

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> 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:

<b>Item of expenditure</b>	<b>Expected expenditure</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,868.00</b>

### **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**

17<sup>th</sup> 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. J. Brooks'.

**Chair of Craster Parish Council  
(17<sup>th</sup> February 2022)**