

## **Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8 May 2019**

**Present:** Councillors Mr D Shaw, Mr D Holt, Mr J Wilson, Mr A Beal, Mrs S Stirke and Mr J Neale.

**Clerk:** Mr C McGee.

8 Parishioners, County Councillor Mr J Weighell and District Councillor Mr M Barningham.

**Apologies for Absence:** District Councillors Mr C Les and Mr J Noone.

This meeting had been preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting – no issues were raised by those attending.

#### **1.0 Chairman's report**

Councillor Wilson, the retiring Vice-Chairman, presented his report for the year to 8 May 2019 (see Appendix A).

#### **2.0 Councillors' Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Code of Conduct**

Councillors completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and all were duly witnessed by the Clerk. The council's Code of Conduct and the procedures established by Hambleton District Council for investigating breaches of the code had been circulated previously.

#### **3.0 Councillors' Registration of Interests**

Councillors had been issued with the Register of Interests forms and five of these were returned to the Clerk so that they could be returned to Hambleton District Council within the decreed time limit. Cllr Beal will return his asap.

#### **4.0 Election of Chairman and Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Councillor Wilson, the retiring Vice-Chairman, vacated the position of Chair and nominations were requested for the ensuing year. Cllr Beal was proposed but declined the invitation. Cllr Wilson was then proposed and seconded and all were in favour. Cllr Wilson accepted the position and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was completed and duly witnessed by the Clerk.

#### **5.0 Election of Vice-Chairman and Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr Beal was proposed but declined the invitation. Cllr Neale was then proposed and seconded and all were in favour. Cllr Neale accepted the position and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form was completed and duly witnessed by the Clerk.

#### **6.0 Selection of Representatives For:**

- Yorkshire Local Councils Association - Councillor Beal agreed to continue to represent the Council.
- Crakehall Village Hall Management Committee - Councillor Neale agreed to continue to act as the Council's representative.
- Rector and Four and Twenty of Bedale - Councillors Neale and Shaw agreed to represent the Council but the clerk agreed to clarify the terms of office for these positions.

#### **7.0 Cemetery Report**

Myra Shield highlighted four issues:

- The removal of the rubbish heap had been a good move – the area was now grassed over.
- The stone heap and elder bushes at the far end of the cemetery needed some urgent attention.
- The new contractor was not cutting the main area of grass as had been previous practice. The clerk indicated that this had been brought to his attention as the area had not been included in the specification. It was agreed that it should be added (and the grass cut before a funeral on 17 May).
- Fees and some other issues required a review. This was scheduled for debate at the next meeting of the council.

**8.0 To consider appointing lead members for various responsibilities across the parish**

Lead members were appointed for the following responsibilities:

Road Safety – Cllr Shaw

Grass Cutting and Trees – Cllr Holt

The Cemetery – Cllr Wilson

Village Maintenance – Cllr Holt (Crakehall) / Cllr Stirke (Langthorne)

Playgrounds – Cllr Beal

Footpaths – Cllr Stirke

Social Media – Cllr Holt

**9.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Thursday 17 May 2018**

The minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17 May 2018 were approved by the Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

**10.0 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

Signed: C J McGee

Date: May 2019

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

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

## **CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **VICE-CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT – May 2019**

Good evening everyone,

As most of you know, I'm John Wilson and for 2018/19 I was Vice Chairman of the Parish Council. Most of you will probably also know that, in March, Dave Thompson, the Chair of the Council, resigned so it falls to me as the Vice Chairman to present the Annual Report to this Annual Meeting. I'm sure that the rumour that Dave only resigned to avoid having to prepare an Annual Report is untrue! More seriously we thank Dave for his work on the Parish Council over many years.

How quickly the last year seems to have passed! It's hard to believe that it's just over a year since the Tour de Yorkshire passed through Crakehall on 5 May 2018. We were blessed with wonderful weather and an amazing spectacle as the bikes passed through the village. It was a great day and just reward for the huge effort put in by the Organising Committee and their many helpers. A magnificent effort by the community for the community. Congratulations and thanks to all concerned.

Over the last year the council has made a huge effort to try to make visible improvements across the parishes. It would take too long to list everything that's been done but here are some of the highlights:

- New village signs for Crakehall
- A new contractor for grass cutting including some additional areas and some strimming
- A tree survey and follow up action on the trees most in need of work
- Acquired the telephone kiosk in Langthorne and installed a defibrillator
- Agreed that a substantial amount of re-tarmacking can take place around The Green and near the Church (at a cost of over £20,000)
- A new 30 mph sign for Langthorne
- A new noticeboard for Mastil Lane (courtesy of Alan Godlee of Langthorne)
- Obtained a £4000 grant from Hambleton District Council towards the costs of replacing the Play Equipment on The Green
- Continued to put pressure on the Police and Highways to try to get them to do something about speeding through Crakehall (not least by paying for a traffic survey in August and more recently using the superb analysis of speeding offences prepared by David Shaw). It's also been agreed in principle to purchase at least one Vehicle Activated Sign now that NYCC has made them available to parish councils.
- Supported the There But Not There commemorations on Remembrance Sunday
- New Litter Bins
- Agreed the purchase of some replacement and some new concrete posts for the Village Green
- Bought and installed a Steel Container (with the Village Hall) for secure storage of property.
- Conducted a village survey and developed a Parish Plan in response.

I could go on but I won't! Inevitably, we've not always achieved everything we've set out to do and we've probably not managed to keep everybody happy all of the time. But please be reassured that we have always tried!

The Parish Council has had a number of changes of councillor this year. Dave Mackintosh Powrie resigned from the council in May 2018 because of ill health and procedures were followed to try to re-elect a new councillor. However, nobody was proposed by the deadline so the Parish Council at its meeting in July could

then Co-opt a new member. We were pleased that Darren Ventham, David Shaw and Peter Lohmeyer put their names forward and, after a secret ballot of councillors, Darren was elected as a Councillor for the rest of this Council's term of office. Sadly a few months later Dave Mackintosh Powrie passed away and it was right that the council when it met in January 2019 paid tribute to him for all his work for the community.

Chris McGee has continued as clerk and we are grateful to him for the effort and the hours he puts into the job – way beyond the number he is paid for! Unbelievably, he says he enjoys it!

In March 2018, Bryan Gault resigned as Cemetery Groundsman and we were very grateful (and much relieved) that Andrew Shield offered to take on the role. Very soon the cemetery was back to its customary neat and tidy condition. Sadly, towards the end of 2018, Andrew indicated that he could not continue with the work so, once again, we had to advertise for a replacement. Again we are grateful that Tracey Gill has offered to do the job. She will be ably assisted by husband, Howard, and son, Henry.

And the council is, as ever, very grateful to many others who provide some essential services including Myra Shield, Peter Stirke, Paul Kind, Martyn Mongon, Mick Lumley, Scott Norman, Alan Godlee, Margaret Finkill and Malcolm and Kay Dennis. There will undoubtedly be someone that I have forgotten to mention so I apologise, in advance, to them for that!

So, in conclusion, it's been a busy year and hopefully the next twelve months will be just as busy as the council continues to help and support the community as it strives to make the parish a safe and welcoming place to live. The council cannot do everything itself but together (and with the support of the community) it can make a difference and improve the quality of all our lives.

Thank you

John Wilson (Vice-Chairman, Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council)

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