

Crakehall with
Langthorne Parish
Council's
Bimonthly Newsletter
February 2022
Number 22

The **Parish Council** met on 19 January 2022 in Crakehall Village Hall and was attended by Councillors David Shaw, Jess Randall and John Wilson and District Councillor John Noone. The main points from the meeting were:

District Cllr Noone reported that the refurbishment of **Bedale Leisure Centre** is running a little behind schedule but it should now be re-opened in February. Also, Hambleton District have available a **Covid-related grant** specifically for the Hospitality and Leisure sector.

PCSO Smith Owen commented on the **very low level of reported incidents in the crime and ASB data** for December 2021 and a recent bogus police officer telephone scam. He also referred to another scam via WhatsApp whereby a "son or daughter" is

allegedly reporting a lost phone to their parents. After pleasantries a bank transfer of funds is requested.

Interest was growing in events to celebrate the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** so it was agreed that the clerk should contact all those who had made suggestions and / or offers to help. The clerk was asked to register participation in **beacon lighting** (for which a certificate will be received) and investigate, as necessary, any need for any approvals for the local events - eg insurances, local licensing.

Concerns about **debris in the beck** in Little Crakehall had been referred to the Environment Agency and the agents for the Clifton Castle Estate but the EA confirmed that their responsibilities did not extend to this area. Agents for Clifton Castle are being pursued. Cllr Shaw noted that some of the debris was now resting on the weir, an area which is a Parish Council responsibility. It was agreed that Cllr Neale should be asked to assess what action needs to be taken, if any.

A specialist mole-catcher had been engaged to take action to remove **moles from the cemetery** (and indeed from a small area of the village green). He had recently advised that he had caught five moles in the cemetery and one on The Green. He's also

agreed to deal with mole activity on The Batts.

Cllr Shaw reported the latest data from the **Vehicle Activated Sign** with 85th percentile speeds as:

- The Green – 31.0 mph
- Little Crakehall (from Leyburn) – 32.6 mph
- Little Crakehall (towards Leyburn) – 32.7 mph
- Hackforth Road – 29.3 mph

The results from Little Crakehall confirmed that there were issues with drivers leaving the village as well as those coming in from the Leyburn end. The police officer who conducts the radar patrols advises that more than 50% of speeding offences recorded in Little Crakehall are by vehicles in the 30mph zone heading out of the village towards Leyburn.

Councillors also noted that NYCC's policy in relation to 20 mph speed limits had been amended and that it now intends to adopt a "targeted" approach. Parishes that had been rejected for 20mph limits are encouraged to reapply. On that basis, councillors considered re-submitting the application in relation to the section of the A684 opposite the school. However, it was agreed that asking again for

40 mph buffer zones at either end of the village was probably more likely to be successful. This was agreed.

Play Park inspection reports were received from MacVenture on 9 December 2021. There were **no High or Very High Risks identified** but there were 3 Medium, 14 Low Risk and 7 Very Low Risk items. It was agreed that the Medium Risk Items (which didn't actually relate to Play Park equipment) could be dealt with by councillors but that an estimate of costs be sought in relation to the Low-Risk Items. Repair work to the fences, gates and the picnic table at the Village Hall had already been completed. No issues were reported for the equipment at the Village Green.

Councillors noted concerns about the **possible end of the DalesBus 856 bus service** beyond Easter 2022 when LNER funding ends and the approach for financial support. However, in the absence of clear evidence that the existence of this bus service brings considerable benefits to significant numbers of parishioners (and visitors), they did not consider it appropriate to make a donation to help subsidise it.

Cllr Shaw and the clerk reported **damage to grass on The Green** (believed to have been

caused by a tractor drive losing control of his vehicle on ice). One of the **concrete posts outside Crakehall House** had also been knocked over around the same time. The clerk had inspected the damage and pulled the post back into an upright position. A contractor had been asked to make a more permanent repair.

Cllr Shaw commented that he had attended two on-line training events and was now gathering together data ready to be inputted into the **Scribe Cemetery module**. The clerk had found a spreadsheet which, although now in need of updating, should make the process a little easier.

Cllr Shaw reported that, at last, the **wall outside St Edmund's** had been repaired by NYCC. Measurements had then been taken and the metalwork ordered.

Cllr Randall reported the **Cricket Club's on-going concerns about low hanging branches** near the pavilion. The clerk agreed to ask the Tree Surgeon to investigate when he returns to attend to a couple of other outstanding matters.

Cllr Randall commented that the recent **Advent Window displays** were of excellent quality and the council congratulated everyone who had taken part.

It was agreed to engage a solicitor to re-submit the application to the Land Registry to establish the **allotment on Mastil Lane** as a Parish Council asset rather than it being claimed by the current tenant as his by virtue of adverse possession. The demand from other residents for allotments was noted.

The Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 15 March 2022 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

For further details about any of the items in this newsletter and many others not included here please see the full minutes of the meeting at the Parish Council section of www.crakehall.org.uk

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