

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th May 2023 in Crakehall Village Hall

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

Also present: District Councillor John Weighell and six parishioners

Clerk: Mr R Bocking

1. Apologies for Absence:

Heather Lees (police liaison)

2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th March 2023

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed as accurate by those members present and signed by the chair.

3. Any Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Police Report

The police report was read by the chair and a copy of the report is attached as Appendix 1.

5. To consider the exclusion of the public and press because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under agenda item 10.

It was agreed that the public and press would be excluded while this item was discussed.

6. Parish Clerk's Report

- **Work to trees along the beck** – a meeting is scheduled between the landowner's representative and the tree surgeon for 22/5/23.
- **Old Chapel bell tower restoration/ Renovation of the Old Chapel** – awaiting advice regarding the stonework from Calverts, Cllr Stirke is to speak with the builder
- **Concrete posts around the Green** – a small stockpile of replacement posts will be purchased in the near future, to be stored at the side of the village hall (this has not happened yet due to illness)
- **Conservation volunteers** – the volunteer organisation declined to work on the A684 banking due to health and safety concerns over its steepness, for the Pinfold a quote of £1275 + VAT was received, this was felt to be far too expensive, the clerk to investigate a couple of alternatives suggested by a parishioner.
- **New layby A684 second post for a litter sign** – unfortunately the existing sign is too small to attach to the posts now in situ, councillors requested the clerk to price a new, larger sign (this has not happened yet due to illness)
- **Formal tree inspection** – the clerk will proceed with arranging the inspection.
- **Village hall play equipment inspection** – the clerk met with a representative of Streetscape, inspection revealed that Safamat surfacing is in place, only a minor repair beneath one of the swings is necessary. The multiplay unit is likely to need replacement in the next 18-24 months, the safety inspection (took place 17/5/23) will likely yield more detailed information on its current state.

- **Grass cutting** – the grass cutting season is now underway and is progressing well bar a couple of minor omissions on the first cut, the contractor is also making good on our request for advance warning of a cut so that vehicles can be moved.
- **Northern Powergrid low voltage cable installation** – the works are scheduled to begin on 24/7/23, the company have requested a second public meeting and this has been arranged for 27/6/23 at 7:15pm in the Village Hall. Councillors agreed it would be sensible to leaflet the affected properties in advance.
- **Cemetery landscaping** – a working party of three councillors met to discuss a way forward. Cllr Neale has offered to carry out some initial landscaping works. It was suggested that it would be useful to fence off the area.
- **Pinfold annual maintenance** – see the comments above under conservation volunteers.
- **Moles on the Green** – the earlier concerns have receded due to the onset of grass cutting, a watching brief will be maintained and further action will be taken if necessary. During the discussion Cllr Randall also made mention of a section of the Green outside West Terrace that has become very worn and denuded of grass. Councillors agreed to the purchase of grass seed to effect a repair.
- **Play area inspections** – these were carried out by Wicksteed Leisure on 17/5/23 and the report will be received imminently.
- **Giant hogweed** – there has been a reoccurrence of giant hogweed on the Lower Batts, a specialist removal contractor is to be engaged to deal with it.
- **Grass cutting request from a parishioner** – a parishioner has approached the Parish Council to request cutting of the grass verge outside two properties as the owners can no longer manage this themselves. As a first step the clerk was asked to establish who has responsibility for this particular strip of verge as the Parish Council, while sympathetic, does not wish to establish a precedent whereby all similar properties could request the same as the cost would be prohibitive.
- **Coronation bunting** – Cllr Shaw reported briefly on the purchase of coronation bunting for the previous weekend's celebrations. The bunting will be stored in the Village Hall for use at any future village celebrations.

7. Financial matters/audit

The clerk reported on the recent internal audit. The relevant financial accounts and bank reconciliation statements will be made available on the website in the near future.

The Annual Return documents were presented to the Chair for approval and were signed in the presence of the clerk (as the responsible financial officer of the council).

The clerk also presented the receipts and payments and budget monitoring statements for April 2023.

The Parish Council has received its insurance renewal of £779.70 which will be paid shortly.

The clerk the presented a number of recommendations made following the meeting with the internal auditor;

- A review of the financial regulations and standing orders currently in use by the Parish Council – the clerk will prepare the documents and circulate
- Increase the threshold above which quotations are sought – councillors agreed to raise the threshold from £500 to £1000

- Consider the acquisition of a bank debit card – the initial cost is £50 arrangement fee then £3 monthly, councillors agreed to the acquisition
- Consider the outsourcing of the payroll in light of the continuing problems experienced by the clerk with the current software package – councillors agreed to the proposal in principle and directed the clerk to obtain quotations.
- Consider arrangements for the backup of the parish council’s computer records – the clerk was directed to investigate the use of a cloud based back up system.

8. Allotment on Mastil Lane

Councillors were updated by the chair with the latest situation in regard of the council’s claim to ownership of the land.

9. Proposed development on Station Road

The Parish Council submitted its response to the proposed Station Road housing development on 16th March, 2023. Subsequently, the developer submitted a further document on 2nd May, 2023 which was a consultants report by Andrew Moseley Associates (AMA) which was in response to NYCC Highways comments of 14th March where NYCC Highways recommended refusal of the planning application citing that *‘the roads leading to the site are by reason of their insufficient width are considered unsuitable for the traffic which would likely be generated by this proposal.’*

AMA conducted a traffic survey on Station Road from 21st – 28th March and use the data obtained to try and demonstrate that Station Road is not subject to a high level of traffic with *‘the average 24-hour vehicle flow during the five-day week was 116 movements which equates to approximately one vehicle movement every 12-13 minutes on average’*. The Parish Council does not believe that a single 1 week traffic survey is remotely adequate to demonstrate the level of traffic flow along Station Road, particularly as it is already known that the level of usage by agricultural vehicles on Station Road varies according to the season (muck spreading, ploughing, harvesting, etc.). The placing of the Automatic Traffic Counts (ATC) recording instrument at the A684 end of Station Road, outside of Manor Farm, did not register the 20 plus vehicles which use Station Road from the junction with the A684 to West End twice every school day at drop-off and pick-up times. The AMA report also states that *‘A review of the Crash Map database suggests that no personal injury collisions have been recorded in the latest five-year period. Within the full 23-year period for which data is available, just a single collision was recorded’*. This statement does not take into account the number of numerous near misses reported by parishioners which include damage to vehicles, incidental knocks and scrapes and incidents of road rage. Just because these incidents are not reported does not mean that they do not occur.

AMA propose that a traffic calming measure, namely a priority working arrangement whereby vehicles travelling eastbound (towards the A684) will be required to give-way to vehicles travelling westbound (away from the A684 towards Ruddings Lane) if they approach this stretch of road at the same time. The traffic calming measure would require the carriageway to be narrowed to 3.5m to enforce the priority working and provide a footpath along the northern edge of the carriageway. The AMA report states *‘This will provide a benefit to both existing users (particularly the residents of Manor Farm) and to residents of the proposed development’*. AMA also state that *‘If concerns remain, consideration could be given to the implementation of double yellow lines on the corners of the junction and along one side of the carriageway to prevent vehicles parking close to the junction or in a staggered nature’*. The Parish Council considers that these statements demonstrate that AMA and the developers have no understanding of the current situation regarding parking along

Station Road during school drop-off and pick-up times and that the suggestion to install double yellow lines would only exacerbate the current situation and not improve it. Furthermore, AMA and the developer have completely ignored the detrimental impact of the proposed traffic calming measures on the residents of West End and Hollis Cottages whose garages would open directly into the traffic calming and deprive them of parking outside their properties. Other properties on the south side of Station Road would be similarly affected.

The Parish Council does not believe the proposed measures would improve the traffic situation with the additional vehicle traffic generated by the proposed development and considers that the new proposal would actually make the current situation worse. The Parish Council is in full agreement with NYCC Highways recommendation for refusal of this planning application for the reasons stated by NYCC Highways and will prepare a response to be submitted to the North Yorkshire Council Planning Portal as soon as possible. Any parishioners wishing to object to this new proposal can do so via <https://planning.hambleton.gov.uk/online-applications/> quoting application 23/00318/OUT

10. Overhanging trees in Langthorne

Cllr Stirke reported on overhanging trees in Langthorne which are causing vehicles to mount the verge causing damage. The clerk will contact Highways with details and photos to be provided by Cllr Stirke.

11. Neighbourhood Watch Signs

The purchase of Neighbourhood Watch signs for use in Langthorne was approved.

12. Wild flower seeds for the Batts

The purchase of seeds was approved and councillors also expressed their thanks to Paul Kind for his continuing efforts in providing the village with a superb display of wild flowers.

13. Stones on verges in Little Crakehall

A complaint was received from parishioner regarding the placement of stones along verges in Little Crakehall. The Parish Council reiterated its previous response that it has no responsibility for the highways in the village. Furthermore, in this particular case the Highways Department had visited the site of the complaint and were of the opinion that the stones were not of a size that warranted their removal.

14. Review of key documents

The clerk reported that the Asset Register and Risk Assessment documents were in need of review and would be circulated to councillors once this had occurred.

15. Matters of urgency

No matters of urgency were submitted.

16. Any other business

A request was made by Cllr Stirke for the purchase of a small quantity of bedding plants for Langthorne, this was unanimously approved.

A parishioner reported numerous occurrences of dogs not being on leads on a public highway (Ruddings Lane) and bags of dog waste being left on verges in spite of the provision of dog waste

bins. The Parish Council would like to remind all dog owners that it is a legal requirement to have dogs on leads on the public highway.

17. Date of the next meeting

Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7.30pm in Crakehall Village Hall

Richard Bocking

Clerk to the Council

May 2023

These minutes remain as a draft until they are formally approved by the council at its next meeting in July 2023.

Appendix 1

**Police and Crime
Commissioner
North Yorkshire**



North Yorkshire Police Report

Crakehall Parish Council (inc. Crakehall, Hackforth,

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Statistics taken from | 01/04/2023-30/04/2023 |
| Crime Type | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour | 0 Reports |
| Total | 0 Reports |
| | |
| Arson | 0 Reports |
| Burglary Dwelling | 1 Report |
| Burglary Commercial/Other | 0 Reports |
| Criminal Damage | 1 Report |
| Theft (inc Theft from Shop) | 2 Reports |
| Violence against the person | 1 Report |
| Other crimes | 2 Report |
| Drugs | 0 Reports |
| Hate Crime | 0 Reports |
| Robbery | 0 Reports |
| Fraud | 1 Report |
| Total | 8 Reports |

Local News:

North Yorkshire Community Messaging

North Yorkshire Community Messaging is a free email messaging service from North Yorkshire Police and the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, providing news and updates on policing matters that are relevant to you and your local community.

Sign up and receive email alerts about policing activity and initiatives in your local area as well as crime prevention advice and information. You will also have the opportunity to reply directly to your neighbourhood team and provide feedback via surveys.

You can sign up at:

www.northyorkshirecommunitymessaging.co.uk

Contact Us

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|



To contact Local officers please call 101 and select Option Two and state either officer's full name or collar number. Please do not report incidents via this method – please dial 101 and select Option One to speak to an operator.