

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 January 2022 in Crakehall Village Hall.

Councillors present: Councillors Mr D Shaw (in the chair), Mr J Wilson and Mrs J Randall.

Also present: District Cllr J Noone

Clerk: Mr C McGee.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr S Stirke and County Cllr J Weighell. (Cllr A Beal's apologies were received after the start of the meeting and therefore not noted at the meeting).

Pre-meeting Items

District Cllr Noone reported that the refurbishment of Bedale Leisure Centre is running a little behind schedule but should now be re-opened in February, Also, Hambleton District have available a Covid-related grant specifically for the Hospitality and Leisure sector. He agreed to send details to the clerk.

1.0 Police Report

The Police Report – copy attached as Appendix 1 - had been circulated to all members. PCSO Smith Owen commented on the very low level of reported incidents in the crime and ASB data for December 2021 and the alert regarding the recent bogus police officer telephone scam. He also referred to another scam via WhatsApp whereby a “son or daughter” is allegedly reporting a lost phone to their parents. After pleasantries a bank transfer of funds is requested.

2.0 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17 November 2021

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

3.0 Any Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4.0 To consider the exclusion of the public and press because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 14.0

It was agreed that, because of the special or confidential nature of the business to be transacted under item 14.0, the public and press would be excluded whilst the items were discussed.

5.0 Parish Clerk's Report

The clerk updated members on developments since he had written his report:

5.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee - as agreed at the last meeting of the council, the clerk had contacted the school, the pub and the church to see what plans, if any, they had. No reply had yet been received from the church but the Head of School had replied recently to say that she was keen to be involved in any community event. Also, Kym Broadbent had recently posted on Facebook suggesting a “bring your own” picnic and games on The Green. And Russell Jarvis had been in touch to offer assistance with any plans and suggested a village photograph and perhaps a party on The Green. Interest was growing so it was agreed that the clerk should contact the school, the pub, the church and Russell Jarvis again to help coordinate activities. The clerk was asked to register participation in beacon lighting (for which a certificate will be received) and investigate, as necessary, any need for any approvals for the local events - eg insurances, local licensing. He

will also speak to Cllr Neale about a Risk Assessment for the Beacon Lighting on 2 July 2022. Cllr Shaw noted that the official guidance from the palace gives Sunday 5 June as the day designated for picnics.

5.2 Debris in the beck in Little Crakehall – Concerns were referred to the Environment Agency and the agents for the Clifton Castle Estate but the EA confirmed that their responsibilities did not extend to this area. Agents for Clifton Castle are being pursued. Cllr Shaw noted that some of the debris was now resting on the weir, an area which is a Parish Council responsibility. It was agreed that Cllr Neale should be asked to assess what action needs to be taken, if any.

5.3 Moles in the cemetery - At the recommendation of Cllr Stirke, a specialist mole-catcher had been engaged to take action to remove moles from the cemetery (and indeed from a small area of the village green). He had recently advised that he had caught five moles in the cemetery and one on The Green. He's also agreed to deal with mole activity on The Batts.

5.4 Consultations on Planning Applications – A number of applications required a response before 19 January 2022 and had been dealt with in accordance with Standing Orders:

- 21/02605/FUL - Alterations and change of use of detached 3 bay domestic garage to home office at The Old Granary, Little Crakehall
 - 21/02851/FUL - Construction of an agricultural workers dwelling at Kirkbridge Farm, Ings Lane, Kirkbridge
 - 21/02969/FUL - Single storey rear extension at 4 Moorfields, Little Crakehall
- No objections were raised in relation to any of these proposals.

Two further applications had been received and were dealt with as follows:

- 21/03034/FUL - Two storey extension and internal rearrangement and replacement windows at Holly Cottage, The Green, Crakehall
 - 21/03035/LBC - Listed Building Consent for a two-storey extension and internal rearrangement and replacement windows at Holly Cottage, The Green, Crakehall.
- No objections were raised in relation to either of these proposals.

6.0 Traffic Flow Through Crakehall

Cllr Shaw reported the latest data from the Vehicle Activated Sign with 85th percentile speeds as:

- The Green – 31.0 mph
- Little Crakehall (from Leyburn) – 32.6 mph
- Little Crakehall (towards Leyburn) – 32.7 mph
- Hackforth Road – 29.3 mph

The results from Little Crakehall confirmed that there were issues with drivers leaving the village as well as those coming in from the Leyburn end. The police officer who conducts the radar patrols advises that more than 50% of speeding offences recorded in Little Crakehall are by vehicles in the 30mph zone heading out of the village towards Leyburn.

There had been at least a couple of police patrols in the village in December and January but the data from those visits had not yet been recorded on the police website so could not be shared.

Councillors also noted that NYCC's policy in relation to 20 mph speed limits had been amended and that it now intends to adopt a "targeted" approach. Parishes that had been rejected for 20mph limits are encouraged to reapply. On that basis, councillors discussed whether it might be appropriate to re-submit the application in relation to the section of the A684 opposite the school. However, it was agreed that it was most unlikely to be successful and, as an alternative, it was agreed to ask again for 40 mph buffer zones at either end of the village. These were supported by County Cllr Weighell and the Police Officer who visits to do the speed patrols.

7.0 Financial matters

A summary of all Income and Expenditure from 1 November 2021 to 31 December 2021 and a budget monitoring report showing performance against the planned budget for 2021/22 had been circulated with the agenda. At 1 January 2022, the council had a total of £12688.93 in its bank accounts. The Budget Monitoring Report anticipated further income of around £1078 and further expenditure of around £2558 before the end of March 2022 (in order to enable the unallocated contingency / reserve to stay around the £10000 mark as previously agreed). Councillors noted that both of these estimates were probably on the high side but overall, no issues were anticipated.

8.0 Playground Inspections – follow up work

The Play Park inspection reports were received from MacVenture on 9 December 2021. There were no High or Very High Risks identified but there were 3 Medium, 14 Low Risk and 7 Very Low Risk items. Actions were agreed as follows:

1) Medium Risk Items:

- **The Batts - Bench Seat** - 2 Corroded steel legs/feet creating instability – Recommended replacement in the near future – ***Cllr Shaw will assess the damage and report back.***
- **The Batts - Timber Shelter** - Some decay in floor and legs at ground level – Recommended budgeting for replacement – ***noted (and that grants may be available for such work).***
- **Village Hall - Planter** - Timber decayed causing instability especially if climbed on – Recommended item removed or replaced – ***Cllr Neale to be asked to remove the planter.***

2) Low-Risk items:

- Recommend for all playgrounds that signs are installed with the following information:
 - a. Name of the Playground
 - b. Address of the Playground
 - c. Emergency telephone number 999
 - d. Contact telephone number

The clerk was asked to obtain some prices for appropriate signage.

- The Batts:
 - e. Turnstile - Surface compacted and grass worn through. Recommend re-laying with new matting.
 - f. Overhead Slide Rail - Loose bracket on side panel, loose side rail to climbing net – Recommend fixings are tightened; 1 x fixing missing to top rail support – Recommend replace fixing
 - g. Basket Swing - Basket was lower than the 400mm minimum height from floor at its lowest point, measuring around 340mm – Recommend raising level: Some gaps appearing between rubber matting creating potential trip hazard.

- Village Hall:
 - h. Swing 1 Bay 2 Seat flat seat/toddler seat - Ground beneath the flat swing is eroded – Recommend grass impact attenuating material installed. Bushes seem sound but need monitoring due to age.
 - i. Timber Multiplay Unit - Strimmer damage to legs and some decay present. Some decay to bridge – Recommend monitoring for signs of worsening decay: Loose rope in ramp – Recommend tightening.

As this was considered to be specialist work, the clerk was asked to obtain some prices from MacVenture for the remedial work at The Batts and at The Village Hall.

Repair work to the fences, gates and the picnic table at the Village Hall had already been completed by Greg Clapham. No issues were reported for the equipment at the Village Green.

9.0 DalesBus 856

Councillors noted concerns about the possible end of the DalesBus 856 bus service beyond Easter 2022 when LNER funding ends and the approach for financial support. However, in the absence clear evidence that the existence of this bus service brings considerable benefits to significant numbers of parishioners (and visitors), they did not consider it appropriate to make a donation to help subsidise it.

10.0 Councillors' Reports on their areas of lead responsibility

Cllr Shaw and the clerk reported damage to grass on The Green (believed to have been caused by a tractor drive losing control of his vehicle on ice). One of the concrete posts outside Crakehall House had also been knocked over around the same time. The clerk had inspected the damage and pulled the post back into an upright position. Greg Clapham had been asked to make a more permanent repair.

Cllr Shaw commented that he had attended two on-line training events and was now gathering together data ready to be inputted into the Scribe Cemetery module. The clerk had found a spreadsheet which, although now in need of updating, should make the process a little easier.

Cllr Shaw reported that, at last, the wall outside St Edmund's had been repaired by NYCC. Measurements had then been taken and the metalwork ordered.

Cllr Randall reported the Cricket Club's on-going concerns about low hanging branches near the pavilion. The clerk agreed to ask Ben Rennison to investigate when he returns to attend to a couple of other outstanding matters.

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

None.

12.0 Any Other Business (for information only)

Cllr Randall commented that the recent Advent Window displays were of excellent quality and the council congratulated everyone who had taken part.

13.0 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16 March 2022 at 7.30 pm.

14.0 Allotment on Mastil Lane

Further to solicitor's advice it was agreed to engage her to re-submit the application to the Land Registry. Likely costs were agreed.

Chris McGee
Clerk to the Council
January 2022

These are Draft Minutes until approved at the next Parish Council meeting.

Appendix 1



Hambleton Command : Town and Parish Council Report

Town or Parish	Crakehall, Hackforth, Snape and Watlass
Report Completed By :	6782 Lees
Data Reporting Period :	December 2021

Crime and ASB Data

Qualifier	No of Incidents	
Anti-social behaviour	2	
Auto crime	1	
Burglary :	<i>Commercial : 0</i>	<i>Residential : 0</i>
Criminal Damage	0	
Theft (including from shops)	0	
Violence Against the Person	0	
Other crimes including Drugs	0	
TOTAL THIS PERIOD	3	

North Yorkshire residents targeted again by bogus police officer scam (from NYP Website published 12/01/2022)

North Yorkshire Police is issuing an urgent warning after three reports in 24 hours of this well known fake police officer telephone scam.

A caller rings the victim claiming to be from the police, and in these most recent cases, Sergeant White from the Serious Crime Unit at York. They tell the individual that a relative, grandson for example, has been arrested for trying to use the individual's bank card in a retailer and that their account is under threat of fraud.

They then add another layer to the deceit by transferring the individual to 'Officer Timothy Mason' from Brixton Police who claims to be with the arrested individual.

The caller advises the individual that they need to immediately attend the bank and withdraw all money from their account in cash. A 'police officer' or courier will then come to their home to collect the cash and take it for safekeeping.

North Yorkshire Police Financial Abuse Safeguarding Officer, Andy Fox, said:

"This is a fraud which will simply not go away and unfortunately one which continues to be highly effective.

"The fraudsters add a layer of credibility by having another scammer pose as a second police officer which is all part of their manipulation to convince the victim they are real.

"You might read this and think you'd never fall victim to something so obviously a scam but you would be surprised by just how many people lose tens or hundreds of thousands of pounds to these calculated individuals.

“They work hard to be as convincing as possible and no one is immune from their approach. These fraudsters also use a technique called number spoofing, where anyone can make their phone number look like a legitimate one.

“Remember, the police or your bank will never contact you and ask you to move or transfer money. If you receive a call of this nature, hang up immediately. If you want to double check whether it is a legitimate call, use a different phone to ring your bank’s customer service phone number.”

*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.*