

## **CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 July 2019**

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

**Clerk:** Mr C McGee.

4 Parishioners, District Councillors M Barningham and, for part of the meeting, C Les.

**Apologies for Absence:** District Councillor J Noone.

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

Cllr Barningham raised a number of issues:

- He reminded councillors of the Hambleton Parish Liaison meeting scheduled for 18 July 2019. Cllr Beal was attending.
- The Hambleton Local Plan will be published on 30 July 2019 and comments will be welcomed prior to it being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for final approval. Councillors agreed that, if necessary, a special meeting of the Parish Council would be arranged in August so that any comments could be formally approved.
- HDC is looking to establish a crematorium in the area – possible locations will be put to HDC's cabinet in September.
- The Electoral Register is being updated with responses from residents required by 7 August.

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

The minutes of the meeting, having previously been circulated by the clerk to all councillors, were agreed as a correct record but will not be formally approved until the next Annual Parish Council meeting.

### **2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 May 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. Any Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **4. Parish Clerk's Report**

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

**Grass Cutting Contract** – Cllr Holt and the clerk had met with Alasdair Downie from Farm and Land Management Services on 28 June 2019 to review the contractor's performance and resolve any issues. It was a very positive meeting with an area (on Hackforth Road) being added to the contract in lieu of the Cricket Club cutting the outfield during the cricket season. Councillors noted that some parishes have taken on responsibility for areas that are NYCC's responsibility to ensure that they are cut more frequently with NYCC paying a token sum for the parish for the work. The clerk was asked to explore the possibility further and report back.

**Tree Work** – the work commissioned by the council following the recent survey undertaken by Barnes Associates had now been completed by Rennison Tree Specialists. Some parishioners had

expressed concerns about the felling of a Horse Chestnut on The Batts near the new playground but had been advised that the council and the contractor were following the recommendations in the Tree Survey. Cllr Beal offered a replacement tree but the offer was declined. Also, the survey and therefore the work that was commissioned inadvertently included some trees / bushes that were actually owned by Crakehall Hall. Russell Jarvis had noticed the work taking place and approached the contractors. He was content with the work that they had done but understandably concerned that it had taken place without his consent. The clerk had apologised for the error.

**Repairs to benches on The Green** – several sections of rotten wood had been replaced by Len Flintoft but another slat had subsequently been broken. It was agreed to ask Len to undertake a further repair. Further maintenance work to the benches had been added to the list of items in the new Repairs and Maintenance Plan.

**Payment for Election** – Charges for the recent elections were now known. The Langthorne Parish was uncontested and required a fee of £100 to be paid. The Crakehall Parish was contested and required a fee of £779.33. Payment will be made by four instalments over the next four years.

**Bin Shelter Outside the School House** – the school had recently confirmed that the structure now satisfies all planning requirements but the School House Trustees would like further changes. Detail is awaited but it is hoped that the work can be completed during the summer holiday.

## **5. Financial matters**

The clerk presented a summary of all Income and Expenditure from 23 April 2019 to 30 June 2019 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2019/20. He noted that, at 28 June 2019, the council had £21,561.45 in its current account and £20,010.74 in its savings account, a total of £41,572.19. However, protected sums (of just over £24,000) and the level of contingency previously agreed, (£15,000), need to be deducted to leave a current working balance of around £2,500. However, he added that the second instalment of the precept, nearly £5000, will be paid in September / October and there is likely to be further cemetery-related income before 31 March 2020. On that basis, he advised that routine expenditure is likely to be covered without the need to call upon any contingency reserve. The clerk also noted that the External Auditors are getting more interested in high levels of funding being carried forward without specific purposes in mind and that the generally accepted level of contingency is usually the level of the precept for one year, (around £10,000).

## **6. Police Report**

PCSO Paul Enborn joined the meeting at this point and circulated his written report. It highlighted the latest crime figures for the area and provide some advice for avoiding cyber crime.

Representatives of the Police and Barclays bank will be visiting Crakehall on Monday 5 August at 1.30 pm and invite anyone to drop-in to discuss any concerns about scams and on-line fraud.

Paul also provided some information about the accident near the bridge on the A684 on 16 July and responded to Cllr Stirke's enquiry about Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Neither Crakehall nor Langthorne appear to have active schemes as none appear on the national on-line register. Paul indicated that the police can help in setting up such schemes.

## **7. Speeding Through Crakehall and other Road Safety Issues**

Councillors received reports from Cllr Shaw and the clerk concerning:

- Publicity;
- Their meeting with representatives from Highways and The Police on 10 June 2019;
- Their meeting with a representative from Highways and representatives from Newton Le Willows and Hackforth Parish Councils about Vehicle Activated Signs on 26 June 2019;
- The possible deployment of convex mirrors as an aid to road safety in three locations in Crakehall (including one opposite the entrance to Hollis Cottage at the request of the owner).

It was agreed that:

- The offer from the police to deploy a van for additional speed camera sessions at either end of the village should be accepted with immediate effect. The locations will be outside High Mill Farm in Little Crakehall and on The Green near the crossroads in Great Crakehall and it was agreed that the police should be made aware of access and visibility issues near High Mill Farm. The van will need to park on The Green so some strengthening of the grass in a small designated area will be required. Estimates will be sought for the work but this should not delay the deployment of the van. Also, some assurance should be sought from the police that the deployment will be a frequent and an on-going situation before committing to expenditure.
- One Vehicle Activated Sign should be purchased for deployment on the A684 near Mastil Lane and near the crossroads on The Green. An upper limit of expenditure was agreed at £3500. It was noted that other neighbouring parishes may wish, in due course, to contribute to the purchase and share the use of the signs but this seemed unlikely in the immediate future.
- The installation of convex mirrors could not be pursued as their use is not supported by the Highways Authority. This would mean that liability, in the event of any accidents and claims would rest with the Parish Council. The clerk will advise the owners of Hollis Cottage of the decision on this matter.

## **8. Potholes / Tarmacking**

Jonny Neale advised that the work had now been scheduled to begin on 31 July and last for three days so councillors discussed arrangements for notifying residents and visitors likely to be most affected by the work. One resident had cautioned against any narrowing of the road up to the pub and the school as a result of laying kerbs and another had asked whether the footpath could be clearly remarked. Councillors agreed that:

- Letters providing details of the work should be sent to the residents of all affected properties.
- Parking on The Green (in the usual area) should be allowed for those residents for the duration of the work.
- The owners of the pub should be contacted in order to establish the precise location of their boundary and their plans for any work in the area (in order to avoid duplication of work and effort).
- The location of the footpath might be white lined following the work.
- No narrowing the road should take place.
- White posts are likely to need replacing after the work is completed.

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

As Myra Shield was unable to attend this meeting the item was deferred until the next one. Her input was felt to be essential.

### **10. Rook Nuisance**

It was agreed that, within the law, the rooks' nests near the church could be disturbed after the fledglings have left the nests and before any eggs are laid so that no live birds would be killed or injured. Two potential contractors had been approached to undertake the work but, as yet, only one had come back an estimate of likely costs of around £500. The price was agreed and also that the work should need to be undertaken in early Autumn. Councillors acknowledged Andrew Francis' contribution to resolving this matter.

### **11. Renewal of Subsidised Local Bus Services**

The clerk advised that contracts for North Yorkshire County Council subsidised local bus services in a number of areas of the county are due for renewal in April 2020. One such service locally is number 155 operated by NYCC Fleet Monday to Friday, five times per day, between Bedale and Leyburn. As part of this renewal process, the County Council was seeking comments on these services, so that they can be better informed when preparing tenders for new contracts. Councillors supported the retention of the service and noted that a "last bus" later than the current ones would be preferred. The clerk will submit these comments to NYCC before the deadline of Wednesday 31 July 2019.

(Cllr Shaw later confirmed the last buses from Crakehall were currently at 13.58 to Leyburn and 14.46 to Bedale.)

### **12. Community History and the Council for British Archaeology**

The Parish Council had been approached by the Council for British Archaeology, a national charity, advising that it was organising a full day workshop entitled 'Your Local History Group: Accessing Available Funding and Planning Your First Investigation'. It will take place at Selby Abbey on the 21 September 2019 and the cost is £15 per delegate. It was agreed that any councillor wishing to attend should have their costs paid (including mileage expenses should they wish to claim). Further details are available from the clerk. Anyone attending should report back to the council meeting in November.

### **13. Parish Plan 2019 / 2023**

The Parish Plan had been reviewed and revised by the clerk to cover the four year period of the council and to reflect the allocation of Lead Councillor responsibilities made at the AGM. It was formally approved and will be reviewed and amended on a quarterly basis. The first review will be at the meeting on January 2020.

### **14. Maintenance Plan**

Following Councillors' confirmation at the last meeting that they would like to develop a Maintenance Plan with clear actions, timescales, priorities and costings all councillors and members of the community were invited to provide items for inclusion in the plan. A first draft of the plan was reviewed and amended and is attached as Appendix 3.

### **15. Review of key documents**

Councillors reviewed the council's Risk Assessment and Asset Register as amended by the clerk and gave both documents formal approval.

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

Three items had been notified prior to the meeting:

- A request from the school to display a banner on The Green to encourage admissions for September 2020 was agreed.
- A plan by the school to lease a piece of land at the rear of the school to use as a sports field was supported.
- Darren Ventham, as Chair of the Playground Sub-Committee had raised some issues about the council's commitment to Phase 2 of the development, the replacement of the equipment on The Green:
  - Is it the council's intention to replace this equipment?
  - Will the council renew its call for villagers to get involved in the sub-committee?
  - Will the parish council spend some time to seek out any grants?
  - Will the parish council commit any funds to this project, if not why?

Councillors discussed the matter at length and concluded that, whilst the council would be content to encourage involvement in a sub-committee and help with any applications for funding, the efforts for replacing equipment should be directed towards the playpark at the Village Hall. This would ultimately provide two new playparks, one in Great Crakehall (on The Batts) and the other in Little Crakehall (at the Village Hall). Furthermore, even this was not something councillors felt they could commit council resources to given other priorities. So, the approach to the equipment on The Green was to continue to maintain it but to take it out of service as it became unsafe.

### **17. Any Other Business (for information only)**

Cllr Stirke raised concerns about three footpaths in the area that were overgrown and therefore largely unusable. It was agreed that the County Council's Countryside Ranger should be approached to take matters up with the respective landowners.

The Chairman then invited members of the public to raise any issues that continued to be of concern to them. Speeding was again raised with a plea for action rather than words and another parishioner commented on the road noise generated by vehicles exceeding the speed limit.

### **18. Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 18 September 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Signed: C J McGee

Date: July 2019

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

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