

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 17th February 2022 – 6.30pm in the Hall

Agenda

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 17th February 2022 at 6:30pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Declarations of interest**
- 3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 26th January 2022**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Public participation**
- 6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison** – report included.
- 7. Update following submission of the letter to NCC Highways on the Experimental TRO in Craster**
- 8. Progressing alternative power sources for Craster Memorial Hall during power cuts and building community resilience** – includes written update from Northern Powergrid.
- 9. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**
- 10. Report from Craster Community Trust representative**
- 11. Report from Craster Community Projects Fundraising Committee**
- 12. Progressing plans for a Platinum Jubilee celebration event**
- 13. 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
 - Update on 22/00024/FUL** | Proposed second storey side extension and single storey front extension. | 6 South Acres Craster NE66 3TN
- 14. Update on the installation of disabled parking bays outside St. Peter's Church in Craster**
- 15. Items for next Agenda**
- 16. Date and time of next meeting**

17th March 2022 – 6:30pm in 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
Wednesday 26th January 2022 – 6.30pm in the Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Margaret Brooks

Parish Council members: Steven Bagley, Michael Craster, Michael Doherty, Mark Green and Alan Gregory

In attendance: 8 members of the public, County Councillor Wendy Pattison and 2 representatives from Northern Powergrid.

Clerk: Adam Shanley

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs E Pearson, R Robson and M Smith

2. Declarations of interest

None received.

3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 18th November 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2021 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising

None received.

5. Public participation

None received.

6. Discussion with Northern Powergrid on Storm Arwen and the building of community resilience to power cuts

The Chair welcomed Kevin Parkin and his colleagues from Northern Powergrid to the meeting and advised that the Council hoped to receive an update on work carried out by Northern Powergrid since Storm Arwen and also to discuss with them how Craster can build its resilience against such events.

Cllr M Doherty advised that there is a lot of concern from local residents that compensation has not been paid to them by Northern Powergrid following Storm Arwen.

Cllr M Doherty advised that he was able to provide evidence that his power was off for 48 hours and 15 minutes – over the 48 hours cut off point where compensation would be paid.

Northern Powergrid representatives experienced some technical difficulties during the meeting and advised that they were unable to hear a lot of the discussion on this item.

It was therefore agreed that the points made and any outstanding queries should be put to Northern Powergrid in writing and be reported back to the next meeting.

7. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Councillor Wendy Pattison advised that NCC has made a total fund of £70,000 available for events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, with a maximum grant of £500 per applicant available. Cllr Pattison encouraged Craster Parish Council to submit a grant application and, following agreement on this, the Clerk advised that he would be submitting a grant application this week.

Cllr Pattison also advised that, through her role as Cabinet Member, she had met with St. Andrew's Church in Newcastle who have set up a scheme known as "community fridges"

where residents can drop off food which can be given to those in need and she hoped to see a similar scheme for Northumberland.

8. Update following submission of the letter to NCC Highways on the Experimental TRO in Craster

The Clerk advised that Robin McCartney, Highways Infrastructure Manager at NCC has indicated that he will provide a full written response to the Parish Council's letter and consultant report on the Experimental TRO in time for the Parish Council's February Full Council meeting.

9. Parish Council budget 2022/23

Members **agreed** the following budget for 2022/23, with £3,000 being kept in general reserves:

Item of expenditure	Expected expenditure
Staffing costs (including on costs)	£4,800.00
Insurance	£180.00
Wifi and telephone to the Hall	£468.00
RBL Appeal	£20.00
Christmas tree	£150.00
Cutting of grass verges	£500.00
NALC subscription and website	£170.00
Stationery and printing	£300.00
Hall hire	£288.00
Planting and blooming up the parish	£1,000.00
Parish Council events	£1,000.00
Total	£8,868.00

10. Precept request 2022/23

The Clerk advised that the 2022/23 Craster Parish Council Tax Base has been calculated at 152.37. For 2021/22 the Tax Base was 148.97. The Parish Council's Tax Base has therefore increased by 3.4.

The current Band D charge for the Parish Council is £67.13. The Clerk advised that, if the Parish Council agrees to maintain the current Band D precept charge, this would generate a precept of £10,229.00. The precept for the current financial year is £10,000.

Members **agreed** to maintain the current Band D charge for the Parish Council at £67.13, thus generating a precept of £10,229.00

11. Reinstatement of Dunstanburgh Road seat

The Chair welcomed Ms Liz Nelson to the meeting. Ms Nelson advised that she had very close ties to Craster. Her grandparents (Annie Jane and George Nelson) ran the village shop and post office on Dunstanburgh Road when they were alive and a bench had once been in place along Dunstanburgh Road.

Liz advised that she has family photos stretching back over 70 years on that bench. The bench was there in March 2020 but when visiting a couple of times since then, Liz advised that she was sad to see that the only thing remaining is one upright stump. Liz advised that she would like to have the bench reinstated with a plaque as a dedication to her grandparents. Liz advised that she would take on all maintenance responsibility for this bench.

The Parish Council **agreed** to support this request and thanked Liz for her offer to have the bench reinstated. Liz thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

12. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Cllr M Brooks provided a report to the Parish Council as EJBC representative. Cllr M Brooks advised that the cemetery house continues to be occupied and the rent continues to be paid by the tenant, which is paying off the loan for the refurbishment.

Cllr M Brooks advised that there is some concern over a tree at the cemetery. Initial estimates had been received of between £600-£1,000 to have the tree felled.

Cllr M Brooks advised that the option of having the tree pruned in height and width had also been looked into. A further update is due to follow at the next EJBC meeting on this matter.

Cllr M Brooks also advised that the EJBC would not be asking each of the 3 Parish Councils for a contribution from the Parish Council again for the forthcoming financial year.

13. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Cllr M Craster provided a report to the Parish Council as CCT representative. Cllr M Craster advised that the refurbishment of the Hall has gone very well and highlighted the new floor. Members expressed how wonderful the Hall is looking.

Cllr M Craster advised that almost all of the paintings in the Hall are to be reframed as part of the refurbishment.

Cllr M Doherty asked if a belated Burns night event might be considered by the Trust and Cllr M Craster advised that he would request this to be looked into.

14. Tackling the issue of light pollution in the parish

Cllr M Brooks provided a report as follows to the Parish Council as follows on this issue:

"We are in an area of the AONB with designated dark skies. Our street lamps were changed to prevent interference with the vision of the night skies. We have more street illuminations than some villages in the area.

As properties in the village are purchased, planning permission is granted and the work completed. However, it is becoming apparent that owners are erecting exterior lighting not necessarily included in the original plans. Some of these are lit all night. Some are on timed switches and, despite the property being empty, burn every night.

We are not an urban area; we are a fishing village and our heritage is not to illuminate the area to distract from the dark skies. Should this be brought to the attention of the AONB and the planning authority before every property in the village is illuminated?"

Members **agreed** with the proposed course of action in Cllr M Brooks' report and it was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to both the AONB and the Environmental Health team at NCC about this matter.

At this point, Cllr Wendy Pattison left the meeting.

15. 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. The Council noted the additional highways information provided as part of this application and **agreed** to maintain its objection. The Clerk advised that this application is likely to be heard at the North Northumberland Local Area Council meeting in either February and March and he would be going along on behalf of the Parish Council.

22/00024/FUL | Proposed second storey side extension and single storey front extension. | 6 South Acres Craster NE66 3TN. It was **agreed** to note this application.

16. Installation of disabled parking bays outside St. Peter's Church in Craster

The Clerk advised that NCC is progressing the disabled parking bays outside St. Peter's Church in Craster, as agreed at previous meetings.

The Clerk illustrated a drawing of where the bays are proposed to be located. Members welcomed the plans but **agreed** that only 1 bay is needed. The Clerk advised that he would make NCC Highways aware of this.

17. Items for next Agenda

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Parish Clerk if they wished to have an item of business added to the Agenda. It was **agreed** that the Queen's Jubilee celebrations should be added to the Agenda for February.

18. Date and time of next meeting

17th February 2022 – 6:30pm in 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
(17th February 2022)**

CRASTER PARISH COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



County Councillor Wendy Pattison

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk - Tel. 07779 983072 and on Facebook

– Cllr Wendy Pattison

CRASTER PARISH

COUNCIL Budget to focus on recovery



A budget focused on economic recovery, protecting frontline services and looking after the most vulnerable is to be considered by the County Council.

Proposals now put forward will see an emphasis on delivering a green and sustainable future for the county, with the Council's climate change action a main driver behind the plans.

Among the priorities for the year ahead are:

- Attracting investment and high-quality jobs to the county
- Delivering the Borderlands Place Programme alongside other initiatives to drive rural economic growth
- Continuing work to re-open the Northumberland Line rail project
- Securing funding for major road and junction infrastructure in the county
- Delivering planned school builds
- Investing in parks, open spaces, public conveniences and town-centre parking.

The budget proposals include an ambitious £307 million capital programme for 2022/23 covering everything from major investment in affordable housing, continued improvements to leisure centres and a range of renewable energy schemes to make the county greener and cleaner.

Savings of £9.7 million are also earmarked, although Council Leader Councillor Glen Sanderson stressed these will not be at the expense of frontline services.

He explained: "We're very proud of the work that has gone into this budget over the past few months – it's very much looking to the future but recognises that many of us are still facing challenges.

"We are very hopeful this year we can continue to grow our economy – last summer saw huge visitor numbers return to the county – and with recent announcements of major employers setting up in the county we're starting 2022 with a positive outlook and the budget reflects that.

"But all local authorities are operating in a period of financial uncertainty through a number of factors, including budget pressures and those on national public finances, as well as the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on our expenditure and income.

"However, we have been clear any savings must not affect our frontline services and we feel we have achieved this.

"Wherever possible, these savings will be achieved by doing things differently - by transforming the way the Council delivers its services and being more efficient.

"And caring for the young and vulnerable will remain and be a top priority for the Council, with funds earmarked for a further raft of school improvements and delivery progressing on planned sites for extra care housing.

"We know these are difficult times for many, so we've strived to ensure a fair and balanced budget.

"We're putting forward a proposal for a Council Tax Hardship scheme which will provide additional help for low income households who may be struggling with bills at the present time.

"We're also keen to find long-term solutions to some of the issues Northumberland faces around health and poverty and are organising a Health Inequalities Summit for March to examine what action we can take to address these."

The budget plans will be considered by an all-member scrutiny committee on February 7th, Cabinet on February 8th and the final proposals will then be put before full Council and discussed on February 23rd.

To read the full budget report, go to <https://nland.uk/budgetreport>

Reporting a Tree Problem

1. **Council staff continue to deal with the aftermath of Storm Arwen. Whilst this is a priority, they are unable to deal with requests for non-urgent works.**

2. The council is responsible for the safety and management of trees on land in its ownership, and trees on road verges (but not trees in hedgerows alongside roads). The safety of trees on privately owned land is the responsibility of the landowner, and trees in hedgerows alongside roads are the responsibility of the owner of the hedge.

If you see a tree that you think is a potential public safety problem, please use this form to let us know about it. The Council will inspect the tree, and if it is owned by the council, any work considered necessary will be prioritised according to the level of risk it poses to people or property. If the tree is privately owned we will advise the landowner of any safety issues. You can also report other tree issues on council land that are not related to safety. These will be assessed by the Council and any works deemed necessary will be prioritised accordingly. Tel 0345 600 6400

Garden Waste Service 2022

Kerbside collections return from March 2022. Subscribing to NCC garden waste kerbside collection service can save you time and fuel, as well as mess in your vehicle.

Our service covers most of Northumberland and operates from early March to the end of November/beginning of December.

Please note: Garden waste bins are property of Northumberland County Council. If you no longer require this service, please call us on 0345 600 6400 so we can collect your brown bin.

How to subscribe: Garden waste subscriptions for 2022 are now open. Re-subscribe or register online by visiting <http://gwaste.northumberland.gov.uk/> or call us on **0345 600 6400**.

Paying for our garden waste service entitles you to 20 collections. Make sure to sign up before the service begins in March to receive all this years collections.

If you have renewed your subscription, please allow 7 days for your sticker to arrive. If it does not arrive, please let us know by calling us on 0345 600 6400.

What can I put in my garden waste bin?

Yes please	No thanks
------------	-----------

Grass cuttings	Plastic bags or bin bags
Shrubs	Plant pots or plastic trays
Leaves	Kitchen waste or food waste
Weeds	Soil, bricks or rubble
Flowers and plants	Nappies
Hedge clippings	Paper, plastic or cardboard
Prunings	Textiles
Small branches	Animal waste
	Biodegradable or compostable bags
	Children's toys
	Garden ornaments

Please **do not** dispose of food waste such as fruit and vegetable peelings in your garden waste bin as we are unable to compost this along with other plant matter. You can use fruit and vegetables in your own compost bin, if this is not used commercially/agriculturally.

Garden waste collections - **On the day, please remember:**

- your garden collection day may not be the same as your regular bin collection day - [check your garden waste collection dates here](#)
- put your bin out before 7am
- place your bin at the side of the kerb, outside of your property
- take your bin back once it has been emptied

Putting the wrong materials in your garden bin will mean we may not empty it, and no refund or partial refund will be made.

Northumberland health chief backs new Covid campaign featuring North East artists as Plan B restrictions end



Despite Plan B measures across England ending this Thursday 27 January, Covid cases in the North East remain high. Northumberland public health chief Liz Morgan is backing a new campaign featuring local artist Alex Mulholland (known as Mul) and designer and illustrator, Laura Sheldon.

The new Beat Covid NE campaign - featuring eye-catching artwork and stirring slogans at locations around the region - will remind residents that whilst the peak of Omicron appears to be reducing, there is lots they can still do to minimise the disruption coronavirus causes as restrictions end.

While Covid rates across the region have fallen considerably in the last week, rates remain above the national average.

Public health chiefs from the seven local authorities (LA7) in the North East - including; Sunderland City Council, Gateshead Council, Newcastle City Council, South Tyneside Council, North Tyneside Council, Durham County Council and Northumberland County Council - are backing the new campaign, which aims to support the region as we learn to live alongside Covid.

Liz Morgan is Director Public Health for Northumberland. She said; "Today (Thursday) marks another step in the journey towards living alongside Covid and, thanks to the actions of people across the North East, things are definitely heading in the right direction. A huge part of this is the exceptional response of local people who have taken up the vaccine and boosters, which still remain our best line of defence against the virus and my sincere thanks goes to each and every person.

"However we all want to see infection rates continue to fall and then remain as low as possible in the long-term. This campaign reminds people that their simple actions can have a big effect on slowing the spread of the virus going forwards, as we learn to live alongside it.

"Whether that's isolating when you show symptoms, testing regularly or wearing face coverings in crowded places, as well as taking up the vaccine, there's lots we can all do ongoing to help slow the spread of the virus."

The new campaign will roll out at locations across the region from early February as well as on TV, radio, digital media and billboards.

Speaking about the power of art to carry persuasive messages, Jill Cole from creative arts organisation Northern Heartlands, said; "Throughout the ages art has had the ability to convey powerful, enduring messages to communities in a way that cuts through the noise. If you think back to World War II you immediately think of Keep Calm and Carry On and the slogans and artwork that typified the era.

"Over the past two years we've all been inundated with messaging about covid and the latest rules. At times it's felt a little overwhelming but with this new campaign the councils are working with local artists to get their unique, creative take on what it means to live with Covid.

"Whether that's mask wearing, getting boosted or testing yourself regularly, the artists and illustrators are creating eye-catching works that will stop us in our tracks and remind us all of the simple steps we can all take to do our bit while living alongside coronavirus."

To find out more about Beat Covid NE visit, www.beatcovidne.co.uk