

CH welcomed **PS** onto the Council and all the Councillors were pleased that someone with Peter's knowledge of the villages and the community was joining the Council.

LE advised that the Parish Council plans to co-opt a Councillor for Claxton at the next meeting in September.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

LE introduced the discussion on the following outstanding matters:

NYCC HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

Drainage / 30mph zone and other Richard Marr issues – **LE** reported that Richard Marr had been in contact after the last PC meeting and had clearly been in consultation with County Councillor Clare Wood over outstanding issues and the inter-village footpath idea. **LE** then chased **RM** for further news last week and had mixed results.

30mph zone – **RM** apologised for delays on the 30mph consultation – he is waiting for a new drawing from his designer but he confirmed he would chase that outstanding document.

Signs -The single track signs for Whinny Lane and the 'Children at Play' sign have been delayed by a County wide problem with a sign contractor. The signs are now in the depot and should be installed as soon as contractor time is available. The warning sign should be dropped off in Claxton ASAP (see Road Safety section below for update).

Buttercrambe Woods road resurface – Richard confirmed that the contractor should be in the area after 9th August and this remedial work should be high on the list of priorities.

Footpath – see Parish Plan update section for news from Richard Marr on the footpath proposal.

LE to continue to follow up actions with Richard Marr.

Road Safety Questionnaire outcomes – The 'Children at Play' warning sign has actually been delivered to Claxton. However, beneath the triangular warning sign, there is a rectangular sign with the word 'Playground'. It is also large and heavy so difficult to lift in and out of gardens where it will be stored. All Councillors voiced disappointment that it was not entirely fit-for-purpose but **LE** expressed the view that the sign should be retained in case it can be used, in Greenhills or elsewhere. Councillors debated possible ways to overcome this problem and agreed that if there were any funds left over from the purchase of the bench, that these should be used to purchase a lightweight warning sign. **LE** to retain the current sign whilst investigating the costs of a lightweight sign and also evaluate the funds for the bench project.

Road Surface and Drainage Problems – **LE** reported that Neil Jefferson had a drainage 'gang' in the area and was planning to fit the drainage channels at the bottom of Kirk Balk Lane during the week commencing 9th August! Councillors expressed amazement that this drainage solution was finally going to happen after years of discussion.

LE to remain in contact with Neil and monitor progress of drainage works. **LE** to send out email on Enews and on website to advise parishioners of road closure from 9th August and diversion past Kissthorn Farm.

Restoration of village signs – This is still something that the Parish Council wishes to pursue but the Highways stipulation that the signs must remain insitu may be unappealing to volunteers. **LE / VT** to contact Gavin Fielding to see whether these rules would prevent him wanting to repair the signs and which signs he would be willing to restore.

LE also informed the meeting that 2 street name plates in the Parish had gone missing –Whinny Lane near the A64 and Stamford Bridge Road at the turning off Main Street, **LE** had contacted Property Management at RDC who manage street name plates and have ordered replacements but they may take several weeks to be delivered and installed.

OTHER VILLAGE ISSUES:

- **Community Police Officer and Ryedale Policing** – **LE** reported that there had been an increase in thefts and attempted thefts in the area and that a significant burglary attempt in Sand Hutton had been thwarted due to the quick response of a neighbour. **LE** had contacted PC Goodwill to see if he had any messages for the community following this incident and he had provided a stack of home security information leaflets for distribution. (NB. Please contact **LE** if you would like any additional copies of this leaflet).
- **Bus passes for Claxton children to attend Sand Hutton school** – **LE** reported that rather unexpectedly, the Claxton families who had appealed against the recent decisions to remove the bus pass funding have won their appeals. All Councillors agreed this was excellent news and the most sensible option given the current levels of concern about the safety of the stretch of road and bend turning into Sand Hutton.
- **Tree on Claxton village green and Tree near Whey Carr Farm** – **LE** had been in contact with John Clayton from RDC but had still not received very much more feedback on the dead cherry tree on the green. John Clayton had confirmed it was dead and ‘therefore replacement is advised’. There was a further debate on what approach to take to felling the tree but overall, there was still insufficient guidance to determine whether the whole tree had to be felled and removed. **LE** to contact John Clayton to establish whether all material must be removed from site to prevent any spread of disease or whether some sections can remain. **LE** had also raised the issue of the large oak tree on the verge near Whey Carr Farm with John Clayton. In his opinion, the tree requires ‘minor works’ all the way round to remove overhanging branches and so he has forwarded the query to Pete Wilson at Highways – who have a duty of care for trees within the verge.
- **War Memorial Maintenance** – **LE** recalled that the issue of the maintenance of the war memorial had been raised at the previous meeting when it was noted that there were many weeds and it was looking neglected. **LE** apologised that she did not have a complete update for the meeting since this was something that **VT** had been pursuing but **LE** believed that there was now a plan in place for maintenance. **VT and LE** to update the Council at the next meeting.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

- **School playing field** – There is still little progress to report on this topic and some outstanding actions to pursue. **LE and HW** to meet to cover outstanding actions eg contacting Brian Jennings to confirm queries over field inspections etc.. **LE** to start investigating fencing 2 sides of the village green eg permission, costs, maintenance implications etc.
- **Footpath** – At the previous meeting, the proposal for a rustic path between the villages was debated with County Councillor Clare Wood. Since then, Richard Marr from Highways discussed this idea with **LE** and confirmed that it is possible for a strip of verge to be designated as surplus to highways requirements and allocated to the adjoining landowner. Once it was private land, a rustic path could be built across it, with the landowner’s permission. A magistrate would have to make the decision to pass the ownership of the land out of Highway’s control for a charge of £750. In terms of the drainage gulleys, Highways would need to be convinced that the safety of the Highway was preserved and that there were still adequate gulleys / soakaways to prevent flooding. **LE** highlighted to the meeting that the obvious hurdles to this idea were the Church Commission as owners of the adjoining

land and the lack of funding for the project in the current climate. Then there was a debate about the possible problems and solutions to this issue with the overall conclusion that the idea should be investigated further and that funding would have to be raised locally. **LE** to investigate further eg contact Smiths Gore as agents for the Church Commission and also contact Richard Marr to see if he could visit the site to assess the drainage. **ALL** to consider funding alternatives to raise sufficient amounts to cover costs of over £1,000.

- **Development of village website** – Recently, **Pete Tidball, HW , VT and LE** had a meeting to explore how to improve posting minutes, agendas and other Parish Council information onto the website. There are now processes in place to review and post the material onto the website. Unfortunately, due to Pete Tidball being in hospital, the processes did not all work in time for the Parish Council meeting but should be smoother next time.

ITEM 5: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

LE delivered a brief overview of the finances. A copy of the accounts spreadsheet had been supplied to each Councillor.

Cash Position as at 28th July 2010 (including cheques issued):-

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Current Account | £1,723.16 | |
| Deposit Account | £1,519.65 | Includes Parish Plan funds of £536.95 |

- Invoices paid /receipts received since previous meeting: None
- **Financial year end** – **LE** reported that the required forms had been submitted to the external auditors on time and that now we have to wait until about October for their opinion on the accounts. The accounts had been displayed on the notice boards but there had been no queries received on them, which was good news.
- **Npower dispute over historic invoices** – **LE** explained to the Councillors that Npower had been chasing various outstanding debts and that legal proceedings have been threatened once again. **LE** handed round a spreadsheet to illustrate the complexity of the situation with numerous invoices and credit notes being queried. Overall, Npower state that we owe them an additional £113 but **LE** believes that is not correct. **LE** reported that she had been in contact with their Credit control department but was not making much progress. **LE** had also spoken to Sheen Spence at YLCA who was well aware of Npower’s billing issues with many Parish Councils. She will forward our queries onto her contact at Npower, John Clark. **CH** expressed concern that this appeared to be such a complex mess over charges that should have been resolved years ago and urged **LE** to seek help from all possible sources. **LE** to investigate the invoices and credits further and report next meeting.

ITEM 6: GENERAL BUSINESS SECTION

RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING MATTERS:

LE reported on the following planning applications:

Update on the planning application discussed at the last meeting –

- Mr Rickleton, Warren House, Hall Drive, Sand Hutton – Approved 17th June – 7 conditions.
- Mr & Mrs Esler, The Barn, Main Street, Sand Hutton – Erection of detached garage/store and single storey extension plus conversion of internal garage to form additional accommodation. Response due to RDC 2nd August. No objections from Councillors but concern that the relationship to boundaries was unclear.

RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Parish Liaison meeting was held on 28th June, Malton and LE attended on behalf of the Parish Council. LE reported that the meeting had a strained atmosphere since Ryedale and County level Councillors were very unclear on what the implications were regarding the spending cuts. There had been a demonstration of the online Planning Application tools and a discussion about its use and recent improvements. LE had a chance after the meeting to give some feedback to the Planning team on some aspects of the planning site. LE also queried the Head of Planning about the phone box adoption process / lack of response and he said he would follow up that query.
- Chairman’s Charity Fund – The RDC chosen charities this year are Anthony Nolan Trust and Yorkshire and Humber Sea Cadets. The Councillors debated whether to donate to these charities and concluded that £12.50 should be donated to the Chairman’s charity and £12.50 to Ryedale Citizens Advice Bureau. The CAB is working very hard during a time of redundancies and economic difficulties for local families. The total of £25 is in line with the Councils charitable donations policy and budget. LE to prepare cheques and distribute donations.

NYCC CORRESPONDENCE: Local Transport Plan Consultation – CH reminded Councillors that there was a great deal of information online about the Local Transport Plan. LE pointed out that priorities may alter in light of spending reviews.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Woodland Sales in Sand Hutton** – The Forestry Commission have informed the Parish Council about the sale of 4 areas of woodland in the Sand Hutton parish. The woods include Whey Carr Plantation which has the bridle path and part of the Heritage Trail running through it and also Scrogs Bottom Wood off the Gate Helmsley road. CH explained that she had been in contact with the Forestry Commission to clarify what would happen to the rights of way if the woodland was sold, in particular the permissive right of way in Scrogs Bottom Woods (Bluebell woods). Mr Walton from the Forestry Commission suggested that the lessor ie the Church Commission would need to stipulate to keep a permissive right of way. LE to circulate the sales particulars for the woods when received. LE to contact Smiths Gore to confirm whether the Church Commission are maintaining the permissive right of way across Scrogs Bottom Woods. The Forestry Commission have also advised that there will be felling and restocking in the area, including in the woods that are for sale.

ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

ITEM 8: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 27th September 2010 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Sand Hutton.

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Questions to: Laura E J Edwards

Chairman: Viv Tidball

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