

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 July 2021 in Crakehall Village Hall.

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

Also present: District Councillors Mr M Barningham and Mr J Noone, Myra Shield and Diane Parkin,

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

Apologies for Absence: District Councillor Mr C Les and, after the meeting, Cllr Mr J Neale and PCSO Gary SmithOwen.

Pre-meeting Items

None were raised,

1.0 Police Report

The Police Report – copy attached as Appendix 1 - had been circulated to all members and Cllr Shaw highlighted the key Crime and ASB data and issues raised about the legalities of using electric scooters.

2.0 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 May 2021

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

3.0 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 May 2021

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed by those members present as being accurate but would need to be formally approved at the next Annual Council Meeting in May 2022.

4.0 Any Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5.0 To consider the exclusion of the public and press because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 15.0

It was agreed that, because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 15.0, the public and press would be excluded whilst the items were discussed.

6.0 Parish Clerk's Report

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

a) Repairs to fences - Following the clerk's email to NYCC's Chief Executive about the three sets of fences in Crakehall in need of repair or replacement a meeting had been arranged with representatives from NYCC and their contractors. Cllrs Shaw and Beal attended and reported as follows:

- The railings outside St Edmunds cannot be matched exactly but will be replaced by an alternative that was deemed to be acceptable.
- A stone pillar will be replaced when the fence alongside the beck is repaired.

- It had been suggested that the wooden fence on Mastil Lane could be repaired with rails fastened outside the support posts (rather than slotting through as the current ones do). This was accepted by the council.
- No timescale was given for these repairs.

The clerk will email NYCC about the Mastil Lane fence and ask for a timescale for repairs.

b) Work to Trees on The Green - The work to the trees on The Green was completed by Burneston Tree Services on 14 June 2021 but Myra Shield had been advised that one of the trees was still encroaching into a tree in the churchyard. Cllr Shaw and the clerk had checked the trees after the work had been done and had considered that the work had been done satisfactorily but they agreed to have another look. Work was now required to:

- a tree at the junction of Station Road and the A684 on the grounds that, when it is in full leaf, it is very difficult to see past it to see traffic coming over the brow by the filling station.
- a dead alder tree on The Batts which is in danger of falling onto Mill buildings.

It was agreed that an application should be made to Hambleton District Council to gain approval for this work. The clerk noted that Cllr Shaw had removed ivy from the bottom of a sycamore tree on The Green opposite Village Farm. And Christopher Robson had offered to attend to a broken branch on a young oak tree outside Village Farm. His offer was accepted.

c) Heavy Vehicles Using Langthorne Road - Following a number of reminder emails NYCC Highways eventually replied on 27 May 2021 to confirm that the "Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles" sign on the Langthorne Road is an informative sign and not a regulatory one and, if access to businesses, farms and servicing private properties along this section of carriageway is required, then such access cannot be denied. The suggestion of writing to the farms in Kirkbridge to advise them of the concerns was discussed but, on balance, not felt likely to have a useful outcome. Cllr Wilson advised that a near miss and damage to a wheelbarrow on the same road had very recently been reported to the police so it was agreed to leave this issue to them.

d) Take Your Litter Home Signs - Despite a number of email reminders, NYCC had still not replied to the suggestion that one of Hambleton District Council's "Please Take Your Litter Home" signs should be located at the new layby just outside Crakehall (instead of a litter bin). It was agreed that, in the absence of a reply, this matter should be taken up with County Cllr Weighell.

e) Road Markings on the A684 - Area 2 Highways had now confirmed that the road markings on the A684 through Crakehall will be refreshed before a full resurfacing (now scheduled for October 2021 at the earliest). It was agreed that the situation should be monitored and, if the re-surfacing work has not been undertaken before the end of August, matters once again be taken up with NYCC.

f) Cemetery Administration - No volunteers had come forward to take over from Myra Shield when she retires next year but Cllr Shaw had now talked to Myra and agreed to take on the role.

g) Planning Applications to Hambleton District Council - Councillors noted responses made and outcomes in relation to a number of applications:

- Ref: 20/00330/FUL - Full planning application for the construction of 18 residential dwellings on land to the north of Crakehall Water Mill – now approved.
- Ref: 21/01163/FUL - Single storey outbuildings to form car port, storage and wood store to side of house at Finchley House - now approved.

- Ref: 21/01409/TPO - Proposed work to an oak tree subject to Tree Preservation Order No: 15/00004/TPO2 on land to the rear of 1 Moorfields – outcome awaited,
- Ref 21/00749/FUL - Construction of a new dwelling to replace an existing barn at Cherrytree Farm, Crakehall – now granted.

Councillors had no objections to the following applications

- Ref 21/01530/FUL - Resubmission of application for the Provision of 2 log cabin holiday units (single storey) at The Old Granary, Little Crakehall.
- Ref 21/01531/FUL - Retrospective application for change of use of eastern part of dwelling and domestic curtilage for use in conjunction with day spa at The Old Granary, Little Crakehall.

This will be communicated to the Planning Authority.

Cllr Beal noted that, at a recent NALC meeting, it had been proposed that Retrospective Planning Applications should incur additional fees.

h) Yorkshire Water – Councillors noted the clerk’s attempts to get Yorkshire Water to repair or remove the damaged sluice valves on Crakehall Green be either repaired or removed.

i) Northern PowerGrid – Councillors noted Northern Powergrid’s proposals to improve the existing low voltage network at Crakehall by removing some of their overhead network and installing a new buried cable route. The new route passes over Parish Council land (including part of The Green) so Cllr Shaw and the clerk had met with Northern Powergrid’s Wayleaves Officer on 22 June 2021 to review what would be involved. Councillors accepted that, there would be some disruption whilst the work was underway, it would be of benefit to the householders affected and so raised no particular concerns, Northern Powergrid will liaise directly with the affected households.

j) Public Rights of Way - Councillors were pleased that the footpath in Langthorne which had been obstructed by overgrown hedges and trees had now been fully cleared. However, obstructions to public rights of way in the parishes remained of concern and attempts by Cllr Stirke and the clerk to set up a meeting with the Footpaths Officer from NYCC have proved unsuccessful. Furthermore, it seemed unlikely that NYCC would take enforcement action requiring landowners to remove blockages in these cases because of the relatively low levels of usage. Cllr Stirke expressed disappointment at this stance and indicated that she would continue to press this issue.

Discussion then turned to related matters and it was agreed that:

- Cllr Shaw would try to source a footpaths map to replace the faded one currently on the noticeboard on The Green. Reference might also be made to the Geocache trail in the area.
- The pub should be asked if it would hold a supply of the five local Walks Leaflets. They are also available at the Bedale TIC.
- The leaflets and the map should also be made available on the website.

k) Grass Cutting – There had been a number of comments recently on Facebook about the lack of regular grass cutting on the village green. Facebook comments had resurrected the possibility of doing the work using local labour and / or volunteers on the grounds that these folks would take more pride in their work and the appearance of the village. The group had been reminded that such a possibility

was, at one stage, the council's favoured approach but could not be progressed because of lack of definite commitments, Mike Lumley offered his own time and that of his son and Mr Pounder to undertake the work. Farm and Land Services have been reminded that their three-year contract ends after this grass-cutting season and that it will be necessary to review arrangements. It was agreed that Mike Lumley's offer is considered as part of that process beginning with a discussion at the next meeting.

Myra Shield noted that some old wreaths had been removed from graves and placed against the back wall of the Old Chapel. She asked that they be removed. This was agreed.

7.0 Financial matters

7.1 A summary of all Income and Expenditure from 22 April 2021 to 8 July 2021 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2021/22 had been circulated with the agenda. At 8 July 2021, the council had £7006.93 in its current account and £7080.62 in its savings account, a total of £14087.55. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £7000 and further expenditure of around £10353 before the end of March 2022 (thus enabling the unallocated contingency / reserve to stay around the £10000 mark as previously agreed). These were agreed as reasonable assumptions at this stage.

7.2 Councillors had been advised, at the last meeting, that the headstone on Mrs Precious' grave had been damaged for some time (probably by a hedge-cutter). Given that funding had been provided for maintenance, it was agreed that estimates for a repair should be sought. Pickards had advised that a repair was not possible and that a replacement would cost £1700 plus VAT (to include lettering and fixing). Councillors noted that the council had been left a sum of £2000 in 2011 (being £100 / year for 20 years). The sum remaining in the 2021/22 budget was £800 (but, in reality, there had been no additional expenditure specifically relating to the maintenance of Mrs Precious' grave). Myra clarified that the £100 / year amount should be paid in relation to all kerbed graves (to pay for hand strimming) but, in practice, the fees have not been pursued for many years. And now there would most likely be difficulties in locating relatives will to pay. New graves do not have kerbs. Given all of that, it was agreed that two further quotes for repairs / replacements for Mrs Precious' headstone be obtained before a final decision was taken.

8.0 Traffic Flow Through Crakehall

Following the removal of the flags marking the parking area on The Green for the Police Speed Patrol, Cllr Shaw had marked the entrance to the area off the road with white markings on the kerbs. Latest data from the Vehicle Activated Sign showed 85th percentile speeds as 31.4 mph and 31.2 mph in Great Crakehall and 32.4 mph in Little Crakehall. Police patrols in the village had been very limited this year with only 6 visits from the motorcycle radar patrol (up to 3rd June) compared to 9 for the same period in 2020 and none so far as we can tell from the radar van. 75 offences had been recorded. There was a total of 37 visits in 2020 and Cllr Shaw had emailed the Police to request this level of visits for the remainder of 2021, Cllr Shaw had also been in touch with the police about a survey they had referred to in correspondence with a resident. Councillors were also encouraged that the new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner seems to be encouraging 20 mph speed limits outside schools.

9.0 Parking round The Green

At the last meeting, following the discussions about parking round The Green, Cllr Beal asked that consideration be given at this meeting to the relationship between the reality of increased motor vehicle use and the on-going protection of The Green. Councillors had a wide-ranging discussion taking into account a range of issues including:

- The responses to the consultation via emails received and the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook page including the suggestions for improvement.
- Information from the school confirming that children from 73 families attend and, of those, 54 families usually arrive/pick up by car. And, on average, there are between 8-10 staff cars per day.
- The extent of the Parish Council's responsibilities for The Green and the roads passing through it (including noting the fact that the track alongside The Old Post Office is NYCC's responsibility and not the Parish Council's).
- That NYCC is not currently accepting applications for Residents Only Car Parking Areas unless assessments are fully funded.

After much deliberation, the council agreed that:

- A meeting be arranged with the Head of the School about this issue so that the various suggestions for improvement could be explored further.
- Cllr Shaw would re-examine the possibility of getting a School Patrol Officer in light of the statistics provided by the school.
- The clerk would contact NYCC with the suggestion that the lane running alongside The Old School House should be designated for "Access by Residents Only" (rather than "Residents Parking Only").
- It would return to this matter at the next meeting.

10.0 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

The electoral map of England is being redrawn to reflect population change and the Government's aim that all Parliamentary constituencies contain roughly the same number of electors. A consultation is being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for England. This consultation closes on 2 August 2021 but there will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2022. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the Commission will look at all the evidence received before forming its final recommendations. As far as Crakehall and Langthorne is concerned, the proposal is to include the area in the new Thirsk and Malton constituency. The area currently falls within the Richmond (Yorkshire) constituency. Members of the Parish Council understood the need for constituency areas to have populations of similar sizes, but felt that there was little sense of community cohesion or common interest in the Thirsk and Malton area as proposed. Members felt that the Bedale area was very much add-ons to make up the numbers so it was agreed that the council should respond to the consultation in those terms.

11.0 Councillors' Reports on their areas of lead responsibility#

This item provided an opportunity for councillors to share any information or concerns about matters that fell within their areas of lead responsibility (and which had not already been raised elsewhere on the agenda). Cllr Beal indicated that he had walked round the playgrounds recently and found them in good condition with the exception of the fence at the Village Hall. It was agreed that quotes for repairs be sought and that Cllr Neale be reminded that the damaged planter had yet to be removed.

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

No items were raised.

13.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

- Cllrs Noone and Barningham reported a number of matters:
 - Air Quality in Hambleton had improved significantly in recent years and was now one of the best in the country.
 - Voter Registration Communications would be coming out soon to ensure the register was up to date.
 - Bedale and Stokesley Leisure Centres had now received “Excellent” ratings.
 - Covid rates in Hambleton were on the increase but still lower than nearby metropolitan areas.
 - A new website promoting Hambleton, increased town centre street cleaning and additional seating to encourage “dwell time”.
- The Emmerdale Charity Cricket match has been scheduled for Sunday 8 August 2021. It was agreed that the use of The Green by the Cricket Club should be approved.
- There has been a report that there is Giant Hogweed on The Batts. This is a rather nasty and potentially dangerous plant so Paul Kind had been contacted and agreed to investigate.
- Cllr Wilson noted that the Wild Flower area was looking very good this year.
- Cllr Shaw commented that Cllr Mallinson was getting married on 14 August 2021 – all present offered their congratulations and very best wishes.

14.0 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 7.30 pm.

15.0 Allotment on Mastil Lane

Following further research by the clerk, additional information had come to light about the ownership of the allotment on Mastil Lane. On that basis, the council agreed a way forward and authorised the clerk to take appropriate action.

Hambleton Command: Town and Parish Council Report

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



Crime and ASB Data

Anti-social behaviour 2 incidents
Auto crime 0
Burglary : Commercial : 0 Residential : 1
Criminal Damage 0
Theft (including from shops) 0
Violence Against the Person 1
Other crimes including Drugs 1

TOTAL THIS PERIOD 5

These 5 facts about riding an electric scooter might surprise you (information from NYP Social Media)

We're seeing more of these on North Yorkshire's roads. There are rules for e-scooters to protect riders, pedestrians and other road users. But some riders don't know about them. So we hope these five facts will help everyone stay safe and legal

FACT 1 They are actually classed as motor vehicles. That means you need a driving licence and insurance to use one on a road or public place. Personal users are unlikely to be able to get adequate insurance, so are only allowed to use their scooter on private land.

FACT 2 If you ride one when you're drunk or on drugs, you could be arrested and would face a driving ban and a large fine, just like car drivers.

FACT 3 York is the only place in our county which has a trial scheme to help you ride legally. You still need at least a provisional driving licence, must be over the age of 18 and register with the company responsible for the trial who will check you're eligible.

FACT 4 The rules apply to everyone, even if they're under the age of 18, although we're likely to offer advice to young people and their parents.

FACT 5 We'd much rather people stick to the rules, rather than police forces having to enforce them. But if they don't, their e-scooter can be seized. They'd get it back on producing a valid insurance policy.

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.