

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 18th May 2023 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members: Margaret Brooks, Elizabeth Pearson, Mark Green, Alan Gregory and Rosie Robson

In attendance: 6 members of the public and County Councillor Wendy Pattison.

1. Election of Chair of the Parish Council

Councillor M Smith was unanimously elected as Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by Councillor E Pearson and seconded by Councillor M Brooks.

2. Election of Vice-Chair of the Parish Council

Councillor M Brooks was unanimously elected as Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by Councillor M Smith and seconded by Councillor A Fettis.

3. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor M Craster.

4. Declarations of interest

None received.

5. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 20th April 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2023 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

6. Matters arising

None received.

7. Public participation

Mrs Helen Chamberlain raised the issue about coaches parking in the village and she felt that this had become a significant issue for the village now. The issue was raised that there are now no formal parking spaces for coaches dropping off tourists.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Visit Northumberland to ask for contact details of all the major coach operators in the area to ask that they do not park in the village. The Chair also remarked that he hoped that the work being carried out to have a mobile phone mast to the area may help resolve this issue as coaches may drop off and then park up at Howick and be contacted when pick-up needs to happen.

8. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

County Councillor Wendy Pattison took the opportunity to thank Craster for a wonderful Coronation event and remarked how terrific it is to see so much support for the monarchy.

Councillor Pattison highlighted that Anne-Marie Trevelyan had recently visited Craster and was most impressed by the proposals for a mobile phone mast as well as the solar panels/ Tesla battery in Craster village Hall. Councillor Pattison thanked the Trust for their work on this and for facilitating the visit by the MP.

Councillor Pattison also advised that the mental health sanctuary she had been working, through her NCC Cabinet portfolio, to establish in Northumberland is now up and running in Ashington.

Councillor Pattison also advised that her portfolio is now being shared with another County Councillor and that she would be focusing more on the Adult Social Care aspect of the portfolio.

9. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Councillors E Pearson and M Brooks advised that the Burial Committee had not yet met since the last meeting of Craster Parish Council and therefore there was very little to update the Council on.

Councillor M Brooks confirmed that a new Clerk – Sarah – had been appointed by the Burial Committee and the Council took the opportunity to thank Geoff for all his hard work and dedication in this role.

10. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Mrs Helen Chamberlain provided an update to the Council in the absence of Councillor M Craster.

Helen began by thanking the Parish Council and others for their terrific support during the Coronation for the event held in the church gardens. Helen advised that a large number of residents had attended and it was great to see so much support for this.

Helen also took the opportunity to highlight the different decorations around the Hall and thanked all those involved in producing this.

Helen also advised that the Trustees were delighted to welcome local MP Anne-Marie Trevelyan to the Hall to look at the project and see how successful this has been.

The Chair thanked Helen for her update and the Trust for their continued work in the community.

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

The Clerk advised that he had undertaken a site visit with Mark Shaw at the Atlas Group as well as the Highways Section Manager for the area in order to discuss the proposals for the mast in more detail.

The Clerk confirmed that NCC representatives seemed content with the plans as they were proposed to them.

The Clerk advised that he would be liaising with the AONB to seek their support for the new mast and hoped that they would also support this proposal at planning stage.

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

Members agreed to support the proposals by NCC for a permanent traffic calming scheme to the entrance of Craster village, pending a further discussion at the annual meeting of the parish.

The Clerk reported that relevant NCC officers would be in attendance to present the plans to the community and he hoped this would answer any questions from residents.

The Clerk reported that he was aware of concerns regarding pedestrian movements to and from the car park as well as the introduction of additional street lighting.

13. Update on the request for a voluntary contribution to the Parish Council precept.

The Clerk reported that the letter to all holiday let owners had now been distributed and that over £1,000 had been received to date for the appeal. The Clerk highlighted that the Council has specifically identified the Dunstan sign and a defibrillator in Dunstan as possible projects for this funding. The Council **agreed** to move forward with the proposal of purchasing a defibrillator for the Cottage Inn pub in Dunstan.

Members also **agreed** that further consultation work is needed with the residents of Dunstan on proposals for an artistic sign (similar to that in Craster) for Dunstan.

14. Planning Matters:

The Clerk advised that the recent planning application for Dunstan House had recently highlighted that there is a need for more protection to certain parts of the parish area as well as a need for the Neighbourhood Plan to be reviewed.

The Clerk advised that he felt that this should be done by a Working Group, as opposed to him and Jo-Anne personally.

The Clerk advised that he would be liaising with relevant NCC colleagues on this matter and would report back at a future meeting.

The Council agreed again that further consultation work is needed with the residents of Dunstan on any new proposals.

15. Items for next Agenda

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Parish Clerk if they would like to have an Agenda item discussed at one of the future meetings of the Council.

16. Date and time of next meeting

15th June 2023 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall.

Signed,



**Chair of Craster Parish Council
(15th June 2023)**