

CLAXTON AND SAND HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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DATE OF MEETING: 15th November 2010

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COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Mrs V Tidball (Chair), Dr C Hall (Vice Chair), Mrs H Wood, Mr P Stott, Mr M Wheldon

PARISH CLERK: Mrs Laura E J Edwards

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Mrs T Calpin, District Councillor Keith Knaggs

CHAIRMANS INTRODUCTION:

VT welcomed the Councillors and the parishioners to the meeting.

ITEM 1: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 27th September 2010 had been circulated previously amongst the Councillors and published on the notice-boards and the parish website. The Councillors accepted them as correct and they were duly signed by the Chairman. It was accepted that Mrs T Calpin and District Councillor Keith Knaggs sent apologies for their absence – Keith Knaggs hopes to attend the next meeting in January 2011.

NB Proposed actions are highlighted in Blue.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman invited parishioners to raise any issues of interest or concern to the Parish Council and encouraged parishioners to voice their thoughts in the Public Forum rather than disrupting the flow of Councillor debates later in the meeting. Parishioners are very welcome to bring additional ideas to the attention of the Clerk at the end of the meeting.

Warning Message – Bill Heath wished to raise concern and dismay that the Parish Council had queried the content of warning email sent out in early October about criminal activity re child car seats and eggs thrown at windscreens. Bill made a variety of points about the communication role of Enews for the community and emphasised that he believed the email to come from a very trustworthy source and thought the message was of interest and relevance to Enews readers. There followed a debate about the message and the nature of the warning with varied contributions from both parishioners and councillors. To conclude the debate, LE described the order of events i.e. the warning message appeared on Enews and shortly afterwards, the Parish Council received complaints and queries about the message from parishioners. LE contacted the local police just to clarify whether this activity was happening locally and was something the police were aware of and they responded quite emphatically to explain that this email had been circulating for some months but no such criminal activity had been recorded in North Yorkshire. LE reported the police update to Bill Heath, Bill did not want to amend or clarify the email and so no further action was taken other than LE reporting back to the individual parishioners who had queried the warning to explain the police response about North Yorkshire.

Emergency Plan – A parishioner asked the Council whether there were plans to refresh the Emergency Plan and to make it more widely available. Was there is possibility of obtaining a defibrillator for the community? LE responded that there were plans to review the Emergency Plan and it had been raised at the recent Parish Liaison meeting which will be discussed later in the meeting. LE to investigate feasibility and costs of obtaining a defibrillator and include on a future agenda.

Roadside Saplings – A parishioner queried whether the Parish Council would be willing and /or

able to organise management of the roadside saplings along the road between the FERA lab and the entrance to Sand Hutton village. The saplings have grown in recent years and now obscure the rhododendrons which in the past, made an attractive display on the approach to the village. **CH** noted that the approach to both woodland and verge management has changed in recent years and rhododendrons are generally considered undesirable weeds by most woodland managers. **LE** to investigate whether sapling management is feasible and affordable and include on a future agenda.

ITEM 3: 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** explained she had spoken face-to-face with Richard Marr following the Parish Liaison meeting in Malton. Richard Marr was aware of the outstanding actions and noted them down. **RM** is still waiting for a new drawing from his designer for the 30mph zone consultation but he confirmed he would chase that outstanding document again.

Signs -The single track signs for Whinny Lane are understood to be in the depot but are still not in position.

Buttercrambe Woods surface dressing and edges – **LE** had discussed the state of the Buttercrambe Woods road with Neil Jefferson. He agreed that the surface dressing appeared to be holding better than the previous year. The edges of the road will need patching due to heavy traffic overrunning the verges but these repairs would be part of the normal road repair programme and so there was no timescale available at present.

LE to continue to follow up outstanding actions with Richard Marr.

Road Safety Questionnaire outcomes – The road safety training at Sand Hutton School is continuing with Cycle Awareness sessions running on Thursdays for certain year groups. **LE** reported that the purchase of the warning sign had been delayed due to worries over available finances (linked to Npower debts) but that the sign would be ordered ASAP. **LE** to organise the of purchase triangular warning sign.

Road Surface and Drainage Problems – Flooding of Main Street, Claxton – **LE** had discussed the flooding of Main Street after heavy rain with Richard Marr who had already been debating this problem with Neil Jefferson following our earlier queries. Neil Jefferson suggested that we needed to contact Yorkshire Water since it appears that the surface water drains are becoming overwhelmed in heavy rainfall and Claxton has a combined system of surface water drains and sewerage. **LE** contacted Yorkshire Water who requested details of the houses and cottages in Main Street which are affected by flooding. **LE and VT** to prepare list of houses involved and **LE** to pursue investigation with Yorkshire Water.

OTHER VILLAGE ISSUES:

- **Community Police Officer and Ryedale Policing** – The Council noted the latest crime statistics for Ryedale South West and the report from PC Glenn Goodwill which showed very few incidents in recent weeks.
- **Claxton village green – Use of the village green as play area.** At the previous meeting, the Parish Council had debated the use of the village green in Claxton as a play area for local children. Concerns had been raised by a parishioner about the safety of the children, if for example, they ran out onto the road to collect a ball. **LE** reported that there had been further email comments from the parishioner about the dangers of playing on the green but also concerns about the possible idea of fencing two side of the green ie fencing would be ‘visually dreadful and a nuisance for grass cutting’. **LE** read out the legal definition of a village green ‘ Village Greens are usually areas of land within defined settlements where local inhabitants can go for the exercise of lawful sports and pastimes. Typically, these might include organised or ad-hoc games, picnics, fetes and other similar activities’. **LE** also reported that Development Control at Ryedale District Council had clarified that planning

permission is not required for any fence or enclosure adjacent to a highway if it is 1M or less in height. A village green cannot be fully enclosed but sections can be fenced, as seen in many villages. There followed a debate between Councillors with various comments from parishioners. Another parishioner who lives close to the green, reported that there have been incidents of children acting rashly to recover balls from trees or from the road and also playing carelessly with the two cycle ramps left on the green. Other parishioners expressed strong opposition to any fencing on the green and wanted active consultation with local residents. Councillors expressed the view that as a community, we had to consider the needs of various age groups and also attempt to mitigate the risks faced by those groups. If fencing was seen as a way of improving safety then it would be considered but it would be very low fencing in the style used on many other village greens. It was suggested that any fencing could be set further back to leave a margin wide enough for grass cutting and also to act as a buffer between the green and the road for child safety. At this stage, the fencing idea is a proposal which needs to be evaluated and so the Councillors discussed a sketch design of fencing on the green so that a more accurate quote can be obtained from a fencing contractor. Based on the discussed design, **LE** to obtain quotes for fencing 2 sides of the green and report to a future meeting. **ALL** to consider how to gauge wider Claxton opinion, if the fencing proposal is feasible.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

- **School playing field** – Since the last meeting, Brian Jennings, Schools Lawyer at NYCC, had been in contact to say that he had been unable to find a written down field checking procedure at NYCC. He had contacted the school at Sand Hutton to see what procedure they had been using! Brian Jennings indicated that the school were feeling ‘out of the loop’ in terms of developments. **LE** to contact Councillor Clare Wood to see if she could recommend anyone else in NYCC who could provide a procedure. **LE** to write to the Head Teacher at Sand Hutton School to explain our current situation and ensure the school is not excluded from any developments. **LE** to work on developing our own field checking procedure, since that might be faster!
- **Development of village website** – **MW** provided an update to the Council on the latest progress on the website and the recent upgrade. **MW** also outlined the focus on making the site more user friendly and the aim of improving the methods of uploading information to the site. The web administrators at Ryedale need convincing about certain aspects of a new template developed by Martin for publishing information but **MW** and Pete Tidball hope to meet David Henderson from Ryedale very soon. This should simplify the management of the website and it should become easy to add maps, photos, pictures etc as well as text. Already the website has been modified so that ‘subscribers’ can receive email alerts when a new article is posted. **MW** to meet with David Henderson and Pete Tidball and report any progress to the next meeting. **LE** to send any additional information/documents to the web team for inclusion in the Parish Council section eg. Winter road maintenance, flood warning information. **LE** to send the Parish Councillor summaries to the web team with just basic information included for **TC** section.
- **Footpath** – At previous meetings, the Parish Council had debated the possibility of creating a rustic footpath using Richard Marr’s idea about a strip of Highway’s land reverting to an adjoining landowner. **LE** reported to the meeting that Smiths Gore in York who act for the Church Commissioners, had discussed the idea of leasing a strip of land back to the Parish Council (after it had reverted from Highways). They were not negative in principle, but felt that they could not discuss any land linked to Gravel Pit Farm until the sale of the farm had been finalised. The land on the opposite side of the road (war memorial side) is partly Church Commission, managed by a tenant, and partly privately owned. The overall conclusion of the discussion with Smiths Gore was to come back with the query once Gravel Pit Farm ownership is resolved and when the Parish Council has determined a preferred

route for the path. The Parish Councillors then reviewed a map of the two villages and discussed possible routes / state of the verges. **ALL COUNCILLORS** arrange to walk between the villages and assess the verges and routes. **LE and VT** to approach the owners at Pasture Farm and also the Fawcett family who manage some of the roadside land to understand their opinion on the idea. **LE** to contact Smiths Gore again once Gravel Pit Farm sale is complete. **ALL** to consider funding alternatives to raise sufficient amounts to cover costs of over £1,000.

ITEM 4: 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 11th November 2010 (including cheques issued):-

Current Account	£2,998.84	
Deposit Account	£1,519.65	Includes Parish Plan funds of £536.95
TOTAL	£4,518.05	Including Parish Plan funds as above

- To note invoices paid /receipts received since previous meeting:
 - Income = £1,975 – 2nd half of annual Precept from Ryedale District Council
 - Income = £524.85 – NYCC grass cutting rebate
 - Expense = £58.75 – External Audit fee, Mazars
 - Expense = £483.21 – Clerks Salary qtr 2
 - **LE** highlighted that although the cash balance appears high at present, there are large bills about to be paid including the annual grass cutting fee and so the total will soon reduce again.
 - **Financial year end 2011** – **LE** reminded the meeting that the Precept request has to be submitted on 7th January 2011 and so the next meeting, proposed as the 5th January, will have to be focused on agreeing the budget and the Precept total for next year. District Councillor Keith Knaggs wanted **LE** to report that subject to final decisions, there will be a zero council tax increase in Ryedale but costs within the Council will have to be reduced by £1M. £700k has been identified already but the last £300k is going to be very difficult to find and may mean reduced services.
 - **Banking** – Unfortunately, the HSBC Bank has decided to close the small Stamford Bridge branch which is where the Parish Council currently manages the Parish Finances. The Parish Council accounts will be moved to the main York branch which is less convenient for transactions.
 - **Npower dispute over historic invoices** – Following a tip from John Short of Claxton and another Parish Clerk, **LE** has been pursuing a new tactic with Npower and has contacted their PR department including the ‘Reputation Manager’ to complain about the poor quality billing and service. This seems to be working and someone from the Business Complaints team is now handling our case rather than Credit Control. Resolving the dispute is still taking a great deal of time, effort and phone calls. **LE** to report any progress on closing the accounts to the next meeting.

ITEM 5: GENERAL BUSINESS SECTION

RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING MATTERS:

LE reported on the following planning applications:

Update on planning applications discussed at previous meetings:-

- Mr N Davies, **Balnakeil, Main Street, Claxton** – Raising of roof height of existing dwelling to form first floor accommodation and single-storey extension to rear. No

objections. Approved 6th Oct. 4 conditions.

- Mrs C Rogers, **Three Hollies, Hall Drive, Sand Hutton** – Erection of single-storey extension, raising roof height and installation of dormers to front and rear. No objections. Approved 5th Oct, 3 conditions.
- Mr & Mrs Atkinson, **Abbey House Farm, Main Street, Claxton** – Change of use and alteration of outbuilding to form a one-bedroom self-contained annex. No objections. Approved 25th Oct. 6 conditions.
- Mrs T Mc Nellis, **Claxton Grange Farm, Malton Road, Claxton**. Change of use with alterations of 13 holiday cottages to form 13 dwellings with parking, amenity areas and communal facilities. No objections but concerns over isolation, septic tank and turning on and off A64. Pending consideration.

DEFRA – At the last meeting, **HW** queried why ground works appear to have started at the FERA site and yet the Parish Council was not aware that the planning application had been approved. **LE** and Keith Knaggs have queried this with Development Control and the response was that a decision is expected imminently, they are just waiting for one legal agreement to be finalised. **LE** to advise the Parish Council when an official decision is published.

NB. It was agreed that at future meetings, the update on applications discussed at previous meetings would be noted rather than revisited since the Councillors already receive email notification about each planning application decision.

RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Parish Liaison Meeting report – **LE** attended the Parish Liaison meeting in Malton and reported that a variety of topics had been discussed including the 2011 census, revised flood warnings, refreshing Emergency Plans and winter road maintenance. There had been very strong views from some Parish and Town Councillors about the lack of gritting on certain roads in North Yorkshire, particularly school bus routes. Richard Marr explained that there is only a certain amount of grit available and gritting follows a 3 tiered priority system so not all rural roads can be covered. Also there is a prohibitive Custom and Excise rule that farm contractors using red diesel cannot carry a commodity eg salt. **LE** to review all the information obtained from the meeting, especially the Emergency Plan documents, and forward any useful links and information to the Web team.

Winter Maintenance – **LE** handed out a copy of the ‘Snow Code’, a set of guidelines from central government for individuals and organisations dealing with snow clearance and winter pavements. **ALL COUNCILLORS** to review the code and consider whether the community wants to establish a more co-ordinated approach to snow clearance.

NYCC CORRESPONDENCE: The Parish Council noted various NYCC letters and consultations in the recent binder.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: The Ryedale Branch Meeting of the YLCA attended by **LE**, had included discussion on Community Infrastructure Levy (new version of Section 106), the Ryedale Plan, the local council elections in early May 2011 and attracting new councillors, resistance to Precept capping and changes of personnel at YLCA. The Community Infrastructure Levy will not fully come into effect until 2014 and is likely to be changed by the new Government before introduction.

ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS or ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

No additional items raised.

Items for future agendas to include Snow Code and winter maintenance, Emergency Planning, sapling maintenance.

ITEM 7: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5th January 2011 at 7:30pm in

the Village Hall, Sand Hutton.

NB: This meeting will be focused on finalising the budget and precept for the next financial year.

Please note that minutes, agendas and other information can now be found on the Parish website:-

<http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk>

Questions to: Laura E J Edwards

Chairman: Viv Tidball

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