

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 January 2021 (by Zoom video conference)

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

Also present: District Councillors Mr C Les and Mr M Barningham, County Councillor Mr J Weighell and Myra Shield.

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

Apologies for Absence: None received.

Pre-meeting Items

Myra Shield mentioned that a sign on Blacksmith's Bank was in bad condition. The clerk agreed to investigate to decide whose responsibility it was to repair or replace it.

1.0 Police Report

The Police Report – copy attached as Appendix 1 - had been circulated to all members. PCSO Gary Smith Owen joined the meeting for this item and highlighted the key crime and ASB statistics (which included one attempted burglary in Crakehall). He also spoke about some breaches of the current Covid-19 restrictions, the on-going work to prevent poaching and a number of frauds and scams currently circulating. In response to a question from Cllr Beal, he agreed to find out further information about 999 silent calling and forward it to the chairman or clerk.

2.0 Procedures for Listing of Buildings and / or Areas of Interest

Caroline Strudwick from Hambleton District Council joined the meeting for this item and 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. The key points included:

- The application process is designed to be accessible to non-professionals – an understanding of the local history and story of place can be illustrated and / or supplemented by photographs.
- Owner's details are requested as part of the application process – HDC then approach the owner (who has a right of appeal against the listing).
- In extreme circumstances, HDC could issue an order and / or take legal proceedings to ensure work was undertaken by the owner on a listed building or feature.
- Listed properties have no development rights so, for example, replacing windows and frames would require HDC approval (in order to ensure the historic feature was not diminished).
- HDC also maintains a list of non-designated buildings and sites which falls short of formal listing but do provide some additional protections for the building or feature. There is a list on HDC's website. (After-meeting note – nothing in the Crakehall with Langthorne Parishes is on that list).

Caroline was thanked for her advice and left the meeting. Councillors decided to discuss further possible listings at their next meeting.

3.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020

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

4.0 Matters Arising from the minutes

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 items 12.0 and 13.0

The proposal was agreed.

6.0 Clerk's Report

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

- **Repairs to fences** - Despite assurances in November from NYCC that work to repair 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 would be undertaken as a “matter of urgency”, no repairs had yet taken place. Cllr Weighell was asked and agreed to take up these unacceptable delays with NYCC Officers.
- **Replacement of stones by posts on The Green** - Greg Clapham undertook the work to replace the stones at various locations on The Green w/c 14 December 2020. Mr and Mrs Smith had said that they were very content with the work but, as Councillors were aware, Mr Sizer was not happy with the new posts outside the entrance to Crakehall House. He had asked if he could replace them, at his own expense, with posts to match others outside his house. Mr Jarvis from Crakehall Hall had also expressed his concerns about the appearance of the posts (particularly when viewed from the cricket pavilion). His preference was for no posts or stones at all but he accepted that, if posts are to be placed, then Mr Sizer’s suggestion would provide a more acceptable solution. Councillors felt that part of the difficulty was that the posts still required painting white so currently they did not look particularly attractive or visible. A further issue was that most, if not all, of the white stones which were replaced by posts have now been “relocated” to protect other areas of The Green. Councillors decided that:
 - Mr Sizer and Mr Jarvis should be asked to review their concerns after the posts had been painted white.
 - Kay Dennis should be asked if she would be prepared to paint the posts (as she had done with previous ones). The clerk agreed to establish whether any paint was still available and let Cllr Mallinson know so that she could do some painting if the opportunity arose.
 - They should visit The Green before the next meeting to see if other areas should be protected by posts and / or stones replaced by posts.
- **Play Equipment** – At the last meeting of the council members agreed that action should be taken to deal with the two Medium Risk items. Cllr Neale subsequently recommended that the timber shelter required re-roofing and offered to undertake the work if materials could be paid for by the council. This has been agreed, Cllr Neale also agreed to remove the planter at the village hall. Cllr Neale was thanked for his commitment to undertake the work.

7.0 Financial Reports

A summary of all Income and Expenditure from 1 November 2020 to 27 December 2020 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2020/21 had been

circulated with the agenda. . At 27 December 2020, the council had £6843.98 in its current account and £7080.62 in its savings account, a total of £13924.60. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £240 and further expenditure of around £3564 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 was unlikely and so the reserve will increase slightly. This is due mainly to actual spending on Repairs and Maintenance (£929.98) being significantly lower than the budget allocated (£5109.31). The current financial situation was noted.

8.0 Traffic Flow through in Crakehall

8.1 Cllr Shaw presented the latest data from the Vehicle Activated Sign and Police patrols in the village. There was now some evidence that the number of speeding offences and the 85th percentile speeds have gone down. Cllr Shaw agreed to collate all the data for 2020 for discussion at the next meeting.

8.2 Councillors also discussed how best to identify the meshed area on The Green used by the Police Patrol Van following the recent incident when the van came off the area recently and caused damage to the grass. The area was currently marked by small white flags and this was agreed as a reasonable long-term arrangement.

8.3 Further to the discussion at the last meeting about NYCC's review of its 20mph speed limit policy, a formal application has been made to Highways for a 20mph limit from the existing Playground signpost in Little Crakehall to the existing School sign near the petrol station. The Head of the school has written a letter in support of the application. A request has also been made for a flashing light to be attached to the existing Playground Signpost in Little Crakehall. A response is awaited.

8.4 In response to concerns about noise levels on the A684 in Little Crakehall a formal request was made to NYCC for the road to be resurfaced so that large vehicles can have a smoother (and therefore less noisy journey). A detailed response was received on 24 December 2020 describing the industry standard criteria applied for road re-surfacing work and indicating that the surface in question does not meet those criteria. On that basis, it is most unlikely that any work would be undertaken before 2023 at the earliest.

8.5 Highways had also been contacted about the concerns about road markings on the A684 near BASA just outside Bedale challenging the view of Officers that the road markings were appropriate for the road layout. A detailed response was received on 24 December 2020 which provided some background information to justify the current layout. Cllr Beal felt that it would be worth contacting local taxi firms for their views as a recent conversation he'd had with one driver suggested that near-misses were common on that stretch of road.

9.0 Communication with Parishioners

Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council probably does as much as, if not more than, most councils of similar size in attempting to keep parishioners informed of current issues and council decisions. However, despite all of these lines of communication, parishioners seem to quite often profess no knowledge of council decisions and / or suggest courses of action that have been discussed, often many times and at great length, by the council. Councillors discussed matters and agreed that, in addition to all current lines of communication, parishioners should be invited to join an email list so that minutes and newsletters could be sent directly to him. Also, both sides of the newsletter should be displayed on noticeboards for a quick read alternative to the full minutes.

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

10.1 Planning Application - 20/02869/FUL

The proposal is an extension to an existing agricultural building for the purpose of accommodating sheep at land and buildings South West of The Grange, Little Crakehall. No objections were raised.

10.2 Request to agree to work to trees on The Green

Further to the clerk's informal discussions with Audrey Staniland about her request for the council to agree to work to trees on The Green overhanging her property Audrey had now made a formal request for the work to be done. She would cover all costs. The clerk had advised that that either she could apply to Hambleton for consent and the PC would be consulted or she could come to the PC first and, if the council agreed, he would submit the application. Audrey was now asking the council and clerk to pursue this second option but unfortunately had not provided all the details that would be needed to make the submission. The clerk was authorised to take matters forward with Audrey and to circulate details of the work planned to all councillors when he receives them from Audrey's tree surgeons. Cllr Shaw suggested that, at the time work is undertaken on these trees, the contractor should also be asked to attend to the branch of a tree on The Green that is intruding into a tree in the churchyard. This was agreed.

10.3 Fallen trees in and adjacent to the beck

Concerns had been expressed recently by parishioners about a large tree trunk sitting in the beck at the bottom of the weir and a large fallen tree across the beck and others in poor condition near Guyzance. The Environment Agency had been alerted to the tree in the beck and it had been moved. It was agreed to contact the Marquis of Downshire's agents about the others as that part of the beck is their responsibility.

11.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

District Cllr Barningham advised of Green Bin collection dates for Christmas Trees and the availability now of Green Bin licenses for 2021/22. He also referred to a consultation underway in relation to plans for a large Solar Farm near Low Street, Leeming Bar.

12.0 The Old Chapel in the cemetery

At the last meeting of the council, it was agreed that in order to make the Old Chapel completely weatherproof some work to the roof and guttering was needed. Two of the four contractors that the clerk had approached had provided estimates of the costs of the work. The estimates were considered and a contractor was appointed. The council will consider the future purpose of the chapel at its next meeting.

13.0 Website accessibility

At the last meeting of the council, Members considered three quotations for the job of updating www.crakehall.org.uk in order to make it comply with the accessibility standards now expected of public authorities, (the wcag 2.0, level aa standard). Councillors deferred a decision so that they could do some research and become better informed about the standards and requirements. Councillors felt that it would be appropriate to commit to the standards and so they reconsidered the three quotations and appointed a contractor to undertake the work.

14.0 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7.30 pm.

**Chris McGee
Clerk to the Council
January 2021**



Hambleton Command : Town and Parish Council Report

Town or Parish	Crakehall, Hackforth, Snape and Watlass
Report Completed By :	6782 Lees
Data Reporting Period :	December 2020

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-social behaviour	5	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 4</i>	<i>Residential : 0</i>
Criminal Damage	0	
Theft (including from shops)	0	
Violence Against the Person	0	
Other crimes including Drugs	6	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	15	

As national restrictions take hold, police echo message to stay home and stay local
(from NYP website)

Speaking about the introduction of the new restrictions and North Yorkshire Police's approach to the policing of the health protection regulations, Superintendent Mike Walker, gold lead for the force's Covid-19 response said:

"The new national restrictions are now in force and everyone in England should be following the new guidance to stay at home.

"The new restrictions mean that people should only leave home where necessary; for essential shopping, to work if you cannot work from home, to exercise locally with only one other person outside your household, to meet your support bubble or childcare bubble, to seek medical assistance, to avoid harm or to attend education or childcare if eligible.

"Rules around indoor and outdoor social gatherings have been strengthened further and people should not be meeting socially with anyone outside of their household or support bubble.

"Under these new regulations, if you are outside of your home without a reasonable excuse, or gathering indoors or outdoors with others, the police can take enforcement action against you and you can be fined up to £200.

“I would also stress that it is important to stay as close to home as possible. While exercise is permitted, this should be done in your local area, preferably from your doorstep.

“To those who do not live locally, who were thinking of making a journey or day-trip to North Yorkshire to access our open spaces, I would ask you not to make that journey. You should stay close to home and exercise in your own local area.

“The new restrictions have been put in place to limit people’s movements in order to suppress the spread of a deadly virus. If you travel further than is essential, you are putting yourself and those communities you visit at risk of contracting this virus. So please, stay in your own local area.”

“Our patrol plans have been revised and we have increased our presence and visibility, to provide reassurance to our communities. Members of the public will see us on the roads and patrolling local areas and beauty spots.

“We will continue to follow our now well-established 4 e’s approach – engaging with the public, explaining the rules, encouraging adherence and enforcing where necessary and proportionate to do so.

“I’m aware that the weeks ahead will be challenging, but we know why we are being asked to stay at home and what we must do to save lives. Our health service is at a crucial point and as a nation we face a very serious situation, so it’s vital that we stick to the rules and stop the spread of the virus.

“If we can unite now, we can turn the tide on this virus. By taking immediate action and getting this virus under control, coupled with the increasing roll out of the vaccination programme, we can all start to look to 2021 with hope and optimism.”

For further details about the regulations and exceptions, please visit the [Gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk)

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.