

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

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members: Margaret Brooks, Ann Fettis, Michael Craster, Elizabeth Pearson, Rosie Robson and Alan Gregory

In attendance: 4 members of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Green.

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Rosie Robson declared an interest in application 23/00910/FUL and took no part in the discussion or vote on this application.

3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 15th June 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2023 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising

Councillor Margaret Brooks advised that she had previously raised the issue of planting a tree for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee year and advised that she has now discussed this with the Wildlife Trust who had agreed that the tree could be planted in their land. Councillor Brooks advised that she had sourced a suitable Oak tree for approximately £60 and asked if Members would support this being purchased and planted. Members unanimously **agreed** to purchase the tree and thanked Councillor Brooks for her efforts with this project. Councillor Brooks advised that the best time to plant this would be in the Autumn.

5. Public participation

None received.

6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Councillor Wendy Pattison took the opportunity to thank all those involved in the organisation of Lifeboat Day in Craster. Wendy advised that this had been a terrific event despite the poor weather on the day.

Wendy also advised that she was aware of the issues of the potholes to the entrance to the estate and confirmed that these had been reported again. Wendy reminded residents to report any pothole issues via the FixMyStreet online tool/ app.

7. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Councillors Margaret Brooks and Elizabeth Pearson provided a report to Full Council as EJBC representatives.

Councillors Margaret Brooks and Elizabeth Pearson advised that the tenant at the Cemetery House continues to live happily within the property and continues to pay the rent which funds the repayments to the public works loan board.

Councillors Margaret Brooks and Elizabeth Pearson also advised that the issue of the fence to the west of the site for the cattle is being looked into.

Councillor Elizabeth Pearson also updated the Council that the numbering of the rows of gravestones is being addressed.

Councillors Margaret Brooks and Elizabeth Pearson also advised that they were delighted to welcome a new Clerk for the EJBC and the Council formally recorded its thanks to the outgoing Clerk Geoff for his tremendous work.

8. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Councillor Michael Craster provided a report to Full Council as CCT representative. Councillor Craster advised that the film crew were due to arrive back in the village and had put in a block booking for use of the Hall which is fantastic income for the Trust.

Councillor Craster also advised that updating the lighting in the Hall was still being investigated by the Trust. In addition, Councillor Craster advised that the Trust is looking to update its website.

Councillor Craster also took the opportunity to thank those involved in planning the safeguarding training last month.

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

The Clerk updated Members that the planning application for the new mobile phone mast in Craster quarry car park was now live and thanked all Members for their support in getting this project to this stage.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank the Clerk for his exceptional work in pursuing this issue and ensuring that the community benefits from mobile phone coverage once and for all.

The Council unanimously agreed to submit a letter of support for the application. The Council also **agreed** to host a consultation drop-in event with iNorthumberland and Atlas Group in August. The Clerk advised that he would put out details of the arrangements for this event.

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

The Clerk confirmed that the defibrillator had now been installed and took the opportunity to thank all the project funders, Jennifer Smith, the Cottage Inn pub and the Stephen Carey fund for their magnificent support with this project. The Clerk confirmed that the defibrillator training event would be delivered by the Stephen Carey fund and would be taking place in August (details TBC).

The Council thanked the Clerk for his efforts with this project.

11. Update following Lifeboat Day and resident volunteering

The Chair took the opportunity to formally record his thanks to all those involved in an exceptional Lifeboat Day in Craster. The Chair remarked that the event had been excellent despite the poor weather.

The Chair also took the opportunity to thank all those residents and the Clerk who were involved in painting fingerposts, planting up barrels, litter picking, weed clearing, etc. in advance of the event taking place so that the community looked its very best. The Chair advised that this had been a tremendous effort and thousands of visitors involved in the walk on the day also really appreciated this.

12. Engagement with NCC Housing team regarding social housing in the parish

The Clerk reminded Members that Councillor Mark Green had asked that the Parish Council looks into this issue as a project, particularly thinking of the presently vacant property on South Acres. In the absence of Councillor Green, it was agreed to defer this matter to a future meeting. The Clerk advised that he had received no response from the Head of Housing at NCC about this.

13. To discuss further actions on power outages within the parish area and engagement with Northern PowerGrid

The Council felt that the general issue of power outages within the parish area needed to be raised with Northern PowerGrid once more. In particular, Members advised that they were

aware that improvements to the network were taking place but it would be nice to receive a regular update about works and how far along these are.

The Clerk advised that he would raise this once more with Northern PowerGrid.

14. Progressing the consultation event with residents of Dunstan

The Clerk reminded Members that the matter of a Conservation Area for Dunstan village had been discussed at previous meetings of the Council. The Clerk advised that he hoped to be able to invite a Conservation Officer to Dunstan soon for a consultation event so that residents could understand the full implications of this work, etc. The Clerk advised that he would pursue this matter as he had yet to receive a response from the Conservation team on this.

15. Planning matters

23/00910/FUL | Construction of a wooden summerhouse on garden ground at Allotment E (Retrospective). | Allotment E Dunstanburgh Road Craster Northumberland. It was **agreed** to note this application.

16. 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.

17. Date and time of next meeting

21st September 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
(21st September 2023)**