

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,

M. S. S. S.

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