

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 January 2020

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

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

5 Parishioners,

Apologies for Absence: Hambleton District Cllrs Barningham and Noone.

Pre-meeting Items were raised by the Public

No issues were raised

1.0 Police Report

PC Enborn attended the meeting and circulated copies of his report which gave Crime and ASB Data, police updates and some details about Operation Bright. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. PC Enborn gave some further details about Operation Bright, a campaign to identify properties which are unlit and / or appear to be unoccupied overnight as these are more susceptible to burglary. He also agreed to ensure that the police would support any event which was arranged to try to re-establish Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across both parishes.

2.0 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20 November 2019

The minutes of the meeting, having previously been circulated by the clerk to all councillors were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3.0 Any Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4.0 Parish Clerk's Report

The clerk highlighted some of the matters referred to in his written report:

a) **Grass Cutting** - NYCC had been advised that the Parish Council wished to take on responsibility for cutting areas of grass previously cut in Crakehall by them. And now, Peter Stirke had confirmed that he would take on additional grass cutting in Langthorne. The level of honorarium paid to Peter would need to be reviewed in due course. There had not been any response to the advert in the newsletter seeking a new Cemetery Groundsperson so the council's current grass cutting contractor will be asked to give a price for undertaking the work.

b) **Neighbourhood Watch** – Councillors noted that some interest been generated in response to the article in the newsletter and, given police support, agreed to set up a meeting to discuss matters further with any interested parishioners. Cllr Stirke suggested that such an event could take place in a few months' time when the nights were lighter.

c) **Community Heritage Project / Community Archaeology Group** – Councillors noted that only a very small amount of interest had been generated in response to the article in the newsletter so agreed not to pursue the matter further.

d) **Christmas Tree** – thanks were given to Sharon Neale for donating the tree and to Colin Bartram and Liam Jacques for transporting it to The Green. Options for the future were considered and Cllr

Holt will try to establish how much it would cost to purchase a larger tree for 2020. The possibility of illuminating the tree in the corner of the churchyard, subject to the agreement of the PCC, will also be considered. Cllr Beal will find out the cost of hiring a cherry picker for two days to install and then take down the lights.

e) **Correspondence** – the clerk reported that the appeal against the decision to refuse a planning application at Crakehall Ings had been dismissed by the Inspector. And Mrs Brown from Langthorne had raised some issues about a planning application for two barn conversions near East Farm. She had claimed that one of the barns was listed but Cllr Stirke had checked the national register and this did not appear to be the case. There was also some confusion about the claim that some land in the vicinity belonged to the village and, at one time had been designated as land for a school to be built on. Cllr Stirke had spoken to Mrs Brown about the matter and agreed to see if anything could be found in the council's files stored in the cemetery chapel.

5.0 Financial matters

The summary of all Income and Expenditure from 1 November 2019 to 31 December 2019 and the budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2019/20 were noted. At 31 December 2019, the council had £4084.63 in its current account and £14048.86 in its savings account, a total of £18133.49. However, expenditure anticipated before the end of March 2020 and protected sums left a current balance of just over £9000 (which was just £1000 under the general level of contingency that had been agreed recently).

6.0 Playground Phase 2

6.1 At the last meeting of the Parish Council it had been agreed:

- To invite proposals from Kompan and Wicksteed to outline what they could provide for the funds currently available.
- Consider these two proposals alongside the one already received from Sovereign at the council meeting in January 2020 so that a contract could be awarded and work completed before 31 March 2020.

The proposals from Sovereign, Kompan and Wicksteed, having been previously circulated to members and made available to the wider community, were considered in the context of:

- the £12300 currently available or pledged to be spent on the new equipment.
- the possibility of removing some of the elements of costs proposed and / or undertaking some of the work on a voluntary basis. (No members of the Playground Sub-Committee were present but Andy Nelson had emailed previously to support this approach).

It was agreed unanimously that the proposals put forward by KOMPAN should be pursued on the basis of their design and appearance being the most appropriate for The Village Green location and the council's previous experience of their after sales support and warranties. The clerk was authorised to take matters forward with KOMPAN but, given the apparent uncertainty about whether grass matting was now recommended, to seek the company's views about making the installation without it. If this was acceptable, the money retained would be held in an earmarked Play Park Fund to help with future maintenance costs. The clerk was also asked to see the colour scheme could be muted still further given the Village Green location.

6.2 With regard to the discussion at the last meeting about replacement fences and posts around the play equipment on The Batts and at the village hall, a second estimate had been requested but not yet received. Cllr Neale will pursue this with Dave Woodward.

7.0 Speeding Through Crakehall

Cllr Shaw provided updates as follows:

- the Vehicle Activated Sign had now been deployed twice at each of the designated locations. In Great Crakehall the percentage of vehicles exceeding the limit had gone marginally down (average speed of all vehicles (25.49 mph from 25.72mph) whereas in Little Crakehall it had gone up (28mph from 27.27mph)! The VAS sign is currently stored to comply with the temporary deployment rules of NYCC and will be re-deployed in Little Crakehall on January 18th. The situation will continue to be monitored and data shared with relevant authorities so that, if appropriate, a case can be made for a permanent speed camera.
- discussions had taken place with Graham Sizer about his offer to contribute financially and the suggestion put to him that any donation would be best used to install posts at two additional locations. A response was awaited.
- data from Speed Camera patrols showed 782 offences recorded over 28 visits with the vast majority, 88%, being in Little Crakehall.
- in order to create hard standing on The Green for the police's vehicle three different types of reinforcement mesh had been investigated. It was agreed to purchase a heavy duty 2m x 20m mesh from MatsGrid at a cost of £364.99 together with an appropriate number of fixing pins.

8.0 Potholes / Tarmacking – update

Cllr Neale had examined the kerbs around The Green following the recent tarmacking and concluded that any damage had been caused during the installation rather than by vehicles (because of sub-standard kerbs). No further action was proposed.

9.0 Request for parking on The Green

At the last meeting the request from the PCC of St Gregory's Church, to park on The Village Green across from the church in front of Firby House was rejected. But it was agreed to hold a site meeting on 8 December 2019 and return to the matter at this meeting. Mr and Mrs Bunting and Mr and Mrs Cushnie had also now offered their views on the issue. It was agreed that:

- The decision to reject the request for cars to be parked on The Green outside Firby House should be upheld (on the grounds that this would only cause damage to the grass).
- The possibility of replacing the soil between the church wall and the road with aggregate should be explored. Cllr Neale will speak to Dave Woodward about likely costs.
- Cllr Shaw will measure up the grassed area beyond the church on the left so that a price for reinforced mesh can be calculated.
- Myra Shield will ask the PCC if they would be prepared, in principle, to share any costs with the Parish Council.
- In due course, the council will consider replacing existing white stones with white posts (as stones are no longer recommended for use). Some extension of the areas protected by white posts will also be considered. In the more immediate future a stone on the corner of the entrance to Hall Farm will be moved.

10.0 Request to provide and site a memorial bench on The Green

At the last meeting, it had been agreed in principle that the family of the late Paul Kellett could purchase and site a memorial bench just outside the Old Post Office, where he used to live. However, the design had not yet been received for approval.

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

Cllr Holt enquired about the ownership of the grassed pavement areas on Coronation Road. It was suggested that they were very likely to be the responsibility of Highways but that this could be confirmed by examining the Land Registry plan for any of the semi-detached houses on that side of the road (perhaps one used in a recent planning application).

17.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

The clerk reported that, at the request of a parishioner, he had contacted NYCC about the state of the public right of way over the fields just past Mrs Staniland's house caused by a combination of cattle in the field and a lot of rain. Considerable doubt was expressed about whether anything could be done in these circumstances but it was agreed to leave the query with NYCC and await their response.

18.0 Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 18 March 2020 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Signed: C J McGee

Date: January 2020

Minutes drafted by the Clerk and subject to the approval of the council at its next meeting.

Chris McGee, Clerk to the Council, Mangold Garth, Langthorne, Bedale, North Yorkshire, DL81PQ
Tel: 01677424436

