

CRAYKE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk, c/o Blencathra, Stillington Road, Crayke, YO61 4TG
T: 07849 250043 E: clerk@craykeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Crayke Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th January 2026

25.55 Present

Councillors: L Hartley (Chair), C Merritt, J Jefferson, S Featherstone, J Porter, N Jackson,
T Moverley
NYC: N Knapton
Public: 0

25.56 Apologies for absence

None

25.57 Declarations of interest

Cllr Moverley declared an interest in the planning application at Crayke Manor.

25.58 Previous Minutes

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 14th November 2025 as a true record.

25.59 Open Forum

No matters were raised.

25.60 Community and County Matters

NY Councillor Knapton gave the meeting an update on current North Yorkshire Council topics.

1. Budget for 2026/27 is currently being set. There are serious financial pressures due to the Rural funding being withdrawn by central government. This is a national issue, and it is foreseen that some councils will end up in special measures.
2. Ongoing pressures with social care, SEN and the NHS together with the cross over of care between the Councils and NHS.
3. Final divisional boundaries will be set this month for the local elections in 2027. It is looking likely that Crayke will be in the Hillside division, but this is to be confirmed.

25.61 Matters in hand

1. Traffic matters
 - a. Cllr Merritt gave an update on the VAS which was located on West Way and the max speed recorded was 50mph, previously it was located on Brandsby Street and the max speed recorded was 55mph.
 - b. Cllr Hartley gave an update following an email of concern received regarding Church Hill and the water runoff. Cllrs were advised that Highways have been informed and this would be chased up with Cllr Knapton copied in. Action Clerk
2. Village Green
 - a. As above, Highways will be emailed for an update following our email regarding the track.
3. Sustainable Crayke
Cllr Porter gave an update on the group's activities. The report is appended below.
4. Dark Skies
Cllr Merritt gave an update on the Dark Skies and will look at potential events in the upcoming months.
5. HHNL
The Chair gave an update on HHNL matters.
6. Defra's Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) has been running for the last 5 years

and has now been extended for a further 3 years (from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029). There are grants available for farmland ponds and wetlands.

7. Emergency Plan

Clerk presented ideas for sizes of the Emergency Plan cards. It was **resolved** to proceed with the A6 design with up to £60.00 budget for 200 cards. Action Clerk

25.62 Village matters

1. Cllr Hartley advised all councillors of the YLCA Councillors Forum which takes place online. Clerk to send out regular updates on this to all Cllr's.
2. Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 21st March. Cllr Merritt gave a review of stock and put forward the need for more stock. It was **resolved** to purchase this stock.
3. The Clerk advised that NYC Highways had put forward their urban grass cutting offer for 2026/27. It was decided to decline this offer.
4. It was discussed about the cost of printing for the Sustainable Crayke bulletins, it was agreed that this would be better circulated by emails, on the village WhatsApp, the council website and on the notice boards.

25.63 Financial matters

1. It was confirmed that all the bank payments made since the last meeting up to the end of 12th January 2026 had been properly authorised.
2. It was **resolved** to receive and approve the reports on:
The financial position on 31st December 2025 showing the balance at the bank of £1,032.50 and the savings account of £6,000.00.
3. The following receipts and previously approved charges or payments made since the last meeting were noted:

Receipts:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| a. Cashback | £0.33 |
| b. Donation for the Defibrillator Fund | £50.00 |

Payments:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| a. National Rock Salt – Road Salt
inc. VAT £27.00 (27.11.25, Inv 5357) | £162.00 |
| b. Clerk Salary (31.11.25) | |
| c. Amazon – Printer Ink
Inc. VAT £7.83 (1.12.25, Inv GB500FHXR3OCHI) | £47.00 |
| d. Town & Parish Council Websites – Domain & Emails
Inc. £0.00 VAT (18.12.25, Inv 1801513) | £285.03 |
| e. Peacocks Salt – Salt Shovel
Inc VAT £3.36 (22.12.25, Inv SINV543750) | £20.14 |
| f. Clerk Salary (31.12.25) | |

4. It was **resolved** to approve the following payments

a. Amazon – Printer Ink Inc. VAT £7.83 (1.12.25, Inv GB500FHXR3OCHI)	£47.00
b. Peacocks Salt – Salt Shovel Inc VAT £3.36 (22.12.25, Inv SINV543750)	£20.14
5. No additional items circulated at the meeting.

25.64 Planning

1. New applications – to consider and decide upon the following planning applications:
 - a. ZB25/02083/CAT application for works to fell a tree in a Conservation Area, T1 ash tree at Crayke Hall, Church Hill, Crayke.
It was **resolved** to confirm response of Council has no objection to the application.

- b. ZB25/02268/FUL retrospective application For Retention of Agricultural Track Surfacing and Associated Drainage Improvements at Crayke Manor, Crayke
It was **resolved** to confirm response of Council objects to the application with the comment that the works appear to have caused drainage and flooding issues on neighbouring land and the road. The Council is concerned about the repeated use of retrospective applications at this site and considers that any approval should be subject to conditions to address drainage issues and ensure future compliance with planning procedures.
- 2. Updates to applications
 - a. ZB25/02083/CAT - **Granted** - Works to fell a tree in a Conservation Area, T1 ash tree at Crayke Hall, Church Hill, Crayke.

All previous applications are still 'awaiting decision' on the Planning Portal.

25.65 New items and correspondence to note or for decision

- 1. Update Policies it was agreed that Cllrs would review the Standing Orders and Financial Reg documents for the next meeting.
- 2. The clerk has put in place a policies register so we can keep up to date on any updates needed and Cllrs will help in reviewing these before they are brought to meeting for approval.

25.66 Items for the next agenda or for the Parish News

- 1. Next Agenda
 - a. Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- 2. Parish News
 - a. Cllr Merritt to put in a notice of the Open Garden's, the annual litter pick, update on Sustainable Crayke news on the website and the new contact details.

25.67 Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting was agreed to be held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 starting at 19:30 in the Sports Club.

Appendices

SUSTAINABLE CRAYKE January 2026

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 states that every public body, including Parish Councils, has a duty to conserve biodiversity and record progress.

Through PLANNING we are notified about free felling and encourage replanting so that applications are 'nature positive' and protect biodiverse sites.

GRASS CUTTING is reduced and verge maintenance respects both the habitat and road safety considerations.

ENGAGEMENT with the community is achieved through events eg Dark skies, local free cycling and through a quarterly bulletin. We hope for further engagement in a tree survey where residents can survey their own garden trees, together with a wider village survey and school survey.

The survey hopes to identify any ancient or ailing trees, dead trees or unusual species. In addition we hope to raise awareness about the beauty, variety and essential role of trees in providing habitats and our oxygen to breathe.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES A dark skies event will be held. Friendship lunches are arranged by a small group of parishioners. If we get some engagement with the Tree Survey we could give feedback at a coffee morning and hopefully involve the school.

RECORD AND SUMMARY OF PROJECTS AND PROGRESS

VILLAGE GREEN : some wildflower planting has been done and a new pathway created.

ACTION : An additional bench is to be purchased and sited.

TREE SURVEY : To complete designated areas Spring 2026.

To invite the school and residents to survey their land via returnable survey sheets on the Spring bulletin.

SPECIES MAPPING :

Birds. Some residents undertake the RSPB Birdwatch survey.

23 - 25th January.

Brown Hares have suffered a steep decline and there are no laws to prevent them being shot even in the breeding season eg around February. Sometimes hunters with dogs illegally access farmers' land. We don't know how many survive in the village.

Hedgehogs are a red listed animal. In January they may be awake for a day or two so it is worth setting up a feeding station away from their nest (if whereabouts are known, they like the spaces under sheds and decking!). February is the main month for hibernation but still may be seen. March and April they are waking up and stocking up on beetles and worms. A male in May may walk 2 km to find a mate so holes in fences are very helpful. Hoglets, 3-7, are born in June and are tended by the mother for 6-8 weeks. July is when mum and hoglets leave the nest and find fruit. Dogs and strimmers are a problem! August is a good time to check there is a ramp to assist them to get out of a pond. September is the time to top up feeding stations and water bowls. By November they are nest building again.....sometimes under bonfires! Natural food is scarce.

Amphibians: Frogs and newts arrive quickly into a wildlife pond. Natural slug predators.

Swifts: Our additional swift boxes increase the potential nesting sites. We have some anecdotal evidence that we are seeing more in summer?

CRAYKE WALK

We have not yet identified and agreed ways to enhance the walk and provide information about flora and fauna. A meeting soon would be useful.

JANE PORTER

DEFIBRILLATORS January 2026

According to National news reports, dozens of deaths are linked to faulty and inaccessible defibrillators.

Only 36% of responding councils said their defibrillator was available round the clock.

39 councils said not all defibrillators were checked in the previous 2 months.

17 could not confirm that they were ever checked.

Example 1 : A 56 yr old man collapsed at a Sheffield tennis club. A St John first aider and a doctor were close by BUT the defibrillator battery was too low to save him.

Example 2: An 18 yr old boy collapsed and received CPR by a friend who had received training. They knew there was a defibrillator nearby but the cabinet was locked and nobody could access it. He died.

We have a team of 5 who do weekly checks and parts are monitored and replaced as necessary.

The Durham Ox machine is available 24/7 in an unlocked cabinet

The Sports Club machine has the access code displayed on it and is available 24/7.

Both machines have new batteries.

We agreed to maintain accessible/ unlocked cabinets due to the small window of opportunity to save a life. This was despite the Ambulance service recommending locked cabinets to prevent theft and to ensure 999 was called to request an ambulance and an access code.

Both of our machines are on the Ambulance service database known as "The Circuit". This is updated regularly to notify that they are 'emergency ready'.

A £50 donation has been received for the defibrillator fund that is managed by CRAYKE Parish Council.

ACTION: Through Councillor Nigel Knapton we are willing to share best practice with local communities to ensure defibrillators are maintained and emergency ready if required.

Jane Porter