

## **CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20 July 2022 in Crakehall Village Hall.

**Councillors present:** Councillors Mr D Shaw (in the chair), Mr J Wilson, Mr A Beal (who left after item 8), Mrs Randall and Mrs S Stirke.

**Also present:** Richard Bocking (Clerk Designate)

**Clerk:** Mr C McGee.

**Apologies for Absence:** County Councillor John Weighell, District Councillors Mike Barningham and John Noone.

### **Pre-meeting Items**

No members of the public were present.

#### **1. Police Report**

PCSO Paul Enborn joined the meeting for this item and highlighted items from the Police Report – copy attached as Appendix 1 – which had been circulated to all members. It was agreed to put the advice about protecting property from vandalism on the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook page, Reference was also made to the recent fatality following an RTC on the A684 / Sinks Lane junction.

#### **2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18 May 2022**

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

#### **3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 18 May 2022**

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed by those members present as being accurate but will not be formally approved until the next Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 2023

#### **4. Any Matters Arising**

None were raised.

#### **5. To consider the exclusion of the public and press because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under part of item 7.4 and item 17**

It was agreed that, because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under items 7.3 and 17, the public and press would be excluded whilst the items were discussed.

#### **6. Parish Clerk's Report**

The clerk updated members on developments since he had written his report:

##### **6.1 Safety of Cemetery Memorials**

The Chairman and Clerk undertook a “walk round” assessment on 7 July 2022 and only two memorials gave cause for concern, (although one was adjudged to be a minimum risk). Technically, maintaining memorials remain the responsibility of the relatives of the deceased but liability, in the event of an injury, rests with the council so estimates for repairs have been sought from three potential contractors. The alternative to repair is to lay the memorial flat on the ground but even

this would require a four-person lift. The clerk apologised to Cllr Wilson as he had wished to be involved in the “walk round” but not had the finally agreed date confirmed.

## **6.2 Giant Hogweed on The Batts**

A further incidence of Giant Hogweed on The Batts had been reported – the contractor had been notified and intends to deal with it as a matter of urgency.

## **6.3 Concrete Posts on The Green**

A concrete post had been knocked over and will require replacing. The contractor has agreed to do the work as soon as a post is purchased.

## **6.3 Planning Applications to Hambleton District Council**

### **6.3.1 Consultations requiring a response before 20 July 2022**

Ref 22/01195/FUL - Proposed two storey extension to side of dwelling with mix of green roof and slate roof with integrated solar panels to house pool room, associated changing and plant, garage store, living area, gym, shower room and bedroom. Associated external landscaping works including felling of 2 conifer trees. Single storey garage with green roof to front of dwelling with external stair and balustrading. At Old High Mill, Little Crakehall – No objections raised.

### **6.3.2 Consultation requiring a response after 20 July 2022**

None received.

### **6.3.3 Notification of Decisions**

Ref 22/00507/FUL - Change of use of one-bedroom residential cottage to holiday let accommodation at Munton Cottage, 3 West Terrace, Great Crakehall – Granted.

Ref 22/01195/FUL - Proposed two storey extension to side of dwelling with mix of green roof and slate roof with integrated solar panels to house pool room, associated changing and plant, garage store, living area, gym, shower room and bedroom. Associated external landscaping works including felling of 2 conifer trees. Single storey garage with green roof to front of dwelling with external stair and balustrading. At Old High Mill, Little Crakehall – Granted

## **7. Financial matters**

7.1 A summary of all Income and Expenditure from 1 May 2022 to 30 June 2022 had been made and a budget monitoring report showed performance against the planned budget for 2022/23. At 1 July 2022, the council had a total of £12516.60 in its bank accounts. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £5337 and further expenditure of around £6284 before the end of March 2023 (thus enabling the unallocated contingency / reserve to stay around the £10000 mark as previously agreed). Overall, no issues were anticipated.

7.2 The Annual Governance and Accounting Statements for 2021/22 which form part of the External Audit requirements were formally approved at the last meeting and submitted. Formal confirmation had been received recently that the “Exemption” claimed had been accepted and no further action was required. Various governance and financial documents had been displayed, as required, at <https://www.crakehall.org.uk/external-audit>

7.3 At the last meeting, Councillors agreed that a list of “Preferred Contractors” (who have done work of good quality for the council in the past at a competitive price) should be established and Financial Regulations amended accordingly. It was agreed that amendments be made to paragraph 11.1 (c) so that it reads:

*c) When it is to enter into a contract of more than £2,000 in value for the supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services the Council shall obtain three quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply); where the value is below £2,000 and above £500 the Clerk (on behalf of the Council) shall select a suitable supplier from the list of*

*Preferred Contractors. Should this not be possible the clerk shall strive to obtain three estimates.*

And a new paragraph 11.1 (d) be inserted:

*d) Preferred Contractors will be suppliers with a proven track record of providing good quality work for the council at a competitive price. The list of Preferred Contractors at Annex A) will be reviewed on a regular basis and new contractors may apply to be added to the list at any time.*

With some additions, the council considered and agreed the Preferred Contractors list, as proposed by the clerk in private session. A system of rotating the use of preferred contractors was also agreed so that none were favoured over any others.

7.5 The council noted that interest rates on its savings accounts with Unity Trust Bank and Redwood Bank had both been increased recently.

## **8. Traffic Flow Through Crakehall**

8.1 Cllr Shaw reported he latest data about Police Speed Check visits. It included some evening visits and at 26 offences per visit showed an increase compared to 2021. Cllr Neale asked if the number of vehicles passing per visit was available and Cllr Shaw said that he would be able to get that information if the VAS had been present at the time of the visit. Cllr Shaw also reported the latest data from the Vehicle Activated Sign with 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds as:

- Great Crakehall – 31.5 mph (but with 19.8% of 77000 vehicles exceeding 30 mph)
- Little Crakehall – 32.4 mph (but with 24.8% of 75000 vehicles exceeding 30 mph)

8.2 Following the exchange of emails with NYCC about Highways refusal to provide 40mph buffer zones at either end of the village on the A684 the clerk had been advised on 20 June 2022 that the complaint would be considered by the Corporate Complaints Officer for escalation to Stage 2 of the Formal Complaints Procedure. However, on 29 June 2022, an email from the Corporate Director for Business and Environmental Service stated that he was happy that Highways had “explained the position and the reasons why your request cannot be actioned” and that the matter would not be escalated to Stage 2. The clerk did not consider this to be in any way a satisfactory response and repeated the request for responses to the points that had been raised and confirmation that the matter would be considered under stage 2 of the procedures. He was advised that this was considered to be a “disagreement about technical matters ... (unlikely) to be resolved by the complaints process” and offered a Teams meeting to discuss matters. This was declined and the request repeated for a written response to the points. This was received on 6 July 2022 and available in full in the clerk’s report. Councillors considered the response and agreed that it was more comprehensive and therefore more helpful and somewhat more reassuring that the request for 40mph buffer zones had at least been carefully considered. The clerk was asked to acknowledge the email but comment that, if such a response had been received when the initial request had been made in February 2022, a lot of NYCC and Parish Council Officer time could have been saved. A referral to the ombudsman for maladministration was not thought to be appropriate as it would simply waste more officer time but it was agreed that the acknowledgment should be copied to NYCC’s Chief Executive.

8.3 Councillors noted that the road from Bedale to Crakehall had been re-marked but this had not included the “rumble strips” at the entrance to the village. The clerk was asked to pursue this with Highways.

## **9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Councillors noted that the photo of Crakehall residents had been made available for download via [www.crakehall.org.uk](http://www.crakehall.org.uk) but they agreed to have a copy printed and framed and, subject to the agreement of the Village Hall Management Committee, have it hung in the Stembridge Room alongside the photo from a previous jubilee (and perhaps the Certificate of Involvement in the Platinum Jubilee Beacons and the Platinum Jubilee Roundels that decorated the village).

## **10. Request to support fund-raising towards the repair of St Gregory's Church Clock**

The council had received a request to support the PCC's fund-raising efforts to restore the church clock in Crakehall. Councillors noted that the circumstances under which parish councils can provide financial support for church activities and buildings are limited in law but they also noted advice on this specific matter from the Yorkshire Local Councils Association. On that basis, it was agreed that the clerk authorized to explore with the church the possibility of the council giving a grant to the PCC for its general outreach work in the parish so that the provision of that money might free up other funds that the PCC has, to be used on the building work. A sum of £500 was identified to be released only when work on the clock was about to begin.

## **11. The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) Land Management Services**

Councillors reconsidered the offers made by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and the Kerfoot Group to provide land management services. Councillors considered potential projects in Crakehall and Langthorne and it was agreed that possibilities like maintaining The Pinfold, beck-side fence painting, clearing brambles on The Green, clearing the bankside near Mr Bell's house and clearing kerbside vegetation in Langthorne should be suggested so that responses could be reported to the next meeting.

## **12. Play Park Signs**

Following recommendations from recent inspections of Play Park equipment it was agreed that each site should have a sign indicating the name and address of the playground and contact details. It was agreed to purchase signs worded as proposed in the clerk's report (but with the addition of the "what3words" location references) from [www.safetysigns4less.co.uk](http://www.safetysigns4less.co.uk) as it seems to offer the best deals for custom-made signs. The Batts and the Village Hall sites will have 300mm x 200mm signs in rigid 2mm thick plastic whilst the site on The Green will have a self-adhesive vinyl sign of the same size.

The clerk also noted that one of the swings on The Green had broken – a replacement part had been ordered from KOMPAN and would need to be fitted as soon as possible after it is received.

## **13. Councillors' Reports on their areas of lead responsibility**

Cllr Stirke noted that, once again this year, some public rights of way across fields were not accessible. She also advised that the young driver of the tractor who had recently been speeding through Langthorne had been reprimanded by his family. And finally, she wished to place on record the thanks of most residents of Langthorne to the farmer who had cut the grass verges from Bowbridge Lane through to Kirkbridge. This was felt to be a significant contribution towards road safety.

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

None had been raised.

**15. Any Other Business (for information only)**

County Cllr Weighell had advised that, once again, he had a Locality Budget of £10,000 available. Applications are needed before the end of January 2023.

The work undertaken at the Old Chapel by Barrie Morris was noted and very much appreciated. His request for reimbursement for materials slightly exceeded the £200 allocated but this was agreed. The clerk noted difficulties in getting any contractors to provide estimates for work to restore the bell tower and paint fascia boards.

Cllr Neale indicated that he had been approached by a parishioner expressing concerns about stones placed on the grass verges at the northern entrance to Langthorne. The clerk was able to confirm that the issue had previously been raised with him by NYCC and, after an inspection, Highways had confirmed that they were content that the stones could remain in place as the locations did not present any highway safety issue

The Chairman introduced Richard Bocking who will be taking over as clerk from 1 August 2022. Chris McGee has offered his availability to Richard, and to the council more generally, on a voluntary basis to ensure a smooth period of transition. Councillors thanked Chris for his commitment and work as clerk over the last four years.

**16. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 7.30 pm.**

Cllr Neale offered his apologies.

**17. Allotment on Mastil Lane -**

Cllrs reviewed the current situation and agreed a number of actions to continue to pursue the council's claim for ownership of the land.

Chris McGee  
Clerk to the Council  
July 2022

**These minutes remain as a draft until they are formally approved by the council at its next meeting in September 2022.**

## Appendix 1



# Hambleton Command : Town and Parish Council Report

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Town or Parish          | Crakehall, Hackforth, Snape and Watlass |
| Report Completed By :   | 6782 Lees                               |
| Data Reporting Period : | June 2022                               |

## Crime and ASB Data

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

## Protect your property against vandalism (taken from NYP Website)

Vandalism is where property is maliciously destroyed or damaged - frequently without theft being involved. Safeguard your property with our advice below.

### 1. Keep it visible

It might feel like your house is more secure behind a high wall or fence but the fact it can't be seen from the street could make it a more tempting target.

Make sure your property can be easily seen by your neighbours and the public by ensuring hedges, fences and walls at the front are no higher than one metre. That way, you're not giving an intruder anywhere to hide.

Clever use of lighting can also help to keep burglars at bay. We recommend dusk-till-dawn, low-level white lighting, especially in vulnerable, low visibility areas such as the side or the rear of the property.

Lights should be a minimum of three metres above ground with vandal-resistant casings.

### 2. Create a boundary

By doing this, you're laying out your patch, marking your territory – and anyone crossing that line uninvited or unauthorised is trespassing.

You can do this in a number of ways, such as a low fence, wall, hedge, flower bed or small bushes. Best to avoid a rockery or large stones as they can be used by vandals. And if you're having your driveway done, make it a different colour to that of the road.

### 3. Protect what's yours

Be sure to safeguard vulnerable points such as ground floor windows with one-metre high sharp, prickly bushes. Nature's barbed wire, can offer protection and look good too. Security film – a clear or opaque covering that can be stuck onto windows – makes it harder to smash the glass.

White walls attract vandals with spray cans but anti-graffiti coatings that prevent paint from bonding to surfaces are great deterrents.

### 4. Don't make it easy for them

There's more to security than keeping gates closed and doors, windows and sheds locked. First off, if you have a surface which anyone can sit on – like a ledge or a low wall – make sure it's not 'bottom-friendly'. For example, planters with prickly plants look nice but are a pain for anyone just hanging around or any uninvited guests. Also, secure the side and rear boundary of your property with a two-metre high fence topped with a trellis, which is lightweight and unable to support a person. What's more, it makes an awful racket if anyone tries to use it to gain access.

### 5. Keep it tidy

It's a fact that rubbish attracts rubbish. If a property is messy, some people won't think twice about adding to it or simply hanging around in the area.

A neat and tidy property conveys a sense of order. That's why we advise not to leave rubbish, ladders, wheelie bins or anything else that could be used for burglary or vandalism lying around.

*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.*

