

**MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 – 6:30pm in the Craster Memorial 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 the Craster Memorial Hall** on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 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 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024**
- 4. Matters arising**
- 5. Public participation**
- 6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**
- 7. Proposals to NCC Assets relating to the procurement process for the former TIC building and associated matters following recent risk assessment meeting**
- 8. Planning for events over the Christmas period**
- 9. Update on Spring planting project at South Acres**
- 10. Publication of the AONB's Conservation Area Character Appraisal**
- 11. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**
- 12. Report from Craster Community Trust representative** (including discussion on play park lease)
- 13. 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  
**24/03615/FUL** | Replacement rear elevation conservatory | The Woodlands Dunstan Village Dunstan Northumberland NE66 3SZ
- 14. Items for next Agenda**
- 15. Date and time of next meeting**  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 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 MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – 6:30pm via Zoom**

**Councillors present:**

**Chair:** Martin Smith

**Parish Council members:** Margaret Brooks, Ann Fettis, Allan Gregory, Derek Moss and Nick Ringrose.

**Also present:** Adam Shanley (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Wendy Pattison and 10 members of the public.

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors M Green and M Craster.

**2. Declarations of interest**

The Clerk stressed the importance to all Members regarding declaring any and all interests on items under discussion during the meeting. No declarations of interest were received.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**4. Matters arising**

The Chair reminded all those present about the Parish Council's ongoing blue plaque project and invited all nominations from either Councillors or the public for consideration.

The Chair also advised that there was no update to report on the AONB's project on the Conservation Area and that the Parish Council were awaiting further information on this.

The Chair reported that Northern PowerGrid were hoping to provide power to the mobile mast at the beginning of November but that this has now been delayed until end of November. Both the Parish Council and County Councillor Wendy Pattison agreed to contact Northern PowerGrid about this to see if they could expedite this. The Chair advised that it is still hoped that the Mobile Network Operators could install their equipment and have the site operational from December pre-Christmas.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank both the Clerk and Jackie Reeves for their work in sorting out the new lease for the playpark in Craster.

**5. Public participation**

Mr Andy Grant advised that he had been made aware that the Parish Council were in active discussions with NCC relating to the future of the former TIC building. Andy expressed a desire to be accommodated within the former TIC building should the Parish Council wish to take on this part of the building and also offered to fund the Parish Council's legal fees for acquiring a lease for this building. In light of the commercial sensitivity of this item on the Agenda, it was unanimously agreed that item 7 on the Agenda should be moved to closed session for Parish Council Members only.

**6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**

Councillor W Pattison expressed her disappointment at the further delay to the works to the entrance of the village and assured Members that she and the Parish Clerk had made every effort to ensure that these works are started as soon as possible and certainly completed ahead of the tourist season in Craster.

Councillor W Pattison also highlighted a "comfort box" initiative she had been working on through her Cabinet portfolio work and advised that this was intended for anyone who is struggling with mental health issues and Councillor W Pattison encouraged all present to look into the scheme and take part.

### **8. Update on the new traffic arrangement to the entrance of Craster village following meeting with NCC**

The Chair thanked County Councillor W Pattison for her efforts on this issue as well as the Clerk for his work in pushing this along. However, Members expressed unanimous frustration at the further delays to the works to the entrance of the village. The Clerk confirmed that these works would now commence in January as opposed to later in October.

Councillor W Pattison advised that the County Council would be looking to remove all of the barrels which are in seriously poor condition and beyond repairs as soon as possible.

The Parish Council **agreed** to work positively and proactively with NCC on this to ensure that this work is carried out as proposed.

### **9. Proposal to provide Spring planting to Craster/ Dunstan**

The Clerk highlighted the ongoing efforts by volunteers to raise funds for community projects through the collection box scheme. The Clerk advised that the Committee is keen to ensure more greenery, biodiversity and florals for the parish area and proposed the purchase of crocus bulbs for planting at South Acres in Craster.

Parish Councillors warmly welcomed this proposal and took the opportunity to thank volunteers involved in this initiative. Whilst Members were minded to approve the allocation of (up to) £500 from the collection box funds towards these bulbs, it was felt appropriate that, prior to planting these bulbs, residents of South Acres should be consulted on their views on this. The Clerk **agreed** to consult with South Acres residents about this and purchase these bulbs if approved by residents.

### **10. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**

Councillor M Brooks highlighted the ongoing queries in relation to the matter of consecrated ground within the cemetery area.

The Chair advised that he would like to see the cemetery opened to people of all faiths for burials and this was echoed by all Members.

Councillor M Brooks advised that the EJBC were seeking further advice on these matters.

### **11. Report from Craster Community Trust representative**

There were no significant issues to report since the previous Parish Council meeting. Mrs Jackie Reeves advised that the next meeting of the CCT would be taking place next week.

### **12. Items for next Agenda**

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Clerk should they wish to have any item added and discussed on the Agenda.

### **13. Date and time of next meeting**

21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall.

*Due to the confidential nature of the following items, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and the public were excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the LGA 1972 Act and section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. At this point in time the press and the public were asked to leave the meeting.*

## **7. Follow-up discussion on the future of the TIC building following joint meeting with NCC Assets**

Members discussed at length the recent meeting with NCC Assets and the possibility of the Parish Council acquiring a lease for the former TIC building. Concerns were raised relating to the potential risks of this for the Parish Council whilst a number of benefits to the community were also highlighted.

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should hold a separate and confidential meeting, where all matters discussed would be in strict confidence, and this would offer the opportunity for Members to fully discuss the risks through a thorough risk register as well as SWOT analysis and then bring a formal agreement back to the next Full Parish Council meeting.

At this stage, the Clerk left the meeting ahead of item 14 on the Agenda.

## **14. Parish Clerk's Terms and Conditions**

Members **agreed** that the Parish Clerk's salary should be increased to £18.23/ hour. It was noted that this would incur an addition cost of £1,400 on the Parish Council and Members unanimously **approved** this.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all attendees for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Signed,

**Chair of Craster Parish Council  
(Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024)**

# CRASTER PARISH COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT



County Councillor Wendy Pattison

[wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk) - Tel. 07779 983072 and on Facebook – Cllr Wendy Pattison

## CRASTER PARISH NORTHUMBERLAND FIRE AND RESCUE BOXING ACADEMY



The Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service boxing academy is a project run by local firefighters in their own time. The academy is open to people of all ages from 10 years old and upwards. Come along to join a class – the first session is free.

The Boxing Academy is supported by Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) in a number of different ways:

- The service has provided suitable, rent-free premises and has committed to meeting all of the utility and maintenance costs of the building, which is why the Boxing Academy fees are so low.
- The service and other local sponsors provided funding for the initial set-up costs, providing the boxing ring and other equipment.
- The service provides support in terms of governance and health and safety matters (including risk assessments and training).
- The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) is also the chair of the Boxing Academy.
- NFRS is very proud of the Boxing Academy and has invited county and local councillors to visit the gym, as well as the fact they have given presentations to community groups such as The Prince's Trust.
- The service is committed to ensuring the resilience of the project and has pledged support to enable the Academy to achieve its long-term go
  - Come along to West Hartford Community Fire Station and join one of our classes. No matter what your ability, there is a class suitable for you. The first session is free so you have absolutely nothing to lose, but a great deal to gain!
  - When?
  - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays:
  - Beginners classes 6.00pm - 7.00pm
  - Advanced classes 6:30pm - 8.00pm
  - Where?
- West Hartford Business Park  
Cramlington  
Northumberland  
NE23 3JP

To join one of these sessions, or to find out more about the Boxing Academy and how it could help in your area, please contact us: 01670 621110/Email [NFRSboxingacademy@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:NFRSboxingacademy@northumberland.gov.uk)

## Northumberland Town and Parish Council CLIMATE CHANGE TOOLKIT Northumberland Town and Parish Council CLIMATE CHANGE TOOLKIT

Purpose - This toolkit aims to provide a starting point for town and parish councils looking to address climate change. It aligns to Northumberland County Council's (NCC) Climate Change Action Plan 2021-23. We recently conducted a survey of town and parish councils in Northumberland which asked whether they had declared a climate emergency or had plans to address climate change. Of those who responded a small number said yes but the majority said they would like to create climate plans but needed support and advice to do so.

The plan can be found at <https://nland.uk/climateactionplan>

Town and parish carbon footprints <https://impact-tool.org.uk/> will calculate a carbon footprint for any UK parish. The data can be broken down in a number of ways either as a territorial footprint or a consumption footprint. You can switch on sub-categories which will show detail such as heating source (oil/gas etc). You can compare parishes using the compare function. This tool gives a carbon footprint which includes emissions for which residents are responsible but which are not produced directly in the parish. For example, flights taken by residents or shipping of goods purchased by residents. This is different to the county carbon footprint published by NCC which is only emissions produced within the county. This tool does not include negative emissions from woodlands for example.

How to use town and parish council carbon footprints

Carbon footprints give you a good starting point when developing an action plan to reduce emissions. Start with your biggest source of emissions and consider whether there is anything you can do to reduce it (see suggestions by category). Think about what your carbon footprint tells you about the lifestyles, habits and behaviours of your community. How can you influence this to reduce key areas of emissions?

Is there anything which surprises you about your carbon footprint? Could you make your community more aware of less obvious sources of emissions? Once you have established which areas of emissions you want to target, look at our suggestions for each category of emissions for some possible project ideas.

### Climate Change Action Plan 2024-26

The new Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2026:

- Communicates the successes and challenges of the previous three years
- Confirms the councils' commitments to achieving our 2025 and 2030 net zero targets for carbon dioxide emissions
- Sets out the direction of travel for the next three years to support the achievement of longer term 2040 net zero targets for all greenhouse gas emissions
- Highlights the international, national, and regional context within which this programme of work exists, and upon which its success is largely dependent

If you require a hard copy of the action plan, or require a more accessible format, for example, audio CD, braille, BSL or large print, please contact [climate@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:climate@northumberland.gov.uk).

### Sign up to our monthly climate newsletter

To keep up to date with our latest climate change news, events and funding opportunities, please [subscribe to our monthly Climate Change Newsletter](#).

## Smile and Wellbeing Boxes

A Perk Box, a cheer you up basket, but put simply, a Smile Box is a gift box packed full of treats to open when you are feeling a bit down and need cheering up.

Their purpose is for the box to be something that you can go to when you are feeling low or anxious and in need of comfort. As the boxes are personal, there are no rules as to what you put in them. You can add things to distract yourself, things to help you feel calm, things that have helped in the past and info about who to talk to if you need support. Another great idea is to think of the 5 senses and include something in to stimulate each one.

Some ideas on what to put in your box as below.

A soft blanket, hot water bottle, cosy socks

Aura spray and pulse point roll on

Chocolate

Photos of loved ones, happy holidays and places you would like to visit

A stress toy

A note pad and paper

A favourite smell

The container can be any shape or size. Some people like to decorate their boxes. As we discussed - you could have a large or a "mini" version, whatever you prefer.

Maybe info re breathing exercises, a pod cast, something to hold in your hand to ground you. The possibilities are endless 😊

## Life-changing impact of foster carers celebrated in powerful new film

[To watch the full film and find out more visit: www.northumberland.gov.uk/foster](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/foster)

Northumberland County Council has joined forces with councils around the country to celebrate the life-changing impact of foster carers and to encourage more to join the team.

Fostering can mean everything to those involved and change their lives forever. That is the message of a powerful new fostering film from over 100 councils.

There is a national shortage of foster families with over 370 needed in the North East alone.

In Northumberland, the Council recently announced an increase in our payments to foster carers in the first stage of wider plans to grow our fostering provision and strengthen support available.

Northumberland County Council are now part of the 12-council strong regional hub – Foster With North East, and are calling for single people, couples and anyone over the age of 25 with a spare room and an affinity with children and young people to come forward to see the difference they could make to one or many children's lives.

# A Focus on Housing and Health in Northumberland

Key stakeholders from across the housing and health system came together to discuss the link between good housing and health outcomes, and to identify opportunities for more collective action in the future.

Housing is one of the building blocks of good health and this collaborative approach aims to support the County Partnership ambition to make a generational change by tackling inequalities and reducing the gap in experience residents have across health, education, employment and social outcomes.

Cllr Veronica Jones, Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequalities at Northumberland County Council, said: “We know that the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age are the most important factors in determining good health.

“Currently there is a twenty-year gap in Healthy Life Expectancy between our most and least deprived areas of Northumberland.

“Our work with the Institute of Health Equity is helping us to identify the areas where the housing system can make the biggest impact on, and positively contribute to health outcomes across the county.”

In Northumberland a variety of projects are already underway to improve health outcomes and to tackle inequalities through housing, by improving living environments for our residents.

They include:

- The creation of a Healthcare Navigator post – who helps some of the county’s most vulnerable residents to access medical support.
- Grant funding is available for low carbon initiatives, insulation and ventilation to residents and landlords to improve the heat retention and costs of heating their homes.
- Work is underway with the Town and Country Planning Association and the Institute of Health Equity to ensure that ongoing work is targeted to make the biggest impact for those living where health outcomes are currently lowest across the county.

Simon Neilson, Executive Director of Place and Regeneration at Northumberland County Council, said: “There is increasing evidence to suggest good quality housing helps us stay healthy and can improve our wellbeing, while poor housing can increase demand on health, other public services and the economy.

“There is already lots of great work being done in Northumberland, and our level of ambition is to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents. By working collaboratively with colleagues across the housing sector as we develop a new housing strategy, we can identify opportunities to work together to improve healthy life expectancy in Northumberland.”

The Housing discussion builds on previous work to tackle inequalities and to ensure momentum, at future six monthly intervals key stakeholders in Northumberland will gather to explore further collaborative opportunities in the areas of Employment & Health, and the Best Start in Life.