

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 September 2020 (by Zoom video conference)

Councillors present: Councillors Mr D Shaw (in the chair), Mr A Beal, Mr J Wilson, Mrs S Stirke, Mr Neale and, after item 2.0, Ms J Mallinson.

Also present: District Councillor Mr C Les, Myra Shield and Ken and Iris Smith

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

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

Pre-meeting Items

No items were raised.

1.0 Police Report

The Police Report had been circulated to all members and PC Sarah Norman joined the meeting to highlight the key crime and ASB statistics (which were very low). She also spoke about the current campaign – Operation Figaro - to try to deter poaching. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A. In response to a question from Cllr Shaw, PC Norman was able to confirm that the recent road traffic incident near Crakehall Garage involved two vehicles but was not speed related.

2.0 Co-option of a new councillor

No election had been called by parishioners and so interest in being co-opted onto the council was advertised. Four people expressed some interest and two of them formally applied to be considered for co-option before the deadline of 31 August 2020. However, one subsequently withdrew her application leaving only Jess Mallinson as a candidate. Jess spoke briefly about herself and her interest on being on the council and the council then voted unanimously to co-opt her. She then joined the meeting as a councillor. The clerk confirmed that he would email to her an “Acceptance of Office” pro forma for completion together with other material that would serve as an induction into the role of Parish Councillor.

3.0 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2020

The minutes of the meeting were confirmed by those members present as being accurate and signed by the clerk on behalf of the chairman.

4.0 Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

5.0 Clerk's Report

The clerk highlighted a number of items in his written report:

- a) NYCC has confirmed that the fence on Mastil Lane Green is its responsibility. An order has been raised for its repair / replacement but it could be three months before the work is actually done!
- b) NYCC and the cottage owners had accepted liability for the repairs to the wall and railings outside St Edmund's but NYCC was having difficulties in sourcing replacement railings. NYCC had been chased on a monthly basis but because of the length of time since the damage it was

agreed it would now be appropriate to involve County Council members. Cllr Les, who is also Leader of the County Council, agreed to pursue matters if the clerk could send some background information. This was agreed.

- c) A resident of Hackforth had offered a Christmas Tree to the council but it was only about 14 feet high and therefore would not look too impressive on The Green. It was agreed to pursue the possibility of illuminating the tree in the corner of the churchyard, subject to the agreement of the PCC. The clerk will write to the PCC and Cllr Beal will find out the cost of hiring a cherry picker for two days to install and then take down the lights.
- d) On 21 August 2020 a report was received about a fallen tree and damage to the metal fence adjacent to the beck in Little Crakehall . After some research, it was established that the tree was on the Marquis of Downshire's land so his agents were approached with a request that they tidy up and make good all the damage. This was agreed and the tidying up occurred within a few days. However, NYCC confirmed that the metal fence is their responsibility and therefore that they will liaise with the agents to ensure it is repaired or replaced to the appropriate standards. In view of the length of time it had taken to repair the fence referred to in b) above Cllr Les agreed to pursue this matter too.
- e) Audrey Staniland has asked if she could arrange and pay for some trees on The Green to be trimmed as they are over-hanging her property. There are understood to be three trees that she feels require some attention. It was agreed that the clerk should meet up with Audrey to ascertain exactly what is required and agree a way forward (bearing in mind that the trees are in a conservation area and any work may require the District Council's approval).

6.0 Financial Reports

The clerk presented a summary of all Income and Expenditure from 1 July 2020 to 31 August 2020 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2020/21. At 1 September 2020, the council had £4607.20 in its current account and £7076.74 in its savings account, a total of £11683.94. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £5500 and further expenditure of around £6500 before the end of March 2021 (thus enabling the contingency / reserve to stay around the £10000 mark as previously agreed).

7.0 Parking on The Green near the Church

At the last meeting of the council it had been agreed to replace all stones around The Green with white posts as and when funds permitted. Greg Clapham, who repaired and / or replaced 20 posts around The Green last year, had given an estimate of £400 to install a total of 18 posts around The Green:

- 5 just outside the old chapel (to replace stones)
- 2 on the small green up from the chapel (to fill gaps)
- 5 opposite the church (to replace stones)
- 6 in front of Crakehall House (to replace stones)

This was on the basis of all stones being removed prior to installation and all posts to be provided by the council.

Cllr Neale had received a second estimate from Dave Woodward that day but it was higher than Greg Clapham's so the estimate from Greg was agreed. The clerk will liaise with him and Cllr Neale to ensure that the date set for the work allows for posts to be purchased and stones to be removed no more than a couple of days before the work. It was agreed to proceed with concrete posts as previously purchased from YIBS. Residents affected by the work will be advised when the timetable is clearer.

8.0 Possible Listing of buildings and items of interest in the parishes

Cllr Beal had asked that consideration be given to applying for listing for a number of areas or structures in the parishes. The protection and preservation that this would provide was noted but there was also a concern that maintaining a listed building / structure / area can be costly and time-consuming. Cllr Neal was opposed to the idea and Cllr Shaw felt that, as most of the proposed sites were owned by the Parish Council, this might afford protection enough. Cllr Les suggested finding out more about the process of listing from the District Council and he agreed to discuss matters with the appropriate officers. The matter will then be discussed again at the next meeting and, if moving forward with some listings finds favour with the majority of councillors, a process of community consultation will be considered.

9.0 Traffic Flow through in Crakehall

9.1 Cllr Shaw provided the usual data from the deployment of the Vehicle Activated Sign including the following key points:

- Police patrols have been on site in the village on 7 occasions in the last two months and have issued notices for 131 Speed Awareness Courses, 4 Conditional Offers and 1 summons.
- The deployment of the Vehicle Activated Sign on the Hackforth Road shows 85th percentile speeds of around 29 mph.
- The deployment of the VAS on the A684 is tending to show that the percentage of motorists exceeding the speed limit is falling.

9.2 Cllr Neale had received a complaint from a farmer who couldn't get his tractor and trailer through the road along Station Road, just about opposite where the phone box used to be due to a badly parked car. The car owner eventually came out and something of an altercation occurred. Facebook had been used to remind residents of the need to park responsibly in the interests of road safety and good community relations but, more specifically, councillors believed these issues to be matters for the Police and Highways Authority rather than the Parish Council.

9.3 Cllr Beal raised concerns about road markings on the A684 near BASA just outside Bedale where dips in the road that were leading to very dangerous overtaking manoeuvres by some motorists. Cllr Les agreed to take this up with officers at NYCC.

10.0 The Old Chapel in the cemetery

Following the visit by four councillors and the clerk to the chapel in early August, Cllr Beal's report summarising findings, conclusions and recommendations and a positive response to a call for volunteers on the All Crakehall Great and Little Facebook Page, it was agreed to go ahead with tidying up, repairs and renovation:

- Cllr Beal has agreed to coordinate the work – the clerk will provide him with the names of the folk who offered their assistance.

- The first task is to relocate or, in some cases, dispose of items currently stored in the chapel. Cllr Neal agreed to work with Cllr Beal on this with machinery in working order being serviced before being stored in the metal container at the village hall.
- Cllr Beal will then liaise with volunteers to arrange for cleaning and general tidying up. It was noted that this would need to comply with current Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings of no more than 6 individuals but this could be arranged on an “as when volunteers are available” basis. The work would need to be low-level risk – eg no working at height or with corrosive materials, PPE to be worn as appropriate.
- Other work such as replacing missing tiles, repairing stone work and some redecoration (and the maintenance of the bier) would require professional input. The clerk agreed to try to get some estimates for some of the work. Councillors noted that approval had already been given for a professional stained-glass restorer living in Snape to repair / replace glass work. This work will be done on 18 September 2020.
- The idea of a History of Crakehall Exhibition was of interest and it was agreed it could be discussed further with the folk who expressed an interest and others who may come forward. Grant funding opportunities will also be explored including possible contributions towards some improvements to the building to enable an exhibition to be housed (eg the installation of mains electricity or some green alternative).

11.0 West Farm, Langthorne – Environmental Impact Assessment

The council had been contacted by Martin Glynn, Chartered Forester and Rural Development Adviser, on behalf of Mr Alan Godlee of West Farm, Langthorne as Mr Godlee is proposing to undertake a woodland creation project on his land at West Farm. The project at West Farm involves the planting of approximately 3ha of improved grassland with a mixture of native broadleaf species and the design takes into account the landscape character of the local area and the environmental opportunities and constraints present. Councillors had no objection to the project. Some queried why the council had been asked for a view as it did not appear to be within the council’s remit to comment on an EPA.

12.0 Planning Applications

The Parish Council had been invited to give its comments about two planning applications:

- a) Planning Reference Number 20/01767/FUL - proposals to alter a domestic garage to form ancillary living accommodation with a bedroom at the first floor at Bridge House, The Green, Crakehall, North Yorkshire.
- b) Planning Reference Number 20/01812/FUL - proposals to extend an existing agricultural building that houses pigs at Kirkbridge Farm, Ings Lane, Kirkbridge, North Yorkshire.

No objections were raised against either application.

13.0 Website accessibility - new requirements from September 2020

At the last meeting, the council noted that existing public sector web sites – including those managed by Parish Councils - had until 23 September 2020 to meet certain accessibility standards and publish a statement saying they have been met. This was a relatively complex matter and so it was agreed that the clerk should seek help (preferably unpaid at this stage) to assess the issues.

Unfortunately, no help was forthcoming but it is clear even from a low-level analysis that www.crakehall.org.uk does not currently meet the standards required. So, an accessibility statement has been produced and published on the site which acknowledges that fact and commits to working on improvements. It was agreed that the clerk should scope out, and cost, the task of getting the website to a more acceptable position so that there can be a more detailed discussion next time.

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

None.

15.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

- Cllr Beal sought, and was given, approval for small scale expenditure as necessary for the replacement of Christmas Tree light bulbs and fuses.
- Cllr Shaw noted an increase in Covid-19 cases across North Yorkshire and surrounding areas and urged everyone to “Stay Safe”.

16.0 Date of Next Meeting – Proposed as Wednesday 18 November 2020 at 7.30 pm.

(Format to be determined in light of government guidance at the time)

Chris McGee
September 2020

Clerk to the Council



Hambleton Command : Town and Parish Council Report

Town or Parish	Crakehall, Hackforth, Snape and Watlass
Report Completed By :	6782 Lees
Data Reporting Period :	August 2020

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-social behaviour	1	
Auto crime	0	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 0</i>
Criminal Damage	0	
Theft (including from shops)	1	
Violence Against the Person	0	
Other crimes including Drugs	2	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	6	

Rural police operation to make North Yorkshire a no-go area for poachers
(taken from NYP website)

Police are warning poachers to stay out of North Yorkshire, as the force ramps up a new anti-poaching operation.

Poachers normally travel in groups of up to four people, with dogs, using 4x4 vehicles. They typically hunt brown hare or deer. In addition to being a wildlife crime, their illegal activity can cause extensive damage to crops, fields and fences – and leave victims in fear of violence and retaliation.



Aerial photograph of damage caused to crops in Richmondshire in April 2019 by a vehicle driven by suspected poachers

About 80% of poaching incidents in North Yorkshire take place between September and February, typically on open farmland after crops have been harvested. The districts of Hambleton, Selby and Ryedale are worst hit. Many offenders travel into North Yorkshire from elsewhere in the region to commit their offences.

In a new operation – Operation Figaro – North Yorkshire Police will be robustly targeting poachers to put a stop to their illegal activity.

This year, a list of people suspected of being involved in poaching in the past will get a letter from North Yorkshire Police, advising them not to commit further offences in the county. Some of these may be hand-delivered, to make sure the message hits home.

Anyone caught poaching will be summonsed to court, while those stopped in suspicious circumstances will be issued with a community protection warning or a community protection notice – breaches of which will be prosecuted.

Officers will also act on information from local communities. Mobile Rural Watch schemes, and groups of rural residents sharing information via WhatsApp groups, cover more than 90% of North Yorkshire's rural communities, and can act as the 'eyes and ears' of the police, reporting suspicious activity that could be linked to poaching.

Tackling poaching offences is a national policing priority under the National Police Chiefs' Council Rural Affairs and Wildlife Crime strategies.

Operation Figaro runs alongside Operation Galileo, a national campaign bringing together forces particularly affected by poaching. Forces work together to ensure the issue is dealt with in a co-ordinated way, by sharing information about poachers, and working across force boundaries – for example, on the Selby and Humberside border.



Joint patrols with Humberside Police in May 2019

Inspector Matt Hagen, of North Yorkshire Police's Rural Taskforce, said: "We know that poaching offences go up from August onwards, so we're issuing a timely reminder: poachers will not be tolerated in North Yorkshire, and will be dealt with swiftly and robustly.

"Our officers, some of whom have farming backgrounds, know the terrible impact poaching can have on rural communities. Poachers often have no regard for farmers and landowners, causing thousands of pounds of damage to crops. Victims are often intimidated or even threatened with violence if they challenge offenders, leaving them feeling vulnerable to further crimes, particularly in isolated areas.

"On top of that, evidence suggests that poaching offenders are also involved in other aspects of criminality – including the organised theft of quad bikes and farm machinery.

"Officers are working hand-in-hand with local communities. Reports of poaching will be taken extremely seriously, so poachers will find it very difficult to enter and leave North Yorkshire unchallenged."

Residents are encouraged to note down and report any suspicious activity, such as unusual vehicle movements, particularly in remote or isolated areas. Even if the information doesn't need an immediate response, every piece of intelligence helps the police build up a picture and could prove vital in bring criminals to justice.

Call North Yorkshire Police on 101 if it's not urgent – or 999 in an emergency or a crime is in progress. This includes if you witness poaching taking place – this is a crime, and should be reported as such.

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.

