

**ANNUAL MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – 6:30pm in the Hall**

**Agenda**

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, I hereby give you notice that the **annual meeting of Craster Parish Council** will be held in **Craster Memorial Hall** on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6:30pm** to transact the following business:

- 1. Election of Chair** – the Chair shall read out the declaration of acceptance of office.
- 2. Election of Vice-Chair** – no declaration required.
- 3. Welcome and apologies for absence**
- 4. Co-option of Parish Councillors following the advertising of vacancies** – applications from Mr Michael Robson, Mrs Marjorie Taylor, Ms Sophie Heslop, Mr Robert Cornall and Mr John Young.
- 5. Declarations of interest**
- 6. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025**
- 7. Matters arising**
- 8. Public participation**
- 9. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**
- 10. Report from Embleton Joint Burial Committee representative** – to include selecting two representatives from Craster Parish Council
- 11. Report from Craster Community Trust representative** - to include selecting one representative from Craster Parish Council
- 12. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2024/25**
  - (i) to agree the internal audit report 2024-25
  - (ii) to approve the annual governance statement 2024-25
  - (iii) to approve the draft annual accounts for 2024-25
  - (iv) to approve the accounting statement and explanation of variances 2024-25
  - (v) to approve the certificate of exemption form 2024-25
- 13. Consideration of the new entrance to Craster Village**
- 14. Proposal on the telephone/ broadband service to the Hall** – report included.
- 15. Update on securing new the mobile phone mast**
- 16. Planning matters:**
  - 25/01691/FUL** | Proposed front porch; install solar PV and dormer extension to front roof elevation; mansard extension to rear roof elevation to facilitate conversion of existing roof space; alterations to front garden area to form driveway / off road parking | 14 South Acres Craster Northumberland NE66 3TN
  - 25/01675/FUL** | A small single-story extension to the rear with flat roof and roof lights, single story extension replacing the porch to the front elevation, two dormer windows to front and rear roof elevations as well as additional velux windows | 14 Whin Hill Craster Northumberland NE66 3TP
  - Update on 25/00759/FUL** | The addition of a balcony across the larger first floor glazed area | Seahaven 37 Dunstanburgh Road Craster Northumberland NE66 3TT.
  - Update on 24/04252/FUL** | Change of use of existing agricultural building from grain store to livestock building. (additional information received 13.03.2025) | Land North West of Dunstan Steads Farm Embleton Northumberland
- 17. Items for next Agenda**
- 18. Date and time of next meeting**

17<sup>th</sup> July 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 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall**

**Councillors present:**

**Chair:** Martin Smith

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

**Also present:** Adam Shanley (Parish Clerk), County Councillor W Pattison, Sarah Winlow (National Landscapes) and 5 members of the public.

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors M Green and M Craster

**2. Declarations of interest**

None received.

**3. Discussion with Northumberland Coast National Landscapes on travel, access and interpretation plans and projects**

The Chair welcomed Sarah Winlow to the Parish Council meeting. Sarah thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to come and speak today and highlighted that the National Landscapes team (formerly the Northumberland Coast AONB) were getting started on the next element of the RAMP-funded Visitor Access and Interpretation project for the National Landscape, which is looking at developing plans and projects connected to sustainable travel, access and interpretation for 10 settlements along the Northumberland Coast, including Craster.

Sarah advised that a key aspect of this work is engaging with residents and communities to ensure that the projects included are co-produced and supported by those living and working in the area and highlighted that the team were keen to hear more about potential projects from local residents.

The Parish Council highlighted the need for a coastal shuttle bus to take visitors around the area as opposed to a proliferation of cars entering the villages across the AONB area.

A local resident highlighted issues of accessibility and the seriously poor condition of a number of gates along the coastal paths as well as the kissing gates which prevent wheelchair access. Sarah highlighted that an accessibility audit of the coastal route is being undertaken by the National Landscapes team and that she would be happy to share the results of this with the Parish Council.

The Chair thanked Sarah for her early engagement with the Parish Council on this initiative and asked her to keep the Parish Council updated via the Clerk.

Sarah also took the opportunity to highlight that the National Landscapes team were looking to carry out a consultation drop-in session for the proposals to create a Conservation Area within parts of the Craster parish.

At this point, Sarah thanked the Parish Council for its time and left the meeting.

One local resident highlighted the serious concerns of some local residents and business owners regarding the proposals for a Conservation Area and this was echoed by other residents attending the meeting. The Clerk highlighted the important role of the Parish Council in bringing its community together on issues and Members felt that this issue had been too divisive within the community.

Following a proposal to formally request that the National Landscape team be asked to not pursue the matter of a Conservation Area designation any further, this was support by four Members and one Member abstained. The Clerk advised that he would contact the National Landscapes team accordingly.

#### **4. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

#### **5. Matters arising**

The Clerk advised that the heritage blue plaques have been ordered and that an unveiling event would take place later this year following agreement of their exact location on each building by the Church and the owner of Little Adam's House.

The Chair also advised that he had two on-site meetings with the highways team regarding both the crossroad at Craster and the new entrance to the TIC. On the former, the Chair reported that NCC is intending on removing the excess signage that currently sits at the junction. On the latter, the Chair advised that he had highlighted issues relating to the location of the stones and the need for fencing off the new verges where the Council has planted seed.

#### **6. Public participation**

A local resident highlighted the recent erection of the fence to the rear of gardens at South Acres by a local farmer. Members unanimously **agreed** that this was an entirely private matter and not one which the Parish Council could get involved with.

Another local resident highlighted that they had heard a screeching alarm sound coming from the former TIC building. The Clerk advised that he would contact NCC about this immediately and have this resolved.

Another local resident advised that sewage water was gathering within the Arnold Memorial Nature Reserve and asked if this could be addressed. The Clerk advised that he would contact the landowner and look into this on the resident's behalf.

#### **7. Report by County Councillor Wendy Pattison**

Councillor Wendy Pattison presented her report to Members and residents. In doing so, Councillor Pattison also highlighted that she continues to report a number of potholes in the area and advised that she was aware that these weren't being filled as quickly as we would all like but that she is continuing to work with the Highways team on this issue.

Councillor Pattison also highlighted that, following Newcastle Carabao Cup Victory, NCC Leader Councillor Glen Sanderson has proposed that Dan Burn – a Northumberland resident from Blyth – be given the honorary freedom of Northumberland award. The Parish Council unanimously supported this motion and sent its heartfelt thanks to Dan and to Councillor Sanderson.

#### **8. Report on events planning in the parish**

The Clerk highlighted that the CCT, Skiff and WI were planning events around the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. The Clerk advised that he had been in discussions with Doug Hogg and the Chair regarding a beacon lighting event on 8<sup>th</sup> May as this forms part of the national protocol for this important anniversary.

The Clerk highlighted that Members had agreed a total fund of £250 towards the VE Day anniversary and Members unanimously agreed to arrange a beacon lighting event and asked

the Clerk to make all necessary preparations for this. Members also agreed to provide financial support to the catering for the VE Day anniversary tea in the Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

The Clerk also reminded Members that the Parish Council had agreed a fund of £250 towards Lifeboat Day and advised that he would be engaging with the organisers of the event on the best use of this funding.

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

Councillor M Brooks advised that there had been no meeting of the EJBC since the last meeting of Craster Parish Council however Councillor M Brooks advised that the Clerk for the EJBC is presently looking into the current situation with the existing tenant and whether he is continuing to reside within the house. Councillor M Brooks advised that she would keep the Parish Council updated on the situation.

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

Mrs Marion Gallon advised that the Trust would be hosting a number of fundraisers for the play park later this year with the nearest event taking place on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Marion encouraged everyone to take part in this event as the play park is in need of some upgrading, particularly to its swings.

Marion also highlighted that the playpark had been closed recently due to the presence of moles within the site and she advised that the Trust is presently engaging with its insurers on this matter.

### **11. Planning matters:**

**25/00759/FUL** | The addition of a balcony across the larger first floor glazed area | Seahaven 37 Dunstanburgh Road Craster Northumberland NE66 3TT. It was **agreed** to object to this application.

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

The Chair reminded Members to contact the Parish Clerk should they wish to have an item included in the next Agenda.

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

27<sup>th</sup> May 2025 – 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 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025)**

# 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**

## **THANK YOU**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for voting for me on May 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 and for allowing me the privilege to once again look after the Longhoughton Division.

Thank you so much for your faith and confidence in me and I look forward to working hard and ensuring all of our communities are enhanced and supported during the next four years.

Your priorities are always my priorities.

I can be contacted at any time on [wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.pattison@northumberland.gov.uk)  
Tel. 07779983072

## **BANKING HUB OPENS IN ALNWICK**

A new Banking Hub has opened in Alnwick at 32 Bondgate, which is located in the former Northumberland Gazette offices near to Alnwick Playhouse.

The Hub will be open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm to pay in and to also take out cash and a Bank representative from each bank will be available on different days of the week.

## **Reporting a tree problem**

The council is responsible for the safety and management of trees on its land and on road verges. The safety of trees on private land is the responsibility of the landowner, and for trees in hedgerows, it is the owner of the hedge.

If you see a tree that is a potential safety problem, let us know immediately. We will inspect the tree and if it is owned by the council, take necessary steps to neutralise the problem. If the tree is on private land, then we will notify the landowner.

You can also report issues that aren't related to safety. These will be assessed and works deemed necessary will be prioritised accordingly.

To see how we deal with issues, look at our [tree works priority guide](#). The guide also indicates the target timescales for the completion of works.

## Northumberland's musical past features in new BBC series

The musical history of Northumberland is in the national spotlight as part of a new BBC Radio 3 series "The Song Detectorists" which looks at the way music from the regions plays an important role in English cultural history.

At the heart of the Northumberland segment, to be aired on Friday 16 May, is the Henry Atkinson manuscript – a notable 'fiddle tune' book dating back to 1694.

Held in the Northumberland Archives, the manuscript is a focal point of the "Music, Heritage, Place" project - a major academic initiative funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and developed by music historians from Newcastle University and Royal Holloway, University of London.

Sue Wood, Northumberland County Council's Head of Archives, said: "This manuscript is believed to have been compiled by Henry Atkinson, a hostman (a member of a Newcastle guild that controlled the coal trade on the River Tyne) and musician in the late 17th-century.

"It contains a rare cache of Northumbrian fiddle tunes and provides a glimpse into the musical tastes and social lives of people in the region more than 300 years ago.

"The tune book appears to have passed to Henry's grandson, Ralph Atkinson (who died in 1827) and then to William Andrew Chatto, writer and editor. It later came into the possession of Sir Henry Bishop, Heather Professor of Music at Oxford University who presented it to The Society of Antiquaries to secure its future in Northumberland Archives.

Professor Kirsten Gibson of Newcastle University, one of the lead researchers, said: "The Atkinson collection is a vital piece of evidence showing how music was made, shared and enjoyed in the North-East of England.

"This project is not just about finding old tunes – it is about spotlighting communities whose musical lives have never been fully recognised."

As part of The Song Detectorists, presenter Matthew Bannister travels to Northumberland to meet the research team, including Professor Gibson; folk musician and academic Nancy Kerr, Steph Carter and Andrew Frampton.

The show explores the historical significance of the Atkinson manuscript and brings the manuscript to life via performances by the Melrose Quartet, with the music reimagined for today's audiences by Nancy Kerr.

Nancy said: "It reflects the musical identity of Northumberland at a time of intense social and industrial change. It is deeply rooted in the traditions of the region, yet also hints at musical influences that travelled much farther afield."

Sue explained: "This project has sparked significant local interest, with plans for community workshops, educational outreach and live performances designed to reconnect modern audiences with their region's musical heritage.

"We aim to inspire new generations of musicians and deepen local pride in part of our history that has been a somewhat hidden treasure in our archives."

\*The Song Detectorists is part of 'The Essay' series on BBC Radio 3, which started on Monday, May 12 at 9.45pm. It will also be available on BBC Sounds.

# Community benefits your mental health



As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, Northumberland County Council is supporting the campaign which encourages people to celebrate the power and importance of community.

Mental Health Awareness Week is an annual event run by the Mental Health Foundation that focuses on improving good mental health across the nation. This year, the week takes place from 12 to 18 May and the theme is 'community'.

Being part of a safe, positive community is vital for mental health and wellbeing. Communities can provide a sense of belonging, safety, support in hard times, and give us a sense of purpose.

During the week, partners from the Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention Steering Group and the Northumberland Better Mental Health, Crisis Care & Suicide Prevention Strategic Partnership will join together for a Wellbeing Walk in Morpeth. This networking opportunity will allow colleagues to identify collaborative opportunities and key challenges to work on.

Wellbeing walks are also available for residents in Northumberland. The free, short walks are designed to help take the first step towards better health, wellbeing and happiness. To find out about walks available in Northumberland, visit <https://www.livingwellnorthumberland.co.uk/increase-physical-activity>

Northumberland County Council's Director of Public Health, Gill O'Neill, said: "We know that there are many people who may be struggling with their mental health and experiencing feelings of anxiety and stress.

"Communities can provide us with a sense of belonging, safety and support in hard times. We know that people who are more socially connected to family, friends, or their community are happier, physically healthier, and live longer, with fewer mental health problems than people who are less well connected.

"There are lots of other little changes we can make to help boost our wellbeing too; things like getting more sleep, improving our diet, avoiding alcohol, and spending more time in nature can all help.

If you or someone you know is in need, then please do reach out to the relevant support services – there are people who can help."

There are resources available for both adults and young people on the council's website offering help and advice or via the [NHS Every Mind Matters](#) campaign.