

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 17th June 2021 – 6.00pm in the Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

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

In attendance: 29 members of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Clerk: Adam Shanley

1. Apologies for absence

None received.

2. Declarations of interest

None received.

3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 20th May 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. Discussion with Robin McCartney, NCC Highways Infrastructure Manager in relation to the experimental traffic management scheme for Craster.

The Chair welcomed Robin McCartney, NCC Highways Infrastructure Manager to the meeting.

Robin advised that he was new in post at NCC but had been briefed on this scheme by NCC Highways Officers. Robin advised that NCC had carried out a review of the effectiveness of this scheme and the evidence shows that the scheme is having an impact in terms of the numbers of vehicles now going into the quarry car park as opposed to Craster village.

Residents expressed their unhappiness at the scheme and felt that the scheme was not working and, in fact, was making the situation even worse and the entrance to the car park more hazardous to pedestrians and other road users.

Residents expressed their unhappiness at the way in which the Parish Council's consultation was dismissed by NCC and the requirement for 70% to vote in favour of such a scheme not being made clear to residents or the Parish Council before the consultation was undertaken. Residents asked how NCC measures the effectiveness of the scheme and Robin advised that this was measured based on the number of vehicles entering the quarry car park as opposed to the village.

Cllr Michael Doherty advised that the effectiveness of the scheme should be based on the number of parking fines issued in the village. Robin disagreed with this.

Some residents complained about the lack of enforcement in relation to parking infringements and felt that the signage currently in place in the scheme was insufficient and misleading.

One resident advised that she felt that Dunstanburgh Road is effectively a death trap and she regularly sees cars making U-turns when drivers realise this is a no through road.

Another resident supported this and Robin advised that he would look into this.

Robin advised that he was willing to go back to the Highways team and discuss a range of options with them, including a dual residents permit parking scheme, double yellow lines and better and more noticeable signage.

Some Councillors and residents felt that there is no one answer solution to parking problems in the village and this may involve a "cocktail" of measures in order to tackle this problem.

Some residents advised that they felt that the needs of tourists were being put before the needs of residents.

Robin advised that Craster is a working and open village which other road users, aside from residents, need access to. Robin advised that he lives in Alnmouth and he is never guaranteed a parking space outside his own home.

Some residents were sceptical about the effectiveness of a dual permit parking scheme.

The Chair concluded and the Parish Council agreed that Robin should go back to his team at NCC and come forward with a set of proposals to help resolve the issues raised at tonight's meeting in relation to parking. The Chair advised that the Parish Council must have a response to this ahead of its next meeting on 15th July as the Parish Council does not sit in August. Robin agreed to do this.

5. Public participation

A member of the public asked if, in reviewing its Standing Orders, the Parish Council might be willing to ensure that the notices must be installed in the notice boards for all meetings so that members of the public without access to the internet may know about the meetings and the work of the parish council. Another member of the public asked if notices might be dropped in each door about key decisions taken at the meetings and the dates of the next meetings. The Parish Council agreed to commence issuing such notices with the help of volunteer residents to deliver these.

Another member of the public asked if the Parish Council could do anything to improve harbour lights footpath. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had put the landowner in touch with the County Council's footpaths officer in order to look at what can be done. The Clerk advised that he felt that this is not a matter for the Parish Council.

6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Cllr Wendy Pattison took the opportunity to thank Cllr Margaret Brooks and her husband Allan for their work in maintaining the barrels as part of the Council's Experimental Order scheme. Cllr Pattison advised that the flowers look beautiful and this provides for a lovely entrance into the village.

Cllr Pattison also advised that the portfolio for highways has now passed to Cllr John Riddle on the County Council in case the Parish Council needs to make contact on any highway issues at NCC.

The Clerk thanked NCC for their work on the pay and display car parking machine, which now allowed for users to pay via contactless electronic payment.

7. Update on the Craster Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk advised that the Craster Neighbourhood Plan had now successfully passed Referendum stage and is expected to be formally adopted by the County Council in the coming weeks. The Chair thanked all those who had participated in the Referendum and this great result for the parish and also thanked in particular the Clerk for his extraordinary work in achieving this.

8. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/21

- (i) Members **agreed** the internal audit report 2020-21
- (ii) Members **approved** the annual governance statement 2020-21
- (iii) Members **approved** the draft annual accounts for 2020-21
- (iv) Members **approved** both the accounting statement and explanation of variances 2020-21
- (v) Members **approved** the certificate of exemption form 2020-21

9. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Cllrs Margaret Brooks and Elizabeth Pearson advised that the Cemetery House continues to be occupied by the existing tenant and the rent being paid is ensuring the repayments of the loan for the works to renovate the house. The tenant is very happy with his home.

Cllr Elizabeth Pearson advised that the cemetery is being maintained to a very high standard and this ensures that this is kept as a place of respect and peace.

10. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Jackie Reeves and Cllr Michael Craster advised that the Craster Hall is now fully open, albeit with ongoing restrictions on numbers of attendees in the Hall.

Cllr Michael Craster advised that the Trust would be monitoring the Government advice closely in case of any changes to rules, etc.

11. Update from the fundraising/community project scoping committee

12. Planning Matters:

21/01775/FUL | Demolition of single storey rear extension and construction of two storey rear extension. Alteration to dormer window including glass panel balustrade. General refurbishment and associated works. | 7 Dunstanburgh Road Craster NE66 3TT. It was **agreed** to object to this application.

21/01785/FUL | Proposed conversion of existing garage to one residential dwelling | Land North Of Waters Edge Haven Hill Craster Northumberland. It was **agreed** to object to this application.

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. | 10 Heugh Wynd Craster NE66 3TL. It was **agreed** to object to this application.

13. Items for next Agenda

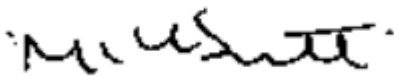
The Chair reminded Members to contact the Parish Clerk if they wish to have any items on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting in July.

14. Date and time of next meeting

15th July 2021 – 18:00pm in the Craster Memorial Hall

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

Signed,



**Chair of Craster Parish Council
(29th July 2021)**