officer at NCC in order to progress a proposal to have additional cycle parking installed at the Tourist Information Centre. The Clerk also advised that he had been in correspondence with the Tourist Information Centre to see if they would be happy for the Parish Council to fund the installation of cycle parking on the wall to the side of the Centre.

Members **agreed** that there is a need for additional cycle parking in Craster. It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should ask the National Trust again whether they would be willing to fund this. In the event that the National Trust does not wish to do this, it was **agreed** that the cycle parking should be funded through the donation boxes to be installed in the village. The Clerk reminded Members that this is subject to NCC approving the request for the cycle parking to be installed at the Tourist Information Centre.

9. Report from fundraising/community project scoping committee

The Chair advised that this committee should be open to any and all community groups in the parish who wished to participate. Some examples highlighted included the Craster skiff, the football club and the RNLI. The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council, the Community Trust, the Church and the WI are represented on this committee. Members again expressed their support for this Committee and **agreed** that these groups should also be invited to join this committee.

10. Review of Parish Council Standing Orders

The Clerk reminded Members that there is a need for the Parish Council's Standing Orders to be reviewed. It was agreed that both the Clerk and the Chair of the Parish Council should review the Standing Orders and come back to a future meeting of the Parish Council with proposed amendments.

11. Proposal to abolish the pedestrian zone scheme and replace this with a residents' permit parking scheme

Cllr M Doherty expressed his opposition to the new pedestrian zone scheme in Craster, stating that he believes the scheme is not working, is making the area dangerous, is causing issues for a local business in this area and also looks unsightly. Cllr M Doherty urged Members to withdraw the Parish Council support for this scheme and to request that this be replaced with a residents' permit parking scheme, as agreed by the village.

It was noted that a residents' permit parking scheme is not possible this year.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should invite a Senior Highways Officer to the next meeting of the Parish Council in order to discuss the scheme and any ongoing issues in more detail.

12. Addressing concerns regarding correspondence in relation to the pedestrian zone scheme

Cllr M Doherty raised the issue of recent correspondence received by him from the Chair of the Parish Council. Cllr M Doherty advised that he was upset by the content of this email and regarded a number of matters raised in this email as potentially libellous. Cllr M Doherty asked for an apology from the Chair.

The Chair made Members aware of the content of this email and apologised to Cllr M Doherty if certain aspects of this email had caused him any upset. This apology was accepted and the matter **agreed** as dealt with appropriately.

13. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Members firstly approved the appointments of Cllrs M Brooks and E Pearson as the official Parish Council representatives on the Embleton Joint Burial Committee.

The Chair advised that he had received correspondence from a member of the public raising concerns about an issue involving the Joint Burial Committee. The Chair advised that he was aware that there is a meeting of the Burial Committee on 7th June and he was sure that these issues would be investigated and addressed by the Committee.

14. Craster Community Trust report

Members firstly approved the appointment of Cllr M Craster as the official Parish Council representative on the Community Trust.

Cllr M Craster advised that the next meeting of the Trust would be taking place on 2nd June. Cllr M Craster advised that he is happy that the Hall is now re-open for community groups and activities.

Cllr M Craster also advised that the old goal posts had been replaced with new posts.

The Clerk also reminded Members of the report received from the Community Trust reminding everyone of the history and work of the Trust. The report also details the work of the sub-committee of Trustees to facilitate the reopening of the Hall in a Covid-19 safe way.

15. Update on the purchase of additional bins for the parish

The Clerk advised that the bins had now been purchased as agreed and NCC would be installing these on behalf of the Parish Council in the coming weeks.

16. Update on ongoing footpaths issues and visit from NCC footpaths officer

The Clerk reported on the issue which was reported at the previous meeting in relation to Charlie's path and reports of people driving up this path and how to prevent this from happening.

The Clerk advised that he and Cllr M Brooks had reported this to the Footpaths Officer and proposed the installation of a boulder or some informal block to prevent driving up this path from occurring. The footpaths officer had strongly advised against this and instead suggested that the replacement of the gate should instead be considered. The Chair asked

Members if they wished to fund the installation of the gate at this path and it was **agreed** that the Parish Council should not fund this. Cllr S Bagley proposed that the Parish Council instead looks at installing a no access or similar sign on the existing pole to the right hand side of where the gate used to be heading Charlie's path. Members **agreed** with this proposal.

17. Planning Matters:

Update on 21/01008/FUL | Proposed single storey extension, replacement of garden shed and associated works. | 9 Whin Hill Craster NE66 3TP. It was **agreed** to maintain the objection to this application.

21/00013/FUL | Removal of front porch, construction of a two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, glass balcony to first floor front elevation and internal and external alterations | Seahaven 37 Dunstanburgh Road Craster NE66 3TT. It was **agreed** to maintain the objection to this application.

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

18. Consideration of ongoing planning enforcement matters in the parish

The Clerk reported on recent planning enforcement matters and it was **agreed** that a meeting should be requested with the Director of Planning at Northumberland County Council in order to discuss these issues.

19. Correspondence regarding BT's proposal for the replacement of copper wire connections with optic fibre

Mr and Mrs Gallon raised concerns about BT's proposal for the replacement of copper wire connections with optic fibre.

Mr Gallon advised that this is a long term aim of BT, with BT ceasing to sell copper wire connections next year but not withdrawing the service immediately.

Mr Gallon advised if any resident has a plug in phone and there is a power cut, the telephones will not work. Mr Gallon also advised the Ofcom has issued instructions to all telephone providers that they must provide vulnerable people with a means of retaining a telephone service should this ever occur but have only stipulated that this should last for just 1 hour. Mr Gallon advised that very often Craster has power cuts which last longer than 1 hour.

Mrs Gallon expressed the concern that areas such as Craster – with no mobile phone signal – will be left without the ability to make telephone calls during a power cut should this occur, meaning that a vulnerable resident will be left without the means of contacting the emergency services.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should write to both Ofcom and Anne-Marie Trevelyan to voice concerns about these proposals.

20. Items for next Agenda


The Chair reminded Members to contact the Clerk should they wish to have any item on the Agenda for the next meeting.

21. Date and time of next meeting

17th June 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 (17th June 2021)