

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 – 6.30pm in the Hall**

**Councillors present:**

**Chair:** Martin Smith

**Parish Council members:** Steven Bagley, Michael Craster, Michael Doherty, Alan Gregory, Elizabeth Pearson and Rosie Robson.

**In attendance:** 3 members of the public

**Clerk:** Adam Shanley

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Green and M Brooks as well as County Councillor W Pattison.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None received.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**4. Matters arising**

Cllr M Doherty reminded Members that he had raised the issue of compensation for residents impacted by the power cuts during Storm Arwen at the last meeting and confirmed that he had now been successful in securing £70 compensation from Northern Powergrid.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Clerk should investigate securing compensation for all residents of the parish.

**5. Public participation**

Marjory Taylor advised that she was not aware that Northern Powergrid are able to provide extra support to vulnerable residents and asked that residents be made aware of this. It was **agreed** that a flier be circulated around the village about this.

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

The Chair highlighted Councillor Pattison's report included in the Agenda and asked all attendees to direct questions to Councillor Pattison via email in her absence.

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

The Clerk highlighted that the Parish Council has now received a response from NCC on the letter and consultant's report submitted by the Parish Council on the ETRO.

In their response, NCC advise that the scheme is having the desired impact of encouraging vehicles into the quarry car park and they would now like to progress moving this to become a permanent arrangement for the entrance to the village.

Members **agreed** that the clear missing link to the scheme is enforcement and the Clerk reported that he would invite the Police to the next meeting of the Parish Council in order that they can set out their parking enforcement arrangements presently in place.

**8. Progressing alternative power sources for Craster Memorial Hall during power cuts and building community resilience**

Members thanked the Parish Clerk and Jackie Reeves for their exceptional efforts in securing a generator for the Hall on a temporary basis from NPG in the event of a power cut during this week where storms were expected.

The Parish Clerk advised that he and Jackie would be liaising with NPG in order to establish a more permanent solution to provide alternative power to the hall as a warm hub for the community in the event of a power outage.

Jackie advised that the NPG engineer who attended the Hall had advised that a generator is not suitable as a long term solution and batteries were likely the best option.

The Clerk also highlighted that the bus shelter roof in Craster has come off during the storm. The Clerk advised that he had sought quotations for this from local contractors and had managed to secure an estimate of between £600-£800 for the roof repair and the contractor is able to carry out the works within a few weeks. The Council unanimously agreed with the proposal to commission the bus shelter's repair.

The Clerk advised that he is liaising with the insurers about getting the costs reclaimed.

### **9. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee (EJBC) representative**

Cllrs M Brooks and E Pearson provided a report as EJBC representatives of the Parish Council. Cllr M Brooks advised that the Committee is looking at addressing an issue with a tree in the cemetery and is seeking advice and costs for this work to be undertaken.

Cllr E Pearson advised that she had received positive feedback about how beautiful the cemetery is kept.

Cllr M Brooks advised that the tenant remains in the cemetery house and the rent continues to be paid.

### **10. Report from Craster Community Trust (CCT) representative**

Cllr M Craster provided a report as CCT representative of the Parish Council. Cllr M Craster advised that the Trust is looking into alternative power sources in the event of a power cut in order that the Hall may be offered as a warm hub to the community.

Cllr M Craster also advised that the pantomime has been booked for this year already and advised that he hoped to see as many from the community there as possible.

Cllr M Craster also advised that a Burns night will be happening next year.

### **11. Report from Craster Community Projects Fundraising Committee**

The Clerk reported that £260.55 had now been collected from the fundraising box at the harbour. The Clerk took the opportunity to thank all those involved in the collection of the funds and especially to Helen Chamberlain who also deposited the funds at Alnwick Lloyds branch.

The possibility of this funding going towards new bike racks was discussed however a number of members were keen that the funding go towards projects which benefit the community and members expressed doubt that bike racks fitted this criterion.

It was **agreed** that the community fundraising committee should meet to discuss how the funds should be allocated and come forward with a recommendation to the Parish Council.

The Clerk took the opportunity again to stress that any local community organisation may be involved in this Committee.

### **12. Progressing plans for a Platinum Jubilee celebration event**

The Clerk advised that he had now submitted the grant application for a Platinum Jubilee celebration event to NCC and expected to hear back soon on this.

The Clerk also reminded Members that a £1,000 fund had been agreed as part of the budget for 2022/23 for events in the parish.

The Council agreed that this should be a community-led initiative as opposed to a Parish Council event and the Clerk highlighted that a coffee morning for the community to meet and discuss ideas is being planned for 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and encouraged all attendees to attend this to hear ideas.

### **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. The Council considered the new highways information submitted in support of the application and **agreed** to maintain its objection to this application. The Clerk **agreed** to draft the follow up response to this application.

**Update on 22/00024/FUL** | Proposed second storey side extension and single storey front extension. | 6 South Acres Craster NE66 3TN. The Council considered the NCC highways response to this application and **agreed** to request that the officer noted this and act accordingly.

### **14. Update on the installation of disabled parking bays outside St. Peter's Church in Craster**

The Clerk advised that the disabled car parking bay is being progressed and he hoped to have an update on this as soon as possible. The Clerk confirmed that one space had been requested, as per the previous Council agreement.

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

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Clerk if they wished to have any items on the Agenda for the next meeting. Members **agreed** that mobile phone coverage for the parish should be a major item of discussion on the next Agenda.

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

17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall.

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

Signed,



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