Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council's

Bimonthly Newsletter

August 2021

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The Parish Council met on 21 July 2021 in Crakehall Village Hall, the first face-to-face meeting since January 2020. Although there were no legal requirements to do so, arrangements had been put in place to minimise the risk of spreading the coronavirus. Five of the six Parish Councillors, District Councillors Mike Barningham and John Noone, and two parishioners were present. The main points from the meetings are:

Cllrs Shaw and Beal had attended a meeting on-site with representatives from NYCC and their contractors to discuss the three sets of fences in Crakehall in need of repair or replacement. The railings outside St Edmunds, which cannot be matched exactly, will be replaced by alternatives which are deemed to be acceptable. A stone pillar will be replaced when the fence alongside the

beck is repaired. The wooden fence on Mastil Lane will be repaired with rails fastened outside the support posts (rather than slotting through as the current ones do). The council will continue to push NYCC for a definite timescale for the repairs.

Approval is to be sought from Hambleton District Council to **work to a tree** at the junction of Station Road and the A684 which is restricting visibility when turning on to the main road and to a dead alder tree on The Batts which is in danger of falling onto Mill buildings.

NYCC Highways have confirmed 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. However, a number of incidents recently on that road involving Heavy Vehicles have now been reported to the police who have agreed to monitor the situation.

Cllr Shaw has agreed to take over **Cemetery Administration** from Myra Shield when she retires next year.

Northern Powergrid is proposing to improve the existing low voltage network in Great Crakehall by removing some of its overhead network and installing a new buried cable route. The new route passes over Parish Council land (including part of The Green) and, although there will be some disruption whilst the work is underway, it will benefit the householders affected. Northern Powergrid will liaise directly with the affected households.

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 remain of concern and there is disappointment at the lack of engagement and enforcement action by NYCC. The council will continue to press this issue.

A large-scale footpaths map is being sourced to replace the faded one currently on the noticeboard on The Green. The five local walks leaflets and the map will also be made available at www.crakehall.org.uk

A number of comments recently about the lack of regular grass cutting on the village green have resurrected the idea of doing the work using local labour and / or volunteers. The current contractors have been reminded

that their **three-year contract ends** after this grass-cutting season and that it will be necessary to review arrangements. The offer by some residents to take on the work themselves will be considered as part of that process beginning with a discussion at the next meeting.

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 but 75 offences have been recorded. Cllr Shaw has requested the same number of visits as for 2020 for the remainder of 2021.

Councillors had a wide-ranging discussion about car parking round The Green 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. Information from the school had confirmed 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 were also noted (including the fact that the track alongside The Old Post Office is NYCC's responsibility and not the Parish Council's). A meeting will be arranged with the Head of the School about these issues so that the various suggestions for improvement can be explored further. Cllr Shaw will re-examine the possibility of getting a School Patrol Officer in light of the statistics provided by the school. As NYCC is not currently accepting applications for Residents Only Car Parking Areas unless assessments are fully funded, the council will suggest to NYCC that the lane running alongside The Old School House should be designated for "Access by Residents Only"

The council agreed to express concerns at the proposal for Crakehall and Langthorne to be moved from the Richmond Parliamentary Constituency into the area of a **new Thirsk and Malton Constituency.** Whilst the need for constituency areas to have populations of similar sizes was understood, it was 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.

Quotes for **repairs to the fence at the Village Hall Play Park** will be sought.

The council was very pleased with the **Wild**Flower area this year – cheaper seed but double the amount!

And finally, many congratulations and all good wishes to **Cllr Jess Mallinson** who is getting married on 14 August 2021.

The Next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 15 September 2021 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

For further details about any of the items in this newsletter and many others not included here please see the full minutes of the meeting at the Parish Council section of www.crakehall.org.uk

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