

CRAKEHALL WITH LANGTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council meeting on
Wednesday, 16 July 2025 at Crakehall Village Hall at 7:30pm.

Present: Councillors Shaw (Chair), Randall (Vice-Chair), Buckley,
Stirke, Ventham, and Wilson

Also present: 4 parishioners.

Apologies: North Yorkshire Council Councillor Weighell, Heather Lees
(Police Liaison)

Clerk: Mr R Williams

Items raised by members of the public

One parishioner informed councillors of an issue regarding a hedge in the cemetery which was covering headstones and was in need of attention. The Chair would research contractors and the costs of carrying out the cemetery hedge cutting to be reported at a future meeting.

0725/1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from North Yorkshire Council Councillor Weighell, and Heather Lees (police liaison).

0725/2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 19 March 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 21 May 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record.

0725/3. Any Matters Arising

Councillor Buckley provided an update on item 0525/11, in that she had contacted North Yorkshire Council's Dog Warden on this matter. New 'Clean it Up' stickers had been obtained and put up through the village.

0725/4. Police Reports

The Chair presented the police reports for May and June 2025, as seen in the agenda attachments.

0725/5. Parish Clerk's Report

The Clerk provided updates on the following:

- Old Chapel – bell tower restoration; North Yorkshire Council Councillor Weighell had requested confirmation of the lowest contribution that would be acceptable to the Parish Council for this project. It was reported that the Clerk would respond with a request for £3,500. Councillors discussed the possibility of hiring a ‘cherrypicker’ to enable measuring the stone holding the bell on the gable end of the chapel, which needed to be replaced, the Clerk would investigate this. The Chair would liaise with former Councillor Neale regarding his discussions with Calverts of Leyburn about supplying a replacement stone.
- Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam; It was reported that Giant Hogweed had been sighted on the Lower Batts and footpath in Kirkbridge and the Chair and Clerk were investigating this.

0725/6. Financial matters

Councillors were advised that the bank balances for the current and savings accounts as at 30 June 2025 were £7,550.89 and £10,043.68 respectively.

The Clerk presented the receipts and payments for the period 1 May 2025 – 30 June 2025 and a budget monitoring statement for the total financial year.

0725/7. Review of Standing Orders

The Clerk presented the draft document to the council and it was resolved that:

- The Standing Orders be approved for the municipal year 2025-26 and would be reviewed annually.

0725/8. Review of Financial Regulations

The Clerk presented the draft document to the council and it was resolved that:

- Subject to inclusion of a section regarding the council's investment, reserve, and contingency policies, the Financial Regulations be approved for the municipal year 2025-26 and would be reviewed annually.

0725/9. Review of Parish Plan

The Clerk presented a review of the Parish Plan and Councillors discussed amendments to be made. It was resolved that:

- The Parish Plan be approved.

0725/10. Review of Risk Assessment Register

The Clerk presented a review of the risk register and councillors were asked to consider these proposals in connection with the below agenda item. It was resolved that:

- The Risk Assessment Register be approved for the municipal year 2025-26 and would be reviewed annually.

0725/11. Implementation of volunteer policies and update on parish volunteering

The Clerk presented proposals for the implementation of volunteer policies for the council and it was resolved that:

- The Volunteer policy be approved.
- Delegation be given to Councillor Buckley and the Clerk to amend the Health and Safety Policies to be approved at a future meeting.

0725/12. Purchase of power washer for the use of the Parish Council

Councillor Ventham provided an update into investigations into the purchasing of a power washer for the council and it was resolved that:

- The Clerk would purchase on behalf of the council a power washer up to the value of £180; proposed by Councillor Ventham and seconded by Councillor Stirke.

0725/13. Development on Station Road

Councillor Buckley provided an update on the development and the developers plans to remove part of the public footpath. She confirmed that she was in liaison with the local MP, Kevin Hollinrake, Hambleton Ramblers, and North Yorkshire Footpaths. Councillors discussed potential 'call-in' powers by North Yorkshire Council surrounding this planning application. It was agreed that the Chair would write to North Yorkshire Councillors John Weighell and David Webster (Chair of the Richmond (Yorks) Area Planning Committee) regarding this matter.

0725/14. Rector 4 and 20 of Bedale Charity Update

Councillor Buckley provided an update in the last meeting of the charity and councillors discussed the possibility of sourcing funding for the restoration of the Old Chapel through grants from the charity.

0725/15. Langthorne Village Green update

Councillor Stirke provided an update into her communication regarding damage to part of the Village Green and memorial tree by Yorkshire Water during recent drain repairs. Yorkshire Water had agreed to reinstate part of the Village Green as compensation for damage caused by their activities. However, it was reported that attempts to re-sow grass on another part of the Green had not worked due to the recent dry weather. It had been agreed with Yorkshire Water that the Parish Council would continue to monitor the health of the tree for a period of up to six years and report any issues to Yorkshire Water for remediation.

0725/16. Banking on A684 (Little Crakehall) update

Following issues raised by email and a parishioner at the May Parish Council meeting regarding the issue of overhanging hedges, trees and bushes on the banking of the A684 in Little Crakehall, the Chair had sent a detailed email with photographs to North Yorkshire Highways reporting this. A reply had been received from North Yorkshire Highways informing the Parish Council that a Highway Officer had visited the site and did not note any safety concerns with this vegetation. The officer stated that ‘the trees appear to be healthy and do not pose any obstructions to junctions, etc.’

0725/17. Footpath – Crakehall Village Green

The Chair reported that he had liaised with Crakehall Primary School in regard to this item and that they had not expressed any safety concerns regarding the footpath. He also highlighted that following emails with North Yorkshire Highways, it had been confirmed that the footpath was un-adopted highway and as such was not owned by either the Parish Council or North Yorkshire Council and any markings implemented by the Parish Council would therefore be unenforceable.

Councillors discussed options available to them and the Chair proposed that due to the lack of concerns raised by the School and in particular North Yorkshire Highways advice that any markings on an unadopted highway was unenforceable, that the council should take no further action in relation to this item. This was seconded by Councillor Buckley. This was voted in favour unanimously and it was resolved that:

- The Parish Council would take not further action in relation to the Crakehall Village Green footpath.

0725/18. Amendment to Village Green Policy

The Chair reported that there was a desire to introduce a notice of events clause into the Village Green Policy previously agreed on 15 January 2025. The Chair shared copies of a draft proposal to those present at the meeting and it was resolved that:

- Subject to feedback to be received via email from councillors, the Village Green Policy be amended to include a requirement for event holders using the village greens to submit an application form within the allotted time stipulated in the policy.

0725/19. Matters of Urgency (agreed with the chairman before the meeting)

There were no matters of urgency.

0725/20. Any Other Business (for information only)

The Chair reported that there was a need to tidy and organise the filing cabinets and storage inside the Parish Council's storage container.

Councillor Stirke reported that hedging had not been trimmed along the road from Kirkbridge to Langthorne, the Chair would investigate this.

Councillors discussed a 'Meet the Parish Council' day which had been mentioned in previous meetings, further details and a date for this was to be confirmed.

The Parish Council expressed thanks to parishioner Malcolm Dennis for fixing the window in the bus shelter near the Church in Great Crakehall.

0725/21. Date of Next Meeting
Wednesday, 17 September 2025 at 7:30pm.

Reece Williams, Clerk to Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council, July 2025

These minutes remain as a draft until they are formally approved by Crakehall with Langthorne Parish Council at its next meeting in September 2025.