

Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council

Decisions taken in relation to the items on the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 18 March 2020 and Emergency Arrangements for Business Continuity.

In light of advice about covid-19 and after consultation with the Chairman, the meeting scheduled for 18 March 2020 was cancelled. In the extreme circumstances we are all currently living through arrangements were agreed by all councillors in order to take urgent decisions and maintain continuity of business for the council on behalf of all parishioners. All councillors agreed that the arrangements made are within the spirit of the law and, most importantly, avoid the need for face to face meetings which would put at risk the health of councillors, the clerk and anyone else attending meetings. Emergency legislation is anticipated which may formalise these arrangements or offer some similarly safe alternatives for decision making. Until then, the following arrangements will apply:

- In relation to agenda items for the meeting on 18 March 2020, the clerk produced a schedule of decisions required and made recommendations in relation to each one.
- The schedule was circulated to all councillors for comments.
- The schedule was amended in light of comments received and became the official record of decisions made. These decisions will be confirmed at the next properly constituted meeting of the council (or whatever alternative mechanism is provided by the emergency legislation).
- Such arrangements for decision-making will continue until government advice is that it is safe for a council meeting to be convened.

On this basis, the following decisions have been taken in relation to items due to be considered on 18 March 2020:

Grass Cutting – The proposal by Farm and Land Services for maintaining the cemetery at a rate of £98 / visit was accepted together with the proposal for a pre-season “tidy up”. Decisions on hedge-cutting and sale of equipment were deferred to a later date. Mike Lumley was thanked for his offer to be employed as Cemetery Groundsperson at the rate he proposed but, on balance, councillors felt there was greater assurance in employing the services of a contractor of proven quality who could call on different staff as required. It was also agreed that FLS should be advised that reinforced mesh has now been installed on part of The Green (for use by the Police’s Speed Surveillance Van) and, as such, that area should be strimmed and not mown.

Play Park – The council noted the suggestion that, given the proximity of the beck, a life-saving buoy should be available for the play park on The Batts. However, for a number of reasons, councillors were not convinced that this was an appropriate piece of equipment for that location and so will seek further advice on the matter. Cllr Neale will pursue, as a matter of urgency, a quote from Dave Woodward for repairs to the fence. This was felt to be a much more urgent safety issue.

Speeding through Crakehall – Councillors accepted Cllr Shaw’s proposal that the post to be paid for using money donated by Graham Sizer should be located at the entrance to the village on Hackforth Road (behind the village sign). The site will need to be approved by NYCC. Cllr Shaw will write another report on progress / activity on traffic monitoring which will be circulated to all councillors.

Parking on The Green – It was agreed to accept Myra Shield’s offer of having remedial and improvement work done alongside the church wall by volunteers and donations of materials but, on the condition, that it would be done to the specifications outlined by Cllr Neale.

Proposals for Solar Panels – Phil Kelley was thanked for consulting the council on his proposal to install Solar Panels but councillors took the view that it was not really a matter for the council to comment on at this stage. In the unlikely event that planning approval was necessary, the council would be consulted as a matter of routine by Hambleton District Council.

Planning Applications –

Ref: 20/00293/FUL, relating to the construction of a first-floor side extension at 1 Coronation Road, Little Crakehall. No objections.

Ref: 20/00330/FUL, relating to land to the north of Crakehall Water Mill, Hackforth Road, Little Crakehall, the application proposes the construction 21 residential dwellings. Concerns were expressed about the proposals for 21 dwellings rather than the 18 proposed in the District Council's Development Plan. Indeed, Councillors noted that in 2010 a proposal for 33 dwellings on the entire site was refused and instead 16 dwellings were constructed on half the site. The proposal to construct an additional 21 dwellings on an area smaller than that occupied by the 16 would bring the total number to 37! The council believes that even 18 dwellings would still create quite an overcrowded site – in stark contrast to the phase 1 developments – and proposes that the number should be reduced. Concerns about additional pressure on infrastructure were also raised in relation to surface water drainage, sewerage, facilities for health and social care and education and road safety. In relation to vehicle movements, the proposals (at para 7.35) anticipate 12 two-way trips at both morning and afternoon peak hours. On this basis, the trip generation of the proposed scheme is considered to be negligible and would have no noticeable impact on the local highway network. This would seem to be a very serious underestimate of traffic for a 21 dwelling development. The council objects to the proposals in their current form.

Ref: 20/00442/FUL, relating to the construction of a single storey extension at 15 Ashdowne Court, Little Crakehall. No objections.

VE Day Celebrations – In light of the current covid-19 situation, no further action will be taken at this stage.

Developer Contributions for Education – The approach proposed by NYCC was supported.

Marquee Booking – Councillors agreed that Bryan Broadbent should be reminded of the need to seek in advance the PC's permission to host events on The Village Green. However, no objections were raised to the event proposed for July.

Bankside opposite The Batts – Councillors noted the concerns about the state of the bankside - the area below the two bungalows – where it appeared that grass cuttings and other garden waste had been dumped over many years. Cllr Beal was confident that the land in question is the responsibility of NYCC but the clerk will approach the owner of The Birches first so that further information might be received.

Chris McGee

Clerk to The Council March 2020