

**MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 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 17<sup>th</sup> November 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 defibrillator in Craster village**
- 10. Parish Council budget 2023/24** – report included.
- 11. Parish Council precept request 2023/24** – report included.
- 12. Update on the planning application for the mobile phone mast in Craster quarry car park**
- 13. Update on the traffic calming scheme to the entrance of Craster village**
- 14. Planning Matters:**
  - 22/04208/FUL** | Proposed replacement glazing to front extension with french doors | 26 Heugh Road Craster Northumberland NE66 3TJ
  - 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**

16<sup>th</sup> February 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> December and the Trust would also be hosting a Burns Supper evening on 4<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

19<sup>th</sup> 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  
(19<sup>th</sup> January 2023)**

# 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



Wishing you all the very best for 2023 and looking so much forward to a new year filled with opportunities for Craster Parish.

### Volunteering for Northumberland

Lots of people across Northumberland volunteer. Whatever your age, experience, or background, offering whatever time you can to can have a big impact. It's a great way to meet other people, learn new skills and make a difference. Volunteering  
<https://www.northumberlandcva.org.uk/volunteering/>

### Northumberland Communities Together

Northumberland Communities Together was launched in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Today it continues to make sure residents are kept safe and well and provides coordination to support individual volunteers, voluntary groups and communities across our county.

If you'd like to know more or have a chat about volunteering please get in touch and phone the **Northumberland Communities Together Response Hub** on 01670 620015 9am - 6pm, 7 days a week or email [NCT@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:NCT@northumberland.gov.uk).



## Leader welcomes government funding announcement

The Leader of Northumberland County Council has given a cautious welcome to the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for the coming year.

The provisional Government allocation net funding of £52.6m means the authority would be £4m better off compared to its current forecast position in terms of un-ringfenced grants available to support the budget.

Additional funding is also being made available for adult social care to address market pressures and speed up hospital discharges and relieve pressure on the NHS.

The settlement includes a further £7.4m to Northumberland Schools and a further £2m for High Needs/Special Educational Needs for 2023/24. Overall year on year for schools this is an increase in funding of 5.57%.

Council Leader Glen Sanderson said: "This settlement was better than hoped for and should make our budget setting for the next year a little easier.

"I was pleased to note the boost in funding for schools, as investment in our young people is critical to the future prosperity of our county."

"However, the national financial picture remains very challenging and there will still be difficult decisions ahead, but this government allocation is welcome news."

The council is also watching with interest the 'Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill' which is currently going through Parliament, particularly around the levels of council tax that can be charged on empty and second homes. The purpose of these measures is to bring homes back into use for local communities.

If the Bill gets Royal Assent by 31 March 2023 these options can be implemented with effect from 1 April 2024.

For second homes, which is an issue in some parts of the county, the bill would mean the council could charge up to an extra 100% council tax on them. In the county there are currently 3,502 properties classed as second homes and calculations show a 100% council tax rise could generate an extra £6.5m income for the council.

Cllr Sanderson said: "It has been a growing concern to local residents that some of our villages have too many second homes whilst at the same time there is a shortage of local affordable housing.

"We have allocated very significant money to create more affordable housing this year but we want to do more. This proposed change would help bring some balance to local communities."

Ahead of the council's budget setting, the council's online public consultation is still live and people can give their views on a wide range of budget and Council service issues online via the NCC website.

## New North East devolution deal

Plans to bring billions of pounds and more power to the North East have progressed, with Government [releasing a press notice outlining](#) a deal on the table for the seven local authorities in the North East.

Local Leaders and Mayors have been in positive discussions with Government in recent months and following successful talks have now been offered a provisional deal which would unlock over billions of pounds of investment and see additional powers transferred from Whitehall to local people.

Negotiations with government over the devolution deal have now reached the stage where all councils and combined authorities can consider the details, before a final decision is made.

The new deal would see the formation of a new combined authority, headed by an elected 'Metro' mayor and cover the LA7 area of Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, Sunderland, South Tyneside, County Durham and Northumberland.

The deal, which is subject to a governance review and public consultation, offers a potential £4.2bn of investment into the region, made up of elements including:

- **An investment fund of £1.4bn, or £48m a year**, to support inclusive economic growth and support our regeneration priorities
- **An indicative budget of around £1.8bn, or £60m a year**, for adult education and skills - to meet local skills priorities and improve opportunities for residents
- **A £900m package of investment to transform our transport system**, with £563m from the City Regional Sustainable Transport Fund, on top of funding already announced for our buses and metro system
- **£69m of investment in housing and regeneration**, unlocking sites to bring forward new housing and commercial development

It is expected to create 24,000 extra jobs, deliver 70,000 courses per year to give people the skills to get good jobs, and leverage £5.0 billion of private sector investment.

Once established the new authority, covering an area which is home to around 2 million people, will have the power to make decisions on areas such as transport, skills, housing, finance and economic development. The potential deal does not involve any changes to existing councils.

A public consultation will take place from early 2023 on the new arrangements which the government have confirmed they are 'minded to' approve.

It is expected a Mayoral election would take place in May 2024 and a new authority formed.

The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA), which was set up in 2019 covering Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland, and the separate North East Combined Authority (NECA) covering Sunderland, South Tyneside, Gateshead and Durham would no longer exist.

## Driving in winter

### ROAD GRITTING

NCC routinely grit a network of 29 routes to treat overnight frost and prevent ice forming.

This normally takes about three hours and they aim to finish by 8am on weekday mornings. In light snowfalls, or when ice is expected to form throughout the day, they do grit our secondary routes.

These include important bus routes and access roads for communities and residential areas.

The Highways Agency is responsible for ploughing and gritting on the A1 and the A19

### **REPORTING AN EMPTY GRIT BIN**

1. There are currently 1600 grit bins provided at selected steep hills, sharp bends and where there are steps, particularly in areas where routine gritting does not happen.
2. Where the resources allow, grit bins will be replenished during the winter with grit for public use. You can use this grit to clear snow and ice from pavements around your home and those of neighbours who may need help.
3. Grit provided should not be used for treating private property.  
**NCC will record and consider your report, although it will be subject to route priority, prevailing conditions and available resources.**

### **REPORT AN UNTREATED FOOTPATH**

1. Following normal overnight frost, we will grit footpaths which:
2. Have a steep gradient
3. Have a high risk of ice forming
4. Have a large number of people using them early in the morning
5. **All other footpaths will not normally be gritted.**
6. In continuing severe weather conditions, as resources become available, we will grit main footpaths in town centres, busy urban shopping areas, important pedestrian links and footpaths next to large schools.  
**NCC will record and consider your report, although it will be subject to route priority, prevailing conditions and available resources.**

For reporting purposes, there is a form to complete online on the NCC website or by telephoning the Council 0345 600 6400.

## ITEM 10: PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2023/24

Members are reminded that the Parish Council is required to submit a precept request for the financial year 2023-24 to the County Council by the end of January 2023.

In order to assist Members in deciding an appropriate precept level, it is also necessary for the Council to agree a budget for the forthcoming financial year.

It is expected that the Parish Council will finish the current financial year with approximately £6,500 remaining in the bank account.

The below offers a guide on the proposed expenditure for the forthcoming financial year:

<b>Item of expenditure</b>	<b>Expected expenditure</b>
Staffing costs (including on costs)	£7,200.00
Insurance	£180.00
Wifi and telephone to the Hall	£400.00
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
EJBC request for precept	£215.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,423.00</b>

Of the remaining £6,500 from this current financial year, £3,000 needs to be retained for general reserves.

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	For Members to formally agree a budget for the financial year 2023-24
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## **ITEM 11: PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT REQUEST 2023/24**

### **Budget**

Please refer to Item 10 for consideration of budget priorities for 2023/2024.

### **Information on Council Tax base**

Council Tax base is calculated by taking the number of houses in the parish area, allocating a weight to them based on their council tax banding and adding up the total of the weighted households. For example, higher council tax band properties carry a higher weighting and lower council tax base properties carry a lower council tax weighting. The Council Tax Base can therefore fluctuate from year to year based on the number of properties in each area. For example, council tax base will increase if any new houses have been built and the occupants have started to pay council tax but may decrease if for example any houses have been demolished in an area or have moved into another parish following a community governance review.

The 2023/24 Craster Parish Council Tax Base was calculated at 152.37.

The current Band D charge for the Parish Council is £65.63. If the Parish Council agrees to maintain the current Band D precept charge, this would generate a precept of £10,000.00. The precept for the current financial year is also £10,000.

### **External funding**

In addition to the precept request, the Parish Council has successfully acquired external funding over and above the amount precepted for each year for at least the last 4 years; for instance the LEADER grant, the Transparency Fund, the Locality grant, funding from the Local County Councillor Wendy Pattison, voluntary contributions towards the precept, Northern Powergrid, Platinum Jubilee, etc.

### **Precept request**

The precept request must be submitted to Northumberland County Council by the end of January 2023.

<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>	Councillors are asked to consider the above information and decide on a precept level for the financial year 2023-24.
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