

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CRASTER PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 20th 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 20th February 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th 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 80th 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 8th 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 11th 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 25th 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

27th 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 27th May 2025)**