

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 6.30pm via Zoom**

**Councillors present:**

**Chair:** Martin Smith

**Parish Council members:** Margaret Brooks, Mark Green, Ann Fettis and Rosie Robson

**In attendance:** 8 members of the public

**Clerk:** Adam Shanley

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors M Craster, E Pearson and A Gregory as well as County Councillor Wendy Pattison.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None received.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**4. Matters arising**

None received.

**5. Public participation**

Jackie Reeves asked if NCC could be asked to clear drains coming down Smithy Bank. The Clerk advised that he would look into this.

The Chair and Vice-Chair also highlighted that there were two potholes in Craster causing a particular issue – one coming out of the overflow car park and one at the crossroads. The Clerk advised that he would look into this.

Marion Gallon advised that there were approximately 5 skips in Craster at the moment and litter was blowing around the village. Marion asked if developers could be asked to introduce nets to the skips to avoid this from happening. The Clerk advised that he would write to developers.

Marion Gallon advised that Middlerigg was causing an issue again as vehicles associated with the property are parking on the footpath. The Clerk advised that this property has been an issue since 2019 when the Council approved a Certificate of Lawful development application and effectively removed one in-curtilage parking space. The Clerk highlighted that former Councillor Michael Doherty used to report vehicles parked on the footpath to the Police and the Council was made aware that the Police had issued a fine to those responsible. The Clerk also agreed to write to Mr Sykes about this.

Fyona Robson advised that a tree has fallen into the road coming into the village. Fyona also advised that there were trees overgrown on the path near to Park Burn. The Clerk advised that he would look into getting the tree which has fallen taken away and the trees cut back.

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

The Chair reminded everyone that Councillor Wendy Pattison has circulated her latest report and asked attendees to direct any questions to Councillor Pattison in her absence.

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

The Clerk highlighted that the three Parish Councils which form part of the EJBC had received a letter requesting a contribution from the precept for the Burial Committee. The Clerk advised that the total request was £1,000 and the split between the Parish Councils is as follows:

Craster Parish Council £215

Embleton Parish Council £628

Newton by the Sea Parish Council £157

The Clerk advised that the letter from EJBC advises that this is required as a contingency to cover any potential shortfall in funds during the year because of potential lack of income from

interments. Hopefully it will not be required during the year and if not called for drawdown can be retained by the three Parish Council's and discounted from their County Council precept in the subsequent financial year.

Members unanimously **approved** the contribution of £215 from Craster Parish Council to the EJBC.

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

In Councillor M Craster's absence, Helen Chamberlain – Chair of the CCT – provided a report to the Parish Council.

Helen advised that the solar panels and Tesla battery had now been installed but the CCT was awaiting the battery to be finally commissioned. Helen advised that there had been some slight technical issue when the engineers originally attempted this but they were resolving this and hoped to have this commissioned soon.

The Council took the opportunity to thank Jackie Reeves and the Clerk for their work on this project.

Jackie advised that the CCT is hoping to trial the battery by turning the power off to the Hall and use the battery power on a particular day. The Clerk also suggested that the community may wish to undertake a trial "drill" as if a power outage had occurred and there were procedures in place so that people were aware that the Hall can offer power, heat and light during an outage.

The Clerk also reported that a retrospective contribution of £300 had been made to the Council by a holiday let owner who has requested the funding be put to this project. The Council **agreed** that the £300 should be transferred to the CCT towards the deposit paid for the works. This would be done in the next financial year.

### **9. Update on the defibrillator in Craster village**

The Chair reported that Mr Alan Punton had indicated that he no longer felt able to continue managing the defibrillator in the village. The Council took the opportunity to thank Mr Punton for all of his work on this and it was **agreed** that Mrs Jennifer Smith should be invited to take over responsibility of this. The Council thanked Mrs Smith for her kind offer.

### **10. Parish Council budget 2023/24**

The Clerk reminded Members 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, the Clerk advised that it was also necessary for the Council to agree a budget for the forthcoming financial year.

The Clerk reminded Members that it was expected that the Parish Council will finish the current financial year with approximately £6,500 remaining in the bank account.

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

Members unanimously **agreed** the expenditure for the forthcoming financial year as follows:

<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>

### **11. Parish Council precept request 2023/24**

Members unanimously **agreed** to freeze the current precept charge at £65.63 for the forthcoming financial year of 2023/24.

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

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had hosted a roundtable meeting with representatives from the relevant NCC departments in relation to the mobile phone mast. The Clerk advised that this appears to have moved this forward and the Parish Council felt reassured that this project was still set to be delivered. The Clerk cautioned Members that this would probably not be delivered until another 12 months had passed once procurement, legal and planning was sorted. The Clerk advised that he would continue to work with officers on this with a view to having this delivered within that timescale. The Council thanked the Clerk for his ongoing efforts on this project.

### **13. Update on the traffic calming scheme to the entrance of Craster village**

The Clerk advised that NCC will shortly be presenting plans for the traffic calming scheme to the entrance of Craster village to the Parish Council and he would continue to liaise with Robin McCartney on this issue.

### **14. Planning Matters:**

**22/04208/FUL** | Proposed replacement glazing to front extension with french doors | 26 Heugh Road Craster Northumberland NE66 3TJ. It was **agreed** to note this application.

**Update on 21/01785/FUL** | Proposed conversion of existing garage to one residential dwelling | Land North Of Waters Edge Haven Hill Craster Northumberland. The Clerk advised that this application had not yet been determined and he was chasing officers on this. 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 Clerk advised that the Parish Council expected this application to be heard at the North Northumberland Local Area Council Planning Committee meeting in February. The Council **agreed** to maintain its objection to this application.

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

The Chair asked Members to contact the Clerk if they wished to have an item on the Full Council Agenda for February 2023.

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

16<sup>th</sup> February 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  
(15<sup>th</sup> February 2023)**