

CLAXTON AND SAND HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: Monday 14th November 2011

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Dr C Hall (Chairman), Mr P Stott (Vice Chair), Mrs A Steele, Mrs S Field, Mrs J Whiteley, District Councillor K Knaggs

PARISH CLERK: Mrs Laura E J Edwards

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: County Councillor Clare Wood

ITEM 1: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

CH welcomed the Parish Councillors, District Councillor Keith Knaggs, and the parishioners to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 26th September 2011 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.

Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Clare Wood.

ITEM 2: PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman invited parishioners to raise any issues of interest or concern to the Parish Council.

- 1) **HGVs in Whinny Lane, Claxton** - Mr D Smith expressed concern about the number of HGVs passing through the village. Mr Smith asked if the Parish Council could investigate the new signs which have been publicised in the press which are designed to encourage lorries to avoid country lanes when using Sat Nav. **LE to ask the local Highways Office whether there is any advice on the use of these signs in Ryedale.**
- 2) **Position of Dog Waste Bin in Claxton** - Mr D Smith questioned whether the dog waste bin situated at the bottom of Kirk Balk Lane was in the correct position. He felt that dog walkers may not find it easy to use if they have to cross a wide piece of verge, particular when it snows. **LE** advised the meeting that the Parish Council had sought advice on the sites for dog waste bins from the Highways Authority (who own the verge) and the Dog Warden. Mr R Atterby also added that he felt a better site for the bin would be further up Kirk Balk Lane. **CH** highlighted that dog walkers have not raised this issue.
- 3) **Leaves within Drains** - Mr R Atterby highlighted that some surface drains in Claxton were clogged with autumn leaves. **LE to investigate and report any blocked surface drains to Highways.**
- 4) **Highways queries relating to Kirk Balk Lane crossroad area** - Mr Atterby queried whether there had been a conclusion to various issues his wife had raised in 2009. **LE responded that the Parish Council would need time to look into this query and respond via letter with extracts from previous minutes.**
- 5) **Central reservation on A64** - Mrs R Baker asked whether there could be a central reservation on the A64 at the base on Whinny Lane. This would make it safer for pedestrians to cross the road from the bus stop. **LE** advised that the A64 is managed by Highways Agency rather than NYCC Highways but that the Parish Council could put in a request and report the response. **LE to submit request for central reservation on A64 to Highways Agency.**

ITEM 3: PLANNING and RYEDALE DISTRICT UPDATE

CH invited District Councillor Keith Knaggs to address the meeting. Keith highlighted various Ryedale issues to the meeting focusing on planning, finance and the broadband project.

- **Sand Hutton Walled Garden decision** - KK explained to the meeting that the Sand Hutton Walled Garden application had been presented to the Planning Committee on 25th October and planning permission had been refused with a unanimous decision. Since the application had generated both local support and concern, Keith Knaggs wanted to highlight a couple of key reasons for the decision. One key factor was the Highways objection to the access track and the poor visibility when turning onto/off the Stamford Bridge Road. Also, the Committee felt that the heritage argument for development to preserve the walled garden was pushed too strongly and in fact, 3 homes and their gardens would reduce the remaining heritage. This was thought to be a risky precedent to set for other heritage enabled projects.
- **Local Plan** - Discussions are continuing about the local plan and a special meeting is planned for 14th December. There are very limited changes for Claxton and Sand Hutton. Part of the process will be a public enquiry in the 2nd half of next year. Brownfield sites will be a key aspect of the plan including a possible site in Norton for 400 houses. Empty homes may amount to about 300 in Ryedale and reducing this number would help with housing shortages.

- **Finance and Budget Cuts** - We are all aware that Councils are having to make budget cuts but **KK** reminded the meeting that some cuts have been made already and yet there has been little noticeable impact on services. However, there will be some harder choices to make for the next year's budget. Council Tax will be frozen again next year. Despite the tight budgets, Ryedale is still introducing service improvements including the recent changes in recycling. [ALL COUNCILLORS to report any comments or queries about the new recycling scheme to KK via LE.](#)
 - **Broadband Project** - **KK** highlighted to the meeting that there had recently been a well attended meeting in Sand Hutton about proposals for a high speed broadband in our area. **KK** appealed to local residents to grasp the opportunity to obtain broadband for our villages. Many other areas of Ryedale are not getting this chance so he appealed for people to embrace the idea, register their interest and join or support the Local Steering Group. (If you want to express interest in this project, please email joh.holmes@ryedale.gov.uk).
- CH** then thanked Keith Knaggs for his input and he left the meeting.

ITEM 4: PARISH CLERK VACANCY

CH reminded the meeting that the vacancy for Parish Clerk has been advertised recently but that there was still time to submit an application (deadline 21st November). **LE** advised that several candidates had expressed an interest in the role and most of these were Clerks in other Parishes. **LE** took the opportunity to explain that for her, the Clerk role has become increasingly difficult to balance with the demands of a young family but was confident that there was a choice from some strong candidates to take over the role in the New Year. **LE** appealed to local residents to support their Parish Council and not just to criticise, since Councillors are volunteers and also neighbours and friends who are trying to satisfy a whole range of requests with limited resources. **LE** thanked Councillors for their support and wished them luck for the future.

ITEM 5: GENERAL BUSINESS SECTION

RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING MATTERS:

Current Plans - The following planning applications received since the previous meeting were discussed:-

- Planning application outcomes received since the previous meeting:-
 - Keepers Lodge, Sand Hutton, Mr Shepherd - new access track across land. Approved
 - Avalon, Main Street, Claxton, Mr Eastman - garage alteration and extension. Approved
 - Whincott, Whinny Lane, Claxton, Mr Goodrick - 2 storey extension to side. Approved
 - Update on Sand Hutton Walled Garden development - Permission refused at Planning Committee meeting
- New planning applications received since previous meeting:-
 - 24, Main Street, Sand Hutton - Mr & Mrs Smith. Single storey extension + pitched garage roof. No objection.
 - 31, Stamford Bridge Road, Sand Hutton - Mr Miller. Single storey extension to rear. Application Withdrawn

Ryedale District Council correspondence: **LE** updated the Councillors on the main topics debated at the Parish Liaison meeting held in Malton on 26th October. **LE** produced a briefing note for Councillors which included New Homes Bonus, Localism and planning, Post Office services in villages and winter maintenance.

NYCC correspondence: None to discuss.

OTHER correspondence: White Rose Update was noted and other correspondence has been circulated in binder.

YLCA Website: **AS** proposed a resolution that Parish Councillors should have access to the Members Section of the YLCA website. This was seconded by **CH** and so resolved. [LE to provided login / password to Councillors for YLCA site.](#)

ITEM 6: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

LE introduced the discussion on the following outstanding matters:

NYCC HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

30mph Zone and Road Surfaces – **LE** highlighted to the meeting that at last, the 30mph zone signs have been moved to their new positions further away from the bend into Sand Hutton. However, the countdown bar markings on the road have not yet been installed. [LE to continue to monitor and advise on further progress at the next PC meeting.](#) **LE** noted that after discussions with the Highways Inspector, a couple of potholes have been filled but there are more in the parish. [ALL COUNCILLORS to note any potholes when travelling around the parish and report to LE.](#)

Village Signs - At the last meeting, **PS** asked whether there should be finger post sign within Sand Hutton to direct visitors to the Village Hall. **LE** had obtained some quotes for a wooden finger post but after further discussion, it was decided that we should investigate a metal finger to add to the existing metal post. [LE to investigate the costs of a metal finger to add to the existing heritage sign post.](#) **Outstanding action - LE to remove one of the Claxton name plate signs and attempt repainting.**

Surface Water and Drainage Problems - Flooding of Main Street, Claxton – **LE** reported that contractors for Yorkshire Water had carried out a de-silt in the main drain under Main Street and removed quite an amount of silt and sludge. **JW** highlighted again that this should really be an annual de-silt because of the run-off from local fields.

Street Light, Whinny Lane – **LE** reported that the street light in Whinny Lane (column 6) has not been working since mid-October. This has been reported to the maintenance contractors and they have inspected the light but unfortunately they

could not fix it and believe it is a fault with the power supply. NEDL have been contacted but have not yet inspected the column. [LE to continue to liaise with Balfour Beatty and NEDL, advise on cost implications and report to the next meeting.](#)

OTHER VILLAGE ISSUES:

Community Police Officer and Ryedale Policing - Recent Police reports were noted and PC Andy Grant has recently attended Sand Hutton School to talk with the children and staff.

Play Spaces for Children - Since the last meeting, **LE** had contacted Smiths Gore as the agents for the Church Commissioners, with mixed results. Smiths Gore were open to discussion about the Parish Council renting or purchasing a piece of land (1 acre or less) in Claxton but were concerned that the best sites for play areas may also be the best sites for potential residential development in the future. Smiths Gore are going to send **LE** a plan of Claxton showing all the areas of land that the Church Commission own in or near Claxton. The Councillors discussed the potential barriers to obtaining a piece of land considering the Smiths Gore comments on development land. [LE to contact the RDC Planning team for advice on village play areas eg change of use rules and any conflict with potential development sites.](#)

Resilience - Snow Clearance. Councillors debated key areas of each village which would be the focus for snow clearance. In Claxton, paths running to the bus stop were considered high priority eg Greenhills up to notice board bus stop. In Sand Hutton, the bus stop and paths near the green are also key although residents thought that there were more pedestrians near the school and post box. [All Councillors to consider the snow clearing plan further.](#) Mrs R Baker commented that it might be useful to reassure residents that they will not be sued if someone falls on an area cleared in 'good faith'.

Benches - **JW** reported that the original bench from Main Street, Claxton has now dried out and restoration will commence very soon. In the meantime, the temporary bench will remain to provide a seating area at the bus stop.

Footpaths through local woodland - **CH** reported that several Councillors and **LE** had met with a representative from Harrison Spinks, a luxury bed company who now have the long term lease for Whey Carr Plantation and Scroggs Bottom Wood. **CH** felt that the meeting had been encouraging as the company is very open to community contact and are positive that access to the woods will be maintained. The plans for harvesting some areas were still being developed but they seemed receptive to considering the visual impact of felling and the implications for the local ecology. Some woodland on the Stamford Bridge Road is being sold by 'Woodlands.co.uk' and **CH** reported that the area manager Dan Watson, had been helpful when contacted about the sale. There are new 'Private' signs on the gates because the woodlands are now in private ownership but the main paths are still open for local people to walk along, as they have done for many years. There is more information and contact details for Dan Watson on the Woodlands website.

Communication - **CH** reminded the meeting that there would be a 'Saturday Social' on Saturday 10th December in Sand Hutton Village Hall. As we have no shop or pub in the villages, this event had been designed as an informal meeting for neighbours and friends to have coffee and cake and a chat about what is going on within the parish. Local groups such as the Web Team, Village Hall, Green Finger Tips, WI and the Heritage Group would have a stand of information and Ivan Howitt is going to bring the newly restored hand bells. The funding for the event was debated and it was concluded that Councillors would donate cake and drinks and then ask for donations for refreshments which could contribute to future events. The hire of the hall was kindly waived by the Village Hall committee as the Village Hall could promote its services.

High Speed Broadband - As raised by Keith Knaggs at the start of the meeting, our parish has the opportunity to be involved in a pilot scheme to roll out high speed broadband. **LE** reported that at a meeting held in Sand Hutton Village Hall, various speakers provided more information about what the scheme would involve. There would be costs for local residents - an initial set up cost of between £50-£150 for a small transmitter/receiver to be attached to your home and then ongoing monthly subs of £10-£20. However, the benefits of significantly faster and more reliable connections could be useful for many people, especially those who work from home. A site survey needs to be carried out to work out the best way to reach the villages in South West Ryedale. There is more information and FAQ on this topic on the parish website

<http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk>. Mr A Fawcett commented that for the project to progress, local people need to register their interest with Jos Holmes at Ryedale. **AS** has volunteered to be part of the Local Steering Group and so will be able to keep the Council informed of developments. [AS to update the Council with any progress at the next meeting.](#)

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

- **School playing field** - **LE** and **SF** reported on their recent meeting with Mrs Wardell, Headteacher at Sand Hutton School to review the trial summer access to the school field. The meeting was positive and the school is receptive to a weekend hire agreement in the spring (the field is too wet in the winter due to drainage problems). [SF and LE to consider how to modify the hire agreement so that SF and LE do not always have to be present for every hire event.](#)
- **Development of village website** - **CH** invited Pete Tidball to update the meeting on website developments. **PT** highlighted that the new version of the site at <http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk> is fully operational and any visitors to the old site are redirected to the new. Contributions are now much easier to submit to the site and visitors to the site can post comments, photos, information about events, recipes etc. There will soon be a section on local weather and new areas are being developed all the time. Mr A Fawcett added that at the moment there are about 10 visits to the site per day but the Web Team hope to increase that number. Since deciding to host the website rather than use RDC, some hosting and framework costs have been incurred amounting to £120. **PT** is discussing with the Parish Plan Team to see if there is any scope to use Parish Plan funds. There are also going to be ongoing costs annual costs for the website of approximately £80 per annum and **PT** appealed to the Parish Council to fund these. These costs were noted and will be considered when setting next year's budget but no decision was made.

Emails for Councillors - PT explained that linked to the website, there could be an email facility set up to enable every Councillor to have their own dedicated council email address. Since Parish Council emails count as information in the public domain, this could be valuable for security and Freedom of Information compliance. Councillors resolved to move towards having a dedicated council email each - proposed by CH and seconded by AS. PT to ask Martin Wheldon to create the email facility for Councillors / for advice on set up. LE to note web costs for budget process.

- **Footpath between villages** - LE has requested that there is a late cut of the 'path' to keep the grass short for winter. Previously, Mrs R Baker requested that the Council find out how Foston and Thornton-le-dale managed to obtain a footpath between villages. LE reported that she had raised this with Richard Marr, Area Manager for Highways and he explained that it is all linked to the source of funding. Thornton-le-Clay had an existing footpath that was in disrepair. This meant that the upgrade to the footpath was classed as 'structural maintenance'. A footpath / cycleway between our villages would be a new project and have to be funded from 'improvements'. This is the budget that has been most reduced by budget cuts and new footpath projects are highly unlikely at this time.

ITEM 7: FINANCIAL STATEMENT

LE delivered an overview of the finances. A copy of the accounts spreadsheet had been supplied to each Councillor prior to the meeting.

Cash Position as at 8th November 2011 (including cheques issued):-

Current Account	£2,822.75	
Deposit Account	£1,520.77	Includes Parish Plan funds of £496.95
TOTAL	£4,343.52	Including Parish Plan funds as above

- Invoices paid /receipts received since previous meeting:
 - Income £2,100 = 2nd Installment of Precept from RDC
 - Expense £487.89 = Qtr 2 Clerk Salary
- **Current Finances** LE reviewed the current financial situation and Councillors signed relevant financial documents. The new bank mandate is now active. The next meeting will focus on determining the budget for next year.
- **Npower dispute over historic invoices** -The letter to Npower, outlining what the Parish Council believes we owe Npower (£50.48 rather than the £369.54) has been received and logged by Npower. However, the main contact for our complaint, Heather Bushnell, has left the company and we have not been reassigned yet. LE to try the Complaints Team again and also contact the Reputation Manager to highlight that the complaint is still unresolved.

ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS or ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Traffic Speeds in Claxton - Mr R Atterby raised a concern that traffic coming into Claxton from the A64 direction travels at considerable speeds and does not appear to slow down at the entrance to the village and cross roads. Councillors noted the concern and would include on a future agenda and would ask Highways/ local police for advice.

Items for future agendas:

Awarding grass cutting contract / Completing Resilience Scheme for the parish / Use of Phone boxes for Emergency Equipment / More details of Winter Maintenance plan

ITEM 9: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Sand Hutton.

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

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

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Questions to: Laura E J Edwards, Clerk to the Parish Council
 Email:laura.edwards@claxtonandsandhuttonparishcouncil.org.uk

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