

## CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 July 2020 (by video conference)

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Mr D Shaw (in the chair), Mr A Beal, Mr J Wilson, Mrs S Stirke and Mr Neale. (Cllr Wilson lost internet connection and left the meeting at around 8.39 pm just after the end of item 9.0).

**Also Present:** District Councillor Mr M Barningham, Mrs Myra Shield, Mr and Mrs Ken Smith and Mr J Cushnie.

**Clerk:** Mr C McGee.

**Apologies for Absence:** District Councillors C Les and J Noone and PCSO Heather Lees. Cllr Neale apologized for his absence at the last meeting and the clerk noted that Cllr Holt had resigned because he had moved away from Crakehall. Arrangements had been put in motion to secure his replacement. If no election had been requested by 30 July 2020 the clerk will seek interest from parishioners in being co-opted onto the council.

### Pre-meeting Items

Myra Shield reminded councillors that some branches from trees on The Green were overhanging the church graveyard and needed removing. Cllr Neale apologised that this had not been done and undertook to do the work as soon as possible.

### 1.0 Police Report

The Police Report had been circulated to all members but PCSO Lees had telephoned earlier to apologize that she could not access Zoom. In her absence, the clerk highlighted the key crime and ASB statistics that had been provided. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A.

### 2.0 Development of Burtree Lakes

The meeting was attended for this item by Martin Bonner and Eilidh Paul (from Savills) and Philip Barker (from Glen Kemp) representing Andrew Maguire (Meridian Parks) owner of the Burtree Lakes Holiday Park (who also attended). Savills had been instructed to begin preparing a planning application for the modernisation and expansion of the existing Burtree Lakes Park and Martin and Philip outlined the main features of the proposals including:

- The demolition of existing structures including the existing dwelling and removal of all touring caravan storage (the equivalent of 60 tourers);
- The replacement of 30 touring caravan pitches on the central field with approximately 35 static caravan pitches;
- The retention of existing touring pitch provision on the northern field, albeit with a slight reduction from 26 to 25 touring pitches;
- The construction of a replacement dwelling for use by the park owner or future staff associated with the day to day running of the park;
- Installation of park facilities comprising reception, laundry and bin store;
- Play space;
- Associated visitor parking; and
- Associated landscaping and infrastructure works, with development phasing and planting to provide screening along the western boundary.

The clerk had previously advised that the council's involvement at this stage would be without prejudice to any decisions taken when it was formally consulted by the District Council in due course so, with the exception of a question from Cllr Beal about the number of new jobs that might be created, no further responses were made. Martin and Philip were thanked for their presentation and then they, Eilidh, Andrew and Myra Shield left the meeting.

### **3.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 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.

### **4.0 Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 20 May 2020**

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed by those members present as being accurate but will not be formally approved until the next Annual Meeting in May 2021.

### **5.0 Matters Arising from the minutes.**

There were no matters arising.

### **6.0 Clerk's Report**

The clerk highlighted some of the matters he had referred to in his written report:

a) Bank Side overlooking The Batts Play Park – At the last meeting the clerk had advised that the owners of the three houses at bank side overlooking The Batts Play Park had used the area that had been complained about for many years for composting green waste. The ownership of the land was unknown at that time but, on investigation, Land Registry records showed that the land actually belonged to the Parish Council. On that basis, the owners had been contacted and has agreed to stop using the area for green waste and to tidy up the area.

b) Public Rights of Way – Further to the discussion at the Annual Council Meeting and a review by Cllr Stirke, NYCC had been contacted about a number of concerns. The outcome was that the PROW Officer had agreed to:

- i) schedule a deteriorating signpost on the Hackforth Road for replacement on the next contract which is due to be undertaken over winter 20/21.
- ii) write to the farmers responsible for two paths that are over grown by crops and they will then have 14 days to cut paths through the crops.
- iii) keep the concerns about an overgrown field edge path on record.

In relation to ii) above the crops had not been cut so the PROW will be advised.

c) Correspondence – the clerk reported correspondence about:

- i) Parking near the Malt Shovel
- ii) Replacing a hedge with a fence
- iii) Face to Face Council Meetings
- iv) Verge Cutting Between Langthorne and Crakehall
- v) A Request to erect a temporary structure on The Green

## **7.0 Financial Reports**

Members had received a summary of all Income and Expenditure from 1 May 2020 to 30 June 2020 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2020/21. At 30 June 2020, the council had £6263.52 in its current account and £7076.74 in its savings account, a total of £13340.26. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £6000 and further expenditure of around £9000 before the end of March 2021.

## **8.0 Road Safety and AJ1 Bid**

The Chairman reported on the latest deployments of the Vehicle Activated Sign including the first set of data from vehicles coming in to Crakehall on the Hackforth Road (which showed 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of under 30 mph). Cllr Neale suggested that the sign on the Hackforth Road might also be used to track vehicles leaving the village. This was agreed. The Chairman also reported on Police Radar Van recent deployments although the data from those deployments in June was not yet available. And finally, the Chairman commented that there had been a call on the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook page for Fixed Speed Cameras to be set up in the village. Research has shown that there are no Fixed Speed cameras in use anywhere in North Yorkshire, because it is not the policy of North Yorkshire Traffic police to use them, as they rely on their fleet of mobile radar vehicles (van/motorbike) to police traffic speeding. In addition, all the data recorded by the VAS in Crakehall relating to the A684 (even for vehicles in Little Crakehall coming from the Leyburn direction), shows that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds of vehicles travelling through Crakehall is below 35 mph. For the police to take further action the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed would have to be consistently above 35 mph. Therefore, Fixed Speed Cameras in Crakehall are currently not an option.

As far as a possible application to the AJ1 Project Road Safety Fund established by Julia Mulligan, the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, was concerned it was agreed that:

- i) An application for £500 should be made to procure an additional post from NYCC to provide a fourth location for the VAS (on the A684 leading down to the bridge in Little Crakehall).
- ii) A further application be made if the Area Highways Office (which has been approached) suggests that any engineering and / or additional signage on the A684 would be acceptable. The Chairman suggested that the office should be asked specifically about the possibility of “rumble strips” and larger 30 mph signs. The clerk will do this.

The closing date for applications is 31 August 2020.

## **9.0 Parking on The Green near the Church**

Mrs Smith was given the opportunity to speak and she re-iterated many of the comments that had been made in previous letters to the council on the matter including not understanding why the stones had to be removed (as they were authorised by the council in the first place) and real concerns about damage to The Green by vehicles if no boundary markers were in place. Cllr Beal spoke in favour of retaining stones in this and other areas of The Green but councillors voted 3 to 1 in favour of replacing all stones around The Green with white posts as and when funds permitted. Cllr Beal asked that no work to stones or posts be undertaken until a proper schedule of work is approved by the council. This was agreed and the clerk was asked to obtain estimates for the work and prepare a schedule for the next meeting. Cllr Neale confirmed that the council has previously agreed that parking on The Green in the area opposite the church is not permitted.

The Chairman and Cllr Beal agreed to lay the surplus grass reinforcement mesh in the car parking area beyond the church asap.

Mrs Smith asked that when the work to tarmac alongside the church wall was to be undertaken that residents in the area be given some advanced warning. The clerk will ask the church to do this.

#### **10.0 Play Equipment – review of closure**

Cllr Beal commented that there appeared to be no change to the risk assessment which had previously suggested that the equipment should remain closed. The clerk agreed but noted that the context had changed in that many councils across the country, including Bedale Town Council, had re-opened their equipment without putting any of their own cleaning regimes in place. Furthermore, the council's insurers had raised no significant objections to re-opening as the risk of proving that an infection had been caught as a result of using play equipment was negligible. Councillors voted unanimously to re-open the play equipment in Crakehall as soon as appropriate signage could be put in position. It was agreed that it should be made clear that use of the equipment would be entirely at the risk of the user and their parents / guardians.

#### **11.0 Safer Roads Fund**

The Safer Roads Fund was established by the Department for Transport to provide road safety improvements on the 50 highest risk local A Roads in England. North Yorkshire County Council made a successful bid, and has been given funding for various locations across the county. NYCC was now asking if the Parish Council supports the proposed layby changes on the A684 between Bedale and Crakehall. In summary, the proposal is to close the Sinks Lane junction laybys and formalise and improve the layby just outside Crakehall. The council is very much opposed to the closure of the laybys near Sinks Lane on the grounds that they are heavily used and the layby just outside Crakehall would not have the capacity to meet the likely demand. The clerk was asked to respond before the closing date of 24 July 2020.

#### **12.0 Planning Application**

The Planning Application due to be discussed had been withdrawn. On a related matter, Cllr Stirke raised a parishioner's concern that some work being undertaken at Kirkbridge might be in breach of a recently rejected application. District Councillor Barningham explained that, whilst the application for residential use had been refused, the previous application for holiday use remained extant. This may be the reason for the confusion.

#### **13.0 New Model Code of Conduct – consultation**

The Local Government Association (LGA) had launched a consultation on a new model member code of conduct and the clerk recommended that all members should review the document and respond before the deadline of 17 August 2020.

#### **14.0 Rooks nuisance near the Church**

At the last meeting, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Bunting, the clerk had raised their concerns about continuing nuisance caused by rooks in the trees near the church. The measures taken on behalf of the council to disrupt nests seemed not to have worked and a cull was now requested. The council was opposed to a cull noting that the legality of it in these circumstances was, at best, uncertain and

even that would be most unlikely to eradicate the problem. It was suggested that Andrew Francis be asked for his thoughts on the matter. Andrew had identified three options:

- i. Leave the rooks to increase in numbers and ignore village requests to manage them
- ii. Remove the nests for a number of years in September in the hope that they will find safer lodgings elsewhere
- iii. Remove the nests next September and then install some form of bird scarer to disrupt their tranquil environment when it comes time to rebuild the nests in spring.

Mr Cushnie was invited to speak and he expressed his concerns about the nuisance and a worry that if the birds were moved out of the trees on The Green they might re-locate to trees even nearer his house. Members recalled that the council had paid £500 last October in an attempt to resolve the problem and agreed that it was difficult to justify further council expenditure with such an uncertain outcome. However, they were sympathetic to residents' concerns and would support any action within the law that they wished to take at their own expense. It was suggested that gathering evidence, including photographs, and then involving Environmental Health might be beneficial.

### **15.0 Possible Sale of machinery**

The clerk noted that, now that the Cemetery Grounds are being maintained by Farm and Land Services, the equipment currently stored in the Old Chapel could be sold. However, members felt that this was unwise at this time as the council may need, at some stage in the future, to undertake the work itself. If the equipment was sold it would then need to be replaced at significantly higher cost. It was agreed however that the equipment should be maintained so it does not deteriorate and that it should be stored in the container at the village hall.

The related matter of the Chapel itself was raised as it is in need of some maintenance – gutter cleaning and replacement of some broken / missing glass (to name but two items).

It was agreed to arrange for councillors to meet up at The Chapel in near future to review its condition and work needed and move the machinery to the Village Hall container. Cllr Beal said that he understood that any remaining files stored in The Chapel were duplicates with the originals held at the County Record Office.

### **16.0 Priorities for Maintenance and / or Repair**

A couple of items for maintenance and / or repair had been identified recently:

- i) The cutting of some bushes and tidying up the area on the A684 bankside nearest the bridge – an estimate of the cost of the work was awaited.
- ii) The fence on Mastil Lane Green – Cllr Beal questioned whether this was a Parish Council or County Council responsibility. The clerk will pursue.

Two further items were mentioned:

- iii) Repairs to the wall and railings outside St Edmund's – NYCC and the cottage owners had accepted liability but were having difficulties in sourcing replacement railings. The clerk will pursue.
- iv) Cllr Beal asked that Hambleton District and North Yorkshire County Councils be asked to wash street lights throughout the village. The clerk will pursue.

### **17.0 Temporary Road Closure Notices**

Cllr Stirke expressed concern about the temporary road closure notices and diversions that were put in place for the Langthorne to Kirkbridge road between 2 and 8 July 2020. The Parish Council was

notified about the closures on 3 July and advised that they related to repairs to a leaking water supply by Yorkshire Water. The work seems to have taken less than one working day and therefore the concern is that the notices were in place before the work commenced and after it was completed. This resulted in some confusion and unnecessary detours. Some signs have still not been removed. It was agreed that the Highways Authority should be advised of the concerns.

#### **18.0 Website accessibility - new requirements from September 2020**

New accessibility regulations came into force in 2019 and existing public sector web sites – including those managed by Parish Councils - have until 23 September 2020 to meet certain accessibility standards and publish a statement saying they have been met. The standard they need to comply with is WCAG 2.1 at level AA. There are some exemptions. e.g. if it would cause a ‘disproportionate burden’. What this appears to mean is that if you are a relatively small organisation with limited resources (e.g. a Parish Council!) with few or no disabled users it may be possible to claim that meeting the regulations would be a ‘disproportionate burden’. But a formal assessment must be undertaken to make this case and even this is complicated. It was agreed that the clerk should seek help (preferably unpaid at this stage) to assess the issues.

#### **19.0 To consider the exclusion of the public and press because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 23.0**

This was agreed.

#### **20.0 Matters of Urgency (as agreed by the Chairman for matters raised before the meeting)**

There were no matters of urgency.

#### **21.0 Any Other Business (for information only)**

District Cllr Barningham advised that the County Council and the Districts in North Yorkshire have been asked to prepare plans for new unitary authorities to be in place by May 2022. He also spoke about changes to the electoral roll and urged all voters to check they were registered.

*After the meeting the Chairman asked the clerk to record thanks to Barrie Morris (for renovating benches on The Green), Tracey Gill and family (for the painted stones around the village) and Helen Exelby (for making re-usable fabric face masks available to villagers for free for collection at the bus shelter adjacent to The Green).*

#### **22.0 Date of Next Meeting**

**Wednesday 16 September 2020 at 7.30 pm**

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

#### **23.0 To consider the payment of honoraria for parishioners undertaking Cemetery Administration and Grass Cutting in Langthorne.**

Honoraria were agreed for parishioners undertaking Cemetery Administration and Grass Cutting in Langthorne.

Chris McGee  
July 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 :	June 2020

### **Crime and ASB Data**

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-social behaviour	2	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 0</i>
Criminal Damage	0	
Theft (including from shops)	0	
Violence Against the Person	3	
Other crimes including Drugs	1	
<b><i>TOTAL THIS PERIOD</i></b>	<b><i>6</i></b>	

### **Warning as North Yorkshire residents falling victim to 'Courier Fraud' scam**

From NYP news stories

North Yorkshire Police is warning local communities to be extra vigilant after a number of reports over the last week where a victim has received a phone call from an individual posing as a Metropolitan Police officer.



The victim is informed that someone has attempted to use their card to purchase a laptop or similar and as a result their bank account is under threat. The victim is then instructed to

attend their bank and withdraw all their money in order for a police officer to attend their home address (the courier) who will take their money for 'safekeeping'.

These fraudsters will often suggest the victim calls 999 to check the call is genuine but will not clear the phone line and so the victim thinks they have dialled 999 and that they are talking to the police control room, when in fact they are still speaking to the fraudster.

The victim will be urged to attend the bank to withdraw their money and told it is likely the bank will challenge them upon doing so. As such, they will be given a 'script' to explain the money is for a new car or building work, with the fraudster claiming the bank is involved in the threat to the victim's money and that the 'police operation' to help them is undercover. The victim is made to think that their cooperation is needed for this police operation and that they must lie so that they don't compromise it.

The fraudster may call their victim prior to visiting the bank and tell them to keep the call open whilst in the bank as they withdraw their money which often amounts to tens of thousands of pounds. Once the victim returns home with the cash, the fraudster posing as a police officer will attend their home and collect the money, potentially using a password agreed between the victim and the fraudster.

Detective Inspector Jon Hodgeon Head of North Yorkshire Police's Economic Crime Unit explains:

"This is a sophisticated fraud perpetrated by experienced criminals who convince the victim their bank account is under threat and they need to act quickly to safeguard their money and to assist a police operation to catch criminals.

"Although it is a fairly common type of fraud, we've heard a number of reports over the last week here in North Yorkshire so I'd urge everyone to be vigilant and make sure you know what to do in case you receive one of these calls.

"A police officer will NEVER get in touch and advise you to withdraw, transfer or pay money and neither will a bank or building society. If you receive a call out of the blue by someone claiming to be from the police asking you to withdraw or transfer your money, this is a scam and you must terminate the call immediately.

"If the person you are talking to ever asks you to lie to the bank or the police, you can be pretty sure it is a scam and again, you should hang up immediately.

"If you suspect you've been scammed, report it to the police by calling 101 and we will be able to support you as well as protecting others from falling victim to the same fraudsters."

*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.*