

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 20th June 2024 – 6:30pm in the Hall

Agenda

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, I hereby give you notice that the **meeting of Craster Parish Council** will be held **in Craster Memorial Hall on Thursday 20th June 2024 at 6:30pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. Welcome and apologies for absence**
- 2. Declarations of interest**
- 3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 16th May 2024**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Public participation**
- 6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**
- 7. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**
- 8. Report from Craster Community Trust representative**
- 9. Report by Councillor M Brooks on village signage**
- 10. Update on the future of the Craster TIC** – proposed meeting with NCC
- 11. Update on the Conservation Area Character Appraisal report by the AONB**
- 12. Update on the works on the construction of the mobile phone mast**
- 13. Planning matters:**
 - 24/01719/FUL**|Demolition of existing sunroom & replacement with new sunroom within existing footprint. Remedial work & extension to rear garden terrace & balustrade. Alterations to garden to include new barrier protection & garden stair.|1 Norwell Brow Craster Northumberland NE66 3TX
 - Update on 24/00121/FUL** | Construction of two holiday lets (Sui Generis) with associated landscaping | Land North And East Of Dunstan House Dunstan Northumberland
- 14. Items for next Agenda**
- 15. Date and time of next meeting**
18th July 2024 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall.

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named acts, I hereby summon you to attend the said meeting.

Adam Shanley
Clerk of Craster Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 16th May 2024 – 6:30pm in the Craster village Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members: Margaret Brooks, Michael Craster, Ann Fettis, Rosie Robson, Allan Gregory and Nick Ringrose.

Also present: Adam Shanley (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Wendy Pattison and 5 members of the public.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor M Green.

2. Election of Chair

Councillor M Smith was elected as Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by Councillor N Ringrose and seconded by Councillor M Brooks.

3. Election of Vice-Chair

Councillor M Brooks was elected as Vice-Chair of the Parish Council. Proposed by Councillor N Ringrose and seconded by Councillor A Fettis.

4. Declarations of interest

Councillor R Robson declared an interest in item 13 and took no part in the discussion or vote on this matter.

5. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 18th April 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2024 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings, subject to the following amendments:

- The minute under item 5 be amended to: *"The Clerk confirmed that the pedestrian footpath sign requested by a local resident had now been installed at the bottom of Tower Bank."*
- Under item 13 of the minutes, the following be added: *"The Clerk highlighted that he had been contacted by the CCT regarding the renewal of the lease of the play park and Members unanimously agreed to renew the lease with the CCT for the play park and requested that the Clerk take all appropriate action to have this completed."*

6. Matters arising

None received.

7. Public participation

A resident raised the issue of the lack of public footpath signage at the top of the Tower Bank for the Craster Trail. The Clerk advised that he would speak with Philip Bradley, NCC Footpaths Officer about this.

A resident also raised a concern that the crossroads at Whindy Side Bank is really dangerous with an horrific pothole and overgrown verges. The Clerk advised that he would speak with the Highways department about both of these issues.

8. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Councillor W Pattison raised the issue of signage at the crossroads and felt that there seemed to be an excess of street clutter in this location. Councillor Pattison suggested that the Highways department and AONB be invited to carry out an audit of all the signage at this location.

Councillor W Pattison also made Councillors and residents aware that it is Mental Health Awareness week and highlighted that the Council is putting more funding and resources into supporting people with mental health issues.

9. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Councillor M Brooks advised that the EJBC had recently received a communication from a local resident and is looking to respond to this further enquiry as soon as possible.

Councillor R Robson took the opportunity to thank the EJBC and its contractors on maintaining the cemetery as a place of peace and respect.

10. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Mrs Helen Chamberlain advised that the CCT had once again hosted a very successful "Meet and Eat" event in the Hall and thanked all those involved in supporting this event.

Helen also welcomed the new WI artwork in the Hall and thanked the WI Members involved in producing and installing this.

Helen also advised that the works to the lights in the Hall will hopefully be commencing on 21st May and the CCT looked forward to seeing this aspect of the Hall's maintenance completed.

The Chair thanked Helen and all CCT Members for their excellent work in maintaining the Hall as a much-valued community facility.

11. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2023/24

- (i) Members agreed the internal audit report 2023-24
- (ii) Members approved the annual governance statement 2023-24
- (iii) Members approved the draft annual accounts for 2023-24
- (iv) Members approved the accounting statement and explanation of variances 2023-24
- (v) Members approved the certificate of exemption form 2023-24

Councillor N Ringrose also recommended that the Council looks into acquiring a high-interest savings account and the Clerk advised that he would look into this following agreement by Members.

12. Works to footpaths in the parish

The Clerk advised that he had recently visited Craster and Dunstan outside of the usual schedule of meetings in order to take photographs of the footpaths both running up Tower Bank as well as the footpath running behind Smith Court.

The Clerk advised that, whilst the footpath running up the Tower Bank is not so heavily overgrown, the footpath behind Smithy Court leading down into Craster from Dunstan certainly is overgrown.

The Clerk advised that he would liaise with NCC's Footpaths Officer on this matter.

13. Update on the Tourist Information Centre project

Members noted the response from residents to this proposal at last night's annual meeting of the parish. Members felt that there did not seem to be a great drive or desire from the community to pursue this project any further.

A number of Members highlighted the lack of volunteers and particularly those with the necessary building/ project management skills in the parish to pursue this project further.

Councillor R Robson declared an interest in this item. Councillor R Robson highlighted that she had run a number of successful businesses in this area for many years and she felt that she would like to pursue a business venture of her own, outside of the Parish Council, for this site.

As such, Councillor R Robson advised that she did not feel it would be appropriate for her to continue on the Parish Council, with this project being her intention. Councillor R Robson resigned from the Parish Council and left the meeting at this point.

Councillor A Fettis advised that she felt that the Parish Council would be taking on a significant liability on a building like this and she had concerns about this and the likely impact on workload for the Parish Council. This was echoed by Councillors M Brooks and A Gregory.

Councillor N Ringrose also expressed his concerns that the parish is not able to demonstrate a compelling need for this asset and how it would create social value.

Councillor N Ringrose highlighted that Councillor M Green had largely led this project and he felt that a decision on whether to pursue grant funding under the auspices of the Parish Council should be deferred until Councillor M Green is in attendance at a future Parish Council meeting.

A number of Members also highlighted that, should a scheme be successful and makes a lot of money for the community, where would any profit or surplus be invested in a future community project.

Members felt that there may be a conversation to be had with NCC regarding the future use for the site and in a way which limits the liabilities on the Parish Council but which brings a community benefit of some kind.

Members **agreed** not to progress with the grant application for the feasibility study and the Chair agreed to speak with Councillor M Green about this decision. Members **agreed** that the Chair and a small number of nominees of the Chair's choosing should instead be invited to speak with NCC – Councillor W Pattison suggested Mike Robbins and Paul Jones – in order to get a better understanding of what could be possible for the site and an offer to the community.

14. Update on the Conservation Area Character Appraisal report by the AONB

Members noted the response from residents to this proposal at last night's annual meeting of the parish. Councillor A Fettis advised that she felt that this proposal from the AONB had caused some concern in the parish and she felt that the Parish Council should not be seen to promote this in any way.

The Chair reminded Members that this is an AONB initiative and the Parish Council's only role in this project is to support a public engagement between the AONB and local residents.

The Clerk advised that he would be chasing up the publication of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal as he felt that this was an excellent piece of work which may help guide the parish in their assessment of this proposal.

Members felt that residents needed to have the opportunity to ask questions to the AONB and Conservation Officers at NCC regarding the implications of such a designation and the Clerk agreed to liaise with relevant parties to facilitate a drop-in session on this project.

15. Update on the works on the construction of the mobile phone mast

The Clerk advised that he was delighted to see work commencing on the new mobile phone mast and Members agreed to await further information on its completion.

A suggestion was made that an official opening may take place with a selected individual photographed taking the first mobile phone call from the quarry car park.

Members thanked the Clerk for all his work on this excellent initiative.

16. Planning matters:

Update on 24/00121/FUL | Construction of two holiday lets (Sui Generis) with associated landscaping | Land North and East Of Dunstan House Dunstan Northumberland. Members **noted** the recent objections from the Built Heritage and Design Officer and the AONB to this proposal and **agreed** to maintain the Parish Council's objection to these plans.

17. 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.

18. Date and time of next meeting

20th June 2024 – 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
(Thursday 16th May 2024)**

CRASTER PARISH - COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



County Councillor Wendy Pattison

wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk - Tel. 07779 983072 and on Facebook

– Cllr Wendy Pattison

CRASTER PARISH

County events to commemorate D-Day 80th anniversary

A series of special events are taking place in June in Northumberland to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

Blyth will be the focus of activity, with major events on the Quayside and the beachfront, culminating in a dazzling beacon lighting ceremony on the evening of June 6th.

That date marks the 80th anniversary of D-Day, when Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world has ever witnessed.

In 1944 Operation Overlord saw around 4,000 ships and landing craft set down about 132,500 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of north-west Europe from Nazi occupation.

The bravery and sacrifice of those people in securing the peace and freedom enjoyed today will be recognised at the events in Blyth and around the county, organised by Northumberland County Council on D-Day, and Blyth Town Council on June 1st.

On Thursday, June 6th, D-Day proclamations will take place at 8am through Parish and Town Councils throughout the county. Later, a specially commissioned D-Day Poem will be recited at 11am in schools across Northumberland.

From 4pm, one of the biggest community events of the year organised by the County Council will take place – culminating in a spectacular national beacon lighting.

'Northumberland Remembers', which will be set up on Blyth Links, is a family focused event featuring a music stage with acts playing songs from the era and performances from Boulmer Military Wives Choir, Coquet Band and Soldiers of Swing.

And around 6pm, weather permitting, there will be a flypast from a vintage plane - either a Tiger Moth or a Chipmunk.

The evening will see a Commemoration Service on the plaza area outside the Dave Stephen's Centre from 7:45 pm, followed by the lighting of a national beacon on the roof of the Centre by a local 100-year-old veteran at 9.15pm.

The evening ends with communities being asked to pause for an International Tribute.

Northumberland County Council Leader Glen Sanderson said: "This is a significant anniversary in both British and world history and it is right the county is coming together to remember those whose bravery and sacrifice brought us to the peace we enjoy in this country today.

"With events across the county and Blyth, it's an opportunity not only to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, but also to commemorate all those involved and ensure through activities aimed at all ages, that the events of D-Day are not forgotten.

"A lot of work is being put in to ensure this is a truly memorable day and we're looking forward to a big turn-out of all ages."

Starting the commemorative events is the Quayside Festival on Saturday 1 June - an event hosted by Blyth Town Council running the full length of the quayside from 10 am until 4 pm.

The Quayside Festival will feature a variety of live musical performances, including those by The Community Voices Choir, Tall Ships Shanty Singers, The Victory Rollers, and Graeme Danby, and will also feature a local solo artist from Blyth.

The event will also showcase a range of food options and local businesses.

The Military will be present at the event and will display various activities, including a climbing wall and bungee run. Attendees will also have the opportunity to interact with the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force as well as the local cadet groups, to learn more about their work and potential avenues for involvement.

Local youth and community groups will also be in attendance to demonstrate what they have to offer for young people in the town.

Blyth Battery and Rotary will also be joining the festivities with Army jeeps and cars from the era. The car park area of the enterprise centre will have rides and stalls, and the Harbour Commissioner's building will be open for public exploration.

Blyth Mayor Warren Taylor said: "Being able to welcome so many military groups is a great honour and a wonderful way to show our appreciation to not only those who sacrificed so much 80 years ago but also to those who still do to this day."

The Quayside Festival is a day for families to explore, interact and learn from those in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Airforce first hand.

Energy upgrade funding for eligible properties in Northumberland

Eligible homes in the county are set to benefit from funding for low-carbon energy upgrades.



Northumberland County Council has been successful in securing £12.4m as part of the Government's Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 (HUG2) to install energy efficiency improvements to properties which are not connected to mains gas and are using resources such as oil, LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas), inefficient electric heaters or coal.

Eligible households in the county, including owner-occupied and privately owned properties, can apply for energy saving upgrades which may include loft, cavity wall, internal wall, or underfloor insulation, air source heat pumps or solar panels, helping households, keep warm, become more energy efficient and reduce their carbon footprint.

Northumberland has been awarded this important funding and NCC want to support all our residents to ensure that they have the most comfortable and affordable homes wherever possible.

The county has lots of rural pockets which rely on fuel such as coal for heat. With the move away from fossil fuel towards greener energy it is imperative that we make sure no one is left behind and that everyone's home is energy efficient and has the opportunity make the transition to a greener future.

The scheme is part of the Governments Sustainable Warmth strategy which is part of its legal commitment to reach net zero by 2050 and forms part of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan to make Northumberland carbon neutral by 2030.

Lord Callanan, Minister for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance said: "This investment will help thousands of households to heat their homes for less, keep them warm for longer and could save hundreds on their annual energy bill.

"The green energy sector is growing, and this funding will support green jobs and provide the training needed to deliver these vital upgrades to homes."

Households can check their eligibility and apply at <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Climate-Change/Renewable-energy.aspx>

Eligible homes will receive an assessment to determine which measures are most appropriate.

Mental health

Life can sometimes feel overwhelming. One in four people in the UK experienced mental health issues in the last year.

This means that most people in England know someone with mental health problems or have personally experienced them. But we don't need to wait until we are struggling with our mental health; there are lots of things we can do to protect ourselves and prevent problems escalating, just as we do with our physical health. Every mind matters has great tips on how to look after your mental health including a Mind Plan quiz that helps you feel more in control, deal with stress and anxiety, boost your mood and help you sleep. [Dealing with life's challenges - Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters)



Young people's mental health

Everyone feels sad, worried or stressed sometimes, but if these feelings are starting to impact you, remember you are not alone and there is lots of help available.

Kooth

Kooth is an online mental health service for people aged 11 to 25. Email: contact@kooth.com.