

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 20th April 2023 – 7:00pm in Craster Memorial Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

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

In attendance: 8 members of the public and 2 representatives from Donlocations.tv

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors A Fettis and M Green.

2. Declarations of interest

None received.

3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 16th March 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2023 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising

None received.

5. Discussion with Quay Street Productions regarding proposed filming in Craster

The Chair welcomed Alastair Don and his colleague to the meeting to discuss the proposed filming of Craster.

Alastair advised that he is a location manager based in the North of England and covers Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Cumbria and Northumberland

Alastair advised that his latest project is a new six-part drama titled 'The Red King' and he and his crew are in pre-production stage ahead of filming which starts June 18th and finishes September 28th.

Alastair advised that 'The Red King' is a new drama which centres around a city centre police detective who is sent to a remote island posting where she uncovers a missing persons case which leads to all manner of murders and strange events, in which a mysterious island cult is at the centre of.

Alastair advised that this promises to be an interesting drama which has elements of crime thriller, horror and drama included.

Alastair advised that it is his company's intention is to use the village of Craster as part of their 'island' and film in various streets and properties in the village.

As the summer months draw nearer and subsequently the summer holidays, Alastair advised that it is his intention to film in the village at the start and/or end of the filming period to avoid the particularly busy months.

Mrs Marion Gallon highlighted the issues of disruption to local residents when filming in the village is taking place. Alastair advised that he was aware of how disruptive filming can be to local residents and assured the Council that he would make every effort to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum.

Alastair advised that, in total, he didn't expect to be in Craster longer than 2 weeks and would ensure that the quarry car park is used by his team.

Alastair also advised that he hoped that some local residents might be willing to take part in the drama as extras.

Alastair provided his contact details to the Clerk so that he could make contact with him directly if there were any issues/ queries.

The Chair thanked Alastair and his colleague for engaging so positively with the Parish Council.

At this point, Alastair and his colleague left the meeting.

6. Public participation

Mrs Marjorie Taylor asked why the Council property in South Acres had been removed from the Northumberland Homefinder website and asked if the property had been let as yet. The Clerk advised that he would look into this with the Head of Housing at NCC.

Mrs Marion Gallon raised the issue of parking at the top of Tower Bank and asked if the Parish Council could approach Adventure Northumberland about this as cars were spilling out at the top of the road and she believed that they were associated with this operation. Councillors R Robson and M Brooks agreed with this and also advised that they had asked the Clerk to contact NCC once more to raise the issue of extending the double yellow lines up to the top of the Bank on both sides of the road to mitigate this issue. The Clerk advised that he had been in correspondence with NCC on this and this is being looked into. The Clerk also advised that he would contact Adventure Northumberland again about this issue.

7. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

In Councillor Pattison's absence, the Chair referred attendees to her written report included with the Agenda and asked all present to direct all queries to Councillor Pattison.

8. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Councillors E Pearson and M Brooks provided an update on the EJBC as Parish Council representatives.

Councillor E Pearson advised that the EJBC has undertaken a recruitment process for the new Clerk in place of Geoff Newcombe and a number of candidates were interested in the role. Councillors E Pearson and M Brooks paid tribute to Geoff for all his excellent work for the EJBC over the years.

Councillor E Pearson also advised that the fencing on the West side of the cemetery had recently blown down and the EJBC were looking to have this repaired. Councillor E Pearson thanked all the EJBC members and the contractor for their excellent work in maintaining this cemetery as a place of peace and respect.

Mrs Marjorie Taylor asked if the issue of the tree next to her plot was being looked into and Councillors E Pearson and M Brooks confirmed that this was being looking into.

9. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Councillor M Craster reminded Members that the Trust, WI and others were hosting a Coronation Afternoon Tea on Sunday 7th May. Councillor M Craster particularly welcomed that the event had had an excellent response from local residents wishing to attend this event and, if the weather remains fine, this will take place in the church garden.

Mrs Marion Gallon advised that she would arrange for bunting to be put around the church if this would be acceptable and Councillor M Craster agreed this.

The Clerk thanked everyone involved in the organisation of this event and advised that he would be able to drop the Afternoon Tea sets off on Friday ahead of the event.

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

The Clerk highlighted that he and Councillor M Brooks had met with a different supplier for the new mast to the quarry car park and were particularly impressed with the presentation they received.

The Clerk advised that the new company is now proposing to site the mast in the left side corner of the quarry car park but this may be subject to change.

The Clerk also advised that the Heads of Terms could swiftly be agreed by NCC if they choose to go with this contractor.

The Clerk also confirmed that the contractor would be the applicant in a planning application and would be able to support the Parish Council with any presentations/ queries at the next annual meeting of the parish.

The Clerk advised that two main operators were interested in using the mast for their services in the village, which is excellent news.

The Clerk advised that the mast would be approx. 8 metres above the height of the quarry. Members unanimously **agreed** to support these plans and to await further information from NCC.

11. Update on the traffic calming scheme to the entrance of Craster village following meeting with NCC officers

The Clerk highlighted that he and Councillors R Robson and M Brooks had met with NCC officers on-site and looked over the plans for the new gateway to the village.

The plans were presented at the meeting and included, amongst other things, : 1) the removal of the barrels 2) the removal of the chicane 3) blocking off the gap in the stone wall from the car park and improving pedestrian routes out of the car park 4) introducing grass areas to the sides of the entrance of the car park, 5) the installation of a raised table to the entrance in order to slow down the traffic and 6) introducing boulders to the right-hand side grass verge to prevent pedestrians walking along this stretch and encourage them to use the other side of the road (i.e. the formal pavement).

Some members of the public expressed concerns about the introduction of the street lighting in an AONB. Councillor M Craster suggested that NCC be asked to turn the lights off from midnight each night.

Mrs Marion Gallon advised that her understanding of the chicane was that this was fundamental to encouraging visitors to turn right into the car park. The Council advised that they would speak with NCC about this.

Some members of the public also expressed concern that the grass verge to the right-hand side coming into the village would be blocked by boulders as they felt that this was a popular walking route taken by a lot of visitors and this could lead to the issue of people walking in the middle of the road becoming worse.

The Council agreed to take on the grass cutting responsibility for the new grassed area, should the scheme be adopted by NCC.

The Clerk also highlighted that NCC is looking at a delivery timetable of November to get these works started.

12. Proposal to establish a Working Group to review important Parish Council documents

The Council unanimously **agreed** that the Chair and the Clerk should form a Working Group to seek to review existing Standing Orders and policies of the Council.

13. Request for a voluntary contribution to the Parish Council precept

Members unanimously **agreed** that the Parish Council should make its usual request for a voluntary contribution to the Parish Council precept to holiday let owners in the parish area. Members also **agreed** that the projects for this financial year should be installing a

defibrillator in Dunstan and also to progress the design of an artistic sign for Dunstan as well as having the lettering in the Craster sculpture refreshed and made clearer.

14. Proposal to host a volunteering day to clear the land to the entrance of the village

The Clerk highlighted the issue of fallen trees to the entrance to the village and advised that he felt that the Parish Council should be looking to fund the clearing of this area so as to improve the gateway entrance to the village. Members felt that the North Side owners should be asked to make a contribution to these works should any major works be proposed.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council would need to be mindful of nesting season up until the beginning of September.

It was **agreed** that a volunteer should be identified to help cut the branches back only up to the stone wall. Ms June Drage advised that she and her husband would be happy to carry out this work and also to carry out a risk assessment beforehand, in order to ensure that no tree nesting/ ground nesting birds were disturbed by these works. The Council thanked June for this kind offer and asked her to go ahead with this as proposed.

15. To agree the date and time of the Annual meeting of the parish

It was **agreed** that the annual meeting of the parish should take place on Monday 15th May at 6:30pm.

16. Planning Matters:

Update 23/00690/FUL | New hard landscaping including alterations to change timber deck to slate upper and lower patio. Timber fence to be replaced with metal post and wire rail to match neighbouring property. Steps to be amended to connect upper and lower patio. | Harbour Cottage 5 Haven Hill Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TR. It was **agreed** to note this application.

Update on 22/04343/FUL | Proposed alterations and refurbishment of existing garage structure to provide garden store and the addition of a sunroom. | Waters Edge Haven Hill Craster Northumberland NE66 3TR. Members **approved** the objection letter submitted for this site and **agreed** to await the outcome of this application.

Update on 21/02775/FUL following the North Northumberland LAC meeting of 20th April 2023, Members **noted** that this application had now been refused.

17. Items for next Agenda

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Parish Clerk if they wished to have an item discussed as part of next month's Agenda.

18. Date and time of next meeting

18th May 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
(18th May 2023)**