

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 20th June 2024 – 6:30pm in the Craster village Hall

Councillors present:

Chair: Martin Smith

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

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 Councillor Ann Fettis.

2. Declarations of interest

None received.

3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 16th May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2024 were unanimously **agreed** as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

4. Matters arising

None received.

5. Public participation

A local resident raised the issue of waste being left by the side of the road following works by NCC and Alncom recently in the parish area. The Clerk advised that he would raise this directly with those involved in these works to ask that this could be cleared up.

A resident raised the issue of overgrown footpaths and roadside grass verges in the parish area and asked the Parish Council to look into this. The Clerk advised that he would speak to the Council's contractor about this and the Council confirmed that they would also like to see the section of land to the entrance of the village cut back too.

6. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison

Councillor Wendy Pattison advised that she was delighted to receive such a positive report on how the mobile phone mast is progressing and thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work in making this happen.

Councillor Pattison also advised that she continues to work to address the issue of potholes around the area and she was pleased to see that a number of these had been completed.

Councillor Pattison also highlighted that it was National Carers Week and she was delighted to lead on the delivery of this through her Cabinet role at NCC.

Councillor M Brooks took the opportunity to thank Councillor Pattison for her swift action in getting the weeds running along one side of the road removed completely on the approach into Craster.

7. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative

Councillor M Brooks advised that the EJBC would be meeting next week and that she would have a report from this meeting to the next July Full Council meeting. In the meantime, Councillor M Brooks advised that the tenant in the house continues to reside happily there with no issues.

Moreover, Members considered their ongoing representation on the EJBC as a Council and took the opportunity to thank Councillor E Pearson for her many years of dedicated work as the

Parish Council's representative on this Committee. Members also agreed that Councillor M Brooks and Councillor N Ringrose should be selected to represent Craster Parish Council going forward on this Committee.

8. Report from Craster Community Trust representative

Mrs Helen Chamberlain highlighted the recent works to the lights in the Hall and advised that the Trust were delighted to continue their work in maintaining this excellent community facility. Helen also advised that the Trust were hoping to host another Meet and Eat event as the previous events had been a real success with members of the community attending and having a wonderful time.

The Clerk and Chair thanked the Trust for their work in maintaining such a brilliant community facility as the Hall.

9. Report by Councillor M Brooks on village signage

Councillor M Brooks advised that she was aware of a recent request by Alncom to install signage in the village promoting their services. Councillor M Brooks expressed the view that this signage can be rather intrusive and she felt that the Parish Council should consider the most appropriate location for this.

Councillor M Brooks advised that she was aware that the Clerk had suggested on the side of either the Church or the Hall but felt that this might not be the most visible location for this and didn't feel that this would be best located in the village itself.

Colleagues from the Craster Community Trust advised that they would be happy to have information leaflets located in the Hall and Members asked the Parish Clerk to pursue the option of having the banner at the side of the TIC building where visitors could see this.

10. Update on the future of the Craster TIC

Members noted the decision of the Parish Council at the last Full Council meeting on the matter of the Parish Council pursuing a project with the TIC. In accordance with this decision, the Clerk also advised that he had now received confirmation from Michael Gilroy from NCC's Estates team for a joint meeting with NCC on this issue.

Councillor M Green advised that he would not wish to be part of this meeting between the Parish Council and NCC regarding the TIC. Councillor M Green advised that he noted the decision by the Parish Council from the last meeting but felt that there is still an excellent opportunity to pursue a project with the TIC building for a community/ social benefit and would therefore be progressing with establishing his own Community Interest Company to take the lead on bidding for the lease for the TIC.

Councillor M Green advised that he did not feel that such a project through a Community Interest Company would be a conflict of interest in his role as a Parish Councillor.

The Chair thanked Councillor M Green for providing the Council with this information and asked Members how they wished to progress with this matter. Members unanimously **agreed** that it would be a good opportunity to still meet with NCC to get a clearer picture of their plans for the site and it was **agreed** that Councillors N Ringrose and M Brooks should meet with Michael Gilroy on Monday 24th June and report back on this meeting at the next Full Council meeting.

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

The Clerk advised that he was aware that the Built Heritage and Design Officer at NCC and National Landscape (formerly AONB) Officer met yesterday to finalise their comments on changes they wish to see within the draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal document and they would be sending this to their consultant this week. The Clerk advised that the consultant is then expected to complete this work in the next 2-3 weeks.

Thereafter, the Clerk advised that the AONB would be looking to carry out a public information drop-in session on this matter and would be seeking the Parish Council's support with this project.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council had not yet taken a formal position on this issue. The Clerk also highlighted that he had received a query of clarification from the National Landscape Officer as to whether the Harbour was built from limestone or whinstone. A member of the public asked that the Parish Council avoids the holiday season for the public drop-in sessions on this issue and instead held this later in the year.

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

The Clerk advised that the construction of the mast had been delayed by some weeks following poor weather. The Clerk advised that the team were still hoping to have the mast constructed and in place for July 2024 and confirmed that he would keep Members updated on how this project progressed.

Members praised the team working on this project as disruption had been kept to a minimum and no complaints had been received.

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. It was **agreed** to note this application.

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 considered the latest updates on this planning proposal following a complaint in relation to Highways' response and **agreed** to maintain the Parish Council's objection to this proposal.

14. Items for next Agenda

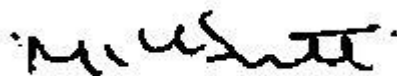
The Chair reminded Members to contact the Parish Clerk should they wish to have an item of business included on next month's Agenda.

15. Date and time of next meeting

18th July 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
(Tuesday 23rd July 2024)**