

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 March 2022 in Crakehall Village Hall.

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

Also present: District Councillor Mr J Noone and County Councillor Mr J Weighell

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr J Randall

Pre-meeting Items

No items were raised.

1.0 Police Report

PCSO Gary 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. Members commented on the helpful information about home security.

2.0 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 January 2022

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed by those members present as being accurate and signed by 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 item 19.0

It was agreed that, because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 19.0, the public and press would be excluded whilst the items were discussed.

5.0 Parish Clerk's Report

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

- **Railings outside St Edmund's** – The work had now been completed by NYCC (some 33 months after the damage occurred).
- **Take Litter Home Signs** – NYCC confirmed on 14 March 2022 that they are installing a post at the new layby on the A684 just outside the village to accommodate one of the signs. The clerk had asked whether one post would be sufficient given the size of the sign. A second sign remained available to be deployed elsewhere and councillors agreed that it should be fixed to railings near the play equipment on The Batts. Cllr Beal asked if the new layby was officially designated as such as a blue "Parking" sign had not been installed. The clerk agreed to contact Highways for comments.
- **Broken Gate Post** - The gate post on the footpath between Crakehall Mill and Green Gate Lane had not yet been repaired although a fairly secure temporary gate had been put in place. The clerk had now discussed matters with Trevor Pounder, the owner of Green Gate Farm and, suffice to say that, the ownership of the gate post (and fences and hedges along that boundary) does not appear to be clear. Trevor's view was that the replacement of the post was an NYCC responsibility as they had installed it in the first place but the clerk had suggested that the work had probably

been done for NYCC by volunteers. This option was no longer available but NYCC may offer some financial support towards materials or labour. Trevor had suggested that a small group of villagers may be interested in working together to put a “like for like” replacement in place or alternatively, if he were to do it, he would make a more basic replacement, essentially a fence. Councillors discussed the options and agreed that the council should undertake the repairs although support towards material and labour should be sought from NYCC. Subject to it being in accordance to the requirements of the council’s Financial Regulations, Peter Stirke should be asked to do the work.

- **Open Drain on Green Gate Lane** - A resident had contacted the clerk on 16 February 2022 to advise that there was an open drain on Green Gate Lane. The resident was concerned that a child or a dog could fall into the drain (which, until recently had been covered with plywood). The clerk had spoken to Trevor Pounder the following day, (as the owner of Green Gate Lane), and he had explained that the drain was part of an old drainage system that ultimately emptied into the beck. The clerk then contacted Yorkshire Water and they responded promptly making an inspection the same day. Although they made the hole safe by covering it with a pallet, they were very clear that this drain was not their responsibility. At their recommendation, the clerk contacted Highways but they also responded very quickly that this was not their responsibility either indicating that, more likely, it was the landowner’s. Councillors agreed that this was not a parish council responsibility.

5.2 Planning Applications to Hambleton District Council

5.2.1 Consultations requiring a response before 16 March 2022

- 21/03022/FUL - Construction of a replacement single storey rear extension for the Annexe at Crakehall House, The Green, Crakehall.
- 21/03023/LBC- Listed Building Consent for the construction of a replacement single storey rear extension and removal of internal stud wall at the Annexe at Crakehall House, The Green, Crakehall.

No objections were raised against either application.

5.2.2 Consultation requiring a response after 16 March 2022

- 22/00479/FUL - Subdivision to form 2 dwellings and replacement of all windows at Hawkstone, Little Crakehall.
- 22/00566/CAT - Works to tree in a conservation area at Crakehall House, The Green, Crakehall.

No objections were raised against either application.

5.2.3 Notification of Decisions

- 21/02969/FUL - Single storey rear extension at 4 Moorfields, Little Crakehall – Granted.

6.0 Traffic Flow Through Crakehall

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

- Little Crakehall (from Leyburn) – 32.9 mph
- Little Crakehall (towards Leyburn) – 32.6 mph

This shows that the speed of vehicles coming up the hill from the bridge to exit Little Crakehall towards Leyburn was as much of a problem as vehicles entering the village from the direction of Leyburn.

He had been unable to download the latest data about Police Speed Check visits but confirmed that there had been 17 visits in 2021 recording 311 offences (with 298 offenders being referred for Speed Awareness Courses).

6.2 As agreed at the last meeting, the request for 40 mph “buffer zones” at either end of the village on the A684 had been submitted to NYCC on 5 February 2022. Councillors considered the reply received on 24 February 2022:

“In terms of a ‘buffer zone’, it may occasionally be appropriate to use a short length of either 40/50mph speed limit as a transition between a road subject to the national speed limit and another lower limit however these are limited to where an immediate speed reduction would cause a risk. As both approaches into the village of Crakehall benefit from good visibility towards the built-up area, drivers are afforded sufficient time to reduce their speed to adhere to the current limit. It would therefore not be appropriate to implement such a transition speed limit at this location.”

Councillors were not at all convinced by these arguments and resolved to pursue matters further, Cllr Shaw agreed to draft something for the clerk to send to Highways.

7.0 Financial matters

A summary of all Income and Expenditure from 1 November 2021 to 31 December 2021 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2021/22 had been circulated with the agenda. At 1 January 2022, the council had a total of £12688.93 in its bank accounts. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £1078 and further expenditure of around £2558 before the end of March 2022 (in order to enable the unallocated contingency / reserve to stay around the £10000 mark as previously agreed). Councillors noted that both of these estimates were probably on the high side but overall, no issues were anticipated.

8.0 Playground Inspections – follow up work

The Annual Play Park inspection reports were discussed at the last meeting and actions agreed.

Progress reports were given as follows:

- Cllr Shaw had examined the Bench Seat on The Batts which was reported as having “2 corroded steel legs/feet creating instability”. Cllr Shaw felt that only one leg required strengthening – he volunteered to do the work himself.
- Quotes had been received for work to equipment at The Batts and at The Village Hall from MacVenture and KOMPAN. The clerk shared the detail and it was agreed that council was not in a position to replace the swings at the Village Hall (as recommended by KOMPAN) and other work was excessively expensive to be justified for such medium / low risk issues. Cllr Neale agreed to examine the surface underneath the swings at the Village Hall and instal rubber matting if he felt it appropriate. This was agreed.

9.0 The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

9.1 Celebrations were planned in both Crakehall and Langthorne for the long weekend of 2-5 June 2022:

In Crakehall the Parish Council is taking responsibility for lighting a beacon on The Village Green on Thursday 2 June 2022 at 9.45pm and the school’s PTA has agreed to organise a number of events on Sunday 5 June 2022 (incorporating a Big Jubilee Lunch). The PTA event will raise funds for the school.

In Langthorne residents will be encouraged to decorate the outsides of their houses and gardens to celebrate the long weekend. A village barbeque will be held (at Poplar Farm) on the evening of Thursday 2 June to incorporate the lighting of a Jubilee bonfire at 9.45 pm. On Sunday 5 June, the village will join the national celebration by having a Big Jubilee Lunch / Picnic at West Farm and all

villagers will be encouraged to join together for a village photograph. Funds have been raised to purchase a seat (with a commemorative plaque) for the village green.

Councillors agreed:

- 1) To buy Jubilee Mugs for all children living in the Crakehall and Langthorne parishes (aged 16 or under) – estimated as about 60 children. 75 will be purchased initially at around £3.00 per mug with any surplus of mugs being offered for sale to residents of Crakehall, Kirkbridge and Langthorne. Residents will also be invited (via Facebook and the council's newsletter) to pre-order mugs with numbers being added to the initial or subsequent order.
- 2) To waive the costs of hiring the council's marquee for the event in Langthorne on 5 June 2022.
- 3) To receive the donations from the Langthorne community and then purchase a seat for the village green. The seat would then become the property of the Parish Council but would be maintained by residents in Langthorne. (By claiming back VAT on the purchase, it will enable the maximum cost of the seat to be 20% greater than the funds raised).
- 4) To note that a full risk assessment will be prepared for the lighting of the beacon on Crakehall Village Green on 2 June 2022. The council's insurers will also be notified.

9.2 The council considered a request from Bedale Town Council to support financially the events they are planning in Bedale Park on Sunday 5th June. Whilst it was hoped that residents would prioritise the events being planned in Crakehall and Langthorne it was agreed to contribute £250 towards the costs of the event in Bedale.

10.0 Wildflower Meadow 2022

Councillors noted the success of the Wildflower Meadow last summer and agreed to use the same seed and the same quantities again this year (at an estimated cost of around £65 - £70 ex VAT). Cllr Neale also agreed to try a less intensive approach on the grass bank between the road bridge and the footbridge, (with the same amount of seed), which may still yield some colour.

11.0 Request to site a memorial bench in the cemetery

A request had been received from the relatives of John and Mary Bell to site a memorial bench in the cemetery near where they are buried (at the top of the cemetery next to the fence). They would like to place a bench against the fence facing down into the cemetery or at least close to this spot. Councillors agreed the request but, as with other recent requests, also agreed that conditions would need to be imposed to include:

- 1) the bench would need to be of a type acceptable to the council and would remain in the family's ownership. They would have responsibility for its maintenance and / or repair. In the unlikely event of the bench deteriorating or falling into a dangerous condition, the council would reserve the right to remove it but not without using best efforts to contact the family before doing so.
- 2) the bench would need to be fixed to the ground (in the same way as benches on The Green).
- 3) in the very unlikely event of any claims for damage or injury caused by the bench the council will not accept any liability.

12.0 Damage to grass verges in Langthorne

At the meeting of the council in November 2021, Cllr Stirke had reported that she had been approached by a resident of Langthorne concerned at damage to the grass verges outside his house

(and potentially damage to manhole covers) caused by large wagons belonging to one particular company delivering to the Langthorne Hall. There was also damage to other grassed areas in that vicinity and so it was agreed that the clerk should contact the company and ask that more care be taken. No reply was received but no further issues were reported until the same resident contacted the clerk and Cllr Stirke (and indeed NYCC Highways) again on 24 February 2022 about a vehicle from another company causing damage to the verge. Cllr Stirke and the clerk had met with the resident and agreed that the company would be written to. The resident also agreed to consider placing large boulders on the verge to act as a deterrent to vehicles. Highways had recently accepted this solution in another part of Langthorne although liability for any claims for damages caused by the stones rests with the resident placing the stones. Councillors discussed the matter at some length and agreed that the clerk should also write to the owner of Langthorne Hall pointing out that some of the difficulties created for lorries are a result of the narrow entrance to the hall.

There is also concern about tractors speeding through the village – residents have been advised to take a note of the vehicle registration numbers and contact the police.

And finally, road closed signs and bollards remain on the verges at either end of the village many months after the road through the village was closed for a few days. The clerk was asked to contact Highways to request their removal.

13.0 Proposed constituency boundary changes - second public consultation

The clerk had reported to the council in July 2021 that the electoral map of England was being redrawn to reflect population change and the Government's aim that all Parliamentary constituencies contain roughly the same number of electors. As far as Crakehall and Langthorne was concerned, the proposal was 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. There was a good response to the first consultation but, from 22 February to 4 April 2022 there is a six-week secondary consultation on the initial proposals. The Parish Council reiterated its opposition to the initial proposals and Cllr Shaw might attend the Public Consultation meeting in Northallerton on 17 or 18 March 2022, County Cllr Weighell indicated that he had arranged to speak at the consultation event the following day. The council also noted that information about the consultation has been shared on the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook page.

14.0 Councillors' Reports on their areas of lead responsibility

As the peak growing season was approaching, Cllr Stirke commented that she hoped that all local farmers would "spray out" any public footpaths on their land so that access was maintained.

15.0 Parish Council Elections

The next Parish Council Elections are scheduled to take place on Thursday 5 May 2022 along with North Yorkshire County Council Elections. All seats on the parish council will become vacant and existing councillors wishing to stand again will be required to submit a nomination. Nomination

packs were handed out to all councillors at the meeting. It was agreed that, if elections are to be held, then all candidates should be given the opportunity, if they so wish, to provide information about themselves and why they wish to stand for election on www.crakehall.or.uk

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

16.1 Cricket Club

The council had no objection to the club's plan, subject to funds being available, to purchase sight screens and wicket covers and noted the intention to store these to the side of the pavilion when not in use. It was suggested that when not in use the sight screens might be covered so that they were less obtrusive. The council also noted that the Emmerdale match has been scheduled for 14 August 2022 with all funds raised to be donated to Yorkshire Air Ambulance. The use of The Green for the event was agreed subject to the cricket club covering all relevant insurance liabilities.

16.2 Ukraine

A resident had suggested that the council should offer to "take some families" and whilst this was not felt to be possible the council was pleased to endorse the "Homes for Ukraine" scheme. Details of the scheme had already been published on the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook page.

17.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

17.1 Cllr Neale noted, with some concern, that Crakehall Village Hall Management Committee currently only had three active members.

17.2 Cllr Wilson advised that some of the stones on the top of the walls of the road bridge on the A684 appeared to have been dislodged by a vehicle. The clerk will contact Highways.

17.3 Concerns were raised again about branches from trees on The Batts overhanging the bridge wall (on the downstream side). An inspection from Ben Rennison was awaited.

18.0 Date of the Annual Parish Meeting, the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the bimonthly Parish Council Meeting.

Wednesday 18 May 2022 from 7.15 pm.

19.0 Allotment on Mastil Lane

The application to the Land Registry had been prepared and would be submitted as soon as possible. Cllr Beal asked that his continued objection to this course of action should be recorded.

**Chris McGee
Clerk to the Council
March 2022**

These are Draft Minutes until approved at the next Parish Council meeting.

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 :	February 2022

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-social behaviour	0	
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	2	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	5	

Checklist for securing your home when you leave it (Information and advice from NYP Website)

It's vital to leave your home secure whenever you leave it. Getting into an 'exit routine' can help ensure that you don't forget obvious, important things, like not leaving your valuables near windows, or no lights on if it will be dark before you get home. Here's what you should do just before you go out.

Become a creature of habit

Try to get into the habit of following your own course of action when you lock up your home. This will ensure that you don't forget anything.

Here's what we recommend you do before you go out:

- close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- double-lock any door
- make sure that any valuables are out of sight
- keep handbags away from the letterbox or cat flap and hide all keys including car keys, as a thief could hook keys or valuables through even a small opening
- never leave car documents or ID in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways

- in the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- if you're out all day, then it's advisable to use a timer device to automatically turn lights and a radio on at night
- set your burglar alarm
- make sure the side gate is locked
- lock your shed or garage
- lock your bike inside a secure shed or garage, to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

Going away?

Here are five tips to help you keep your home and belongings stay safe while you're away:

1. if you're off on holiday and wish to post anything on social media, make sure your posts aren't public and that they're only seen by your friends
2. leave lights and a radio on a timer to make the property appear occupied
3. get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property or join a Neighbourhood or resident Watch Scheme
4. consider asking your neighbours to close curtains after dark and to park on your drive
5. remember to cancel newspaper and milk deliveries

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.