

MINUTES OF CROFT-ON-TEES PARISH AGM MEETING
WEDNESDAY 2nd MAY 2018
HELD IN CROFT VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Mr L Nugent (Chair)
Mr Trevor Chaytor-Norris
Mrs P Longstaff
Mrs A Kennedy
Mr S Bass
Cllr Angus Thompson
Mrs C Liversedge-Gell

01 APOLOGIES: Cllr Gibbs

02 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None

03 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN for 2018/19: Cllr Trevor Chaytor-Norris elected Cllr Leo Nugent. Cllr Penny Longstaff seconded.

04 ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIRMAN for 2018/19: Cllr Penny Longstaff proposed Cllr Trevor Chaytor-Norris. Cllr Steve Bass seconded.

05 Clerks Annual Report for 2017/18:

Village Hall Project: Parish Council donated £500 to the building fund for the new Village Hall as did the Croft & Dalton Joint Burial Board Committee. The Plans have been passed for the new Village Hall and fundraising is continuing with great success.

New Lewis Carol Sign for entrance to village: Designs were agreed by the Parish Council and the sign has now been manufactured. It is due to be installed by 10/5/2018

Parish Council Website: Clerk has designed and published a website dedicated to Croft-on-Tees Parish Council www.croftonteespc.com

The website has previous council minutes and agendas, published accounts, links to Planning, Floodwatch, contact details for Parish Councillors, useful links and contacts for the Parish along with a link to events within the community and a dedicated page for the Burial Ground which is to be populated shortly following the next Burial Board Committee meeting.

Planning: A total of 14 Planning Applications were submitted 13 of which were approved. The 14th being The Fold at Clerveaux which is currently being considered by RDC.

Northallerton Courth House Proposed Closure: Parish Council were made aware of the proposed closure of Northallerton Court House and asked to consider responding to the consultation. The Parish Council sent a response as a whole whilst Parish Councillors also responded individually. It was reported back that the Northallerton consultation had more responses than the other 7 proposed Court closures combined. This is a great response - and any decisions made will at least be informed ones. We await the outcome.

Croft Circuit Annual Meeting: This meeting went very well with representatives from the Circuit and Parishioners. The noise levels from the circuit have reduced significantly and the two weekends that had caused anti-social behaviour within the village and Parish (Time Attack and Car Collective) are no longer being run at Croft Circuit.

Speedwatch: The Parish Council are still hopeful that a speedwatch can be set up on one of the roads in/out of Croft-on-Tees. The Richmond/Middleton Tyas road is currently being assessed by North Yorkshire Police for it's suitability. 20+ residents had volunteered their services to assist in the carrying out of the Speedwatch should the Police approve it's setup.

06 Summary of Expenditure & Income for financial year 2017/18:

Full year end accounts were handed out by the Clerk. These will be published on the Parish Council website. In summary:

Precept from Richmondshire District Council: £3300

Total Parish Council Expenditure: £2820.65

Difference: +£479.35

Opening Balance 01/04/2017: £1735.50

Closing Balance 31/03/2018: £2214.85

The accounts have been internally audited by Mr Ian Clavert and are to be submitted for the Parish Annual Governance Statement before 02/06/2018

07 Chairman Report for 2017/18: Chairman agreed with Clerks report and added:

Residents of the unadopted road at the end of South Parade have paid for the road to be fully planed and tarmacked.

08 AOB

County Councillor Angus Thompson Annual Report 2017/18:

"It is now a year since my election as County Councillor for Richmondshire North and during the last 12 months I have made a great effort to attend to attend as many Parish Council meetings as possible. There are 31 Parish councils and parish meetings within my division which is geographically spread over a huge area from Croft to just outside Barningham.

From the very beginning last May it was quite clear to me that one of the most important issues which parish councils faced what is the problem of motorists speeding through villages. The speed limit in most villages with my division is 30 but there are one or two, Stapleton for example where the limit is 40. I have promoted the Speed Watch Initiative whenever possible and many villages have set up one up in conjunction with the police. For those who haven't been involved this is certainly worth looking at. Not every village will be able to have such a scheme as the police do a risk assessment and Manfield for example, unfortunately was declined.

Others have been able to work together to do their Community Speed Watch hour in the early evening so that motorists see the high viz jacket and speed gun in one village and then see the same thing in the next village. This is the case in Melsonby up Moor Road so that someone heading from Melsonby village centre meets the first SWI and then meets the next one in Gilling. The message is slowly getting through to motorists that we are not prepared to put up with motorists who are driving at way over the limit through our villages.

Some villages have looked at the possibility of hiring a VAS ie. vehicle activated sign, through Highways, but at a cost of £3,500 for 72 weeks use over 4 years, these are considered to be too expensive by most PCs. They can be purchased outright for less than £2,500 these days. The best quote I have seen is 1,980 Euros, about £1,700. So why would PCs wish to hire them when they may purchase outright for considerably less money?

The problem is that the use of such signs on NYCC Highways is illegal unless they are hired from the County. This was the case with our neighbours in County Durham until about 3 years ago when they saw the light and relaxed their rules. It is for this reason that I introduced 'a bill' to NYCC through the Richmondshire Area Committee to have the rules relaxed within our County as they have been in Durham.

A questionnaire has been sent to all PCs to be completed and returned electronically so that the Transport Scrutiny Committee can assess the

situation and make a recommendation to the Executive ie. the Cabinet of NYCC. Please complete and return before the deadline of 22nd May!

If I can get the rules changed then there will still be few PCs who can afford to purchase Matrix Boards outright, but surely initiatives could be set up where villages could share them?

Most PCs have signed up to the 'Parish Portal' as a mechanism for reporting problems on roads which require Highways attention. The system is working well and saves the time involved on the telephone which of course ties up a member of staff in Area1 office in speaking to you. An audit trail is set up so that the problem, and Highways action to resolve the issue, can be monitored. There are however still a few PCs who haven't signed up to the Parish Portal and I will bring this up at your next meeting which I attend.

One of the most interesting visits I have undertaken in the last year was to Allerton Park this month. This is situated next to the A1 motorway near the Boroughbridge turn off. It has a large chimney which gives out no pollution whatsoever, simply steam which you will only really see on a cold day. It is an incinerator which is powered by household waste and generates electricity. So not only is it saving your black bag rubbish from going to landfill, but it is generating sufficient electricity to power 40,000 homes a year. The income from this will ultimately help to keep Council Tax bills down.

Another initiative which has been set up by NYCC is a new Legal Services firm which will sell its services to the public. It was necessary to set up a separate legal firm to do this as Councils are not allowed to sell such services to others except Councils and the profit generated will come back into NYCC. The first of these schemes was Yorewaste which is jointly owned by NYCC and the York City Council, and was set up more than 20 years ago. I think as time passes we will see more of these initiatives which will be of great benefit to Council Tax Payers and residents alike.

I am in the process of undertaking visits where possible to schools within Richmondshire North. It has been very interesting thus far to see the contrast between schools in neighbouring villages and I sincerely hope that the current schools will remain open offering parents a wide choice of academic establishments to choose where to send their children.

The task of completing the A1 upgrade is now complete thank goodness, with the new motorway open and what a difference it makes! There are still a few cosmetic issues to finish such as reseeding grass verges and traffic signs. The latter has caused considerable anguish in the Scotch Corner area. The new signs as you enter Middleton Tyas have been placed in a position such that they block the stone sign with the village name on it. The new road to Moulton is really encouraging HGVs to go down through the village as a route to Teesside and the sign simply says unsuitable for heavy vehicles. The same wording is there to discourage HGVs from driving down through Middleton Tyas. I am currently working on achieving a 7.5tonne weight restriction through Middleton Tyas, but this won't be granted overnight and is probably going to involve an ongoing battle which I am more than happy to pursue!

The rebuilding of Gilling Bridge has been a major achievement at a cost of £122,000. And what a good job the contractor made of it! And it was completed on time opening in mid December. Whilst there was considerable disagreement about how the contraflow of traffic through the village should be managed whilst the work was undertaken, all is now complete.

The next big project which is way overdue is the duelling of the A66. Agreement to do this was championed by my predecessor Michael Heseltine after many years, but I have sensed a great sense of frustration over the last year at the ongoing delay in a date for commencement of the work to be announced. However, only this week I have received an email from Highways to say that Highways England are proposing to start consultations with interested parties in May as to the exact route etc. The wheels are starting to role? A long way to go yet I agree but at least there now appears to be some movement on the horizon.

I sit on 2 committees in the County Council. One is the Pension's Fund Committee which currently manages £3.4 billion of funds. The other is the appeals Committee which deals with any dismissal cases of staff. Fortunately I haven't yet sat on any cases but this is about to change.

As ever, I will do my best to assist with any with any issues which any resident of Richmondshire North has. Please do not hesitate to contact me preferably by email."

There was no further business and the AGM was closed at 19.30

