

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 May 2021 (by Zoom video conference)

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

Also present: Myra Shield, County Cllr Mr J Weighell, District Cllr Mr M Barningham and three members of the public.

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

Apologies for Absence: District Cllrs Mr C Les and Mr J Noone.

Pre-meeting Items

None were raised at this stage.

1.0 Police Report

The Police Report – copy attached as Appendix 1 - had been circulated to all members. PC Sarah Norman joined the meeting and highlighted the Crime and ASB data for the area (which remained low). She also spoke about protection against fraud and sitings of a young man in a number of areas who could be seen trying vehicle doors (presumably to see if they were unlocked). No thefts had actually taken place but police were pursuing matters. Cllr Stirke offered CCTV footage in the event of any reports in Langthorne.

2.0 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 March 2021

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed by those members present as being accurate and signed by the clerk on behalf of the chairman.

3.0 Any Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4.0 To consider the exclusion of the public and press because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under items 14.0 and 15.0

It was agreed that, because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under items 14.0 and 15.0, the public and press would be excluded whilst the items were discussed. The clerk asked if a discussion could also take place on a similar basis about the allotment on Mastil Lane (as referred to in his report). This was also agreed.

5.0 Parish Clerk's Report

The clerk referred to a number of items in his written report:

- The council noted with a mixture of annoyance and despair the lack of progress in repairing fences in Crakehall and asked the clerk to keep the pressure on NYCC in an attempt to get matters resolved. Cllr Stirke left the meeting briefly to ask her husband to contact Norman Iveson to see if NYCC had yet made contact with him with regard to the railings outside St Edmund's. A short time later she confirmed that they had not.
- The work to the trees on The Green should be completed within a couple of weeks. Councillors also agreed that the contractor should be asked to have a look at the

overhanging branch on a tree at the junction of Station Road and the A684 (although it was accepted that work to this tree and another one on The Batts may require an application to Hambleton District Council for approval).

- Councillors thanked Alan Godlee for his work in producing a new noticeboard for The Green and indeed for securing the supporting posts.
- No response had yet been received from NYCC about the concerns that heavy vehicles were causing significant damage to the road through The Green to Langthorne.
- It was agreed that only one location should be suggested for Hambleton District Council's "Please Take Your Litter Home" signs and this should be at the new layby just outside Crakehall (instead of a litter bin).

6.0 Financial matters / audit

Several reports were considered:

- Final accounts for 2020/21 – income and expenditure and the Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 31 March 2021 were noted and agreed. The documents showed that the closing balance at the end of £2020/21 was £12,562. However, this included a number of committed / reserved sums totalling £1,384.00. The adjusted uncommitted carry forward was therefore £11,178 – just slightly in excess of the agreed contingency sum of £10,000. The accounts had been subject to Internal Audit and no issues had been raised.
- The Annual Governance and Accounting Statements for 2020/21 forms, part of the External Audit requirement, were approved. And, as Income and Expenditure both fell below £25000 for this year, claiming for an "Exemption" was also agreed.
- Income / Expenditure from 1 April 2021 to 22 April 2021 was noted - the council's balances on 22 April 2021 totalled £11336.08.
- And finally, the budget monitoring (report, reflecting the decisions taken in November 2020 about the council's base budget for 2021/22 was considered and noted. No issues were raised.

Councillors were advised that the headstone on Mrs Precious' grave had been damaged for some time (probably by a hedge-cutter), and given that funding had been provided for maintenance, agreed that estimates for a repair should be sought. Pickards were recommended as a potential contractor.

7.0 Traffic Flow Through Crakehall

7.1 Cllr Shaw presented the latest data from the Vehicle Activated Sign and Police patrols in the village:

- The Police had only visited the village twice (Little Crakehall only) in 2021 and had recorded only 23 offences. Cllr Shaw will contact the Police to ask if they could attend more frequently in future (and also at weekends when incidences of speeding seemed to be more frequent).
- The flags on The Green marking the parking area for the Police Patrol Van have been removed" It was agreed that Cllr Shaw should mark the entrance to the area of the road by white marking on the curbs.
- The Vehicle Activated Sign has been deployed in the three locations in Crakehall since the last meeting:
 - 1 to 27 March 2021 – Great Crakehall – 58574 vehicles – 85th percentile speed 30.9 mph

- 28 March to 20 April 2021 – Hackforth Road – 6218 vehicles - 85th percentile speed 29.3 mph
- 20 April to 5 May 2021 – Little Crakehall – 34808 vehicles - 85th percentile speed 32.3 mph

7.2 At the last meeting of the council, it was agreed that Highways should be asked to repaint road markings at either end of the village and indeed through the village and to inspect some metalwork on the road that seemed to be in need of repair. Highways responded to confirm that the road markings had been inspected and deemed to be on the border of current intervention criteria. All ironwork through the village had been inspected and two Yorkshire Water manhole covers were loose. The one near Woodlands had been repaired on a temporary basis by Yorkshire Water with a more permanent repair planned for 12 May 2021. With regard to the road markings, NYCC their records show that some work was completed on 14 December 2018 although an email from the Highways Office on 31 July 2020 apologises for not ordering Playground signs and confirms that slow markings which required refreshing throughout the village would be ordered. As the Playground Sign has not yet been installed and the clerk had no recollection of further work to refresh road markings NYCC were again contacted. A response is awaited.

7.3 At the last meeting of the council, Councillors were also concerned that the new layby just out of Crakehall had not yet been opened and suggested that, when it did, a litter bin was essential. The lay-by had now been opened but no response has been received to the suggestion that a litter bin was essential. As noted in 5.0 above, it was agreed that a “Please Take Your Litter Home” sign was suggested rather than a litter bin (which was not likely to be emptied on a regular basis).

8.0 Posts round The Green

8.1 Cllr Shaw indicated that he had spoken to Mr Sizer about placing matting alongside the edge of The Green opposite Crakehall House and concluded that this would use up all the matting he had. It was agreed therefore that further matting should be purchased so that grass on The Green near the church could be reinforced as previously agreed. Cllr Shaw agreed to undertake the work.

8.2 It was also agreed that some posts on The Green required straightening and some required re-painting.

8.3 Mr and Mrs Jolly, the owners of Manor House Farm, had raised concerns about the erosion of The Green outside their property and provided photographs to illustrate their case. Jayne Jolly also addressed the meeting and highlighted the main issues which mainly related to the removal of stones and cars being parked whilst their owners collected their children from school. This had led to occasions where access to driveways was not possible. Councillors agreed that action needed to be taken and the Chairman and the Clerk will meet with Mrs Jolly as soon as possible to agree where additional posts should be located. It was also agreed that some signs should be put on some posts to ask that access to properties should be maintained at all times.

8.4 The council had also been alerted to the fact that “Residents only” parking signs have been attached to white posts alongside The Green near the garage and the Old Post Office. Councillors noted that such signs exist in other areas with the approval of the council but these new signs had not been authorised. As it was not known, who had placed the sign, it was agreed that letters should be delivered to all nearby properties asking for the sign to be removed.

8.5 A resident had raised concerns about cars parked on the lane alongside the church and very close to the junction with the A684 at school drop off and collection time. A similar concern had been expressed at the last meeting about the Langthorne Road junction with the A684 and the clerk had

contacted the Head who had agreed to advise parents of the concerns. This seemed to have had some impact so it was agreed that the clerk should ask the Head to do the same in relation to the lane alongside the church.

8.6 Cllr Beal asked that consideration be given at the next meeting to the relationship between the reality of increased motor vehicle use and the on-going protection of The Green.

9.0 The Future of The Old Chapel in the Cemetery

At the last meeting of the council, councillors decided to simply ensure that the building was weatherproof and watertight and did not deteriorate further. They agreed to return to consider a purpose for the building and the possibility of refurbishing the Bell Tower at this meeting. Options for the use of the building were considered with Cllr Beal favouring restoring it to become a Chapel of Rest. But, in the event, there was no consensus with the cost of improving the internal fabric of the building and providing services, particularly electricity, seen as major costs (although some grants may be available). No further action was determined at this stage.

10.0 Listing of Buildings

At the meeting of the council in January 2021, Caroline Strudwick from Hambleton District Council advised members about the procedures that would need to be followed should the council wish to apply to Historic England to list any buildings or areas of interests. Councillors decided to discuss further possible listings at their next meeting but the item was inadvertently not included on the agenda. After some discussion it was decided seeking listed status for structures on land owned by others would be inappropriate and structures owned by the Parish Council were already, in effect, protected.

11.0 Review of Key Documents (including a New Code of Conduct)

Last May, a number of changes were made to Key Documents so councillors accepted the clerk's recommendation that, with the exception of Risk Register, no further changes were necessary. It was agreed that the Risk Register should be updated to include some elements of planning in order to ensure a smooth transition when a clerk retires. Similar arrangements were agreed in relation to Cemetery Administration. At this stage, Myra Shield advised the council that it was unlikely that she would continue in her role beyond next year so planning for her replacement could begin as soon as possible.

It was also agreed that councillors taking on lead responsibilities for the various areas of the council's activities should endeavour to be proactive in their roles. This was deemed to be particularly important, for insurance purposes, in relation to playground inspections, tree surveys and the inspection of Headstones in the cemetery.

It was also agreed that the new Model Code of Conduct for Councillors recommended by the National Association of Local Councils should be adopted.

12.0 Matters of Urgency (as agreed by the Chairman for matters raised before the meeting)

12.1 The Chairman had agreed prior to the meeting that the following request from The Bay Horse Inn could be considered:

"Saturday/Sunday 17th/18th July we are requesting an outside license to serve alcohol as part of a summer festival. All drinks will be sold in plastic glasses. All rules in relation to the applicable covid rules at this time will be adhered to. We had a similar event two years ago with no issues or complaints. As part of the day a fund raiser to help the cricket club replace the roller that caught fire in April will take place. The event will be sponsored by Theakston's brewery as we look to support North Yorkshire business."

It was agreed that approval for the use of The Green for this event should be given.

12.2 It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should respond to the consultation of the possible future use of video conferencing for parish council meetings beyond the current closing date of 6 May 2021.

13.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

There was no other business.

14.0 Insurance Renewal 2021/22

The council's insurance with Zurich Municipal expires on 31 May 2021 and this also sees the end of a Long-Term Agreement taken out some years ago which required the council to remain with Zurich for a number of years (in return for discounted premiums). Accordingly, quotations had been obtained from two other companies experienced in providing insurance cover for Parish Councils so that premiums could be compared. The council agreed to take out a policy offered by Parish Protect (including Legal Expenses Cover) for a three-year period beginning on 1 June 2021.

15.0 Payment of Honoraria

The council agreed to pay honoraria to two volunteers in recognition of the work undertaken in relation to Cemetery Administration and Grass Cutting in Langthorne.

16.0 Allotment on Mastil Lane

Councillors noted the latest position with regard to the ownership of the allotment on Mastil Lane and agreed that the clerk should continue research to establish ownership.

17.0 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 21 July 2021 at 7.30 pm in Crakehall Village Hall (unless Government guidance changes)

Chris McGee, Clerk to the Council, Mangold Garth, Langthorne, Bedale, North Yorkshire, DL81PQ;
Tel: 07803762288; March 2021



Hambleton Command : Town and Parish Council Report

Town or Parish	Crakehall, Hackforth, Snape and Watlass
Report Completed By :	6782 Lees
Data Reporting Period :	April 2021

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	1	
Theft (including from shops)	0	
Violence Against the Person	2	
Other crimes including Drugs	1	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	6	

Protecting yourself from fraud

If you receive a request to provide personal or financial information, you need to take a moment to reflect and step back from the situation.

Even if they say they're the bank or other trusted organisation, you still need to take the time to stop and think about what's really going on. Deep down, you probably already know these basic rules on how to beat financial fraud – you just need to take a breath and stay calm enough to remember them.

1. Requests to move money:

A genuine bank or organisation will never contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, full password or to move money to another account. Only give out your personal or financial details to use a service that you have given your consent to, that you trust and that you are expecting to be contacted by.

2. Clicking on links/files:

Don't be tricked into giving a fraudster access to your personal or financial details. Never automatically click on a link in an unexpected email or text.

3. Personal information:

Always question uninvited approaches in case it's fraudulent. Instead, contact the company directly using a known email or phone number.

4. Don't assume an email or phone call is authentic:

Just because someone knows your basic details (such as your name and address or even your mother's maiden name), it doesn't mean they are genuine. Be mindful of who you trust – criminals may try and trick you into their confidence by telling you that you've been a victim of fraud. Criminals often use this to draw you into the conversation, to scare you into acting and revealing security details. Remember, criminals can also make any telephone number appear on your phone handset so even if you recognise it or it seems authentic, do not use it as verification they are genuine.

5. Don't be rushed or pressured into making a decision:

Under no circumstances would a genuine bank or some other trusted organisation force you to make a financial transaction on the spot; they would never ask you to transfer money into another account for fraud reasons. Remember to stop and take time to carefully consider your actions. A genuine bank or some other trusted organisation won't rush you or mind waiting if you want time to think.

6. Listen to your instincts:

If something feels wrong then it is usually right to question it. Criminals may lull you into a false sense of security when you are out and about or rely on your defences being down when you're in the comfort of your own home. They may appear trustworthy, but they may not be who they claim to be.

7. Stay in control:

Have the confidence to refuse unusual requests for personal or financial information. It's easy to feel embarrassed when faced with unexpected or complex conversations. But it's okay to stop the discussion if you do not feel in control of it.

If you've taken all these steps and still feel uncomfortable or unsure about what you're being asked, never hesitate to contact your bank or financial service provider on a number you trust, such as the one listed on their website or on the back of your payment card.

Report Fraud

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, call North Yorkshire Police on 101 to report it to us. We are here to support you as well as offering help and advice to ensure you don't become a victim again in the future. Every report of fraud also helps us to build up a picture of the different scams that are in operation which means we can safeguard more people from being scammed.

If there is a crime being committed right now or if you are in danger you should call the police on 999.

Check out our [report fraud](#) page for more info.

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.