

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall**

**Councillors present:**

**Chair:** Martin Smith

**Parish Council members:** Margaret Brooks and Allan Gregory

**Also present:** Adam Shanley (Parish Clerk) and 5 members of the public.

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors M Green, M Craster, A Fettis and D Moss.

**2. Declarations of interest**

None received.

**3. Confirmation of the minutes for the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**4. Matters arising**

Members expressed their thanks to contractor Steve for his excellent work in improving a number of the key footpaths around the village. Members also expressed their delight that a number of the Spring bulbs planted over Autumn, thanks in part to the funding from the collection boxes, were now beginning to show and make the villages look particularly lovely.

**5. Public participation**

A resident raised the issue of leaves and other debris from the autumn remaining on the road and pavements and asked if NCC could perhaps provide a regular road sweeper to the area as debris has blocked drains, etc. The Clerk advised that he had previously asked for Dunstanburgh Road to undergo a road sweep and confirmed that he would follow up the point about a regular road sweeping of the area.

Another resident also asked for some additional information on the rules around 200% Council tax for second homes. The Clerk advised that he would look into this and send this to the resident.

Members of the public present warmly welcomed the outcome of application 24/00121/FUL at today's North Northumberland Local Area Council Committee hearing.

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

In Councillor Pattison's absence, the Chair directed Members and the public to Wendy's most recent written report and invited anyone with any queries to put these in writing to Wendy via email.

**7. Update on the heritage blue plaque project**

The Chair took the opportunity to thank everyone who had submitted nominations for heritage blue plaques and the Clerk confirmed that sufficient funding had been received from holiday let owners across the parish in order to finance two of these plaques. Members unanimously agreed the two plaques for the Church and Little Adam's House as well as the proposed wording on each plaque.

The Clerk advised that he would move forward and get these plaques ordered accordingly.

## **8. Report following visit from Member of Parliament David Smith**

The Chair took the opportunity to thank all those involved in the recent visit by local Member of Parliament David Smith. The Chair thanked Jackie Reeves for her excellent presentation on the Hall solar panels project and Sylvia Pringle for her help in answering queries about the mobile mast.

The Chair advised that he was delighted to have gained David's support in trying to get EE on board with the mobile mast as well as his support in speaking with the housing minister on a new definitive planning Use Class for holiday lets.

The Chair advised that he would be following up with our MP in writing and in the coming months and thanked him for such a positive first meeting.

## **9. Report on events planning in the parish –**

Members noted that £500 was agreed as part of the Parish Council's budget for 2025/26 and confirmed that they would like this funding to be directed equally between VE Day and Lifeboat Day this year. Members asked the Clerk to progress this and the Clerk also advised that he would be happy to volunteer and help at each event, depending on other diary commitments.

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

Councillor M Brooks advised that the Committee is due to meet soon but reported that the tenant in the Spitalford House has now vacated the property and the Committee is looking to market this once more via the same company used last time following an inspection of the property.

Councillor M Brooks advised that the money from the rent of this property ensured that there was no need to draw a precept contribution from the three participating Parish Councils.

The Chair thanked Councillor M Brooks for this report and for her continued work on the EJBC, on behalf of Craster Parish Council.

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

In Councillor Craster's absence, Mrs Helen Chamberlain provided a verbal report to the Council. Helen advised that the next meeting of the Trust would take place next week and the primary issue on the Agenda will be planning for the VE Day event in May. Helen advised that the events would fall under the Trust's insurance.

Helen also advised that the Trust is awaiting the installation of the acoustic panelling to the ceiling of the Hall. Helen explained that this would help users of the Hall with any hearing issues to hear better during meetings, etc.

Helen also thanked the Parish Council for its kind letter regarding the playpark and also for its offer of part-funding the grass cutting in this location.

The Chair thanked Helen for her positive report and the Trust's work in the community.

## **12. Planning matters:**

**Outcome of 24/00121/FUL** | Construction of two holiday lets (Sui Generis) with associated landscaping. | Land North And East Of Dunstan House Dunstan Northumberland. Members **noted** that the application for Dunstan House had now been refused at Committee earlier today and thanked the Parish Clerk for representing the Parish Council at this hearing.

**Update on 24/04252/FUL** | Change of use of existing agricultural building from grain store to livestock building | Land North West Of Dunstan Steads Farm Embleton Northumberland. Members noted the additional responses received in relation to this application and **agreed** to maintain the Parish Council's objection to this proposal.

## **13. 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.

**14. Date and time of next meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 6:30pm in Craster Memorial Hall. In closing the meeting, Members also **agreed** that the Parish Council should not sit in April 2025 and June 2025, the latter due to upcoming staff annual leave.

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

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. S. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.

**Chair of Craster Parish Council  
(Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025)**