

MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 19th September 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 19th September 2024 at 6:30pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. Welcome and apologies for absence**
- 2. Co-option of a new Parish Councillor – Mr Derek Moss**
- 3. Declarations of interest**
- 4. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 23rd July 2024**
- 5. Matters arising**
- 6. Public participation**
- 7. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**
- 8. Update on the new traffic arrangement to the entrance of Craster village**
- 9. Report on a proposed heritage blue plaques scheme**
- 10. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative**
- 11. Report from Craster Community Trust representative**
- 12. Update on the future of the Craster TIC**
- 13. Update on the Conservation Area Character Appraisal report by the AONB**
- 14. Update on the mobile phone mast project for the community**
- 15. 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
 - Update on 24/02728/FUL** | Proposed side (South) facing single storey extension| 2 Orchard Cottages Dunstan Village Dunstan Northumberland NE66 3TE
 - 24/02846/FUL** | First floor extension including new window opening and dormer window| Quarry House 3 Norwell Brow Craster Alnwick Northumberland NE66 3TX
- 16. Items for next Agenda**
- 17. Date and time of next meeting**

17th October 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 MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday 23rd July 2024 – 6:30pm in the Craster village Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

Parish Council members: Margaret Brooks, Mark Green, Allan Gregory and Nick Ringrose.

Also present: Adam Shanley (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Wendy Pattison and 8 members of the public.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors M Craster and E Pearson.

2. Declarations of interest

None received.

3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 20th June 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2024 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising

The Clerk advised that he had ordered the fingerpost and expected this to be delivered in early September.

The Clerk also advised that, as per Full Council agreement, he has now asked for Stephen Tennant the contractor to add the pathways leading out of Craster and the Craster Trail to his regular rota of grass cutting.

Members thanked the Clerk for his work on these issues.

The Chair highlighted that the Parish Council had previously discussed the matter of an award for two long-serving Councillors and volunteers in the community and he proposed that these individuals be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Parish. The Council unanimously **agreed** and asked the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for this.

5. Public participation

A member of the public raised a concern about a proposal to install a fence on the public right of way running behind South Acres in order to facilitate cattle grazing on the land. The member of the public raised the concern that the proposed fence is rumoured to cut along the PRow and right up against the boundaries of the bungalows.

It was highlighted that the back gardens of 12-18 South Acres have a garden gate leading on to this PRow and have done for over twenty years and it is concerning that these could be blocked off.

The Parish Council was asked to seek clarification from the landowner about the details of this proposal.

Councillor M Brooks advised that she had already discussed this with the landowner and advised that no concrete plans were in place as yet and that he was aware of local concerns about this plan. Councillor M Brooks advised that she felt that this is a private matter between the landowner and the farmer.

Councillors N Ringrose and M Green advised that they were aware of local concerns about this issue and agreed that the Parish Council should at least contact the landowner to ask to be kept updated on these proposals.

The Parish Council agreed to write directly to the landowner to ask to be kept updated on these plans, particularly in light of the potential impact on the PRow.

6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Councillor W Pattison presented her report to Members and highlighted the work the County Council is carrying out as part of her Cabinet portfolio.

Councillor W Pattison advised that the Council's Safehaven initiative – a support service for anyone struggling with mental health - was running successfully in Ashington and Councillor Pattison hoped to establish more Safehavens in both Berwick and Hexham, depending on funding.

7. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Councillor M Brooks advised that the next meeting of the EJBC would take place in August and there were no updates to report at this meeting.

8. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

In Councillor M Craster's absence, Mrs Helen Chamberlain provided an update to the Council. Helen advised that the CCT held its AGM on Saturday and over £1,000 has been raised through volunteer fundraising efforts for the playpark.

Helen also advised that the CCT is also looking into improving the acoustics within the Hall itself, most likely through the introduction of panelling.

The Chair thanked Helen for her report and the CCT for their ongoing work on these issues.

9. Update on the future of the Craster TIC

The Chair reminded Members that, earlier this year, Northumberland County Council announced the closure of the TIC in Craster and that the Parish Council and NCC began a dialogue soon thereafter on the future use of this site.

The Chair remarked that he very much appreciates the ongoing engagement NCC has had with the Parish Council to date on this matter, as the site is an important one to our community as a gateway to both Craster village and the quarry car park.

The Chair also took the opportunity to thank Councillors M Brooks, N Ringrose and M Green for their work on this issue.

Councillor N Ringrose highlighted that there is a draft Expression of Interest application for a Community Asset Transfer for the site by Mr Andy Grant at Piper's Pitch.

It was highlighted that Andy has operated the 'Piper's Pitch' business adjacent to the TIC since 2007 and, from the documentation submitted, it is now proposed to establish a Charitable Community Benefit Society as a structure to operate a combined retail outlet and café from within the TIC site.

Councillor N Ringrose particularly highlighted that part of this proposal included support for community organisations such as the RNLI, the Community Trust and the Church.

Councillor A Fettis asked if the rowing club might be considered as one of the organisations supported by this venture and Councillor N Ringrose advised that he felt that Andy would be open to a dialogue on this.

Councillors carefully considered the documentation submitted to date as part of this application and agreed to support this application in principle and ask NCC to move forward with the next stage of the process as soon as practically possible.

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

The Clerk advised that the AONB had recently reached out to advise that they hoped to have amendments to the draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal carried out by September and thereafter make this publicly available through several channels, including a hard copy in the Hall and then host a resident drop-in event later in October.

The Clerk reminded Members that this is not a Parish Council project and one which the Parish Council is supporting the AONB with a public consultation on.

Councillor N Ringrose advised that he felt the community should have clarity on how they can have a voice or vote on this issue and this should be put to the AONB.

Members thanked the Clerk for this update.

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

The Clerk advised that, after a slight hiccup with planning for the closure of a number of car parking spaces during August, these issues had now been overcome and the Parish Council had now had it confirmed that the mast would be erected in mid-August as per the original plan. Members thanked the Clerk for his negotiating on this matter and the Clerk advised that the work to get the Mobile Network Operators on-site to install their equipment was still ongoing.

The Council agreed to host an unveiling event once the mast was operational and agreed to ask County Councillor Wendy Pattison to make the first and historic mobile phone call in Craster.

12. 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. The Council **noted** the additional information submitted as part of this application and **agreed** to maintain its objection to this application in its entirety.

13. 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.

The Clerk highlighted that he would like to raise the issue of blue plaques at the next meeting and Members felt that this was a good opportunity to

14. Date and time of next meeting

19th September 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 19th September 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

Support offered after winter fuel payment concerns

[Find out about support available around Winter Fuel payments and Pension Credit](#)



The Leader of Northumberland County Council has expressed alarm after it was established that potentially over 70,000 pensioners in the county could no longer be eligible for the winter fuel allowance in 2024.

Councillor Glen Sanderson has pledged that the Council will continue its pro-active approach to support its older residents after it took immediate action to link in with a range of partners to highlight the help available.

Last month the Government confirmed that from this autumn, those not on pension credit or other means-tested benefits will no longer get the annual payments, worth between £100 and £300.

Across the country, around 10 million pensioners in England and Wales are expected to lose their winter fuel payments.

The figures are alarming and we are extremely worried for the tens of thousands of pensioners throughout Northumberland who may suffer in the months ahead.

“Our own analysis has revealed an estimated 70,000+ older residents could be disadvantaged for saving up over their working lives towards their retirement.

“If the price of fuel increases this winter as some predict then the implications are very worrying, but we as a Council, along with our partners, are doing all we can to help.

We’re being pro-active – we knew we had to take action immediately and I’d like to thank all the staff who have worked so hard already to find out who may be eligible for pension credit and therefore winter fuel – and getting in touch with them direct.

Applications are being supported by both Citizens Advice (CAB) and Age UK, both of which are able provide wider support for warm homes and energy efficiency, as well as more holistic financial wellbeing support.

For residents on low incomes, who are ineligible for Winter Fuel payments, the Council is working on a number of measures to directly support these households, including access to the Gas Safe scheme - such as a boiler service, as well as links to both CAB and Age UK for more information and support.

Our network of warm spaces covers the whole county and is increasingly joined up, ready to open doors for residents over the colder months. All warm spaces will be fully equipped with a pack containing consistent pension credit, winter fuel, and keeping warm information to share with all residents.

These are very worrying times for many of our most vulnerable, but we remain committed to doing everything we can to support all our residents both now and in the future.

[Find out about support available around Winter Fuel payments and Pension Credit](#)

Contact us

If you're having a difficult time or struggling at the moment please get in touch, we'll find you support and connect you with people in your area.

Please contact the Northumberland Communities Together Response Hub

- Phone: **[01670 620015](tel:01670620015)** between 9am to 6pm, seven days a week.
- Email: **NCT@northumberland.gov.uk**
- **[Facebook](#)**
- **[Twitter \(X\)](#)**

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice provides free, confidential and impartial information and advice on a range of issues, including money, benefits, housing, and employment. **[Visit their website](#)**. **[Follow Citizens Advice Northumberland on Facebook](#)**.

Onecall

If you are worried about the **[immediate welfare \(health or well-being\) of a child or adult](#)** **[contact Onecall](#)**.

- **Phone:** 01670 536 400
- **Email address:** **onecall@northumberland.gov.uk**

Silver Sunday

Silver Sunday is a day in the national calendar, the first Sunday in October, when we ask the nation to pause and think about older people and celebrate their contribution to society.

Many of our supporters have been with us since Silver Sunday was founded by one of the Sir Simon Milton Foundation's Trustees, The Lady (Christabel) Flight, in 2012.

We are hugely grateful to all of the amazing people who have supported us over the years, who have helped make Silver Sunday the success it is today. **Last year we had our best ever Silver Sunday**, with more than 2,000 free activities taking place across the UK, attended by tens of thousands of older people.

But for some time we have known that we would need help to turn Silver Sunday into a truly national day for older people. We have made great progress, but we knew that we needed to find a new home for Silver Sunday, a home that has a shared vision of what Silver Sunday can be and a home with the reach, breadth and resources to enable it to achieve its full potential.

We are therefore delighted that Age UK, the UK's leading charity for older people, has now embraced Silver Sunday. 2024 will be their first year leading on this important campaign.

If you want to take part in Silver Sunday this year, either as an event organiser or to participate in a Silver Sunday event, head over to the [Silver Sunday website](#). We hope to see you there on **Sunday 6 October 2024!**

Age UK's Silver Sunday is a day dedicated to older people which takes place every year in October. Fun and free activities are held across the UK where older people can make new friends, visit new places, try new activities and connect with other generations in their local communities. Simply put, it is a day for older people to have something special to look forward to and enjoy themselves.

Silver Sunday was conceived in 2012 by The Lady (Christabel) Flight, who at the time was a trustee of the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, and it was run by the Foundation for many years. In 2024, Age UK took on the campaign. Through its network of local Age UKs and its event expertise, the Charity plans to grow Silver Sunday, which saw over 2,000 events taking place across the UK in 2023, and create more opportunities for older people who are feeling lonely or isolated.

Silver Sunday is a powerful vehicle to draw attention to the problem of loneliness amongst older people. Celebrating the contribution of older people to society, also increases their happiness and wellbeing and presents an opportunity to bring generations together.

Silver Sunday also provides an opportunity for local authorities, charities, community groups and private, voluntary and public organisations to promote what they already do to relieve social isolation and loneliness among older people.

If you have any questions on how to take part email us at info@silversunday.org.uk.

New bus services to improve public transport in Northumberland

Northumberland residents and visitors will soon benefit from two significant improvements to the local bus network.

Starting Monday, September 2, a new 918 service will be introduced, connecting coastal communities of Belford, Seahouses and Beadnell to Chathill railway station, while there will also be an extension of an existing service to better serve rural areas.

The new 918 service will be operated by Borders Buses and operate Monday through Saturday, including public holidays, and is timed to connect with Northern Rail services at Chathill.

This new route will greatly improve access to key destinations such as Newcastle and Morpeth, facilitating travel for work, education, and leisure.

Single fares are capped at £2 for adults and £1 for under 22s. For those looking to explore the area, day tickets are available at £6.80 for adults and £3 for under 22s, offering the flexibility to travel around before catching the bus to Chathill station.

The existing X16 service, currently operated by Arriva North East between Newcastle and Morpeth, will be extended to include Wooler, Coldstream, and Kelso. This extension replaces the limited 710 service operated by Glen Valley, which previously offered only one return journey on specific days.

The new X16 timetable provides several key improvements:

- Direct morning and afternoon journeys between Wooler, Morpeth, and Newcastle from Monday to Friday, timed for work and education purposes.
- Increased Saturday services connecting Wooler with Morpeth, Newcastle, Coldstream, and Kelso. All current Glen Valley Saturday links have been retained, except for the Metrocentre connection, which has been removed due to low usage and the availability of frequent alternative services between Newcastle and the Metrocentre.
- Regular hourly connections between Stannington village, Newcastle, and Morpeth, enhancing service frequency and accessibility.

The enhancements are made possible through additional funding from the Bus Service Improvement Plan, ensuring that passengers across both routes can continue to benefit from affordable and reliable transport options in Northumberland.”

John Holwell, Chairman of Chathill Rail Action Group, said: "It's great news that the County Council is supporting Chathill Station by bringing in this bus service that will connect surrounding villages to the two trains a day.

“We will continue to campaign for more services to the station, so locals and visitors have proper rail access on the Northumberland Coast”.