

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

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members: Margaret Brooks, Mark Green, Ann Fettis, Michael Craster, Alan Gregory and Elizabeth Pearson.

In attendance: 3 members of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison.

Clerk: Adam Shanley

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs R Robson.

2. Declarations of interest

None received.

3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 20th October 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2022 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising

Councillor M Brooks informed the Council that Moodies the shop would be closing after Christmas for refurbishment.

Councillor M Brooks also advised that she and Allan had installed the bulbs into the planters to the entrance of the village.

The Chair also thanked Members for their involvement in the Remembrance Day service. The Chair remarked that he felt that this had gone extremely well.

5. Public participation

Mrs Helen Chamberlain asked Members if anyone else had experienced difficulty with their smart meter. Helen advised that her smart meter was not working as Craster and Dunstan are not within the "wide area network". Members advised that their own meters did work and the Chair offered to look into this for Helen.

6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Councillor Wendy Pattison presented her report to Members.

Wendy congratulated Craster on a marvellous Remembrance Day event and thanked the village for welcoming her this year.

Wendy also highlighted that a village within her Ward were using WhatsApp as a means of communicating amongst residents and this had proven to be very positive and successful. Wendy highlighted this and wondered if Craster and Dunstan had thought about doing the same.

Wendy also advised that, through the work with her Cabinet portfolio, she had been successful in establishing a "safe haven" for those struggling with mental health and in need of support in Ashington as the first such hub in the county.

7. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Cllr M Brooks advised that the EJBC had not met since the last Full Council meeting and therefore there was nothing to report.

8. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Cllr M Craster provided an update on the work of the Community Trust as Parish Council representative.

Cllr M Craster advised Members that the next meeting of the Trust would take place next week.

Cllr M Craster also advised that the pantomime would be taking place on 29th December and the Trust would also be hosting a Burns Supper evening on 4th February.

Cllr M Craster advised that the Trust would be meeting with Cllr M Green imminently to progress the proposal of having table tennis in the village Hall.

Cllr M Craster also advised that the recent event in aid of the Royal British Legion had raised a total of £70 which was fantastic.

Cllr M Craster also reminded Members that the Trust hosts a lunch club after crafts on a Tuesday at midday in the Hall where soup and bread are provided.

9. Update on the planning application for the mobile phone mast in Craster quarry car park

The Clerk advised Members that he had been in regular dialogue with the relevant officers at NCC regarding the proposed mobile phone mast in the Craster quarry car park.

The Clerk advised that the project appears to have been delayed quite considerable and the Clerk expressed the concern that this project may not go ahead if action wasn't taken urgently as the costs for development were rising and NCC has now requested an annual ground rent of £4,000 from Rail site. The Clerk also advised that he had been made aware of various procurement issues relating to the project too.

In order to rescue the project therefore, the Clerk advised that he has requested a roundtable meeting with all stakeholders involved in the project on 30th November 2022 and he hoped that this meeting will conclude with some positive follow-up steps. The Clerk advised that he would keep the Council updated on progress.

10. Offer of NCC funding towards cycle parking in the parish

The Clerk reminded Members that, in the Parish Council's LTP submission for 2023/24, the Council had requested that NCC installed additional cycle parking to the village by the Jubilee Bench.

The Clerk advised that he had now received correspondence from NCC to confirm that they currently have funding for additional cycle parking across the county and had been asked exactly where the Parish Council would like this installed.

The Council considered this very generous offer and **agreed** that the entrance to the quarry car park (behind the existing barrels) to the right hand side would be the most appropriate location for this. The Clerk advised that he would instruct NCC accordingly.

11. Report by Cllr M Brooks following the meeting of the AONB partnership

Cllr M Brooks advised that she had attended the recent Parish Council Chair's AONB partnership meeting on 9th November on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr M Brooks advised that this had been an extremely interesting meeting where she had once again raised the issue of outdoor lights being left on within the AONB.

Cllr M Brooks also advised that NCC is going to make a register available of all Council tax paying properties. The Clerk and Chair expressed concerns about this potentially breaching GDPR.

The Council thanked Cllr M Brooks for representing the Council at this meeting and for her report.

12. Update on the traffic calming scheme to the entrance of Craster village

The Clerk advised that NCC has indicated that they are in the final stages of a design for a permanent entrance to Craster village and hoped to share these plans with the Parish Council as soon as possible. The Clerk advised that he would keep Members updated on this.

13. Changes to the Parish Clerk's pay scales

The Council unanimously **agreed** that the Clerk's net pay should be increased to £480 per month and any retrospective payments should be made accordingly. The Council agreed that they would factor this into the budget setting for 2023/24 in January.

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. The Council **noted** that this application is still awaiting determination.

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 is still awaiting determination. The Council **agreed** to maintain its objection to this application.

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** that this application is still awaiting determination. The Council **agreed** to maintain its objection to this application.

15. 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 January Full Council meeting.

16. Date and time of next meeting

19th January 2023 – 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
(19th January 2023)**