

**MINUTES OF CROFT-ON-TEES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 2nd MAY 2018**  
**HELD IN CROFT VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT:**

**Mr L Nugent (Chair)**  
**Mr Trevor Chaytor-Norris**  
**Mrs P Longstaff**  
**Mrs A Kennedy**  
**Mr S Bass**  
**Mrs C Liversedge-Gell**  
**Cllr Angus Thompson**  
**Colin George - Estate Manager RMLT**  
**Peter Lewis - surveyor for RMLT**  
**Lone Helliwell - RMLT The Fold, Jolby Lane**  
**Sam Hutchinson - Community Mapping Project Officer for PCC NY**

**215 APOLOGIES:**

Cllr Sam Gibbs

**216 DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

Mr Chaytor-Norris with reference to Ruskinmill at Clervaux Fold as they are part of Mr Chaytor-Norris' family. Mr Chaytor-Norris stated he would not comment on this item (220).

**217 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Previous minutes were passed as a true account. Signed by the Chairman

**218 CHEQUES FOR SIGNING**

**For Parish council:**

Mrs Liversedge-Gell salary: £196  
Mrs Liversedge-Gell expenses Jan 18 - May 18: £35.10  
Mr Ian Calvert Internal Audit of Accounts: £35  
Mr Leo Nugent Expenses Jan 18 - May 18: £18.82  
Zurch Municipal Insurers: £188.05

**For Burial Board:**

Mrs Liversedge-Gell fees for Varley family plot purchases and Mr Varley burial: £120.00  
Mr Ian Calvert Internal Audit of Accounts: £15.00

**219 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Full Planning Permission for Construction of Two Service Blocks and Workshops, Link and Animal Building with Associated Access Track and Car Parking  
Clow Beck Centre Jolby Lane Croft On Tees Darlington North Yorkshire DL2 2TF  
Ref. No: 18/00160/FULL | Status: Awaiting decision

Following discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to the Plans that have been submitted

## **220 Colin George of RMLT to discuss proposed plans for Ruskinmill at Clervaux - The Fold**

Lorna Helliwell explained she has worked at The Trust for 9.5 years and the last 5 years has seen The Trust working with the Army to help soldiers and their families adapt to their loved ones being on deployment and returning from tours. The setting up at the Trust is of a huge benefit to the adults and children of the families as they embark on crafts, play, looking after animals and being in an open rural setting. Ms Helliwell explained that with the additional proposed buildings they will be able to offer and do a lot more.

Peter Lewis - Trust surveyor for the works explained he was asked to be involved in the design side of the project. The design of the buildings are to fit in with the countryside as such they are designed as low level agricultural buildings.

The Fold is to host Army families as well as civilian families - both of which have different safeguarding needs. The two accommodation blocks deal with this sensitively and the Animal Block inbetween them has huge therapeutic benefit to the users - this has been fed into the design. The accommodation blocks are designed to look like one although they are actually three.

The location of the blocks have been moved higher up as the original plans had them too low down and this was considered a flood risk. Planning Applications have been submitted, two meetings have been held at the Village Hall and The Trust have leafleted the village with information on the proposed plans. Two main issues arose:

1) Location of the carpark. Original plans had the carpark close to the buildings at Monk End. Following meeting with Beverly Booth (appointed planner RDC) this was raised so the carpark is to be adjacent to the accommodation blocks. The Carpark will also be screened. These amended plans will be submitted shortly.

2) What Evacuation Management Plan is in place in the event of flooding. If there is a Yellow/Red warning of flooding then the blocks will not be in use at that time. Staff at The Trust get an early warning so should have 2 hours notice - if this fails then they can evacuate using the Bridal Path going to Stapleton.

There was some concern from the Environmental Agency around contamination from the land. An assessment of this is being undertaken with an Environmental Risk Assessment.

Mr Leo Nugent raised concern over the suitability of the bridge. Mr Lewis explained it had been checked by a Constructional Engineer and was sound. The Trust has agreed that it is their liability to maintain/fix the bridge should any issues arise as a result of the works being carried out. Mr Lewis also explained the bridge will be plated when construction traffic is going over it. Mr Nugent queried if the bridge has been passed as sound why is it necessary to be plated. This was noted.

Mr Steve Bass raised the question of Construction Design & Management (CDM) Regulations and what Health & Safety measures were being implemented. Mr Lewis explained a Health & Safety Assessment was being undertaken and that they would adopt any safety measures that arose from that. Mr Lewis also explained that equally it is the contractors responsibility to develop a H&S plan. Mr Lewis then checks this to ensure there are no issues.

Mr Leo Nugent explained he had spoken to Ms Booth about the possibility of constructing a bridge higher up in the Valley. There is concern that the flood gates at Monk End can close for days at a time. Mr Lewis is uncertain if Ms Booth is aware yet of their Flood Evacuation Plan which would alleviate this problem.

### **221 Sam Hutchinson to discuss Community Mapping for the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner**

Mr Hutchinson explained to the Parish Council that the Police & Crime Commissioner are carrying out Community Mapping to engage with Districts that are possibly less engaged with the Police. To enable a channel for people to have a voice to go to the Police and to establish what the Public's concerns are with local Police and crime in their area. Rural Watch, Farm Watch & Border Watch are relevant to certain crimes within Parishes.

Mr Leo Nugent voiced the main issue for our Parish is speeding on the A167 & Middleton Tyas Road. The 'suggested' 40 mph speed limit on the A167 being particularly confusing. Mr Nugent requested could the National Speed Limit sign be taken down. He had spoken to Mr Lightfoot about this matter - and was told it would be taken down but it still hasn't. Cllr Thompson offered to follow this matter up.

Mr Steve Bass spoke about the possibility of Matrix Speed signs and the expense to purchase them. Cllr Thompson spoke to the Parish Council about his attempts to change the way in which the boards can be acquired and the possibility of villages sharing the Matrix Signs. A Working Party has been setup on the Transport Committee and they will be reporting later in May.

Mr Hutchinson explained that there is a questionnaire on how the public feel about Crime and Policing in their area's. This is an opportunity to share views and get opinions across. The Clerk to find this questionnaire and share/respond.

Mr Steve Bass raised the issue of the Speedwatch red tape - where the Parish cannot launch a Community Speedwatch where a live speed capturing zone is in place by the Police. Cllr Thompson explained the Parish Council should get an Application in the Speedwatch as a Risk Assessment will also have to take place before it can be granted. Clerk to apply again.

Mr Chaytor-Norris raised the issue of Fly Tipping. It is a huge issue on their estate - anywhere that they have a track or an opening can be susceptible to Fly Tipping. Mr Hutchinson explained that the Police have wildlife camera's that can be installed in area's where repeat fly tipping is taking place. This is being undertaken in the Skipton area at the moment. Mr Hutchinson to establish if it is an initiative that can be utilised within our Parish.

Mrs Longstaff and Mrs Kennedy requested if there was any access to more up to date crime information for the area. Mr Hutchinson explained about Border Watch - where members of the public can sign up to text/email alerts for crime that is occurring local them as it happens. The Clerk to advertise this to Parishioners.

Clerk to include Mark Wood - Richmond Rural Beat Officer to future Parish Council Meeting Agenda's. Clerk will also follow up the use of the Property Marking Machine that was postponed due to the adverse weather conditions.

Mr Chaytor-Norris spoke about the missing human link between the public and the Police and that there is not as much of a personable focus from the Police. Mr Hutchinson will feed that back.

Mr Hutchinson closed by telling the Parish Council about the North Yorkshire Community Messaging System. This system enables the public to opt in to texts, emails or automated phone calls on topics of information that they are interested in. This can cover their local area a 20 mile radius or the whole of North Yorkshire should they wish. Posters given out for the noticeboard advertising this - Clerk to add to the Parish Council website & facebook page.

The link is [www.nycm.co.uk](http://www.nycm.co.uk)

### **222 CROFT-ON-TEES VILLAGE SIGN UPDATE**

Mr Nugent explained that Martyn Coates had informed him the sign should arrive within 5 working days.

### **223 SMARTWATER FUNDS UPDATE**

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that contact has been made with North Yorks Police Accounts department who are dealing with this matter. The £500 is still within the Parish Council Accounts to date.

### **224 SPOIL BANK WOOD UPDATE**

The Clerk explained that herself and Mr Nugent met with Dalton Resident Mr Edwards and Dalton Clerk - Margaret Lowther to discuss the issues with the footpath through the wood. It was established the stile in question with the razor wire on it was not on a designated Public Footpath and that the land was owned by a Mr Pickersgill. The Woodland Trust had erected the stile in error at that point in the wood. The Parish Council discussed that with the area that the stile is situated is not a Public Footpath it is difficult to progress. However it was agreed the razor wire should be removed.

There has been dumping of waste as well as disturbance of Badger Setts through the wood by motorbikes from the Trail Club -Mr Edwards is awaiting a response from Mark Wood about this and will update the Clerk accordingly.

Mr Edwards also gave an update on **Minute 201** from January 2018 Parish Council Meeting - **FOOTPATH CROFT TO ERYHOME**. The footpath was closed by North Yorkshire County Council as repairs needed to be undertaken on the footbridge at the Eryhome end of the footpath.

A resident of Croft-on-Tees had offered to gift the amount needed to fund the works of repairing the bridge as a Charitable Donation.

Following the offer of the donation NYCC had agreed to joint fund the works. However it has now come to light that the Footpath Officer for NYCC had said that the donator of funds would have to take on the liability of the bridge going forward. This has been criticised as the Public are wanting to pay for the majority of the work but are being penalised for it. This is currently unresolved.

## **225 Best Kept Village 2018**

The Parish Council agreed to look into funding early 2019 for pots/planters/plants to display around the village and the Clerk to develop a campaign to involve Villagers for the 2019 Best Kept Village

## **226 Any Other Business**

01) Mr Steve Bass suggested applying to Cllr Thompson for a grant towards the new Lewis Carol Sign that is soon to be installed at the entrance of the Village.

02) St Peters Clock maintenance invoice. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council paid £125 in December 2016 towards this and we had budgeted £150 for it in 2017. The Clerk asked if the cheque could be signed off for the £135 as requested. Ms Kennedy explained that the Parish Council should not have been directly invoiced - it should have been St Peter's Church. Clerk to investigate

03) Geogie Sale has thanked the Parish Council for their response to the proposed closure of Northallerton Court House. There were more responses for the Northallerton consultation than the other 7 others put together. We await the decision of the consultation.

04) The Clerk talked about the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that needs to be in place by 25th May 2018. To comply, the Clerk must arrange:  
Data Protection Officer - can't be the Clerk due to conflict of interest, Parish Council Code of Conduct - agreed by the Parish Council, Privacy Policy and Password Policy.  
Parish Council's are being encouraged to write to MP's to request that Parish Councils be exempt from requiring a Data Protection Officer - Clerk to arrange.

05) Mrs Longstaff Parishioners had spoken to her about over the speeding on the Richmond road and the use of Heavy Goods vehicles causing large pot holes along the road. It was confirmed by Mr Nugent that Highways had confirmed that there was no weight limit on the bridge on that road and that a structural engineer had inspected it and deemed it sound. The Clerk offered to log the pot holes with NYCC - Mrs Longstaff to email the Clerk details of pot hole locations and photo's if possible.

06) Mr Chaytor-Norris spoke about the drains along Richmond road and how they are not cleared satisfactorily. The Clerk to contact Highways to establish their maintenance routine and if they can be checked.

07) Mrs Kennedy raised the issue that the residents at Oakwood felt that the National Speed Limit sign on the A167 was misleading and that traffic continually speeding passed their entrance as they are attempting to pull out onto the road.  
The Clerk to pass comments onto Sam Hutchinson

**There were no further matters and the meeting closed at 8.55pm**

**Next Meeting Wednesday 4th July 2018 at 7.30pm at Croft Village Hall – everybody welcome**

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