

**CLAXTON AND SAND HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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**DATE OF MEETING:** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010

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**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Mrs V Tidball (Chair), Dr C Hall (Vice Chair), Mrs H Wood, Mrs T Calpin, Mr P Stott,

Mr M Wheldon (after being co-opted)

**PARISH CLERK:** Mrs Laura E J Edwards

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Freda Goodrick (parishioner)

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**CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION:**

**VT** welcomed the Councillors and the parishioners to the meeting and also welcomed County Councillor Clare Wood.

**ITEM 1: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 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.

NB Proposed actions are highlighted in Blue

**ITEM 2: PUBLIC FORUM**

The Chairman invited parishioners to raise any issues not appearing later on the agenda.

No items were raised.

**ITEM 3: Update on Parish Councillor Vacancy and Co-opting New Parish Councillor**

**Parish Councillor Vacancies** – **LE** reminded the meeting that Peter Stott was co-opted to the Council at the last meeting but that there was still a vacancy in Claxton. After following the advertising procedure, RDC had confirmed that the Parish Council was free to co-opt a new councillor for Claxton.

**VT** invited Martin Wheldon from Greenhills, Claxton to come and join the Councillors. **HW** then nominated Martin Wheldon to become a new Councillor for Claxton and this was seconded by **VT**. Martin Wheldon then signed the 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor' before the Proper Officer and the meeting and so **MW** was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council. **LE** to inform Ryedale District Council of the name and details for the new Claxton Councillor.

**CH** welcomed **MW** onto the Council and all the Councillors were very pleased that Martin had joined the Council and were looking forward to his input and particularly any IT/ communications advice since Martin is an IT consultant. County Councillor Clare Wood also extended a warm welcome to Martin. **MW** to complete required forms for Ryedale Council.

As an additional agenda item, **VT** then invited County Councillor Clare Wood to update the meeting on current issues at County level.

**Highways issues in our Parish** – **CW** was aware of our current progress and / or lack of progress with local Highways issues due to email exchanges over recent days. Richard Marr (Highways Area Manager) is currently on holiday but **CW** encouraged the Parish Council to continue to chase the

outstanding actions on his return, particularly the 30 mph consultation. (See Item 4 for further updates on Highways maintenance).

**Budget and Spending Review** – **CW** explained that it was a time of uncertainty at County Hall and that it is difficult to formulate budgets for next year when the full impacts of central government spending cuts are unclear. There are contingency plans in place to help manage the effects of budget cuts but there will be local government job losses. There will be difficult decisions to make such as cutting public transport services and changing library provision. It is going to be challenging to work out which services to reduce when there are growing demands on areas such as Adult Social Care. **CW** emphasised that clear communication and working together will be important to tackle the difficult times ahead.

**Future Waste Management in North Yorkshire** – **CW** explained some of the reasoning behind the plans to develop a waste processing centre at Allerton Park. Rural areas such as ours are achieving quite good rates of recycling but in towns such as Harrogate where many people live in flats and do not have room for a variety of recycling bins, the rates are much lower. North Yorkshire is running out of landfill sites and landfill taxes will increase overtime so there needs to be a more effective method of sorting and disposing of waste material. The option favoured by NYCC is to develop Allerton Park into a modern waste processing plant with a 25 year contract using a PFI approach to funding. There has been a long, involved procurement process and a final decision will be announced in December.

**VT** thanked **CW** for the update on NYCC issues and then **CW** left the meeting.

#### **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** explained that as Clare Wood had mentioned, there was a mixture of positive results and further delays to report on the Highways issues.

**30mph zone** – No further progress to report on the 30mph consultation – **RM** is still 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 are understood to be in the depot but are still not in position.

**Buttercrambe Woods road resurface** – The Buttercrambe Woods road has been dressed since the last parish council meeting. The surface dressing seems to be holding better than last year's repair. However, Councillors noted that there are ruts at the roadside and patches of subsidence in the verge that were not repaired before the dressing was applied. **LE** to request Neil Jefferson to evaluate the road side edges on Buttercrambe Woods road.

**Footpath** – see Parish Plan update section for news on the footpath proposal.

**LE** to continue to follow up actions with Richard Marr on his return from leave.

##### **Road Safety Questionnaire outcomes**

**Children at Play warning sign** – **LE** reported that a lightweight warning sign would cost approximately £70 to purchase.

All Councillors agreed that a sign should be purchased. **LE** to organise the of purchase triangular warning sign.

##### **Road Surface and Drainage Problems**

**Kirk Balk Lane** - **LE** was very pleased to report that the drainage 'gang' had appeared on the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> August and that a new drainage channel is now in place at the bottom of Kirk Balk

Lane. This issue has taken some perseverance to resolve as it was first raised in Feb 2004! **LE** advised the Council that she had passed on thanks to Neil Jefferson and to the team that installed the channel.

**Flooding of Main Street, Claxton** – **LE** has asked Richard Marr about investigating the surface water drainage problems on Main Street. Councillors discussed the long running problems with surface water run-off from farm land, roads and the increased tendency to tarmac or pave driveways. **LE** to continue to pursue investigation with Richard Marr, Highways.

#### **OTHER VILLAGE ISSUES:**

- **Community Police Officer and Ryedale Policing** – **LE** had attended the local Police meeting in Flaxton on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The key messages included a focus on speeding motorists and people not wearing seat belts leading to the issue of 125 fixed penalty notices over June, July and August. There is also an emphasis on preventing poaching this autumn and Operation Leveret is now running. The police encouraged all Councillors and Parishioners to report any crimes and any poaching/lamping to the police. **LE** reported that she had queried the value of the Crime Statistics that are issued and whether they could be improved.
- **Claxton village green** –
- **Felling of cherry tree** – **LE** had spoken with John Clayton at RDC about felling the cherry tree and he had advised that as long as it was safe, there would be conservation value in leaving a stump. He was still unsure as to the exact cause of death of the tree and so any replacement tree should be planted in another area of the green. The Councillors then debated whether to remove the tree entirely or leave a stump to decompose. It was suggested that growing ivy on the stump might bind any loose material. The conclusion of the discussion was that the stump should be left at a low level, below the dividing branches and then review. Two local residents have the required equipment and knowledge to tackle straightforward felling and have kindly offered to fell the tree and remove the old discarded wood. **VT** to liaise with the volunteers to organise the felling of the tree.
- **Use of the village green as play area** – **LE** reported to the Councillors that a Claxton resident who lives close to the village green, had submitted concerns to the Parish Council about the recent increase in children playing on the village green. The parishioner had various concerns about the use of the green as a playing field and in particular highlighted the risks if the children run onto the road whilst playing on the green. The resident reports “Balls are regularly being kicked or hit onto and across the road, chased by children who do not look to see if anything is coming. I would offer the suggestion that ball games are not permitted on the green in view of this traffic danger.” The Councillors had in depth and wide ranging debate about the use of the green and discussed the overall problem for the village that there was a lack of an available piece of land for young people to use for play. The concerns about the safety of the children playing on the green were noted by all Councillors. The conclusion of the debate was that the Parish Council did not support the proposal to ban all ball games on the village green. A ban would work against the aim of the Parish Council to encourage the community to use the green for its intended purpose ie recreation for local inhabitants. However, the idea of low fencing between the road and the village green will be investigated further to discourage children from running onto the road. The Parish Council will also actively pursue other ideas for improving road safety such as working with the Police on speed monitoring and maintaining links with the Road Safety Officer, who works with local children. **LE** to continue investigation into costs and implications of low fencing on 2 sides of green.
- **War Memorial Maintenance** – **VT** reported that Carl and Kathy Fawcett have very kindly offered to maintain the war memorial by continuing to cut the near-by hedges and treat the weeds. All Councillors wanted to thank Carl and Kathy for offering to maintain the

memorial since it is such a special landmark for the villages.

## PARISH PLAN UPDATE

- **School playing field** – LE had contacted Brian Jennings at NYCC to discuss our ideas about volunteers checking the school field to enable weekend or holiday use for local children. Brian Jennings confirmed that it was unlikely that volunteers would require training or qualifications to complete the checks but there would need to be a comprehensive procedure with a check list to follow and sign. LE has requested that Brian Jennings supply us with the County Councils ‘Ground Maintenance Risk Assessment Procedure’ to use as a guide/basis for developing our own procedure and check list. LE to continue to pursue developing a field checking procedure.
- **Footpath** – At the previous meeting, the Parish Council had debated the possibility of building a rustic footpath using Richard Marr’s idea about a strip of Highway’s land reverting to an adjoining landowner. LE had contacted Smiths Gore, the agents for the Church Commission, and they had been receptive to at least exploring whether they would rent a strip of land to the Parish Council on a long-term lease. The agent wanted to refer to her manager and then contact the Church Commission to assess their views. LE to investigate further eg chase Smiths Gore for a response before the next meeting. ALL to consider funding alternatives to raise sufficient amounts to cover costs of over £1,000.
- **Development of village website** – HW announced that she would like to retire from her role on the website development team. However, Martin Wheldon was willing to become more involved in the website, and help develop its technical capabilities along with Pete Tidball. All Parish Councillors were keen to offer their thanks to HW for her perseverance in helping establish the website and appreciated all her efforts – especially as she was not familiar with the technical aspects of websites. There followed a discussion on the future use of the website and how to promote the website and how to develop and edit the content. All Councillors to finish their summaries ready to be posted on the website and submit to LE by 8<sup>th</sup> October. LE to add the website address to parish documents eg minutes and agendas.

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2010 (including cheques issued):-

Current Account	£1,040.95	
Deposit Account	£1,519.65	Includes Parish Plan funds of £536.95

- Invoices paid /receipts received since previous meeting:
  - Expense = £483.21 – Clerk Salary for Qtr 1
  - Expense = £199.00 – Bench for Sand Hutton
  - Note on bench – PS to liaise with Pete Tidball to assemble and site the bench in Sand Hutton.
  - **Financial year-end -External audit opinion and fee** – Mazars have reviewed our year end accounts and have given a clean audit report. The charge for their audit fee will actually be lower than budgeted since the final expenses for 2009 were less than £5000 in total which only triggers the lowest level audit charge.
  - **Npower dispute over historic invoices** –LE explained that the situation with Npower is still unresolved and despite sending comprehensive spreadsheets to Npower credit control and to YLCA, there was no progress. Indeed, Npower have issued yet more credit notes and invoices dating back to 2007/08. LE was concerned that the letters were threatening legal action and could affect the Clerk’s personal

credit rating. All Councillors expressed frustration that this is proving so lengthy and difficult to resolve and encouraged LE to escalate our complaints to higher levels within Npower. LE to ask YLCA for an update on their contact with Npower and to try to contact higher levels of management within Npower eg PR department and / or the Ombudsman.

## **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 & Mrs Esler, The Barn, Main Street, Sand Hutton – Approved on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 4 conditions.
  - Mr N Davies, **Balnakeil, Main Street, Claxton** – Raising of roof height of existing dwelling to form first floor accommodation and erection of single-storey extension to rear. No objections.
  - 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 to form first floor accommodation. No objections.
  - Mr & Mrs Atkinson, **Abbey House Farm, Main Street, Claxton** – Change of use and alteration of outbuilding to form a one-bedroom self-contained residential annex. Response due 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. This is a resubmission of a lapsed approval. No objections.
  - 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. Response due 11<sup>th</sup> Oct to this resubmission of previous application. Some concerns eg about isolation of the site and access from A64, and individual councillors wanted further time to review plans and feedback thoughts to LE

### **RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Local Development Framework** – the latest substantial pack of information/ consultation on the LDF has been published. The Draft Core Strategy sets out broadly where new jobs, shops and homes will be developed in Ryedale. **ALL** Councillors to review and circulate documents and any responses are due by 5<sup>th</sup> November.

**Area Committee Meeting** – LE noted that the most recent Area Committee meeting had included discussion about the future NYCC waste management policy, as highlighted by Councillor Clare Wood earlier in the meeting.

**NYCC CORRESPONDENCE: Audit Queries re Ryedale Area Committee Grants** – LE reported that the Parish Council had received queries from NYCC on behalf of their auditors who were trying to establish whether all the monies received as grants from the Ryedale Area Committee had been utilised. LE had responded to NYCC to explain that the waste bins had been purchased some months ago and that the bench for Sand Hutton has just been purchased using our funds from the Area Committee Grants.

**OTHER CORRESPONDENCE: Woodland Sales in Sand Hutton** – The Sale Particulars for 4 Woods in Sand Hutton area had been issued by John Clegg & Co. LE had queried these agents and also Smiths Gore about the permissive access through Scroggs Bottom Woods (bluebell woods). The leasehold does not specify that public access is allowed but if a path has been regularly used for over 20 years then it is difficult and unlikely for a new landowner to prevent access. John Clegg and Co revealed that there had been a great deal of interest in the woods, especially Kissthorn Woods, and that they were hoping to have final offers at the end of September.

**ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- **DEFRA works – HW** queried whether there had been any information from RDC about the DEFRA science labs entrance and car park application. Ground works appear to have started and yet the Parish Council was not aware that the planning application had been approved. **LE** confirmed that the RDC website still shows the application as being under consideration. **LE** to contact RDC to query application status.

**ITEM 8: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Sand Hutton.**

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

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

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Questions to: Clerk: Laura E J Edwards  
Chairman: Viv Tidball

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