

# CLAXTON AND SAND HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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DATE OF MEETING: **Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

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

PARISH CLERK: Mrs Laura E J Edwards

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

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### ITEM 1: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

CH welcomed the Parish Councillors, District Councillor and County Councillor and the parishioners to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 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 of interest or concern to the Parish Council.

- 1) **Snow Clearing - Mr D Smith** wanted to thank the snow clearing volunteers who had cleared snow near his house which had enabled him to get in and out of his property more easily. **Councillors** responded that they were pleased the clearing had been useful for residents.
- 2) **Dog waste bin, Kirk Balk Lane - Mr D Smith** explained that the recent snow had highlighted that very few people were crossing the grass verge to reach the dog waste bin. He emphasised that Councillors should rethink the position of the dog waste bin for better access.
- 3) **Village Green Daffodils - Mr D Smith** expressed concern that during the recent snowy weather, local children and parents had played on the village green and that this activity may have damaged some of the daffodils. **Councillors** felt that the daffodils are only just emerging and are quite tough plants.
- 4) **Traffic Signs on Whinny Lane - Mr D Smith** was pleased that there is a 'Single Lane Track' sign on Whinny Lane but following an incident with a very large lorry on Whinny Lane, felt that there should be additional instruction eg 'Give Way to Oncoming Traffic'.
- 5) **Co-operative Purchasing - Mr D Smith** alerted Councillors to recent media coverage of villages and groups organising joint purchasing of fuel/electricity from large energy companies. [PT to read article and report back if applicable to our villages.](#)
- 6) **Parish Website - Mr P Tidball** reminded the meeting that the Parish website has been running for a while now and that the number of hits is increasing but it would still benefit from more contributions. **Mr P Tidball** presented Councillor Angela Steele with a small prize as she had been the winner of the 'guess the number of hits' competition!

### ITEM 3: PARISH CLERK VACANCY Followed by Update from District and County Councillors

CH informed the meeting that there had been a second advert issued for the post of Parish Clerk which focused on attracting a local candidate but that there had been no response. Someone from a nearby village may be interested which CH will pursue. Anyone who is interested in the post should contact Caroline Hall (Chairman) for further details. In the meantime, LE is covering some of the essential tasks of the Clerk on a voluntary basis so that there is some support for the Council. There is also a vacancy for a Sand Hutton Parish Councillor at present.

### Ryedale and Local Update from District Councillor Keith Knaggs

- 1) **Budget and finances** - Ryedale district Council is freezing Council Tax for a third year running which is good news for residents. £792k of savings have to be found - £628k have come from efficiency savings and increasing income. That leaves £164k of cuts such as support for the Arts, sports development and other areas. RDC have

focused on protecting key priorities of homes, jobs, energy efficiency and the environment. This is year 2 of a two year settlement and over 2 years, the cuts are 2% of budget even though Central government support is reducing by a quarter. The New Homes Bonus of £226k will go back to communities in Ryedale. There will still be some budget flexibility for the coming year eg Jubilee, public health, localism.

- 2) **Local Development Plan** - The draft publication is out now and consultation ends next month. There will be a public enquiry later in the year and then site allocation after that.
- 3) **Sand Hutton Walled Garden** - KK is aware that further discussions about this site are underway but wanted to explain the Ryedale decision on the last application. There was a unanimous decision from the Planning Committee that the highway's safety objection meant that 3 additional houses would not be allowed on this access and the heritage argument was not strong enough to override that objection. KK asked the meeting to consider what people would be trying to preserve? A historic link to Sand Hutton Hall or a landscape feature? KK noted that the applicants have the right to appeal the RDC decision.
- 4) **Other Matters eg Website/ Broadband** - KK stated that he enjoyed using our parish website and found it a useful place to catch up on events/news and other information about the villages. KK was slightly disappointed by the slow-down in the pace of the broadband project but hopes that will still have a positive outcome and plenty of local support. On the RDC website, there is now a section dedicated to the Jubilee celebrations with information about running street parties etc.

#### County Council update from County Councillor Clare Wood

- 1) **Parish Website** - CW echoed KK in praising our parish website which is now user friendly and a useful reference point. It should also open up village information to a wider audience beyond the parish.
- 2) **Budget and Finance at County** - The savings programme is on track and some savings have come earlier and quicker than first expected. There has been some impact on services eg Highways matters slower to resolve, lack of new projects and improvements, cuts in the mobile library etc. CW is now focused on adult care, health services and social services - an area demanding increasing funding as people live longer. In 2013 there will be increases in responsibility for health coming to County level and the £ per person provision needs to be negotiated with Central Government.
- 3) **Jubilee Events** - If the villages are considering a street party, there is information on the NYCC website too but any road closures need to be notified sooner rather than later.
- 4) **Snow clearing** - It is good to hear that snow clearing volunteers were out there making life slightly easier for other residents during the recent snowy weather. Well done to the Parish Council for organising this service.
- 5) **Grass cutting** - The rebate for grass cutting will reduce in 2013 because NYCC have changed supplier.
- 6) **Signing the Way** - The County has still not decided how the central government advice on signing will translate to local level but CW acknowledged that heavy lorries do use villages beside the A64 as alternatives to avoid any congestion on the A64.
- 7) **Broadband** - CW explained that the process has been slowed rather by the need to incorporate a full tender process in the provider selection but work is still continuing.

CW invited questions from the attendees of the meeting.

**Health Care and Voluntary Euthanasia** - Mr D Smith asked whether there was a current view on Voluntary euthanasia. CW responded that any policy on this matter would come from central government not county or parish level government. She also felt it was a very personal issue with many facets and considerations such as religious beliefs and family opinions.

CH thanked KK and CW for attending the meeting and they left the meeting.

#### ITEM 4: GENERAL BUSINESS SECTION

##### RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING MATTERS:

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

- New planning applications received since previous meeting:-
  - Home Farm, Sand Hutton - Mr Rycroft - Ground mounted photovoltaic cells in rear garden. Response due 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. Revised plans submitted. Response due 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. No objection and the reduced height of the panels in the revised plans seem to be less intrusive.
  - Land Adjacent to Warren House, Hall Drive, Sand Hutton - Mr Rickleton - **Amendments** to original permission for a 3 bedroomed house. Councillors have reviewed plans and made a variety of written comments. **LE to collate comments and submit to RDC by 17<sup>th</sup> February.**
  - Notice to Fell Trees / Felling licence - The Lodge, Sand Hutton - Dr Warren - Sycamores and yews. No objection as native species will benefit from woodland garden management.

**Ryedale District Council correspondence:** Letter re New Homes Bonus allocations - As mentioned by KK, the New Homes Bonus is being re-distributed back to the communities in Ryedale. The money is being assigned to groups of villages who then have to put forward a bid / proposal to use the funds. The allocation for our group of villages in South West Ryedale is very small (under 1k) but that does not mean that there is not a viable project that could be proposed. **PS** suggested that a project could be a structure at the entrance to Claxton to denote the start of the village area more clearly. **ALL to consider if there are any projects that could be put forward in a bid for funding.**

**NYCC correspondence:** Letter re Urban Grass Cutting - This outlined the reduction in grass cutting rebate from 2013 onwards as mentioned by CW in item 3.

**OTHER correspondence:** The latest White Rose Update and Hotspots winter campaign information were noted.

## **ITEM 5: 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 the countdown bar markings on the road have been installed at the entrance to Sand Hutton (Claxton side). This completes the changes to the 30mph zone.

**Village Signs** - At the previous meeting, there was a discussion on obtaining a new metal finger sign with the wording 'Village Hall' to add to the existing metal post in Sand Hutton. **CH** reported that the Village Hall committee would consider a contribution towards the sign but felt that the overall cost of the sign was high. Councillors debated the metal finger post designs found by **LE** from suppliers to other parish councils. Mike Young (parishioner and wood worker) suggested that he might be able to make a simple wooden sign with Village Hall lettering using untreated wood. This could be attached to the existing post using a metal bracket. Councillors thanked Mike Young for his very generous offer and agreed that Parish Council would fund any costs of materials eg the metal bracket. **Mike Young to make a wooden finger post and obtain metal bracket to attach to wooden post. Clerk to arrange refund for any expenditure on materials.**

**Outstanding action - LE to remove one of the Claxton name plate signs and attempt repainting.**

**Traffic Signs** – As reported by Councillor C Wood in item 3, North Yorkshire County Council has not yet decided how to interpret the central government advice for local use re traffic signs. **CLERK to continue to liaise with Highways to establish if these signs will be used in North Yorkshire and the criteria for their use.**

**Central reservation in A64** – No news to report to date.

**Farm Traffic Speeds in Claxton** – No information to report.

### **OTHER VILLAGE ISSUES:**

**Community Police Officer and Ryedale Policing** - Recent Police reports were noted.

**Sand Hutton Walled Garden** - Councillor Caroline Hall declared a personal interest in the following topic as she is both an immediate neighbour and a friend of the owners of the Walled Garden, Hall Drive, Sand Hutton. **CH** reported that there had been an Extraordinary meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 to discuss possible ideas for saving the walls of Sand Hutton Walled garden from demolition and that there was also another meeting occurring this evening (ie 13<sup>th</sup> Feb) to ensure that all ideas were voiced. There had been further problems discovered as the greenhouses and bothys have been taken down and alternative uses for the Walled Garden all seem to present various problems. **CH to write to Professor and June Garner in response to their letter requesting support. Anne White of the Heritage Group to supply photographs of the walls to LE. LE to add photos to the parish website along with an appeal for ideas before the 4<sup>th</sup> March commencement of demolition.**

**Play Spaces for Children** - Deferred until the next meeting.

**Resilience** - Snow Clearance. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the recent snow was the first real test of the snow clearing plan in the villages. A number of snow clearing volunteers cleared pathways in Claxton but there were fewer helpers in Sand Hutton. As lead volunteer in Claxton, **LE** felt that it was difficult to ring people up to ask them to snow clear on a Sunday morning so the 'telephone tree' approach may need a rethink. Also, without a salt supply, it was difficult to keep cleared paths ice free when temperatures dropped. **Clerk to submit message to website to thanks those who came out to snow clear. Clerk to add request that anyone with salt would apply some to any cleared areas outside their own property to assist with maintaining a clear path.**

**Benches** - Deferred until the next meeting.

**Communication** - **CH** thanked **AS** for supplying a combined list of Annual parish meeting ideas and Saturday Social suggestions. **CH** noted that there was a whole variety of ideas and tasks within the list and to achieve them would require wider involvement of other groups and individuals from the villages. The role of the Parish Council seemed to be to facilitate discussions, provide information and support activities. **AS** felt that there could be some quick hits for greater communication eg greater publicity for E news service and subscribing to the website. **CH** highlighted the Village Hall Task Force day where there is a list of tasks and people are invited to contribute what they can to completing those tasks - large or small. **Pete Tidball** pointed out that any information / any appeal can be submitted to the parish website. Please see <http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk>. **AS** agreed but some older residents may not have access to a PC or the knowledge

to use the internet. Mike Young suggested the Parish Council could organise a demonstration and training day for residents to see the website in action and learn how to e-mail etc. **AS** felt another quick win would be to tackle regularly raised issues such as parking on pavements. **AS** suggested a message on the website and notice boards etc followed by a leaflet added to windscreens? **Clerk to contact local police eg PC Grant to see if there is any advice on how best to deter people from parking on pavements.** Saturday Social - Councillors agreed it would be valuable to have another Saturday Social event in the spring. The date was decided as Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012. **CH to establish that Village Hall is available and book for 21<sup>st</sup> April.** The ideas for this event to be decided at future meetings but may include local honey, spring gardening, plant swap.

**High Speed Broadband - AS,** as a member of Local Steering Group, updated the meeting on progress on the broadband project. **AS** reported that the Steering Group had met in January and there seemed to be strong reasons to support the project given the benefit to businesses, schools and individuals. The process had been slowed down by the tender process for the ISP provider but that this was the time for Parish Councils to submit letters of support to the steering group. **CH** expressed concern that we do not understand some of the implications of the project eg would obtaining a clear line of sight involve cutting down trees or erecting a large mast? **JW** suggested that she had a 30 feet high silo at Vicarage Farm which might be suitable as a site for an antenna. **AS** said that the technical survey report is not yet available but that the Parish Council could still support the idea in principle, as other Parish Councils were doing. The Councillors voted whether to submit a letter of support to the steering group and the vote determined that the Parish Council **would** support the project, in principle. **LE to submit letter of support to Andrew Fawcett, Chairman of Steering Group expressing support from Parish Council. AS to update the Council with any progress at the next meeting. ALL to complete broadband survey on the NYCC website (click broadband survey).** There is more information and FAQ on this topic on the parish website <http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk>.

**Jubilee Celebration Ideas** - The Parish Councillors were positive about Jubilee celebrations but no-one was aware that any events were planned so far. **Pete Tidball** informed the meeting that this topic had been discussed at the Village Hall meeting and that he was going to arrange an open meeting to gather ideas from residents, the school, the church and the parish council - details of a date to follow. **LE** noted that the deadline for signing up for Jubilee beacons is 30<sup>th</sup> April. **LE to send the RDC information on Jubilee events to Pete Tidball.**

#### PARISH PLAN UPDATE

- **School playing field** - Deferred until Spring.
- **Development of village website** - <http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk>. **Pete Tidball** reported to the meeting that the website was doing well and now has 400 visits per month and still growing. It is now very easy to send in a contribution. The Webteam is hoping that more residents and visitors will sign up for updates and then they receive an email every time a new item is added. **PT** highlighted that Martin Wheldon paid over £70 for a framework for the website and is hoping that the Parish Council will be able to refund that expenditure. **PT** also reported that the new Parish Council email addresses will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> March once Martin Wheldon has finished the set-up.

Parishioners were free to stay for the remainder of the meeting but all opted to leave at this point.

#### ITEM 6 : 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 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 (including cheques issued):-

Current Account	£1,472.90	
Deposit Account	£1,520.77	Includes Parish Plan funds of £496.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,993.67</b>	Including Parish Plan funds as above

- Invoices paid /receipts received since previous meeting:
  - Expense £1,620.00 = Grass cutting costs for 2011 supplied by J & J Rycroft
  - Expense £25.00 = Charitable Donation to Ryedale Citizens Advice Bureau
  - Income £536.52 = NYCC rebate for grass cutting within villages
  - Income £341.14 = VAT reclaimed from HMRC on expenses incurred in 2010/11
- **Current Year** - **LE** highlighted key figures from actuals vs budget as at 9<sup>th</sup> February and Councillors noted that the grass cutting costs had been paid and grass cutting rebate received. **LE** emphasised that because the Clerk was now acting as a volunteer, the quarter 4 salary is not being spent which may leave additional funds at the end of the year. All Councillors agreed that Martin Wheldon should be re-imbursed for the £70 expenditure on the website framework. **LE to ask Martin Wheldon to submit an invoice prior to the financial year end.**
- **Grass Cutting Contract** - **LE** reported to the meeting that after consulting with Highways, she had issued information, maps and a specification to 4 local grass cutting contractors. Both greens were excluded from the

cutting programme but this means that we need to continue to rely on local residents to cut those areas. The 'rustic' path way between the villages was included in the specification ie part of the 6 cuts of the village areas. Only 2 of the contractors replied with quotes - the existing contractor J & J Rycrofts, submitted £1,350 before VAT and Dean Landscapes Ltd submitted £2,500 before VAT. Given the budget constraints, it was agreed by Councillors (unanimously) to re-appoint Rycrofts as grass cutting contractors and accept the quote of £1,350 plus VAT. **LE** to reply to both contractors to inform them of the decision. **JW** to act as a contact between Rycrofts and the Parish Council and try to improve communication and exchange of information.

- **Budget 2012/13** - **LE** to revisit the budget figures in light of the grass cutting decision and other pieces of information and present at the next parish council meeting.

**ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS or ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

- **Paths through local woodland** - **CH** reported that a local resident had raised concerns that further signs have been added to woodland gates off the Stamford Bridge road. **CH** planning to walk through the woodland and note the signs and then contact the area manager, Dan Watson.
- **Horse Droppings on pavements** - **CH** informed the meeting that a local resident had complained about horse droppings on the pavements. **LE** observed that riders, especially with younger horses, often have to get off the road when a large lorry or farm vehicle comes through the village for safety reasons. **Clerk** to submit notice to website to ask riders to try and avoid using pavements.

**Items for future agendas:**

Completing Resilience Scheme for the parish / Use of Phone boxes for Emergency Equipment - further discussion / Saturday Social - ideas for April event

**ITEM 8: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 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, Acting Clerk to the Parish Council  
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