

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 March 2019

Present: Mr J Wilson (in the chair), Mr D Holt, Mr A Beal, Mr D Ventham and Mr J Neale.

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

8 Parishioners and District Councillors Mr J Noone and Mr M Barningham.

Apologies: Hambleton District Cllr C Les

Cllr Wilson opened the meeting by explaining that David Thompson had tendered his resignation with immediate effect the previous evening. As Vice Chairman, he would therefore be chairing the meeting.

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17. Private Items

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

Signed: C J McGee

Date: March 2019

Chris McGee, Clerk to the Council, Ash Brae, Langthorne, Bedale, North Yorkshire, DL81PQ
Tel: 01677424436

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 27 March 2019

Present: Mr J Wilson (in the chair), Mr D Holt, Mr A Beal, Mr D Ventham and Mr J Neale.

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

8 Parishioners and District Councillors Mr J Noone and Mr M Barningham.

Apologies: Hambleton District Cllr C Les

Cllr Wilson opened the meeting by explaining that David Thompson had tendered his resignation with immediate effect the previous evening. As Vice Chairman, he would therefore be chairing the meeting.

Pre-meeting Items Raised by the Public

Access to 2 West Terrace - Jess Mallinson explained that she and Matthew had now moved in to 2 West Terrace but the ownership of the track to the right of the house had not been established. She advised that they may wish to return to the possibility of access over the Village Green at some stage in the future.

Burtree Cottage – Myra Shield advised that her planning application for a new vehicular entrance to her house had been rejected because of visibility splay issues.

Flower displays – David Shaw wondered if some daffodils might be planted on The Batts as before and after the Wildflower display there was little else to see. Myra also mentioned the bulbs that had been removed by the builders of the new estate on Hackforth Road and that the new grass cutters had cut an area where tulips normally appear.

Car Parking – David Shaw expressed concern about cars parking on the grassed area on Mastil Lane. The ownership of the area was unknown but it was not known to be officially designated Village Green.

1. Police Report

PCSO Heather Lees shared her report with councillors and others present. She highlighted the latest crime figures for the area and spoke about the campaign to address modern day slavery. District Cllr Barningham raised an issue of a Hackforth resident telephoning 999 to report Hare Coursing in progress but was told that it was not deemed an emergency. Heather Lees confirmed that ringing 999 was appropriate when a crime was in progress and agreed to take details from Mike Barningham so that the operator's response could be investigated.

2. Hambleton District Council's Dog Warden

The Dog Warden had not responded to reminders to attend the meeting but Cllr Holt advised that he was keen for anyone observing dog fouling to report the offender immediately to the Dog Warden (and not the Parish Council). Cllr Holt also reminded everyone that he has a small supply of signs if any are required in any location not currently covered.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23 January 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.

4. Minutes of the Additional Parish Council Meeting held on 20 February 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.

5. Any Matters Arising

Playground – The clerk advised that the application to Hambleton District Council's Make a Difference Fund had resulted in an allocation of £4000 (which needed to be spent before the end of March 2020). Cllr Ventham added that he had recently met with two potential contractors and asked them to propose less expensive schemes than those previously considered. Also, another promising source of grant funding had been identified (relating to the Landfill Site Tax). Cllr Neale proposed that any new equipment should be metal rather than wood in view of maintenance issues. The Clerk was concerned that planning approvals may be necessary because the playground site was in a Conservation Area but Cllr Barningham suggested that the Parish Council itself may have the authority to proceed with this sort of installation. The clerk will check.

Village Maintenance – Cllr Ventham noted that the benches on The Green needed repair – this was agreed. The wider issue of village maintenance was discussed and it was agreed that:

- All councillors and parishioners should let the clerk know of any matters that require attention so that a list may be prepared, costed and put into priority order.
- The chairman be authorised to take action between meetings on matters that fall within the limits prescribed in Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.

6. Parish Clerk's Report

Grass Cutting Contract – Farm and Land Services have been appointed to cut all the areas of grass in Crakehall that have previously been mown and strim those areas as required on each visit. On every other visit they will strim a swathe of grass on the steep bankside adjacent to the A684 in Little Crakehall and the small section of grass adjacent to the road near the bridge in Great Crakehall.

Cemetery Maintenance – Tracey Gill has been appointed to undertake Cemetery Maintenance. She will be assisted by Howard and Henry Gill.

Tree Work – Rennison Tree Specialists have been appointed to deal with all trees classified as posing a "moderate risk" and Category U trees in the recent Tree Survey. However, as the trees are in a Conservation Area, approval from Hambleton District Council needs to be sought. This has now been done.

Rooks – Following the discussions at the last meeting, Martyn Mongon arranged for an experienced and qualified tree surgeon to undertake the work to disrupt the rooks' nests and a price was agreed by the council. The plan was for the tree surgeon to climb the trees but, on the day he was due to visit, he contacted Martyn to explain that, after researching matters a little more carefully, he was concerned that he would be acting illegally. Therefore, he withdrew his offer to undertake the work. Given that his understanding effectively confirms the advice given to the council in September 2018, it is difficult to know what further action could be taken by the council.

Correspondence - Concerns about car parking continue. The clerk advised that he had written to the owners of St Edmund's holiday cottages to ask that they ask visitors to park their cars away from neighbouring properties, possibly on the road up to the pub or the road up to West Green. They responded very positively explaining all the actions that had taken (and continue to take) to alleviate matters. (On a different matter, they have also agreed to provide more bins for glass re-cycling).

Other concerns related to cars parking on the path between Village Farm and St Edmunds and a vehicle regularly parking on village green outside Munton Cottage, West End.

It had also been suggested that there might be some re-planting of daffodils for next Spring. Sharon Neale has offered a donation of £10 towards purchase of bulbs and offered to help with the planting in the Autumn. This was agreed.

7. Financial Reports

The Clerk reported that, at 28 February 2019, the council had £39715.16 in the bank but projected expenditure to 31 March 2019, (estimated at around £300), protected sums, (£3915.65) and the level of contingency previously agreed, (£15,000), need to be deducted to leave just over £20000 unallocated and therefore available to be spent on the council's priorities.

In order to facilitate on-line returns and easier reporting, members agreed the purchase of an accounts' packages tailored to the needs of parish councils. After consideration of two alternatives they agreed to the purchase of Scribe – details at www.scribeaccounts.com – at a cost of £129 (ex VAT) per year.

8. Speeding Through Crakehall

David Shaw shared the results of his analysis of the data available on the Police website about speeding offences. It showed that numbers of offences comparable to those in Crakehall only occurred on the A1, A19 and other major trunk roads. For comparable roads, the offences in Crakehall were almost three times as great and, on the A684 itself, the offences in Crakehall were over twice the number for the rest of the entire 47 mile stretch of the road. It was agreed that attempts had been made repeatedly through the Police and Highways to try to get acceptance of speeding in Crakehall as a real issue. These had failed so a press release will be prepared and sent to the D&S with David's accompanying analysis.

Councillors noted that Vehicle Activated Signs will be available to purchase (via NYCC) from 1 April 2019. Agreement in principle was given but it was also suggested that the possibility of a joint purchase with one or more neighbouring parish councils should be investigated and reported back to the meeting in May.

9. Potholes / Tarmacking

Cllr Neale had received a quotation from Duffields for remedial work to a number of areas additional to the main area previously discussed by councillors. This was discussed in detail and the areas covered clarified. It was agreed that the work be undertaken in all of the areas namely:

- Road leading from the A684 up towards the pub and school.
- The road in front of the pub.
- The side road entrance opposite the Old Chapel.
- Part of Church Road.

(Precise details were agreed on a plan drawn by Cllr Neale).

Cllr Neale was authorised to negotiate with Duffields to attempt to get some discount on the overall price which will be in excess of £20000. The price was agreed as offering good value for work of a reliable quality when compared to other companies that had been approached.

10. Trees in Crakehall Beck

Cllr Holt referred to debris in the beck near to the bridge in an area that is the council's responsibility. Cllr Neale agreed to bring trailer over to remove it and Cllrs Holt and Ventham agreed to assist on a date to be agreed. Cllr Neale will also clear away the brash from The Batts.

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