

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 19th October 2023 – 6:30pm via Zoom

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members: Ann Fettis, Elizabeth Pearson, Alan Gregory and Margaret Brooks.

Also present: Adam Shanley (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Wendy Pattison and 4 members of the public.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors E Pearson and A Gregory.

2. Declarations of interest

None received.

3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 21st September 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2023 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising

None received.

5. Public participation

None received.

6. Discussion regarding the issue of motor/campervan/vehicles restricting parking in Craster village

The Chair highlighted that this issue has been raised at recent Council meetings and he was aware of concerns about this happening, particularly in the South Acres area of the parish. The Chair advised that the task of the police to deal with this issue is a very complex one. The Chair advised that he hoped that the new entrance to the village scheme will help to deter some of this activity.

Councillor M Green asked if the Council could be proactive about this issue and create some paid-for spaces in the car park. Councillor M Brooks advised that improvements to the toilets may help encourage campervans staying in the car park as opposed to entering the village.

Councillor W Pattison advised that she would make some enquiries about this.

7. Highways issue

The Chair raised the issue of the dropped kerb on West End near the phone box. The Chair advised that this dropped kerb is far too steep and an issue has been raised by a wheelchair user who was struggling to gain access to the path from this kerb. The Clerk advised that he would look into this with traffic management.

The Clerk also highlighted to Members that the works to the entrance of the village were delayed until February 2024.

8. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Wendy highlighted that there have been a number of changes to the Longhoughton Ward boundaries. Wendy advised that Elingham, Eglingham and Powburn have now been removed from the Longhoughton division and Lesbury, Alnmouth and Alnwick have been added.

Wendy also expressed her delight at retaining Craster as part of her division.

9. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Councillor M Brooks advised that the new Clerk for the EJBC is settling in very well into this new role.

Councillor M Brooks advised that the EBC met last week and have discussed the issue of a fence to the boundary of the cemetery and now feel that it would be best to try and reinstate the stone wall.

Councillor M Brooks also advised that the tenant continues to live in the house and is very happy there.

Councillor M Brooks also highlighted that the EJBC is presently addressing a recent complaint from a member of the public.

10. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Councillor M Craster advised that the Trust is currently planning to host a free lunch for residents, as has been advertised in the Net and it is hoped that this will help social interaction in the community and the Trust feels that this is an excellent use of funds. Councillor M Craster advised that this is for a maximum of 20 people and for once per month and it will be starting from 17th November 2023.

11. Issue of broadband in the parish for existing customers

The Chair raised a concern about the availability of 5G broadband and, in particular, that existing properties appear to have been excluded from this superfast broadband. The Clerk advised that he would raise this with Sylvia Pringle at iNorthumberland.

12. Proposal to consider how to improve external communications as a Council

The Clerk advised that he would like to see the Parish Council improve its external communications to the community and how it publishes information. At present the tools available to the Parish Council include the website, noticeboards and the Craster and Dunstan Community Facebook page but the Clerk suggested that WhatsApp for announcements only may be a mechanism by which the Council distributes information quickly and easily.

A number of Members expressed concerns about this and the potential for massively increasing the Parish Clerk's workload. In view of the fact that communications was only raised by one individual at a consultation event, Members felt that the current method of working and communicating to the community was sufficient.

13. Update on the Parish Council's Community Fundraising Committee

Councillor A Fettis queried the Membership of this Committee and asked if it would be possible for representatives of other bodies within the community to join, e.g. the Craster boat club.

The Chair advised that this was an open Committee and would welcome additional representatives from other organisations and for new proposals for community projects which may benefit from funding from the boxes. It was highlighted that the boxes have been successful in securing funds from visitors to the parish and that this funding had been put towards flowers and bulbs for the community.

A number of Members expressed concerns at the governance arrangements for this Committee and the collection of the funds. A Members asked why this Committee was needed when this should be a function of the Community Trust.

The Clerk reminded Members that advice had been received from NALC and the Police prior to the introduction of the boxes and that NALC had approved the Committee's Terms of Reference and that the Parish Council could collect funds in this way. The Clerk also highlighted that this is all published on the Parish Council website and that the only aspect of this Committee which isn't published is the amount of funds collected but that the Police had strongly cautioned against this.

The Chair thanked all those involved in the work of this Committee as this was bringing funds into the parish to make it an even more beautiful place for all to enjoy.

14. Ongoing enforcement issues in the parish

Members **agreed** that there are a number of ongoing planning enforcement issues in both Craster and Dunstan and agreed that the non-response from Officers was totally unacceptable. Members also agreed to co-sign a joint letter with both Embleton Parish Council and Newton-by-the-Sea Parish Council to NCC Leader Councillor Glen Sanderson to request that an additional planning enforcement officer be appointed to specifically cover the AONB area.

15. Progressing the consultation event with residents of Dunstan

The Clerk reported that the Zoom information session on the Conservation Area designation for Dunstan is set to take place on 9th November and that he would be advertising this accordingly. The Clerk reminded Members that this was an information session only and not a decision-making meeting.

The Clerk expressed his gratitude to Sarah Winlow (AONB) and Eleanor Scott (NCC) for supporting the Parish Council with this session.

16. Planning matters:

23/03652/FUL | Proposed extension to rear mono pitched off shot, enlargement of ground floor window and first floor dormer to east elevation, enlargement of first floor window to south elevation, provision of new ground floor window and door to south elevation, provision of roof windows. New air source heat pump. | Beggars Roost 23 Dunstanburgh Road Craster Northumberland NE66 3TT. It was **agreed** to note this application.

17. Items for next Agenda

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Clerk with any Agenda items for the next Council meeting.

18. Date and time of next meeting

16th November 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
(16th November 2023)**