

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 20th July 2023 – 6:30pm in the Hall

Agenda

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, I hereby give you notice that the annual meeting of **Craster Parish Council** will be held **in Craster Memorial Hall on Thursday 20th July 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 15th June 2023**
- 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. Progressing the mobile phone mast in Craster quarry car park** – to consider the latest update in respect of the planning application for this proposal.
- 10. Update on the purchase of a defibrillator to Dunstan village** – include an update on the defibrillator training date for the community.
- 11. Update following Lifeboat Day and resident volunteering**
- 12. Engagement with NCC Housing team regarding social housing in the parish**
- 13. To discuss further actions on power outages within the parish area and engagement with Northern PowerGrid**
- 14. Progressing the consultation event with residents of Dunstan**
- 15. Items for next Agenda**
- 16. Date and time of next meeting**

21st September 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 15th June 2023 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors R Robson and M Craster as well as County Councillor Wendy Pattison.

2. Declarations of interest

None received.

3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 18th May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2023 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising

None received.

5. Presentation by Jackie Reeves on solar panel/ sustainability project for the Hall

Jackie advised that she and the Clerk had worked on a bid to Northern Powergrid for funding the solar panels to the Hall.

Since the installation of the solar panels, Jackie advised that the Hall had not been charged any electricity bills which is a great saving and advised that the solar panels had made a slight profit from energy produced over recent months.

Jackie advised that she and others had recently shown this project to Anne-Marie Trevelyan on a recent constituency visit and Anne-Marie was very impressed with the work carried out. Jackie also provided stats on the energy produced from the solar panels and the energy used by the Hall on any given date and advised that she was able to monitor this via an app.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Mrs Jackie Reeves for her presentation this evening and for all her excellent work in securing the funding which delivered the project.

6. Public participation

None received.

7. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

In Councillor W Pattison's absence, the Chair highlighted Councillor Pattison's usual monthly report and advised all present to direct any queries on NCC related matters to Councillor Pattison in writing.

8. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Councillor M Brooks and E Pearson advised that the EJBC had not met as a committee since the last Full Council meeting but hoped to do so soon. Councillor M Brooks assured Members that the rent from the tenant continued to be paid and this is funding the repayments of the loan for the refurbishment of the house.

9. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Mrs Jackie Reeves advised that the Trust is currently looking at upgrading the lights in the Hall and were speaking to relevant contractors about this.

10. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/23

- (i) Members agreed the internal audit report 2022-23
- (ii) Members approved the annual governance statement 2022-23
- (iii) Members approved the draft annual accounts for 2022-23
- (iv) Members approved the accounting statement and explanation of variances 2022-23
- (v) Members approved the certificate of exemption form 2022-23

11. Progressing the mobile phone mast in Craster quarry car park

The Clerk reminded Members of the Parish Council's ongoing efforts to secure mobile phone signal for Craster and Dunstan. The Clerk advised that he had met with the company delivering the tower and this had been a successful on-site meeting with representatives of NCC.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council has now received a formal pre-application letter on behalf of Atlas and the Council unanimously agreed to write in support of this project.

The Clerk advised that he was aware that Atlas were engaging with the AONB over the proposals and were due to meet them in due course.

12. Update on the purchase of a defibrillator to Dunstan village

The Clerk advised that the appeal to both holiday lets and the film crew had been successful and he had engaged with the Stephen Carey Fund who have now agreed to install the new defibrillator for Dunstan at the Cottage Inn pub entrance. The Council agreed to purchase the defibrillator and to delegate responsibility to the Clerk for its installation.

Councillor M Green advised that he was aware that the same film crew had given a lot more towards another community in Northumberland for filming in their village and asked that the Council ask the film crew once more for a higher contribution. The Clerk advised that he would be happy to do so.

13. Proposed consultation event with residents of Dunstan

The Chair highlighted the ongoing focus in Dunstan and advised that he felt that the Council should host a consultation event with residents in the area regarding proposals such as signage and potentially looking at making the village a Conservation Area. It was agreed that this consultation event should take place in September. Mrs Marjorie Taylor advised that she felt that residents in Craster should also be able to attend a meeting but not vote on any proposals around a Conservation Area for Dunstan.

14. Items for next Agenda

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Parish Clerk should they wish to have an item of business included on next month's Agenda.

15. Date and time of next meeting

20th July 2023 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall.

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

Signed,

**Chair of Craster Parish Council
(20th July 2023)**

CRASTER PARISH - COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



County Councillor Wendy Pattison

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk - Tel. 07779 983072 and on Facebook
– Cllr Wendy Pattison
CRASTER PARISH

Environment taking centre stage on council plans



The council is looking to place a greater emphasis on improving the environment for everyone over the coming years.

From dealing with littering to creating more green spaces and woodlands, the council will be working hard to ensure the county's stunning natural resources are protected and enhanced, now and in the future.

It comes as the council plans to refresh and update the council's climate change action plan and build on the successful work the council has done since it declared a climate emergency back in 2019.

Council Leader Glen Sanderson stressed the council's dedication and highlighted the importance of looking after our local environment.

He said: "There is a clear need for us to explore new ways we can all work together to create an environment that works for everyone across our county.

"Already we have taken great strides in achieving our goals, but we know there is still a lot of work to be done as we work towards carbon neutral and our work to refresh the climate change action plan is well underway and will set out our key priorities and areas for the next three years.

"As a priority I've also requested officers to bring a report to cabinet over the summer looking to declare an ecological emergency, so that we give greater priority to protecting nature and wildlife and enhancing habitats and biodiversity which are all key to our successful future.

"On a wider environmental level, we have so much to be proud of with our green spaces, spectacular countryside, beautiful coastline, and our amazing wildlife and habitats and as a council we're determined to protect these areas and make improvements where needed.

"Everything that people see and touch around them that makes our county so special will be a focus over the next two years.

"Whether that's enhancements to our beautiful country parks and increased cycling and walking routes connecting our towns and villages, we will endeavor to make further improvements.

"And on people's doorsteps there's a whole raft of schemes coming forward for our Queen Elizabeth II memorial projects to improve access to green spaces near to people's homes, there's

new woodland schemes in the pipeline and thousands of residents and community groups have taken up our offer of free trees for gardens and parks.

“We’ve all got our part to play in improving our environment, whether it’s on a personal level – however small - or county-wide, and we want residents to join us on this journey.”

Childcare

Information about the different types of childcare support.

Tax-free childcare - You can get up to **£500** every 3 months (up to **£2,000** a year) for each of your children to help with the cost of childcare.

Claim tax-free childcare - 30 hours free childcare

Eligible working families in Northumberland with 3 and 4 year old children can receive **30 hours of free childcare a week**.

[Visit Childcare Choices for more information](#)

15 hours free childcare

Families in Northumberland who have 2 year old children and are on certain benefits can get **15 hours of free childcare a week**.

All families with children aged 3 and 4 can also access **15 hours of free childcare a week**.

[Visit Childcare Choices for more information](#)

Claim back childcare costs

You may be able to claim back up to 85% of your childcare costs if you’re eligible for Universal Credit, with up to **£646** back each month for one child or **£1,108** for 2 or more children.

[Find out more about claiming back childcare costs](#)

If you would like to make sure you’re getting the right benefits for your family speak to one of the **Northumberland Communities Together on 01670 620015 - 9am to 6pm 7 days a week**.

Worried about the immediate welfare of an adult or a child

If you are worried about the immediate welfare (health or well-being) of an adult or a child contact **Onecall - 01670 536400 - 24 hour service, 365 days a year**.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Start your career with a Northumberland County Council Apprenticeship



Northumberland County Council has vacancies for 14 apprenticeships, offering a range of career opportunities for people across the county with applications opening Friday 16 June.

Cabinet member for Corporate Services, Cllr Richard Wearmouth, said: “Keeping home-grown talent in the region is so important, by providing high-quality career pathways we’re futureproofing our own workforce, and creating great opportunities for people to kick-start their careers.

"Last year alone the Council employed more than 60 apprentices, with almost 100 completing their qualifications from entry level, right up to degree as well as supporting more than 30 staff with upskilling through an apprenticeship."

Apprenticeships are open to everyone aged 16 and over not in full-time education. They can take between one to six years to complete, depending on the level chosen and whether candidates have any prior experience, all while earning a wage.

The Council is recruiting positions across the county from business admin within Children's Services to heavy vehicle service and maintenance technicians in Local Services and there's a mix of office-based and trade apprenticeships.

The Council is also premiering three new highly requested apprenticeship roles; roofing, signage technician and countryside worker in Northumberland's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty teams.

Whether you are looking for an apprenticeship now, or considering it in the future, don't miss this opportunity to join one of the region's largest employers. Applications open 16

June: <https://nland.cc/apprenticeships>

Plans to improve travel to and from school for thousands of pupils

Plans to improve the journeys of thousands of pupils to and from school have been welcomed by Councillors. In Northumberland, there are currently 40,651 students attending 151 schools across an area of 5,013km². Around 8,000 are eligible for transport support on a daily basis at an annual cost of around £16m.

After an in-depth review of the service and listening to feedback from young people and families, plans are underway to transform education transport across the county.

- A new 'one-stop-shop' for school admissions and education transport will make the application process as seamless and straightforward as possible for parents and carers, with children and young people at the heart of all decision making.
- A team of independent travel trainers will be appointed to provide one-on-one support to young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) who wish to gain more confidence on their journeys, such as using public transport.
- A pilot project will take place with two special schools to devolve transport budgets to allow greater flexibility in the way transport can support SEND pupils, schools, families, curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- Increases to Personal Budgets and the introduction of Enhanced Budgets for some complex and long-distance journeys are being explored, with the potential to provide more flexibility and choice.
- The future could also see digital mapping of routes, with parents able to see their child's journey in real-time providing greater peace of mind.

A total of 36 recommendations were made in the review with 30 underway and the remaining due to begin shortly. An update on the progress of the review was presented to the council's Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In carrying out this review, we listened to our children, young people, parents, carers and schools and we believe these recommendations will make the service work better for everyone. One important area that was highlighted was the desire of young people with additional needs to be more confident to travel independently and our new independent travel trainers will work one-on-one with young people and families and support them on their journey to independence.

“Over the next five years, we are creating hundreds of more places for children and young people with additional needs which will further reduce the need for long journeys.