

## **Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 May 2022**

**Present:** Councillors Mr D Shaw, Mr A Beal, Mr J Wilson and Mrs S Stirke.

**Clerk:** Mr C McGee.

**Also Present:** District Cllr Mr J Noone and three parishioners.

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Mrs J Randall

#### **1.0 Chairman's report**

Councillor Shaw, the retiring Chairman, presented his report on 2021/22 which had been circulated previously (see Appendix A).

#### **2.0 Councillors' Declarations of Acceptance of Office**

All councillors present signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office before the clerk (as the Proper Officer of the Council). Cllr Randall had been contacted separately.

#### **3.0 Councillors' Registrations of Interests**

All councillors present completed their Registrations of Interest documents and gave them to the clerk so that they could be sent to Hambleton District Council. Cllr Randall had been contacted separately.

#### **4.0 Election of Chair and Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Councillor Shaw, the retiring Chairman, invited nominations for the position of Chair for the coming year. Cllr Shaw was proposed and seconded and all were in favour. Cllr Shaw accepted the position for the coming year but noted some advantage, in due course, of the chair to be rotated amongst councillors. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the clerk (as the Proper Officer of the Council).

#### **5.0 Election of Vice-Chair and Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Councillor Shaw, invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for the coming year. Cllr Stirke was proposed and seconded and all were in favour. Cllr Stirke accepted the position and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the clerk (as the Proper Officer of the Council).

#### **6.0 Selection of Representatives For:**

- Yorkshire Local Councils Association – Councillor Beal agreed to continue to represent the Council.
- Crakehall Village Hall Management Committee – Subject to his co-option back onto the council, Jonny Neale agreed to continue to act as the Council's representative.
- Rector and Four and Twenty of Bedale – Councillors Shaw agreed to continue to represent the Council as did Jonny Neale, subject to his co-option back onto the council.

#### **7.0 Cemetery Report**

Cllr Shaw reported that there had been 4 interments over the last year and income of £1180 had been received. He added that he was gradually transferring paper records on-line and, hoped in the not-too-distant future, to begin using the Scribe Cemetery Package.

#### **8.0 To consider appointing lead members for various responsibilities across the parish**

Lead members were appointed for the following responsibilities:

Road Safety – Cllr Shaw

Grass Cutting and Trees – Cllr Mallinson, subject to her agreement)

Village Maintenance – Cllr Mallinson (Crakehall) subject to her agreement / Cllr Stirke (Langthorne)

Cemetery – Cllr Wilson

Playgrounds – Cllr Beal

Footpaths – Cllr Stirke

Social Media – Cllr Mallinson , subject to her agreement

**9.0 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 May 2021**

The minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 5 May 2021 were approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

**10.0 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

Signed: C J McGee

Date: May 2022

**Minutes drafted by the Clerk and subject to the approval of the council**

**at its next annual meeting.**

Chris McGee, Clerk to the Council, Mangold Garth, Langthorne, Bedale, North Yorkshire, DL81PQ

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## APPENDIX A

### **CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – MAY 2022**

Following is a brief summary of some of the things that the Parish Council has dealt with over the last year, to try and improve the lives of the communities it serves:

Continuation of the Covid restrictions meant that the May meeting was held remotely via Zoom with face to face meetings recommencing at the village hall in July 2021.

The saga of the repairs to the damage to the railings outside St. Edmunds, the fence by the beck in Little Crakehall and the wooden fence at the end of Mastil Lane continued throughout 2021. As all these fences are the responsibility of North Yorkshire County Council the Parish Council was reliant on NYCC to get them repaired. The Parish Clerk continued to contact NYCC on a monthly basis and even contacted the Chief Executive of NYCC requesting action. In October 2021 the threat of reporting to the press the PC's concerns about the lack of progress finally spurred NYCC into action and the wooden fence at the end of Mastil Lane was replaced with a new one and in December 2021 the fence by the beck in Little Crakehall was repaired. Finally in March 2022 the railings outside St Edmunds were repaired – a mere 33 months after they were damaged! It has been a frustrating process for the PC and it is thanks to the persistence of the Parish Clerk in harassing NYCC that this issue was finally resolved.

The Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) was continuously deployed throughout the year at the 3 sites in the village (Little Crakehall, Crakehall Green and Hackforth Road). Data collected by the VAS shows that although speeding continues to be an issue the percentage of vehicles that speed through Crakehall is on average less than 5% at Crakehall Green and 6% at Little Crakehall, with weekends seeing the highest percentage of speeding vehicles. In December 2021 the VAS sign was deployed in Little Crakehall but this time facing back towards the village, in order to collect data on vehicles travelling up the hill from the bridge to exit the village. The data collected shows that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed of vehicles exiting the village (32.7mph) is almost identical to vehicles entering the village (32.6mph), demonstrating that vehicles are accelerating up the hill from the bridge and often exceeding the speed limit before exiting the village. This data is confirmed by the NY Police radar officers who when located at Mastil Lane confirm that they catch as many speeding motorists who are exiting the village as those who are entering. The data collected from the VAS sign is reported regularly at the PC bi-monthly meetings.

Data from the VAS is also passed on to NY Police who continue to take speeding concerns through Crakehall seriously. NY Police continued surveillance at two sites in the village by radar van and motorcycle patrols. During 2021 they made 17 visits to Crakehall recording 311 speeding offences, an average of 18.3 per visit. This was a reduction from the 767 speeding offences recorded in 37 visits made in 2020, which was an average of 20.7 per visit. Hopefully this trend will continue and we will continue to liaise with NY Police to encourage further speeding enforcement in the village.

We are aware of road safety concerns of parents in the village, particularly in Little Crakehall, whose children have to cross the A684 on their way to school. In February 2022 the PC

requested NY Highways to install 40 mph buffer zones at each end of the village in order to attempt to slow vehicles down before they entered the 30mph zone. Unfortunately, NY Highways responded '*As both approaches into the village of Crakehall benefit from good visibility towards the built-up area, drivers are afforded sufficient time to reduce their speed to adhere to the current limit. It would therefore not be appropriate to implement such a transition speed limit at this location*'. The PC is not satisfied with this response and has gone back to Highways repeating the request for a 40mph buffer zone. We currently await Highways response.

Minor repairs were completed to the Old Chapel in the cemetery to make the building completely weatherproof. A decision remains to be made regarding the future purpose of the building and suggestions from parishioners is most welcome.

Complaints were received regarding the performance of Farm and Land Services who are contracted to provide grass cutting services in the village. The contractor was contacted and improvements were made. In April 2022 after much discussion and assurances by the contractor regarding future performance, the contract with Farm and Land Services was renewed.

Parking around the Green, particularly around the school, remains an issue. After requests from residents to designate the track alongside The Old Post Office as 'Residents Only' parking it transpires that the track belongs to NYCC and not the Parish Council and NYCC declined to implement such a scheme. After discussions with the School Headmaster additional protective matting was installed along the kerb on the Church side of Langthorne Road, to allow off road parking and prevent erosion to the Green

Remedial work was carried out to trees on and around the Green and The Batts after consultation with Burneston Tree Servies and Rennison Tree Services.

Turning to the Parish Council's financial position, expenditures this year have again been quite low. The council has therefore succeeded in maintaining a contingency of £10,000 in its general reserves which is in line with national guidelines. This means that routine expenditure and maintenance can be covered by the precept as usual with the contingency reserved for non-routine and special / emergency projects.

I would just like to acknowledge the (generally unsung) work of members of our community who help keep the village as one of the best kept villages in the Lower Dales:

Fellow Councillors and in particular our clerk, Chris McGee, without whose sterling efforts the Parish Council would not function. Whilst we acknowledge that we cannot please all of the people all of the time, we endeavour to do our best and act in what we believe is the best interests of our villages.

Rob Exelby for the donation of the village Green Christmas tree.

Scott Norman for Covid shopping for parishioners and path clearing in the village.

Paul Kind who continues to maintain the wild flower area on The Batts (which looked superb in 2021) and many other odd jobs.

Paul McGee, Mike Cooper and Alan Godlee did the work to tidy up The Pinfold

Malcolm and Kay Dennis who, amongst other things, look after the planters attached to various railings and lamp posts throughout the village.

Myra Shields who retired from the administration associated with our cemetery in July 2021 after many years in this role and who does much more besides including COVID-19 support.

Apologies in advance for anyone that I have forgotten to mention.

On March 18th 2022, nominations for Parish Councillors were requested for the election of Parish Councillors due to take place on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2022. Nominations closed on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and only 5 nominations (by current councillors) were submitted for the 6 available seats. The election was therefore declared uncontested and five current councillors elected unopposed. The Parish Council intends to co-opt a sixth councillor at the PC meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

In July 2021 I finally got to conduct a Parish Council meeting in person having chaired all the meetings since May 2020 via Zoom, some 15 months after becoming Chairman. Ironically, more parishioners attended Parish Council meetings via Zoom than in person when in person meetings recommenced. This is perhaps understandable given the ongoing Covid situation in 2021 and particularly with the onset of the Omicron variant in November / December 2021 which continued into 2022 and still continues. The PC greatly values the input of parishioners to bring issues to our attention.

The PC does its best to inform parishioners of the activities and decisions of the PC by posting information on the village notice boards, via the All Crakehall Great and Small Facebook page, the [www.crakehall.org](http://www.crakehall.org) website and a bi monthly newsletter. We hope to resume door to door distribution of the newsletter in the near future (this not having been possible during Covid restrictions). If parishioners can think of any other means we can inform them of the Parish Council activities please let us know.

**David Shaw (Chairman, Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council)**