

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 March 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: District Councillor J Noone, Lionel Green and Iris Smith.

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

Apologies for Absence: District Councillors Mr C Les and Mr M Barningham, PCSO Gary Smith Owen and Myra Shield.

Pre-meeting Items

None were raised.

1.0 Police Report

The Police Report – copy attached as Appendix 1 - had been circulated to all members. In the absence of PCSO Gary Smith Owen the Chairman highlighted the key crime and ASB statistics and other matters referred to in the report. Cllr Wilson noted that a container containing tools in a field off the Langthorne Road had recently been broken in to.

2.0 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13 January 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 Parish Clerk's Report

The clerk highlighted a number of items in his written report:

4.1 Repairs to fences – Once again, and despite further assurances from NYCC the railings outside St Edmunds Holiday Cottages, the railings alongside the beck on the old main road and the wooden fence on the little green on Mastil Lane have not been repaired. The council took a dim view of these delays not least because of the public safety issues raised by the lack of secure fences alongside the beck and outside St Edmunds. On that basis, councillors instructed the clerk to advise NYCC that the Parish Council would now get the work done (initially outside St Edmunds) and send the bill to NYCC. The clerk was advised to contact Norman Iveson about some matching railings.

4.2 Trees on The Green – approval has now been given for work to various trees on the Green. Burneston Tree Services will be engaged to do all of this work to proper professional standards consistent with work to trees in a Conservation Area. The costs will be apportioned between the Parish Council, the church and Mrs Staniland. Lionel Green had mentioned a tree on The Batts that was leaning towards one of the mill's holiday cottages. It was agreed that Burneston Tree Services should be asked to inspect this tree and, if they advise that it needs attention, an application to Hambleton District Council should be made.

4.3 Nameplate on Blacksmith's Bank - Hambleton District Council has agreed to replace this sign.

5.0 Financial matters

A summary of all Income and Expenditure from 28 December 2020 to 28 February 2021 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2020/21 had been circulated with the agenda. At 28 February 2021, the council had £5577.05 in its current account and £7080.62 in its savings account, a total of £12657.67. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £25 and further expenditure of around £2108 before the end of March 2021 (thus enabling the unallocated contingency / reserve to stay around the £10000 mark as previously agreed). In practice, expenditure of that amount before the end of March is unlikely and so the reserve will increase slightly. This is due mainly to actual spending on Repairs and Maintenance (£1279.98) being significantly lower than the budget allocated (£5109.31).

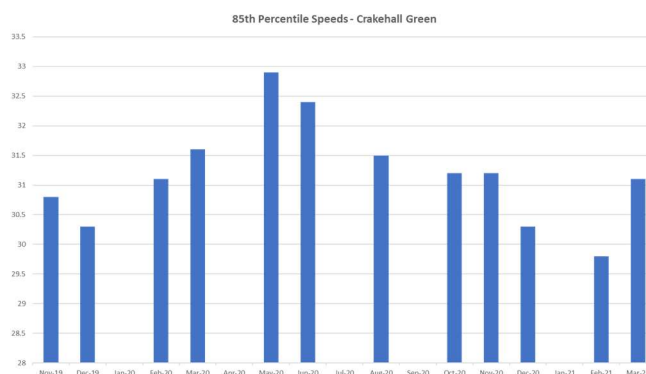
It was agreed that the current financial situation be noted.

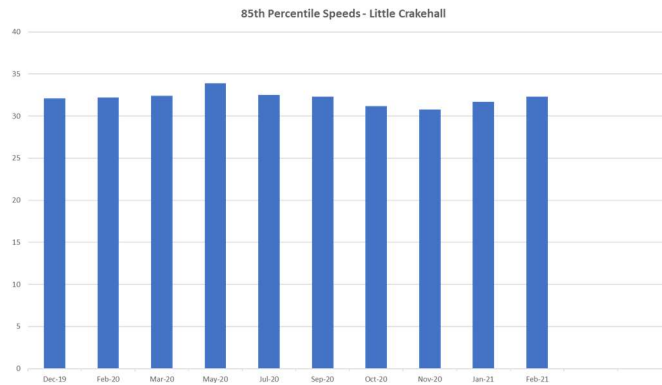
6.0 Traffic Flow Through Crakehall

NYCC's detailed response to the Parish Council's formal application for a 20mph limit from the existing Playground signpost in Little Crakehall to the existing School sign near the petrol station and for a flashing light to be attached to the existing Playground Signpost in Little Crakehall was noted with some inevitability and disappointment. Cllr Shaw suggested that road markings at either end of the village and indeed through the village required repainting and Cllr Beal noted that some of the metalwork on the road was also in need of repair. Councillors were concerned that the new layby just out of Crakehall was not yet open and suggested that, when it was, a litter bin was essential. These issues will be put to Highways by the clerk.

Cllr Shaw then presented the latest data from the Vehicle Activated Sign and Police patrols in the village. In summary:

- The Police made 28 visits to Little Crakehall in 2020 and recorded 652 speeding offences (the vast majority of offenders, 619, were referred to Speed Awareness Courses).
- The Police made 9 visits to Great Crakehall in 2020 and recorded 115 speeding offences (and again the vast majority of offenders, 113, were referred to Speed Awareness Courses).
- The total number of visits in 2020 was 37 compared to 29 in 2019 but the number of offences recorded per visit was down from 28.27 in 2019 to 20.7 in 2020.
- The Vehicle Activated Sign has been deployed in Crakehall now for 17 months so it is possible to track trends over that period. The charts below show 85th percentile speeds over that period:





- The charts show that the 85th percentile speed is over 30 mph but under 35 mph (the target figure for further action by Highways and / or the Police).
- The first lockdown in Spring 2020 saw a big reduction in vehicle numbers but, particularly in Great Crakehall, an increase in average speeds.

7.0 The Future of The Old Chapel in the Cemetery

The clerk presented three options for the future of The Chapel:

- 1) Do nothing beyond ensuring that the building is weatherproof and watertight and does not deteriorate further.
- 2) Establish a purpose for the building.
- 3) Sell the property.

Councillors decided to pursue Option 1) at this stage but return, at the next meeting, to consideration of Option 2) and the possibility of refurbishing the Bell Tower.

8.0 Posts around The Green and other related issues

8.1 Following the work to replace stones at various locations on The Green, the owners of Crakehall House and Crakehall Hall had expressed concerns about the appearance of the new posts outside Crakehall House. At the last meeting of the council, it was agreed that Mr Sizer and Mr Jarvis should be asked to review their concerns after the posts had been painted white. Kay Dennis subsequently painted the posts and Mr Sizer and Mr Jarvis were then asked for their views. Both continued to hold the view that the posts were too big and looked out of place. Their preference was for smaller posts like the ones immediately outside Crakehall House to be used. Those posts were 27 – 28 “ measured from the ground compared to the new ones at 34”. Councillors discussed a range of issues including:

- The implications of allowing different posts in different locations at the request of residents (even if paid for by those residents).
- Some concerns that at least one of the posts in question needed straightening.
- Whether the existing posts could be shortened and / or spaced out more evenly.

On balance and after much discussion, it was decided that the request from Mr Sizer and Mr Jarvis should not be agreed but that the contractor should be asked to return to straighten the new posts. The clerk was asked to communicate this message to Mr Sizer and Mr Jarvis.

8.2 It was further agreed that all stones around The Green in other locations should be removed and not replaced by concrete posts. Cllr Neale agreed to do this the following weekend.

8.3 Mr Jarvis had also expressed concerns about an increase in the size and number of big lorries that are using the road down to Langthorne. Mr Jarvis suggested that the road is unsuitable for such vehicles and wondered if the road should have a weight limit for vehicles on it. Currently there is a sign indicating that the road is unsuitable for HGVs at the top of the road. Again, there was much discussion about the matter including:

- The lack of any weight limit on the bridges in Kirkbridge which would seem to imply no need for a weight restriction on the road leading to them.
- The lack of any signage at the Langthorne end of the lane.
- The futility of the existing sign in Crakehall
- The implications for access to farms if any restriction of heavy vehicles was imposed.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should make representations to NYCC Highways about the matter.

8.4 Mr Sizer had asked if the council would consider putting matting on the first couple of metres of The Green opposite his house so that cars could pull off the road slightly whilst parking for school. Once again, the pros and cons of such action were considered but, on balance, it was agreed that the matting should be placed as requested. Cllr Shaw will do this at the next available opportunity. Related to this Cllr Stirke shared concerns about cars being parked very close to the junction of the A684 at the beginning and end of the school day. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Head about this with a request that parents be asked to park more safely and considerately.

8.5 The owners of Bridge House had expressed concerns about damage that is being caused to The Green outside their house and had therefore made proposals to try to improve things. In summary, the proposal was to widen the existing plastic track from 10.5 inches to 21 inches for each channel to reduce wear to the grass as vehicles slip off the track. The second part of the proposal was to reinstate the hardcore standing between the road and the first plastic track to define the path better and to prevent vehicles cutting the corner to park outside the neighbouring property. Matters were discussed at length but councillors felt that the use of wider mesh would produce very little, if any improvement, and they were unclear about precisely what was being proposed in relation to the second part of the proposal. The clerk was asked to contact the owners with the council's decision about the mesh and to ask for a plan (rather than photographs) for the reinstatement of the hard core.

9.0 Footpaths in Langthorne

At the meeting of the council in November concerns had been expressed about trees and shrubs overhanging footpaths in the village making them largely unusable. The residents concerned had been contacted and apologised – they anticipated that the work would be undertaken in the spring. The trees and shrubs have not been trimmed back so it was agreed that a further offer of voluntary help be offered but that, it be made clear that this was not the Parish Council accepting any liability for undertaking this or any other similar work there or elsewhere. Rather it should be presented as neighbours helping neighbours. Ultimately, if no action was taken NYCC may need to be contacted to investigate a restriction to their pavement.

10.0 Noticeboards

The council noted that the noticeboard on The Green is in poor condition and despite the "glass" having been replaced quite recently it leaks very badly. It was agreed to replace it and that Alan

Godlee (who has previously produced two noticeboards for the parishes) be asked to give a price for providing this one.

11.0 Folly Bridge on The Batts

The clerk had been approached by the owner of Crakehall Mill about, in his words, the folly bridge over the beck between the mill and Crakehall House. He was concerned about some signs of wear and wanted to establish who was responsible for repairs and maintenance. After some research the clerk had offered the view that the structure was not owned by, or the responsibility of, the Parish Council and suggested that the main burden of responsibility for maintenance and repair probably lay with the owners of Crakehall House. However, Cllr Beal had subsequently clarified that the structure is neither a "bridge" nor a "folly" but a structure with purpose commonly called a water gate or wall. His view was that it forms part of the village's common land boundary and that the stone work may well be a village liability with some historic architectural interest. It was agreed to contact the owners of Crakehall House about their understanding of their liabilities for the structure and, depending on their response, set up a meeting between them, the owners of The Mill and Parish Council representatives in June (when, all being well, Covid-19 restrictions will have been removed).

12.0 Mastil Lane Allotment

The clerk had again been contacted by a parishioner interested in taking on the allotment in Mastil Lane. He had contacted the daughter of the current user and she had confirmed that her father wished to continue tending the allotment this year. On the basis of the council's previous decisions on the matter the clerk confirmed that this was acceptable but also sought her understanding of the terms under which the allotment is rented sharing his understanding that the land used to be owned by the "Benson Charity" and that her father paid a peppercorn rent to use it as an allotment. However, some years ago when the Benson Charity was wound up, the land was given to the Parish Council (probably on the understanding that it would continue to be used as an allotment) but there was no record of any peppercorn rent having been paid to the council. The clerk had stressed that the money was not important but the principle of a payment probably was as it confirmed the ownership of the land. On that basis, he had suggested any past payments due be written off but a payment of say £1.00 per annum should be paid. No reply has yet been received. This action was endorsed by the council. Cllr Neale agreed to speak to current user of the allotment if that would be helpful.

13.0 North Yorkshire Unitary Authority Proposals

The clerk advised that the Government had launched a consultation on two alternative plans for new unitary authorities in North Yorkshire. Two options were being consulted on:

- Two unitary authorities following the current North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council areas
- An east/west model which would see Hambleton grouped together with Richmondshire, Harrogate and Craven and another unitary authority to include Ryedale, Scarborough, Selby and York.

District Councillor Noone confirmed that Hambleton's position on the matter was largely neutral and his personal preference was for the status quo. His view was that a change was inevitable because the government was committed to unitary authorities but that, whichever option was favoured,

council tax would rise. A shadow authority would be established following elections in 2022 with it becoming fully operational in 2023.

Councillors noted that both options proposed more responsibility for parish councils but beyond noting that further resources would be needed to discharge new responsibilities, they declined to respond to the consultation.

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

The Chairman agreed that the following matter could be considered:

The governing bodies of both The Synergy Schools Federation (Brompton-on-Swale CE and Crakehall CE Primary Schools) and The Federation of Leeming and Londonderry Community and Pickhill CE Primary Schools had launched a public consultation on their proposal that the two existing federations, should "federate". The closing date for comments was 5 May 2021, hence the need for consideration at this meeting.

Councillors accepted that there were elements of the proposals that were positive in that there could be efficiencies of scale, sharing of expertise and other resources but were wary that the "uniqueness" of each individual school should not be lost. Beyond that they felt that the folk best placed to comment on the proposals were the parents of children in the schools.

15.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

Councillors noted the very generous pledge from Rob Exelby of Exelby Services to make a donation of a Christmas Tree for The Green. He will either offer cash (£300 - £500) or procure a 14-16 feet tree to the council's specification.

16.0 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 5 May 2021 to follow immediately after the **Annual Parish Meeting**
and the **Annual Parish Council Meeting**.

Proceedings will begin at **7.15 pm**.

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 : February 2021

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier No of Incidents

Anti-social behaviour 3

Auto crime 0

Burglary : *Commercial* : 0 *Residential* : 0

Criminal Damage 0

Theft (including from shops) 0

Violence Against the Person 2

Other crimes including Drugs 1

TOTAL THIS PERIOD 6

Police issue warning after surge in 'national insurance' scam calls

North Yorkshire Police is warning residents to be vigilant for scam phone calls in relation to their national insurance number after the force received a number of reports in the last week.

The calls have shown as from both landline and mobile phone numbers and the callers claim to be either from the police or National Crime Agency. They are usually recorded messages telling the receiver there has been a problem with their national insurance number, either it has been stolen or compromised and there is a fee to pay in order to receive a new number.

Some victims have reported the callers claiming they will be arrested if they don't follow the instructions and others have been told to press a number on their keypad.

North Yorkshire Police Financial Abuse Safeguarding Officer, Andy Fox, says: "If you receive a call of this nature, hang up straightaway and report it to the police by calling 101. Never provide any personal details over the phone.

"If you receive a call from someone claiming to be a police officer, ask for their collar number and surname, hang up and ring 101 to speak to the control room who will be able to verify the officer's identity.

"The police will never call to tell you there is a warrant for your arrest and neither will the police or National Crime Agency ever ask you to move or send any money.

"As always, we'd ask people to share news of this scam with as many of their friends, family and local community as possible to help keep everyone safe."

Dog thefts – advice for dog owners

(taken from NYP website)

A spokesperson for North Yorkshire Police said:

"We want to reassure members of the public that the [incident which occurred near Pickering last week](#) appears to have been an isolated one, and dog thefts in North Yorkshire are very rare.

"We understand that news of thefts can be worrying for dog owners, but please be reassured that North Yorkshire is not suffering from a spate of dog thefts and remains one of the safest places to live in England. Please try not to engage in social media speculation about these incidents as information can often be skewed and if you wish to report a crime or any suspicious activity, please call the police.

"We are aware of social media comments regarding carrying weapons whilst dog walking and would remind communities that you must not carry weapons on our streets. Not only do you run the risk of seriously injuring yourself or others but it is against the law."

There are a number of steps you can take to help safeguard your dog:

- Ensure your pet is microchipped – if your dog runs off and it is found, you can be easily traced as its owner. If your dog is stolen, when it is taken to the vets, they will discover that the dog is chipped and you will be identified as its rightful owner.
- Don't leave dogs unattended in the street, however small and friendly the community.
- Don't leave your dog alone in a car – particularly when the weather starts to warm up.
- Don't overshare on social media, ensure your privacy settings are secure and don't share details about your home address or regular walking routes.
- Ensure your garden is secure and don't leave them alone for long periods of time.
- If you keep them outside, make sure your property and kennels are secure.
- Always keep them on a lead when walking near roads.
- Ensure your dog is fully trained to come back to you before you let it off the lead.
- Don't allow your dog to run free near farm animals – we regularly deal with reports of livestock being killed or seriously injured as a result of dog attacks in North Yorkshire and it is vital that owners keep their pets under control at all times.

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.