

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 November 2021 in Crakehall Village Hall.

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

Also present: County Councillor Mr J Weighell and one parishioner.

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

Apologies for Absence: District Councillors Mr M Barningham and J Noone.

Pre-meeting Items

No items were raised by those present.

1.0 Police Report

The Police Report – copy attached as Appendix 1 - had been circulated to all members. PCSO Gary Smith Owen highlighted the key Crime and ASB data and noted an amendment to the statistics for Burglary which should have read: Commercial 0; Residential 1. Home Security was also mentioned with the suggestion of further dissemination of the reminders given in the report. Hare Coursing remains an issue in the area with the public asked to use 999 to report any crime in progress and to take a note of any vehicle registration details.

2.0 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 September 2021

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 17.0 and two further urgent items considered as items 18.0 and 19.0

It was agreed that, because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under items 17.0, 18.0 and 19.0, the public and press would be excluded whilst the items were discussed.

5.0 Parish Clerk's Report

The clerk referred to a number of items in his written report:

- a) Repairs to fences – The threat of reporting to the press the council's concerns about lack of progress in relation to the three sets of railings in Crakehall in need of repair or replacement seemed to have provided sufficient stimulus for NYCC to give the matters some priority. The wooden fence on Mastil Lane had been replaced and iron work is on order for the two other sets of railings. As requested, and presumably as a gesture of goodwill, the tarmacking alongside the church wall had also been completed. It was agreed that the situation should continue to be monitored closely with regular updates being pursued if they are not forthcoming.
- b) Work to trees - The application to Hambleton District Council for work to various trees in Crakehall was approved on 1 October 2021. Rennison Tree Services will do this work on 1 December 2021 and two additional pieces of work:

- to advise on some poplar trees on The Batts reported by a resident as a cause of concern
- to remove a fallen tree branch on the bankside opposite The Batts Play Park.

At the last meeting, it had been agreed that, as part of the package of work referred to above, the crooked young oak tree on The Green should be removed but not replaced. However, Christopher Robson had subsequently offered to donate a young tree and he and Malcolm Dennis had also expressed concerns about the health of the sycamores on either side of the little oak tree. With that in mind, they had suggested that it might be considered prudent to plant a small oak (or indeed another species) as that will take years to grow and, if it was considered at any time to spoil the view, it could easily be taken down. Members discussed the matter but felt their original decision should stand. The loss of sycamores would be dealt with as and when it happened.

Cllr Shaw also mentioned the availability of free trees from the Woodland Trust. Whilst, none were required for public spaces, it was agreed to publicise the offer via the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook page.

- c) Playground Inspections - Following up issues relating to play parks as raised by Cllr Beal at the last meeting, the clerk reported that:
- On The Batts, the shelter roof had now been replaced by Cllr Neale (for the costs of materials only).
 - The annual inspections had been arranged with MacVenture (as last year) and was understood to have taken place on 4 November 2021. The report has not yet been received but it was agreed that should any essential or urgent repairs be recommended these should be taken forward by the clerk (after consultation with the Chairman).
 - Greg Clapham has agreed to undertake the maintenance issues at the Village Hall Play Park (including problems with gates, loose wood on the picnic table and netting on the fence which needs replacing). A definite date for this work is awaited.
- d) Road Markings on the A684 - The re-surfacing work on the A684 through Crakehall began on 11 October 2021 with restrictions and diversions in place. It was completed just over two weeks later although the re-marking of the road planned for overnight on 28 October 2021 had to be postponed because of bad weather. It has recently been re-scheduled for Friday 19 November 2021.
- e) Mrs Precious' grave - The quote from Watson Memorials for a reduction in size, re-lettering, etc, of the headstone was the most competitive and so, based on the agreement at the last meeting, Watson Memorials had been appointed to do the work. The costs will be covered by the funds left by Mrs Precious' estate as an insurance claim will not be possible. The stone will be removed from the cemetery and should be back from the factory within 3-4 weeks. After that it will need to be re-lettered and re-fitted.
- f) Planning Applications were noted in the clerk's written report but for the record:
- One request for comments on a Planning Related issue had been received since the last meeting of the council with responses required before 17 November 2021 and so it was responded to in accordance with the council's Standing Orders. It related to naming the streets on The Limes development on Hackforth Road with the new name now confirmed as Swale View. The council had also been informed of a number of decisions since the last meeting:
- 21/01870/FUL - Installation of 2 french windows with glazed juliet balconies to replace existing windows on the rear elevation; installation of french windows in the side elevation; and replacement of windows throughout at Mill Cottage, Hackforth Road, Little Crakehall – granted.

- 20/00330/FUL - Full planning application for the construction of 18 residential dwellings as per amended drawings received by Hambleton District Council on 15th February 2020 and 28th April 2021 at Land To The North Of Crakehall Water Mill, Hackforth Road, Little Crakehall – granted.
 - 21/01878/FUL - Construction of an agricultural barn for the housing of livestock at Cherrytree Farm, Crakehall, Bedale – granted.
 - 21/01530/FUL - Resubmission of application for the Provision of 2 log cabin holiday units (single storey) at The Old Granary, Little Crakehall – granted.
 - 21/01531/FUL - Retrospective application for change of use of eastern part of dwelling and domestic curtilage for use in conjunction with day spa at The Old Granary, Little Crakehall – granted.
- g) Broken Gate Post - The gate post on the footpath between Crakehall Mill and Green Gate Lane has collapsed and NYCC has advised that such maintenance and repairs are the responsibility of the land owner or tenant. The clerk and Cllr Wilson are trying to establish responsibilities with the owners of The Mill and Green Gate Farm.
- h) Allotment on Ashdowne - In early October 2021, a parishioner had asked if the parish council could make enquiries about buying the allotment on Ashdowne. The clerk took matters up with Mr and Mrs Meynell's daughter and son and had been advised that, whilst they would consider selling the land to the Parish Council for use as allotments, an independent valuation has suggested the values that might be obtained on the open market may be well in excess of what the Parish Council would be prepared to offer. Councillors agreed that, given the likely costs, it was not appropriate to pursue matters further.
- i) The Pinfold - In early October 2021, Paul McGee offered to do more work at The Pinfold to tidy it up and, after consulting the Chairman, Paul's offer of help had been accepted. He undertook the work on 14 November 2021 and hired a chipper to dispose of wood and vegetation. Councillors agreed that it would be appropriate to cover the cost of hiring the chipper. Cllr Neale noted for future reference that he had a chipper that he could make available for similar work in the future.
- j) Street Lighting – Cllr Beal raised the issue of the lack of cleaning of the lamps down Station Road. It was agreed that, once Cllr Beal had advised on the particular lamps causing concern, the clerk should contact the relevant authority.

6.0 Traffic Flow Through Crakehall

Cllr Shaw reported the latest data from the Vehicle Activated Sign and police patrols in the village as follows:

- VAS data had been somewhat disrupted by the road closures associated with the re-surfacing of the A684 but, nonetheless, what was available showed little variation from the usual pattern and certainly nothing significant enough to cause any further action from the Police or Highways.
- The Police Radar Van had been in the village twice since the last meeting but, in total to 28 October 2021, had only made 14 visits in 2021 (compared to 37 in 2020). It was encouraging nevertheless to note that the number of offences per visit showed a slight reduction.

Councillors then considered the motion put forward by [20s Plenty](#), a national organisation that campaigns for a 20mph speed limit in place of existing 30mph limits:

“This parish/town council supports the implementation of 20mph as the default speed limit for our parish and in all the urban and village streets in North Yorkshire where people live, work, shop, play and learn. This parish council will write to the Leader and Cabinet Member for the Highway Authority (currently North Yorkshire County Council) to implement a County wide policy on this issue to support 20mph as the default limit with higher limits only where the needs of vulnerable road users are fully taken into account”

Whilst there was some enthusiasm for 20 mph limits in certain areas, the council did not support it as a default position. Rather, the council looked for more flexibility from NYCC officers and an acceptance that a greater number of 20 mph limits should be in place in key areas across the county (including on part of the A684 through Crakehall).

Cllr Weighell spoke about the value (and otherwise) of fixed speed cameras and experiences in other parts of the world that seemed to have better approaches than England. There was then some debate about locating the VAS near the Hackforth Road by erecting another post (at a cost of £500). However, on balance, beyond confirming precise speeds at that point, it was agreed that currently it would do nothing to convince NYCC that additional measures were required.

It was agreed that occasionally the VAS should be deployed near Cllr Wilson’s house but aligned to face back into Crakehall rather than towards Patrick Brompton.

7.0 Grass Cutting

At the last meeting, councillors had discussed grass cutting and how to move forward beyond April 2022 when the current contract expires. Three options were identified:

- 1) Roll forward Farm and Land Services’ Contract on an annually renewable basis.
- 2) Undertake a full tendering process based on a detailed specification (as undertaken in 2019).
- 3) Consider the possibility put forward by some residents for grass to be cut by volunteers.

Councillors re-examined all these options in light of the additional information provided by the clerk including:

- The assurances of better performance in 2022/23 from the current contractor (and levels of satisfactory performance in 2019/20 and 2020/21).
- The indication of an 8% increase in prices from the current contractor (compared to rates set in 2019 when they were already the cheapest contractor).
- That an outright purchase of a suitable machine could not be afforded and the costs of leasing a machine for use by volunteers (and other costs) would be greater than current contract costs.
- Concerns about contingency plans in the event of volunteers withdrawing their services.

On that basis, it was agreed that the current contract with Farm and Land Services should be rolled forward on an annually renewable basis.

Councillors also resolved that Mike Lumley and colleagues should be thanked for their concerns about the appearance of The Green and their offers of assistance. And given Mike’s offer of grass cutting between contractor visits, if necessary, he should be offered the use of any machinery currently owned by the council (although liability issues would need to be clarified before beginning such arrangements).

8.0 Make a Difference Grants 2022/23

Hambleton District Council's Making a Difference Fund had been launched recently with grants of between £2,000 and £24,999 being made available through the scheme for projects that meet a local need and contribute to one or more of the Council's priorities. The Parish Council had benefitted from Make a Difference grants in recent years (for playpark equipment) but an appeal to the community for ideas, via the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook page did not generate any ideas. No further proposals were received from councillors.

9.0 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

At its last meeting, the council decided that a beacon would be lit on Thursday 2 June 2022 and that the community should be invited to organise events to celebrate the Jubilee probably on Friday 3 June 2022 which is the designated Bank Holiday. Interest was invited via the newsletter, (currently only on line), and via the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook page. Regrettably, no suggestions had been received so it was agreed to contact the pub, the school and the church to see what plans they have, (if any).

10.0 Weeds in the beck

Following concerns expressed about the condition of the beck, particularly excessive weed growth, the clerk had met with a representative from the Environment Agency on 6 October 2021. In summary, the advice was to do nothing at this stage. This was based on the availability of ample water flow (albeit reduced by vegetation) and the very low risk of flooding significant enough to cause damage to nearby properties. Various actions that could be taken were discussed including:

- mechanical removal of vegetation which would require heavy machinery and be very expensive
- dredging - even more expensive and requiring various consultations and licenses
- spraying vegetation - requires a license.

But the advice was that all of these things would be temporary measures and lay open the risk of a more invasive species colonising the beck once the substrate had been cleared. Furthermore, the advice was that the silting above the weir is actually made worse by the weir and the best practical measure would be to remove the weir.

Cllr Neale had suggested that obtaining a license and spraying the weeds would "achieve the most and cost the least" so this alternative view was discussed by councillors. And, although it was noted that the weeds had now begun to die back, it was agreed that the clerk should liaise with Paul Kind to see if a license might be obtained for him.

11.0 Footpath Marking

A request had been received from resident, Sharon Neale on 11 October 2021:

*"I'm just wondering if it's worth asking **again** about the marking of the footpath which runs along the front of the properties facing onto the Green (in front of the pub/school and round corner to West End). The footpath is no longer obvious following tarmacking and people (residents and visitors alike) have no idea that there is a footpath there - which results in cars being parked on and across the footpath. I've raised this twice before, and been told that markings would be done by the parish councillors, but this obviously hasn't been done. I think it's such a shame that proper respect and care hasn't been shown to keeping a simple thing like a footpath in our village. So, I'm asking **again** - can the footpath in front of the pub/school, round to West End, be marked, please?"*

There was some sympathy for this proposal but concerns that the work scheduled by Northern Powergrid involved digging up tarmac to lay cables underground. It was felt to be more appropriate therefore to re-visit this suggestion once Northern Powergrid had completed its work.

12.0 Financial matters

12.1 Income / Expenditure from 1 September 2021 to 31 October 2021 and Budget monitoring 2021/22

A summary of all Income and Expenditure from 1 September 2021 to 31 October 2021 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2021/22 had been circulated to all members. At 1 November 2021, the council had £3575.27 in its current account and £12000.62 in its savings accounts, a total of £15575.89. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £1465 and further expenditure of around £6151 before the end of March 2022 (thus enabling the unallocated contingency / reserve to stay around the £10000 mark as previously agreed). Both these estimates were probably on the high side but, overall, no issues were anticipated

12.2 Setting the precept for 2022/23

In considering the level of precept for 2022/23 councillors considered an analysis of expenditure in 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and the current year (but excluding any one-off elements of expenditure or income). The council agreed that the precept should remain at the same level as for 2020/21 and 2021/22, namely £10000.

12.3 Awards and Gifts

At the last meeting, Councillors had considered the question of gifts which may seek to recognise the contribution of an individual over many years and paid at the end of that period. The council agreed that it should consider a draft policy for consideration at its next meeting. The draft policy was based on Ferryhill Town Council's policy statement but amended and adapted for circumstances in Crakehall and Langthorne. Councillors adopted the statement as written but, at the suggestion of Cllr Randall, the clerk will add a section on Christmas Gifts (based on current practice)

13.0 Councillors' Reports on their areas of lead responsibility

This was the standing item allowing councillors to share any information or concerns about matters that fall within their areas of lead responsibility (and which have not already been raised elsewhere on the agenda).

Cllr Stirke 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 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.

14.0 Christmas Tree

Councillors noted that, earlier in the year, Rob Exelby, on behalf of Exelby Services, had offered to procure a suitably sized (14 to 16 feet) Christmas Tree for use on The Green. He has subsequently confirmed that the tree has been ordered and should be available from 22 November 2021. Rob had also offered to erect the tree and provide additional LED lights and other decorations. It was agreed that, subject to Rob's availability, the tree will be erected in the usual way by Cllrs Neale, Beal and Shaw at 10.00 am on Sunday 5 December 2021. Cllr Beal will check the council's lights which are likely

to be sufficient without further lights and decorations. The clerk will advise the church so that access to the electricity supply can be assured.

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

These were considered in private session as items 18.0 and 19.0 – please see below.

16.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

None.

17.0 Christmas Gifts

As in previous years, significant levels of voluntary effort by parishioners during the course of the year were recognised by agreeing the purchase of small gifts.

18.0 Scribe Cemetery Module

It was agreed that the council should subscribe to the Scribe Cemetery module in order to enable all records to be held on-line and provide a direct link to the Scribe Accounts package already been used. (On a related matter, Cllr Stirke agreed to provide the name of a mole catcher so that their presence in the cemetery could be addressed).

19.0 Allotment on Mastil Lane

Further to communication from the Land Registry it was agreed to pursue ownership via a local solicitor.

20.0 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 19 January 2022 at 7.30 pm.

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

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

Hambleton Command : Town and Parish Council **Report**



Town or Parish	Crakehall, Hackforth, Snape and Watlass
Report Completed By :	6782 Lees
Data Reporting Period :	October 2021

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-social behaviour	2	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 1</i>
Criminal Damage	0	
Theft (including from shops)	0	
Violence Against the Person	1	
Other crimes including Drugs	3	
<i>TOTAL THIS PERIOD</i>	<i>7</i>	

Home Security reminder

As the nights are now darker, please be aware of the below advice as a polite reminder on keeping your property safe and secure. You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary by:

- Leave lights in your house on a timer to make the property appear occupied
- Install external security lights
- Ensure you lock all door and windows
- Install good quality CCTV cameras
- Ensure garages, shed and any outbuildings are locked, locking away any tools, bikes etc
- Keep valuables out of sight in the property and ensure handbags and keys are hidden away from letterbox/cat flaps as thieves can hook keys or valuables through a small opening
- Set your burglar alarm.

Reporting Online

Please be aware you can now report crime online via the NYP website Reports are dealt with by our control room in exactly the same way whether you report it online or calling 101. <https://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

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.