

## CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18 September 2019

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

**Clerk:** Mr C McGee.

13 Parishioners,

**Apologies for Absence:** District Councillors Barningham, Les and Noone

#### Pre-meeting Items were raised by the Public

A number of issues were raised including:

- Concerns from parishioners and the cricket club about the council's previous decisions in relation to the play equipment on The Green. A petition with over 200 signatures was presented to "Save Crakehall Park". It was felt that the facilities were an attractive, integral and much used part of The Green and should be replaced or developed and not removed. **This matter was considered later on the agenda.**
- A request for additional strimming on The Batts. **This matter was considered later on the agenda.**
- A lack of strimming of the A684 bankside in Little Crakehall. **This will be taken up with the contractor.**
- Concerns about large bushes at the top of the A684 bankside in Little Crakehall which were now restricting light into a property on Ashdowne. **This will be taken up, on behalf of the resident, with NYCC.**
- Concerns that incidents reported to the Police are not investigated. **This will be taken up with the Police.**

#### 1.0 Police Report

The Police were unable to attend the meeting on this occasion but have provided a report which is now attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

#### 2.0 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 July 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

Cllr Beal confirmed that he did not wish to add anything to the information he had provided for the Clerk's report about the recent Hambleton Parishes' Liaison meeting.

#### 4.0 Parish Clerk's Report

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

##### a) Grass Cutting

At the last meeting of the council it was agreed that the possibility of taking on responsibility for areas that are currently NYCC's responsibility should be investigated. NYCC Officers have confirmed that, at current rates, the following payments would be made:

Crakehall - £299.04

Langthorne - £87.15

A minimum of five cuts per season would be required for each of the areas shown on the three maps provided. It was noted that some of the areas marked are, in fact, already cut by the Parish Council's contractors but **it was agreed that a price for cutting the additional areas should be obtained and then a decision taken about how to proceed at the next meeting.**

The request by the owners of Crakehall Watermill for some additional grass cutting on the Lower Batts was considered and **it was agreed that the areas should be a one-off cut by the contractors at the price quoted of £90.00 + VAT.** The decision about the request for three cuts per year thereafter (at a cost of £68.00 + VAT per cut) will be taken before the next cutting season.

The urgent action taken by the clerk in relation to the booking of the marquee for 23 – 25 August 2019 was accepted as an appropriate response.

#### **b) Neighbourhood Watch**

Further to the discussions at the last meeting and the reference to the existence, or otherwise, of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across the parishes, it seemed very unlikely that all areas across the parishes are covered. **Councillors agreed the coordinator for the Langthorne area should be asked to register the scheme on the national database and volunteers be sought, via an article in the newsletter for coordinators, for areas in Crakehall not currently covered. The clerk agreed to share the map he'd been given which showed the names of coordinators and the areas they covered.**

#### **c) Rook Nuisance**

Andrew Francis has advised that the appointed contractor took action on 13 September 2019, in accordance with the specialist legal advice received, to ensure the removal of the existing rooks' nests from trees along Church Lane which are the parish council's responsibility.

#### **d) Footpaths**

The County Council's Countryside Ranger had been contacted about the concerns expressed at the last meeting about public footpaths that were overgrown and therefore largely unusable. The Ranger agreed to investigate but, as yet, no feedback has been received.

### **5.0 Financial matters**

5.1 The clerk presented a summary of all Income and Expenditure from 28 June 2019 to 31 August 2019 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2019/20. He noted that, as at 31 August 2019, the council had a total of £38847.71 in its two bank accounts. However, expenditure already approved and protected sums reduced this to a working balance of around £7500. This was well below the level of contingency previously agreed but the second instalment of the precept will be paid in late September, there is likely to be further cemetery-related income and significant VAT refunds before 31 March 2020 so routine expenditure will be covered. **On that basis, it was agreed to set the level of contingency reserve at around £10000, a level more in line with national guidelines.**

5.2 External Auditors, PFK Littlejohn LLP had completed their review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2019 and have issued their report and certificate. No matters of concern had been reported.

5.3 The clerk reported that the council had been using [www.payroo.com](http://www.payroo.com) for its payroll services for some time. The service was free but Payroo had recently announced that it intended to start making a monthly charge. The annual cost would be £20.00 per annum (ex VAT). An alternative payroll service that is still currently free had been found – [www.12cloudpayroll.com](http://www.12cloudpayroll.com). **It was agreed that all**

**records should be transferred to the new payroll system at the beginning of the next financial year** (provided it remains free at that time)! In response to a comment from Cllr Stirke, the clerk confirmed that the task of transferring the service was not a big job as the structure of the two systems was identical and only his details had to be added.

## **6.0 Playground Phase 2**

Councillors discussed this matter in light of the decisions they had taken at the last meeting, the response of some parishioners to those decisions, the recent inspection of all three playgrounds and the funds currently held by the council. There was some discussion about the role and terms of reference of the sub-committee, the expectations of it and differing interpretations the council's recent decisions and intentions but it was agreed that it was important to move forward to seek a way forward that was as acceptable to as many members of the community as possible. On that basis, and in order to not lose the £4000 Make a Difference Grant that has been allocated by Hambleton District Council, it was suggested by a parishioner and agreed by the council that:

- **Hambleton be asked if the grant that have agreed for the replacement of the playpark on The Green could instead be added to the funds already raised locally and put towards some replacement equipment and some renovation of existing equipment at the same location.**
- **Len Flintoft be asked to give an estimate of renovating all the current equipment on The Green (except the see-saw). This would all the recommendations made by Wicksteed and include replacing a number of wooden supports, grass matting and some of the seats on the swings.**
- **The costs of a replacing the see-saw be investigated.**
- **The findings of all these investigations be reported back to councillors asap with an additional meeting of the council being convened, if necessary, in order to take any urgent decisions.**

**It was also agreed that the recommendations of the Wicksteed inspection in relation to the play equipment at the Village Hall and on The Batts be actioned if at no cost (as may be the case with some of the Kompan equipment) or costed for further discussion at the next meeting.** The replacement of fencing posts at the village hall and The Batts will be added to the Repairs and Maintenance Plan.

## **7.0 Speeding Through Crakehall**

Cllr Shaw provided updates including that:

- A Vehicle Activated Sign has been ordered for deployment on the A684 near Mastil Lane and near the crossroads on The Green. Five quotations for the signs were requested and after due consideration and consultation with all councillors the SWARCO model has been ordered. This is a device already pre-authorised by NYCC and comes with a fitted rechargeable battery with 6 weeks battery life, post installation and fixing kits, installation (including on-site training) and 5 years warranty. The additional cost of delivery, £100, will not be incurred because, after Cllr Shaw offered to collect the device from SWARCO's base in Richmond to eliminate this cost, SWARCO waived the £100 delivery fee. Data logging is also included as standard. Regrettably, because of concerns about the weight of the sign, Hambleton District Council will not give permission for their lamp-post near Mastil Lane to be used. An additional post will therefore have to be procured from NYCC at a cost of £500.00. This total is still within the £3500.00 cash

limit set at the last meeting but **it was agreed to see if the cost of installing the post could be reduced by contacting NYCC's approved contractors directly.**

- The police had undertaken a significant number of speed camera sessions in August and, as a result, there was an increase in the numbers of offenders compared to 2018. On 25 August alone, between 12.06 and 13.53, 91 motorists were caught exceeding the speed limit in Little Crakehall!
- Hackforth Road had been approved as a Community Speed Watch area and Cllr Holt, Darren Ventham and Lionel Green had been trained in the use of the equipment (which was understood to be stored in the village hall). Four people are required for each Community Speed Watch session so **Cllr Shaw agreed to join the group.**

### **8.0 Potholes / Tarmacking**

Duffields had completed the road surfacing work around areas of The Green in early August at a cost, as per their estimate) of £19,000 plus VAT. Feedback about the work has been generally good but there is some concern about some of the kerbs already breaking up. **Cllr Neale is pursuing the matter with Duffields. It was also agreed that all the white posts that were removed during the work should be replaced as per Greg Clapham's estimate of £200.00 - £250.00. This in addition to other remedial work on posts around The Green as agreed at the last meeting.** A request to mark with white lines the footpaths around the pub was considered and **it was agreed that Cllr Neale would try to find a low cost way of proceeding.**

### **9.0 Cemetery Risk Assessment, Review of Charges and any other issues**

**Cemetery charges were reviewed and changes made to current rates** as indicated in Appendix 2. Similarly, the Cemetery Rules and Regulations were reviewed to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose and unambiguous – no changes were made. Finally, it was agreed that **Cllr Wilson, as the lead councillor, would undertake a further walk round Risk Assessment.**

### **10.0 Repairs and Maintenance Plan**

Some specific issues addressed:

- Cllr Shaw agreed to contact Sharon Neale about replanting daffodil bulbs around The Green and added that he would pay for some additional planting on The Batts.
- Cllr Neale agreed to explore the least expensive way of removing the elders, stones and earth from the cemetery. This might involve attempting to sell the stones and earth. Myra Shield asked if funeral directors could be reminded that it is their responsibility to remove earth (rather than dump it) once graves have been dug.
- The deterioration of the tarmac around the small green near West Terrace on Station Road will be noted in the R&M Plan for future action.
- The clerk will get a price for strengthening or replacing fence posts near the playgrounds at the hall and on The Batts and on the little green in Mastil Lane.
- The clerk will get a price from Ben Rennison for attending to the plane tree on The Green that is encroaching into the churchyard.

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

There were no matters of urgency.

**12.0 Any Other Business (for information only)**

Cllr Stirke referred to a recent incident when children were seen driving tractors and quad bikes through Langthorne. The matter had been reported to the police but it was unclear if action had been taken.

**13.0 Date of Next Meeting** – Proposed as **Wednesday 20 November 2019** at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Signed: C J McGee

Date: September 2019

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

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

Tel: 01677424436



**POLICE UPDATE FOR CRAKEHALL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Crime figures**

The figures below are for Crakehall, Hackforth, Snape and Watlass parishes and show crimes reported since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019. Figures to the right show the number of these reports within the last month – June 2019.

**Crimes – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019-31<sup>st</sup> August 2019  
last month)**

**(within**

Arson and Criminal Damage: 5 reports

2 reports

Burglaries: 4 reports

2 reports

Drug Offences: 0 reports

0 reports

Theft: 4 reports

2 reports

Vehicle offences: 2 reports

1 report

Violence against a person (including harassment): 7 reports

1 report

Public order offences: 3 reports

3 reports

Fraud: 4 reports

0 reports

Miscellaneous Crimes: 2 reports

2 reports

**Within August 2019, Police attended the following general incidents within the above parishes:**

Road traffic accidents and reports (primarily reports and incidents on A1)

- 1 - accident
- 1 - offences and other road related reports (speeding, manner of driving etc)
- 1 - highway disruption

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), alarms and suspicious circumstance reports

- 4 - ASB. Includes litter, parking, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, rowdy behaviour and street drinking, malicious communications, texts, emails, face book and neighbour disputes
- 3 – Alarms abandoned calls and concern for safety reports
- 5 – suspicious circumstance reports

### **Crime Reports**

Crimes reported within August 2019 for the above parishes:

<b><u>Incident</u></b>	<b><u>Outcome</u></b>
Burglary	Burglary at an unoccupied property, investigation ongoing
Break in	Break in at property, nothing taken, offenders disturbed. Ongoing investigation.
Domestic incident/criminal damage caused	No complaints forthcoming
Fly-tipping	Reported to council
Theft of trailer	Enquiries ongoing
Theft of plants	No line of enquiry, case closed.
Domestic Incident	No complaints forthcoming
Public order offence	Offender dealt with by words of advice

### **Other News**

Bedale Police would like to say thank you for the support from Hambleton and Richmondshire Specials, NPT colleagues and MOD Police, also to the publicans and members of the public who supported the operation carried out on the evening of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. We are pleased to update that nothing was found on this occasion. Please continue to report any suspicious activity or behaviour on 101 or 999.

Thank you again for your support - Drugs are not welcome in our town!

### **Advice from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue**

#### **Chimney Safety**

Advice from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to help enjoy the fire you want and avoid the fire you don't.

Before the cold weather begins take steps to keep your home safe by having your chimney swept by a professional to clear it of soot and other obstructions like bird nests and leaves. When it is time to light your fire use good quality dry fuel, don't burn paper or rubbish. Avoid storing your logs next to your fire and use a fireguard to protect against flying sparks. Before going out or going to bed make sure embers are extinguished. Test your smoke alarms are working and that you have a Carbon Monoxide alarm correctly positioned.

For further information on home fire safety please visit [www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/communitysafety) where you can also book a FREE home fire safety visit. Alternatively you can call us on 01609 788545.

*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.*

**CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**CRAKEHALL CEMETERY**  
**SCALE OF CHARGES**  
**EFFECTIVE FROM 19 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF BURIAL**

For the exclusive right of burial in an earthen grave for a period not exceeding 100 years	<b>£235.00</b> per person
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**INTERMENT**

A stillborn child or person whose age at the time of death did not exceed 12 months	<b>£ NIL</b>
Person whose age at the time of death exceeded 12 months but did not exceed 12 years	<b>£40.00</b>
Person whose age at the time of death was 12 years or over	<b>£120.00</b>
Cremated remains	<b>£40.00</b>

**MONUMENTS, GRAVESTONES AND MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS**

For the right to erect a headstone (including inscription)	<b>£55.00</b>
For the right to place an additional inscription	<b>£30.00</b>

**OTHER FEES AND CHARGES**

Scattering of ashes	<b>NIL</b>
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**NOTES**

*The above scale of fees and payments are in respect of all persons to be interred or in respect of whom the right is granted, is or has been a parishioner or has connections with Crakehall with Langthorne Parish. This regulation may only be waived under special circumstances and at the sole discretion of the Council.*

***That the scale be doubled in cases not qualifying as above.***

*Cheques to be made payable to Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council.*