

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 November 2020 (by Zoom video conference)

Councillors present: Councillors Mr D Shaw (in the chair), Mr A Beal, Mr J Wilson, Mrs S Stirke, Mr J Neale and Ms J Mallinson.

Also present: District Councillors Mr C Les and J Noone, Myra Shield and, for part of the meeting, Iris Smith.

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

Apologies for Absence: District Councillor Mr M Barningham.

Pre-meeting Items

The Chairman reported that David Smith, long-time resident of Crakehall, former Parish Council Chairman and District Councillor, had passed away. A number of councillors and the clerk indicated that they would pay their respects at the roadside the following day as he was being taken from his home to the Methodist Chapel in Bedale for his funeral.

Myra Shield advised that the tarmac alongside the church wall would not be laid before Christmas.

1.0 Police Report

The Police Report – copy attached as Appendix 1 - had been circulated to all members and PC Sarah Norman joined the meeting for this item. She commented that there had been no crime or ASB incidents during the period of recording and, in response to a question, spoke about Operation Figaro an on-going attempt by the police to deter poachers. PC Norman also recommended good home security during the longer nights of winter and advised of the increased risk of virtual fraud as Christmas approaches. A free event online on Wednesday 25th November 6:30-8:30pm will help participants to spot the signs of an online scam or fake goods and provide an opportunity to ask any questions to fraud specialists from North Yorkshire Police and Trading Standards. PC Norman also confirmed that Road Safety issues relating to movements of Tractors with Trailers through Langthorne had been referred to her by the clerk and the area had been patrolled. She asked that future incidents be reported with as much information as possible so that the matter could be taken up with those responsible. This can be done on a confidential basis.

2.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2020

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed by those members present as being accurate and signed by the clerk on behalf of the chairman.

3.0 Matters Arising from the minutes

The clerk raised one issue that he had inadvertently omitted from his report. This was concern expressed at the last meeting by Cllr Beal about road markings on the A684 near BASA just outside Bedale where dips in the road were leading to very dangerous overtaking manouvres by some motorists. Cllr Les indicated that he had taken the matter up with Highways' Officers and they had confirmed that the road markings were appropriate for the road layout. The council felt that this

view should be challenged so the clerk was asked to pursue matters with NYCC. Cllr Les suggested also involving John Weighell, the County Councillor for the area.

4.0 To consider the exclusion of the public and press because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under items 18.0 and 19.0

The proposal was agreed.

5.0 Clerk's Report

The clerk highlighted a number of items in his written report:

- a) NYCC had confirmed very recently that, despite extensive research, its contractors cannot match exactly the railings outside St Edmunds Holiday Cottages. They will provide as close a match as possible and now undertake the work as a matter of priority. They have also confirmed that the repairs to the railings alongside the beck on the old main road and the wooden fence on the little green on Mastil Lane will be undertaken at the same time.
- b) Greg Clapham has yet to confirm a date for replacing stones around The Green with concrete posts but the clerk has agreed with Mr and Mrs Smith that he will liaise with them about the precise positioning of the posts opposite the church.
- c) The clerk referred to his detailed exchange of messages with a parishioner on 4 October 2020. One matter is dealt with in 5.0 a) above and another in 8.1 below. The third issue was a concern about Tour de Yorkshire decorations still in place nearly two and a half years after the event. It was agreed that residents still displaying TdY decorations be asked (via the newsletter) to remove them.

6.0 Financial Reports

A number of financial reports were presented to the council:

- a) Confirmation of conclusion of the External Audit for 2019/20 - no issues were identified and a number of documents had been made available, as required, at the Parish Council section of www.crakehall.org.uk.
- b) Bank Account Reconciliations at 31 October 2020 and Income / Expenditure from 1 September 2020 to 31 October 2020 – at 1 November 2020, the council had a total of £15158.92 in its current and savings accounts. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £300 and further expenditure of around £4600 before the end of March 2021 (thus enabling the unallocated contingency / reserve to stay around the £10000 mark as previously agreed). The only significant variance related to Repairs and Maintenance where actual spending (£634.30) was significantly lower than the budget allocated (£5109.31).
- c) Setting the Precept for 2021 / 2022 – councillors considered proposals for the budget for 2021/22 based on an analysis of income and expenditure in 2018/19, 2019/20 and the current year. Based on the information provided and some discussion, most councillors preferred to seek the same level of precept as 2020/21, (£10,000.00) but Cllr Stirke wondered if small year on year rises might be more acceptable than a sharp rise after a number of years of no increases. She also wondered if discussion about items later on the agenda might identify a need to increase the precept. Councillors agreed to return to the level of precept at the end of the meeting if significant additional expenditure in 2021/22 was identified in later agenda items. (Please note – no such expenditure was identified so, by default, the same level of precept as for 2020/21 will be requested for 2021/22).

7.0 Possible Listing of buildings and items of interest in the parishes

Cllr Les confirmed that the decision-making body is Historic England and applications need to be made to them. However, Caroline Strudwick at Hambleton District Council can offer advice as their heritage expert. Cllr Stirke was opposed to further listings because of restrictions that would be imposed and likely additional costs being incurred for repairs and maintenance. However, it was agreed that the clerk should find out more from Caroline and then report back to the next meeting.

8.0 Traffic Flow through in Crakehall

8.1 Cllr Shaw presented a number of very detailed reports relating to:

- The latest data from Police patrols in the village – there had been 30 visits in 2020 to date and 680 offences noted (of which 588 were in Little Crakehall).
- The latest data from the deployment of the Vehicle Activated Sign –
 - Village Green 17/9 to 5/10 - 55200 vehicles, average speed 25.84mph, 85th percentile speed 31.2mph;
 - Little Crakehall 6/10 to 20/10 - 33163 vehicles, average speed 26.43mph, 85th percentile speed 31.2mph;
 - Hackforth Road 20/10 to 28/10 - 2137 vehicles, average speed 21.32mph, 85th percentile speed 27.9mph.
 - Village Green 28/10 to 12/11 - 36582 vehicles, average speed 25.84mph, 85th percentile speed 31.2mph;
- His investigation into the possibility of having a School Crossing Patrol based in Little Crakehall – a graph plots the number of pupils against the number of vehicles per half hour and then identifies the level of justification. Regrettably, with 16 pupils currently living in Little Crakehall and 215 vehicle movements per half hour, the site falls into category C – SCP site definitely not justified at initial assessment.
- The recent review of NYCC's 20mph speed limit policy – the review offers some hope that NYCC **may** be prepared to consider a 20mph limit in an area near a school and where current vehicle speeds are not significantly greater than 20mph. Cllr Shaw's recommendation therefore was that the council (with the support of the school) seeks the views of residents on the possibility of applying to Highways for a 20mph limit from the existing Playground signpost in Little Crakehall to the existing School sign near the petrol station. This was agreed. It was also agreed that a request be made for a flashing light to be attached to the existing Playground Signpost in Little Crakehall. This would be minimum cost and could be activated as an additional alert to drivers of the presence of the playground and school.
- Concerns expressed by Hambleton District Council's Environmental Health Officer (after being contacted by a resident) about noise levels on the A684 in Little Crakehall (thought to be caused mainly by lorries going to and leaving quarries) and the response of NYCC (which was that nothing more could be done). Cllr Shaw wondered about commissioning a noise level survey to ascertain whether levels were detrimental to health but this was not unanimously supported. Rather some councillors favoured requesting that the road should be resurfaced so that the vehicles had a smoother (and therefore less noisy journey). This was agreed.

- The possibility of removing some trees near the bridge on the grounds that they were impairing visibility. The opposite view was offered that the trees actually served as traffic calming measures! No further action was agreed.

8.2 The clerk had included in his report NYCC's response to the council's concerns about the proposals NYCC was putting forward using money from the Safer Roads Fund. The proposals were to close the Sinks Lane junction laybys and formalise and improve the layby just outside Crakehall. The council was very much opposed to the closure of the laybys near Sinks Lane on the grounds that they are well used and felt the layby just outside Crakehall would not have the capacity to meet the likely demand. NYCC's response was that the improvements are based on improving the visibility of the Sinks Lane junction, from the junction and to control access in to Sinks Lane. NYCC also advised that improvements would be made to a number of laybys along the route which will then be more accessible and will be signposted accordingly to hopefully reduce the requirement for larger vehicles to stop in villages and other locations along the route. Councillors dismissed the response and asked the clerk to reiterate their concerns and opposition to the removal of the Sinks Lane laybys. They felt the proposals would do nothing to improve access into Sinks Lane from the A684.

8.3 The clerk advised that the council's application to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's AJ1 Road Safety Fund had been unsuccessful. Disappointingly, the application was not supported by NYCC's Highways and Transportation Department so had no chance of being successful.

9.0 The Old Chapel in the cemetery

The clerk reported that he, Cllrs Neale and Beal and Hannah Neale had met at the chapel on 11 October 2020 and moved most of the items being stored there to the container at the village hall. Some items were also disposed of. So, the current situation was that the chapel has had missing glass replaced but to make it completely weatherproof some work to the roof and guttering is needed. This was probably the minimum that needed to be done and it was agreed that estimates for costs be obtained. It was agreed that the council should return to consider a future purpose for the building in the spring so as to determine what other work would also be needed if any.

10.0 Play Equipment

The clerk reported that he had been attempting since early September to arrange with Wicksteed the annual inspection of play equipment in Crakehall. In the absence of any response, he had approached two other companies. Both companies were experienced and suitably accredited inspectors but the quote for MacVenture was considerably lower than the one from Tyne and Wear Play Ltd. Accordingly, the inspections of equipment on The Batts and at the Village Hall were carried out on 26 October 2020. MacVenture used a Risk Matrix (factoring in Likelihood v Severity) to assess the equipment and noted no Very High Risk or High Risk items. Members agreed that action should be taken to deal with the two Medium Risk items:

- Decayed timber on the planter at the village hall causing instability especially if climbed on – to be removed.
- Severe decay in roof and some decay in floor and legs at ground level in the timber shelter at The Batts – to be examined by Cllr Neale who will then make a recommendation about repair or removal.

11.0 Christmas Tree

At the last meeting it was agreed to pursue the possibility of illuminating the tree in the corner of the churchyard, subject to the agreement of the PCC. The PCC were quick to give their agreement but initial research suggested that the cost of hiring a cherry picker for two days to install and then take down the lights would be prohibitive. However, Tim Gibson came forward and offered the use of his cherry picker either on a contractual basis for around £150 or for free if he could be supported by a volunteer and all insurance issues were cleared. The clerk had done this. However, after some discussion, councillors decided to revert to previous practice and purchase a tree for no more than £200. Cllr Neale will oversee the erection of the tree on a date to be agreed. Councillors also authorized:

- Cllr Stirke to spend up to £50 for lights for Langthorne.
- Cllr Beal to spend up to £60 for additional lights for Crakehall.

In a related matter Cllr Neale agreed to meet Myra Shield so that he could be clear about which trees on The Green needed to be cut to remove the intrusion into trees in the churchyard.

12.0 Planning Application

Members considered Planning Application number 20/02232/FUL – Proposed demolition of existing buildings including the existing residential dwelling, office and toilet/shower block to deliver up to 35 static caravans, the siting of 1 additional static pitch for staff accommodation, 25 touring pitches, erection of gatehouse building containing, gates, reception, laundry and office facilities, bin store area, maintenance depot, car parking. Retention of existing shower block in touring field, construction of a replacement residential dwelling with garage, annex private parking, with associated landscaping and infrastructure works at Burtree Lakes Holiday Home And Touring Park Caravan Park Burtree House Little Crakehall. It was agreed that no objections be made to the proposals but concerns be expressed about the lack of a safe walking route from Burtree Lane Ends to Crakehall. This was felt to discourage visitors from walking into the village and therefore increased vehicle movements.

13.0 Langthorne Matters

The council considered a couple of issues that had been raised recently with the clerk by residents of Langthorne:

- a) Road Safety issues relating to movements of Tractors with Trailers through the village had been discussed with the police earlier on the agenda.
- b) Concerns about trees and shrubs overhanging footpaths in the village making them largely unusable. It was agreed that there should be some communication with the owners of the properties concerned.

14.0 Code of Conduct – further consultation by the Committee for Standards in Public Life (CSPL)

The clerk reminded members that the Local Government Association (LGA) undertook a consultation exercise regarding a revised Code of Conduct earlier in the year. A further consultation from the CSPL is not directly connected but all member councils were being asked by the YLCA to consider the questions raised in an NALC briefing (principally because there are many councils and individuals who feel strongly that the sanctions that can be imposed on someone that has been found to have breached a Code, are insufficiently robust). It was agreed that the consultation should be noted and members be invited to submit their own individual responses.

15.0 Matters of Urgency (as agreed by the Chairman for matters raised before the meeting)

The Chairman had agreed before the meeting that there could be discussion of the two sets of proposals being suggested to central government for reorganising local government in North Yorkshire:

- NYCC's proposal for a unitary authority for all of North Yorkshire (excluding York)
- The proposal favoured by six out of seven District Councils which would provide two unitary authorities split on an East / West basis – Craven/Harrogate/Richmondshire/Hambleton and Scarborough/ Ryedale/York/Selby.

Councillors noted that both proposals looked to increase parish and town council roles and responsibilities but decided that they did not wish to offer a view at this stage.

16.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

There was no other business.

17.0 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 7.30 pm.

(Format to be determined in light of government guidance at the time)

18.0 Website accessibility

Members considered three quotations for the job of updating www.crakehall.org.uk in order to make it comply with the accessibility standards now expected of public authorities, (the wcag 2.0, level aa standard). Councillors deferred a decision until the next meeting.

19.0 Christmas Gifts

Members agreed to continue previous practice whereby significant levels of voluntary effort by parishioners during the course of the year are recognised each Christmas by the purchase of small gifts. It was agreed that the practice should continue with gifts to be purchased by the clerk to a maximum value £5.00 for five individuals.

Chris McGee
November 2020

Clerk to the Council



Hambleton Command : Town and Parish Council Report

Town or Parish	Crakehall, Hackforth, Snape and Watlass
Report Completed By :	6782 Lees
Data Reporting Period :	October 2020

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-social behaviour	0	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 0</i>
Criminal Damage	0	
Theft (including from shops)	0	
Violence Against the Person	0	
Other crimes including Drugs	0	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	0	

Home security – lock up, light up

As the nights draw darker this is polite reminder of home security and how to keep your property safe and secure.

You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a burglary by:

- Leave radios or lights in your house on a timer to make the property appear occupied
- Using outside lighting and security lighting
- Keeping valuables out of view and securing these
- Always locking doors and windows
- Keep ladders and tools locked away, don't leave them lying around the property as these can be used to break in.
- Fit good quality CCTV cameras
- Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property.

We would encourage you to look through these a North Yorkshire Community Messaging by visiting www.nycm.co.uk – it's free to sign up. If you have access to social media we would also encourage you to follow us on Twitter @bedaleNPT and 'Bedale Police' Facebook page.

If you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact Bedale Neighbourhood Team via the following email SNAThirkEasingwoldBedale@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk, or by calling 101. You are also welcome to pop by the local police station.

Did you know? We also offer a property marking service for many items to be marked and recorded. Please email the above email or hambletonpropertymarking@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk for further information.

FREE virtual fraud event

(Advertised on NYP social media)

Do you want to learn how to keep safe from fraudsters when shopping online? You're invited to our FREE virtual event in partnership with North Yorkshire Trading Standards

Join us online on Wednesday 25th November 6:30-8:30pm to learn how to spot the signs of an online scam or fake goods and have the opportunity to ask any questions to fraud specialists from North Yorkshire Police and Trading Standards sign up at:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/black-friday-cyber-monday-how-to-avoid-online-shopping-fraud-tickets-127694759463

Each year we all spend millions of pounds in the run up to Christmas, with Black Friday and Cyber Monday now established shopping events which retailers advertises heavily. Fraudsters and counterfeiters are also ready to relieve local residents of their hard earned money on fake goods or online scams and were here to help ensure you don't get caught out!

*We urge residents to be on lookout and report suspicious activity or vehicles at the time any suspect activity occurs using the national 101 non-emergency number.
Always dial 999 in an emergency or if a crime is in progress.*