

**MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 – 7.00pm in the Hall (for Councillors) and**  
**via Zoom (for members of the public).**

**Agenda**

**Members of the public are asked to join our meeting via Zoom via the link below if they are able to do so:**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87927433463>**

**Meeting ID: 879 2743 3463**

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, I hereby give you notice that a meeting of Craster Parish Council will be held in the Craster Memorial Hall on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 at 7pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Declarations of interest**
- 3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021**
- 4. Public participation**
- 5. Discussion with NCC Cabinet Member for Local Services Cllr John Riddle on Northumberland-wide and Craster parish priorities – questions included.**
- 6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison – report included.**
- 7. Consideration of draft letter to NCC Highways team on Experimental TRO in Craster – draft letter attached.**
- 8. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**
- 9. Report from Craster Community Trust representative**
- 10. Update on footpaths issues – to include a verbal update from the Parish Clerk on Harbour Lights footpath.**
- 11. Planning Matters:**
  - Update on 21/02775/FUL | Construction of 2no houses for rent with associated landscaping | Dunstan House C74 Dunstan Village Main Road Dunstan NE66 3SY**
- 12. Preparations for Remembrance Sunday**
- 13. Planning an official opening of the Craster Trail event**
- 14. Items for next Agenda**
- 15. Date and time of next meeting**

18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in the Craster Memorial Hall

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 16th September 2021 – 6.00pm in the Hall**

**Councillors present:**

**Chair:** Martin Smith

**Parish Council members:** Steven Bagley, Margaret Brooks, Michael Craster, Michael Doherty, Mark Green, Alan Gregory and Elizabeth Pearson.

**In attendance:** 11 members of the public

**Clerk:** Adam Shanley

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr W Pattison as County Councillor.

**2. Declarations of interest**

Cllr M Craster declared an interest in application 21/02872/FUL and took no part in the discussions or vote on this item.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**4. Public participation**

None received.

**5. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**

The Chair referred all Members of the Council and members of the public to Cllr Wendy Pattison's written report provided with the Agenda in her absence. The Chair advised all present to direct any County Council-related matters to Cllr Pattison.

**6. 2022-23 Local Transport Plan Programme Consultation**

Members **agreed** the following priorities for the 2022-23 Local Transport Plan Programme:

1. Extending the double yellow lines on the Tower Bank up to the top of the tower in order to prevent cars parking and blocking the lifeboat station.
2. Improvements to safety of access for pedestrian entering and exiting the quarry car park.
3. Improvements to the public footpath on Smithy Bank.

**7. Report from independent consultant on Craster parking issues**

Members considered the report from the Parish Council's selected independent consultant on parking. The Chair advised that, prior to the meeting of Full Council, representatives of the Parish Council had met with the consultant and the meeting had discussed the following points:

1. The road layout to the entrance of the village does appear to have some impact in terms of encouraging vehicles into the quarry car park. There is still some abuse of this system but not traffic regulation order can avoid this. The consultant advised the Council to maintain this system as it is having the desired impact.
2. The scheme as in place at the moment – in terms of the signage around the village – is for the police to enforce but it is clear that it is extremely difficult to enforce and it is questionable how much enforcement is actually taking place.
3. The legality of the signage is not something that the consultant can comment on. Members expressed disappointment at the moral issue behind stating enforcement is in operation when villagers are aware that little to no enforcement is taking place.

4. There is a clear issue at Dunstanburgh Road with cars going down this stretch of road seeking a parking space. This could be combated by either a "no through road" sign or the introduction of an RPZ to Dunstanburgh Road.
5. An RPZ would complement the scheme and allow for more enforcement to take place. This is dependent upon Police resources. If sub zones were to be considered, the areas would be Dunstanburgh Road and Heugh Road. Need to be mindful that this would create a displacement issue.
6. Size of the signage at figure 2 of the report could be increased.
7. The introduction of a box junction near the entrance to the quarry car park was proposed or else an alternative could be the introduction of a keep clear sign.
8. Recommended that a raised table be introduced to the entrance to the car park to allow for safer pedestrian movements.
9. No RPS can guarantee a resident a parking space outside their home.

Following this report, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should draft a letter to Robin McCartney at NCC with a copy of this report, asking for the proposed amendments to the scheme to be introduced and for a residents permit parking scheme to also be considered to complement the existing scheme.

### **8. Proposal to organise a community party**

The Chair advised that, following on from the agreement of the last full Parish Council meeting to host a community party, he had received some concern from some members of the public about this.

Cllr M Doherty as the proposer of this initiative advised that the Covid-19 situation made this very difficult and therefore the Council **agreed** to delay this until Spring/ Summer 2022 and perhaps a financial contribution to the community trust to help fund such an event may be considered at that time.

### **9. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**

Cllrs M Brooks and E Pearson advised that the tenant in the cemetery house continues to live in the property and the rent is continuing to pay for the loan allocated to all three Parish Councils.

Cllr E Pearson advised that the Burial Committee is undertaking a risk assessment of the cemetery. Cllr E Pearson advised that some gravestones – those which are damaged and for which the families could not be located - had been laid down respectfully; this was the safest and more respectful means of ensuring the cemetery is kept safe for all users.

### **10. Report from Craster Community Trust representative**

Cllr M Craster advised that the Trust had not met since June but that the Trust would be meeting next week where it was hoped that some of the Covid-19 restrictions at the Hall may be agreed to be lifted. Cllr M Craster stressed that it is the responsibility of all of the Trustees to ensure the safety of Hall users and therefore not all restrictions would be lifted immediately.

At this point, Cllrs M Brooks and M Craster left the meeting.

### **11. Update from the Projects Fundraising Committee**

The Clerk advised that over £55 had been raised from the fundraising boxes to date and thanked all those involved with the work of this Committee. The Clerk reminded all present that this Committee is open to all local community groups with an interest in support work and projects for the community.

### **12. Planning Matters:**

**21/02872/FUL** | Change of use of agricultural grazing land to mixed tourist use and the siting of three glamping pods | Land North East Of Howick Scar Craster Northumberland. It was **agreed** to note this application without further comment.

**Update on 21/01963/FUL** | Proposed single storey rear extension and re-tiling of existing garage roof. Replace garage door with window. Replace window with door into utility (amended plans received 12.08.2021). | 10 Heugh Wynd Craster NE66 3TL. Members considered the additional information provided with this application and **agreed** to withdraw the Council's objection.

**Update on 21/02775/FUL** | Construction of 2no houses for rent with associated landscaping | Dunstan House C74 Dunstan Village Main Road Dunstan NE66 3SY. The Clerk advised that NCC Highways had submitted a representation on this planning application and the Council **agreed** to maintain its objection to this application.

### **13. Update on footpath projects**

The Clerk advised that Cllr M Brooks had been liaising with the Parish Council's contractor Steve on the improvements – including the additional chippings - to footpaths and it was hoped that this could be done very soon.

The issue of the footpath at Harbour lights was again raised as an issue. Some Members and members of the public reported that the path had become very steep and dangerous. The Clerk advised that he would again speak with the relevant landowner(s) about this as well as NCC's footpaths officer.

### **14. Planning an official opening of the Craster Trail event**

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should organise an official opening of the Craster trail on Saturday 23rd October 2021 and should invite Lord Howick to attend and officially open the trail. The Clerk advised that he would make the necessary arrangements for this.

### **15. Items for next Agenda**

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Clerk if they wished to have an item considered at the next meeting.

### **16. Date and time of next meeting**

21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 – 19:00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

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

Signed,

**Chair of Craster Parish Council  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

## **Questions for the Craster Parish Council meeting – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October at Craster Memorial Hall.**

- We understand that the upgrading of public toilets at key tourist areas in Northumberland is a top priority for the Administration. Our Councillor Wendy Pattison has been pushing for Craster's toilets to be upgraded which they are desperately in need of. Can you make these toilets a priority for NCC please?
- How effective have the restrictive covenants on former Craster Council houses been in providing affordable housing in Craster? If they are not providing affordable accommodation for permanent residents, why are they being retained?
- Do you share this Parish Council's concerns over the growing numbers of holiday lets in Northumberland and will you lobby Government to do something about this? Such as changing the Use Class of holiday lets so that they require a change of use planning application from a C3 household dwelling.
- There is a serious issue along the U3014 road in Dunstan in that the road allows for water to gather and this is now freezing in the cold weather and proving extremely treacherous for local residents, not helped by the steep topography of the road. The Parish Council has been pushing for over a year now with NCC Highways (Alistair Miller) but this issue is still not yet resolved. Would you be able to support us with this?
- How serious is ash dieback in Northumberland and what actions are NCC taking to resolve this please?

# CRASTER PARISH COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



County Councillor Wendy Pattison

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Cllr Wendy Pattison  
CRASTER PARISH

## Granting the Freedom of the Parish

Granting the Freedom of the Parish is the highest honour that the Parish Council can bestow. Although it carries no powers, rights or privileges, those who receive the honour are able to use the title of Freeman or Freewomen.

As this is the highest honour that the Parish Council can grant it should be used sparingly and should not be given too often in order to preserve its status and value.

### 3. Criteria

There is no statutory guidance that sets out any criteria for the appointment of Freeman and Freewomen. The Freedom of the Parish is usually awarded in recognition of exceptional service to the Parish.

### 4. Cost

Section 249 (9) of Local Government Act 1972 allows Councils to spend “such reasonable sum as it thinks fit” on presenting an address to a Honorary Freeman or Honorary Freewoman. A commemorative ‘scroll’ or certificate will be provided. Currently there is no budget provision for this but under the S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the costs of the scroll and frame can be allocated.

### 5. Legislation

5.1. Section 249 (5) of Local Government Act 1972, as amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009, allows the Council of a relevant authority (including a Parish Council) to admit to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority:

- a. Persons of distinction, and
- b. Persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent service to that place or area.

5.2. A resolution must be passed:

a. At a meeting of the Parish Council that has been convened especially for the purpose and where notice of the object of the meeting to pass a motion relating to the granting of the award has been given.

## Return of free waste bags for Green Dog Walkers



All they have to do is show their green dog walker letter, armband or badge to a member of library staff as proof they are part of the scheme.

The bags can then be distributed to other dog walkers to encourage responsible dog ownership across the county and to reduce dog fouling.

The Green Dog Walker scheme is run by Northumberland County Council and has over 3,000 members of the public signed up to it. Under the initiative dog owners are encouraged to sign the Green Dog Walkers pledge - to always clean up after their dog and put the bag in a bin and to use a friendly approach to encourage other dog walkers to do the same.

Northumberland County Councillor John Riddle, cabinet member for local services said:

“Dog fouling is one of our top environmental priorities and one of the issues most commonly raised with us by residents.

“Green Dog Walkers is intended to be a friendly and non-confrontational approach to changing attitudes to the problem of dog fouling.

“It compliments other council approaches across the county including issuing fines when irresponsible dog owners are caught allowing their dogs to foul without picking up after them and educational initiatives promoting responsible dog ownership.”

To find your local library and opening times go to: [mylibrary.co.uk](http://mylibrary.co.uk)

For further information about the Green Dog Walker scheme and to sign up online visit the council’s website [www.northumberland.gov.uk/greendogwalkers](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/greendogwalkers)

Or email [greendogwalkers@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:greendogwalkers@northumberland.gov.uk)

## Smokers urged to quit in Northumberland

At a time when staying healthy is even more important, smokers in Northumberland are being urged to take the step and give up cigarettes for good.

A recent report from Cancer UK showed the number of 18–34-year-olds who smoke in England increased by 25% in the first lockdown.

The pressures of coping with the Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have contributed to an increase in the number of people smoking cigarettes.

Liz Morgan, Director of Public Health at Northumberland County Council, said: “Quitting is one of the best things smokers can do for their health. Covid-19 is still with us and stopping smoking will reduce the likelihood of complications from COVID-19 as well as reducing the risk of

getting other acute respiratory infections.”

Smoking is the biggest preventable cause of cancer and is known to cause at least 15 different cancer types. By stopping smoking, the lungs are given the chance to repair, meaning breathing becomes easier.

Councillor Wendy Pattison, cabinet member for adult wellbeing said: “It's never too late to quit. With the stop smoking challenge ‘Stoptober’ approaching, there is no better time to take the first step in quitting cigarettes for good and I would encourage people to take advantage of the range of free support available to them in Northumberland.

“Our local Stop Smoking Service can advise on different treatments and what to do to help prevent the cravings.”

Evidence shows that people are three times more likely to quit for good if they have support from their local NHS stop smoking service. Many people try to quit smoking with willpower alone, but it is much easier with the right help.

There are lots of support options available:

- Contact your local stop smoking service - Northumberland Stop Smoking Service on telephone (01670) 813135 and at [www.northumbria.nhs.uk/stopsmoking](http://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/stopsmoking).
- For a free personal quit plan - Free Personal Quit Plan - Quit Smoking - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))
- To learn more about stop smoking aids to manage nicotine cravings - [Stop smoking treatments - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

## Don't wait for a knock on door in October



Canvassers will be knocking on doors in Northumberland from 13th October to give residents a final chance to register and to vote in the next elections.

Staff will wear ID badges to identify themselves and will only ask for the details of the people living at the address, not bank details.

Electoral registration forms were sent out to all 156,000 households in the county in July asking for residents to confirm any changes.

Despite sending out reminders, there are 13,200 properties still to complete and return their canvass form.

Those households who have yet to respond are now being urged to follow the instructions on the reminder letter instead of waiting for a knock on the door from the electoral canvass team in October.

The county council is required by law to visit those properties that needed to respond but didn't - which is a time consuming and costly exercise.

Canvassers acting on behalf of the council will be carrying this out during October and November.

Mark Crawford who is Elections Manager at Northumberland County Council said:

“To vote in any election your name must be on the electoral register. This is an important opportunity for residents to ensure they have a say on issues that directly affect day-to-day life in Northumberland.

“Apart from voting, there are also other benefits to being on the register including improving credit score ratings which companies look at when you apply for a mobile phone contract, a mortgage or a loan.”

Canvassers who visit properties in person will wear face masks and use hand sanitiser to reduce the risk of transmitting Covid-19.

If you have any queries regarding electoral registration, please ring Northumberland County Council on 01670 624844.