

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

**Agenda**

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, I hereby give you notice that the meeting of **Craster Parish Council** will be held in the **Craster Memorial Hall** on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 6:30pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. Welcome and apologies for absence**
- 2. Declarations of interest**
- 3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Public participation**
- 6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison** – report included.
- 7. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**
- 8. Report from Craster Community Trust representative**
- 9. Update on the planning application for the mobile phone mast in Craster quarry car park**
- 10. Offer of NCC funding towards cycle parking in the parish** – as requested in the 2023/24 LTP submission
- 11. Report by Cllr M Brooks following the meeting of the AONB partnership**
- 12. Update on the traffic calming scheme to the entrance of Craster village**
- 13. Changes to the Parish Clerk's pay scales**
- 14. Planning Matters:**
  - Update on 22/01372/FUL** | Resubmission: Change of use of agricultural grazing land to mixed tourist use and siting of three glamping pods | Land North East Of Howick Scar Craster Northumberland
  - Update on 21/01785/FUL** | Proposed conversion of existing garage to one residential dwelling | Land North Of Waters Edge Haven Hill Craster Northumberland
  - Update on 21/02775/FUL** | Construction of 2no houses for rent with associated landscaping | Dunstan House C74 Dunstan Village Main Road Dunstan NE66 3SY
- 15. Items for next Agenda**
- 16. Date and time of next meeting**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 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**  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – 7.00pm in the Hall**

**Councillors present:**

**Chair:** Martin Smith

**Parish Council members:** Margaret Brooks, Michael Craster, Alan Gregory and Elizabeth Pearson.

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

**Clerk:** Adam Shanley

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Robson, M Smith and W Pattison

**2. Declarations of interest**

None received.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**4. Matters arising**

None received.

**5. Public participation**

Mrs Jackie Reeves asked for an update on the works to the Craster toilets as markings had appeared on the pavement some time ago but no work had appeared to have commenced. The Clerk advised that the refurb of the toilet block is scheduled for the autumn/winter 2023 in order to avoid the busiest period. The Clerk advised that NCC feel that the facility is in reasonable shape so their priorities for the big toilet refurbishment schemes this year is to improve Alnwick Shambles, Wooler Bus Station, St Marys Wynd Hexham and Berwick Castlegate.

The Clerk advised however that Paul Jones is waiting to hear back from NCC Estates on the work they have been doing to identify a long term solution to resolve the blockage problems which Local Services believe are caused by the inadequate size of the drainage pipework - the installation of macerators has helped reduced the risk/frequency of blockages but may not be a long term 'cure' for the problem. The Clerk advised that the latest update he had on this was that Local Services at NCC were hoping to hear back from them by the end of next week with their findings and agreed to follow up with Paul Jones at NCC on this matter.

Mrs Marion Gallon raised a safety concern at Dunstanburgh Road. She advised that the road is still dangerous with vehicles driving up the Road in spite of the signage. Marion also highlighted that a number of camper vans were parking in the village.

The Clerk advised that he was aware of the problem of camper vans coming in to the village and highlighted that the residents of South Acres were also reporting this as an issue. The Council **agreed** that residents should be encouraged to contact 101 in the event that a camper van does come into the village. It was also **agreed** that NCC should be asked to re-visit the idea of promoting their own car parks as camper van sites for overnight stays, in order to try and deter camper vans entering the village.

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

The Chair highlighted that County Councillor Wendy Pattison has submitted a written report on work at NCC and advised attendees to direct any queries they may have to Councillor Pattison on this report.

**7. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**

Cllrs M Brooks and E Pearson provided a report to Members as EJBC representatives on the Parish Council.

Cllr E Pearson 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 highlighted that The Net had recently published a history of the cemetery. Cllr E Pearson advised that a risk assessment report had been undertaken by a specialist contractor on behalf of the EJBC to review the condition of headstones. Cllr E Pearson advised that, in cases where there was a need for repair works to be done, the families were being contacted to ask if they could finance the repair works. Cllr E Pearson advised that, where headstones were found to be dangerous and the families couldn't be located, the headstones were being placed respectfully on top of the graves.

Cllrs M Brooks and E Pearson both highlighted that the EJBC had received correspondence in relation to the fence around the cemetery house. The Council reviewed the photos of the fence around the cemetery and agreed to continue to support the project of providing a house at an affordable rent but agreed that the fence should be replaced with some alternative aesthetically sympathetic boundary, e.g. hedging. The Clerk **agreed** to write to the Chair of the EJBC on this matter to let him know Craster Parish Council's position on this.

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

Cllr M Craster provided a report to Members as Trust representative on the Parish Council.

Cllr M Craster advised that the pantomime would be returning again this year and the show would be Wind in the Willows.

Cllr M Craster also advised that the Trust had established an internet Café in the Hall on a Saturday morning with 4 laptops and a printer now in the Hall for community use.

Cllr M Craster also advised that the Trust is looking to establish the Hall as one of the Warm Spaces in the County – acutely conscious of the added pressures on local residents with the extra costs of heating and lighting homes.

Cllr M Craster also advised that the Burns Supper would be taking place once more on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Mrs Marion Gallon advised that she is also looking to establish a community newspaper shop in the Hall but this would depend on the new tenants at the *Moodies* shop. Marion advised that she hoped that someone from Craster might be able to collect the newspapers and these could then be collected from the Hall. The aim of such a project could be to reduce car miles, fuel costs and emissions.

Cllr M Craster also advised that he had a table tennis available and that the Trust were happy to have this in the Hall. Cllr M Craster advised that the project had not yet been able to move forward as the Trust were awaiting Cllr Mark Green taking a look at the tennis table to approve that this would be appropriate.

### **9. Progressing the back-up power to Craster Village Hall**

The Council warmly welcomed the news that the Trust and the Parish Council had been successful in securing grant funding from Northern PowerGrid in order to install solar panels and the Tesla battery.

The Chair of the Parish Council thanked Jackie Reeves and the Clerk for their work on this project which would not only make the Hall more sustainable and its running costs a lot less but also provide much-needed back-up power to the village in times of power outages.

The Clerk advised that Jackie had put in most of the work on this grant submission and expressed his delight that the Trust and the Parish Council could work in partnership on such a brilliant scheme.

The Council also **agreed** to pay the £3,000 from holiday let owners to the Trust who had put down a deposit with the company and to write to all holiday let owners to thank them for their contributions and to highlight the success.

Jackie advised that the solar panels would hopefully be in this side of Christmas and the Tesla battery would follow in the coming months into 2023.

### **10. Providing support to the community during the cost of living/ energy crisis**

The Council expressed its concerns over the increasing costs on local residents to provide power and heat to their homes.

The Clerk highlighted the EPC ratings of all properties in Craster demonstrated that there was a desperate need to better insulate our homes.

The Council advised that the need to provide more support to residents is made more urgent by the Government withdrawing the Energy Price Guarantee in April 2023.

The Clerk advised that this issue had been looked into by the Fundraising Committee and they had suggested that the Council may look to purchase a number of "hotties" – similar to hot water bottles but microwavable wheat bags which residents can heat up and stay warm for hours. The Clerk advised that a number of these could be purchased and placed in the Hall for residents to collect if they needed one. The Council **agreed** to allocate £150 towards the purchase of these hotties for provision within the Hall.

### **11. Update on the planning application for the mobile phone mast in Craster quarry car park**

The Clerk highlighted that the planning application – originally expected some months ago – had now been stalled due to an internal issue with NCC's legal team who needed to sign off the Heads of Terms for the mast.

The Council highlighted its frustration at this delay and asked the Clerk to make contact with senior personnel within NCC to try and get the project moving forward as soon as possible. The Clerk advised that he would be looking into this as a top priority and keep the Council updated.

### **12. Report from the Parish Council's Fundraising Committee on community projects**

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's Fundraising Committee met on 19<sup>th</sup> October in order to discuss the collection boxes and to ascertain where funding could be allocated towards community projects.

The Clerk advised that the collection boxes had been very successful in gaining additional funding for community projects and thanked all those volunteers involved in supporting this project.

The Clerk advised that the Committee wishes to allocate £150 towards "hotties" for the community, £200 towards planters for the parish and £100 for bulbs. The Clerk also highlighted that Jackie needed to be reimbursed for the cost of one of the boxes and reminded Members that 10% of all funding acquired had been agreed to be allocated to the Harbour.

The Council unanimously **agreed** with these proposals and instructed the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for these projects.

### **13. Unveiling of the Jubilee bench in Craster and report following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

The Chair advised that he had purchased some Queen Elizabeth roses to go alongside the Jubilee bench in Craster. The Chair advised that he and Cllr M Brooks would look into the most appropriate options for this, whether the rose bushes could be installed into the ground and/or in planters.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank the Clerk and everyone involved in arrangements in Craster following the death of Her Majesty – including the Church for the Book of Condolence, Steve Tenant for installing the Jubilee bench so swiftly and those bodies and individuals who had donated flowers to the bench.

### **14. Planning for the Remembrance Day event on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Cllr M Craster advised that he would be purchasing a wreath for the Council once more this year and this would be placed at the Memorial in Craster as usual on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr M Craster also advised that there would be a Church service in the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> November in St. Peter's Church in Craster.

### **15. Planning for Christmas events**

The Council **agreed** to once again fund the Christmas tree from Hobbalow Plants. The Clerk agreed to contact them directly and place the order.

### **16. Planning Matters:**

**Update on 22/01372/FUL** | Resubmission: Change of use of agricultural grazing land to mixed tourist use and siting of three glamping pods | Land North East Of Howick Scar Craster Northumberland. The Council **noted** that this application had yet to be determined.

**Update on 21/01785/FUL** | Proposed conversion of existing garage to one residential dwelling | Land North Of Waters Edge Haven Hill Craster Northumberland. The Council **noted** that this application had yet to be determined. The Clerk **agreed** to seek an update on the application as this had been undetermined for a significant time.

**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 Committee **agreed** to maintain its objection to this scheme, in spite of the most recent amendments.

**22/03090/PRUTPO** | Tree Preservation Order Application: T1 Ash Tree - Prune overhang back by 2M. | 7 Whin Hill Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TP. It was **agreed** to note this application.

**17. Items for next Agenda**

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Parish Clerk should they wish to have any items on the Agenda for the November Full Council meeting.

**18. Date and time of next meeting**

17<sup>th</sup> November 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> November 2022)**

# CRASTER PARISH - COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



County Councillor Wendy Pattison

[wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk) - Tel. 07779 983072 and on Facebook  
– Cllr Wendy Pattison

## CRASTER PARISH

### **Council recommends appointment of new Chief Executive**

Northumberland County Council is pleased to announce a recommended appointment for a new Chief Executive of the Council.

Dr Helen Paterson is currently at Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, where she has been Chief Executive since 2017.



Helen was Executive Director of Children's Services in Sunderland for five years before becoming Strategic Director for Transformation, leading the council's business transformation, efficiency and improvement work.

She joined Walsall after being Chief Executive at Wrexham County Borough Council for six years. Helen is currently Secretary of the Association of Black Country Authorities and Black Country Executive Joint Committee and Chair of West Midlands Metropolitan Chief Executives Group.

Council leader Cllr Glen Sanderson said: "We're looking forward to welcoming Helen as our new Chief Executive, subject to full council approval. "Helen stood out as our first choice among a very strong field of candidates. She brings with her a wealth of skills, experience and an in-depth knowledge of local government and shares our vision to take Northumberland forward over the coming years."

Her formal appointment needs to be confirmed at a full council meeting in early November following an interview and selection process overseen by a cross-party group of Councillors and senior officers.

# Better broadband for rural Northumberland under government's Project Gigabit

More than 3,750 rural premises in North Northumberland are set to access faster and more reliable broadband thanks to funding from the government's Project Gigabit scheme.

Borderlink Broadband, trading as GoFibre, will work with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and the County Council to enable thousands of hard-to-reach homes and businesses to access gigabit-capable broadband, made possible by £7.3million of DCMS investment.

The project will cover towns, villages and hamlets across the area, subject to further survey completion. The contract has been signed and planning is now underway, with construction due to begin in Spring 2023.

Gigabit-capable networks are lightning-fast and fit for the future, allowing communities to upload and download data with none of the disruptions associated with ageing copper networks. More than 70 per cent of the UK can access gigabit connections - such as full fibre - but these are mostly in urban areas which is why the government is investing £5 billion to connect hard-to-reach areas that might otherwise miss out.

This should enable thousands of our residents living and working in rural areas access the fastest and most reliable connection speeds available and will make accessing every-day activities - such as online banking, video calls, gaming and streaming - much more efficient. Not only will this benefit our rural communities but will support the levelling-up of our rural businesses too, allowing for better innovation and collaboration opportunities."

Digital Infrastructure Minister, Julia Lopez, said: "North Northumberland will be one of the first places to benefit from this government's multi-million-pound investments to bring people in hard-to-reach areas the broadband speeds they deserve.

"Faster gigabit broadband will mean families no longer have to battle over bandwidth and people in rural areas will get the speed, reliability and freedom to live and work flexibly."

The fast, reliable networks delivered by Project Gigabit will level-up mostly rural and remote communities across the UK, as well as tackling pockets of poor connectivity in urban areas. Having the fastest connections also means the UK is fit for the future, with broadband infrastructure designed to deliver for people's needs for decades to come.

Sam Calvert, chief revenue officer at GoFibre, said: "At GoFibre, everything we do is guided by our mission to support the development and prosperity of local communities across Northern England and Scotland with high-quality broadband services.

"We're delighted to have been awarded our second contract as a trusted partner under the government's Project Gigabit scheme with today's announcement providing an exciting opportunity for us to extend our services to the people of North Northumberland.

"Having already embedded ourselves within the Berwick community, we're strengthening our ties with North Northumberland by helping locals to connect with each other and thrive, thanks to a reliable broadband connection. This opens up opportunities for economic growth, education and employment with everybody deserving access to world class connectivity which we're looking forward to bringing to North Northumberland."

GoFibre is a Scottish independent broadband provider bringing full fibre broadband services to homes and businesses across Scotland and the North of England. This is the third contract that has been awarded under Project Gigabit.

Households and businesses can register their interest in GoFibre's full fibre broadband services by visiting [www.gofibre.co.uk/register](http://www.gofibre.co.uk/register).

## **Retrofit programme accelerates Northumberland towards carbon neutral**

Northumberland County Council is pioneering the installation of low carbon ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) in its non-domestic buildings to help reduce emissions in the county.

To date, 20 GSHP projects have been undertaken by the council, including in fire stations, schools and office premises saving 1025.09 tons of CO2 emissions to date – the equivalent of a petrol car driving 2,544,484 miles around the county.

The pumps are being supplied by British manufacturer and installation partner, Kensa and present the best value benefit against the carbon saved which will help accelerate Northumberland towards its carbon neutral goal by 2030. Especially as GSHPs have a typical lifespan of 20 years and become even more efficient as the grid continues to decarbonise.

Ian Goodchild, Director of Non-Domestic Sales at Kensa Contracting, said: "The success of our partnership with Northumberland County Council demonstrates how ground source heat pump technology can be a mainstream heating solution for public buildings, and how forward-thinking councils and local authorities can capitalise on available funding streams to make these projects happen."

"Kensa has worked closely with the Council to provide bespoke ground source heat pumps solutions in each scenario, leading to better thermal comfort and drastically reducing emissions. The higher efficiencies provided by the heat pumps lead to lower running costs, which delivers savings for the council across their asset portfolio, helping them get the most value and best delivery from their properties."

For public sector customers wanting to install ground source heat pumps, Kensa offers a free feasibility report service that can be included within funding applications and it is advised to look at projects in advance of future funding rounds.

## **Staying warm this winter**

Northumberland Communities Together is here to listen, chat and support at this time of year. If you want advice on how to stay warm are worried about the cost of living and household bills. Or, you would like some pointers on positive mental health and wellbeing. Or if everything feels a bit overwhelming and you're feeling lonely or isolated. Please get in touch with us.

# We are here to help

If you, your family, or neighbour need a bit of extra help, please get in touch we can connect you to support that's right for you:



**Phone us on 01670 620015**

**9am - 6pm, 7 days a week**

**[NCT@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:NCT@northumberland.gov.uk)**



There are lots of ways to talk to us; you can ring, email, or drop into one of community hubs or warm spaces. Phone us on 01670 620 015 9am-6pm, 7 days a week