

CLAXTON AND SAND HUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

DATE OF MEETING: **Monday, 26th March 2012**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Mr P Stott (Vice Chair), Mrs A Steele, Mrs S Field, Mrs J Whiteley,

PARISH CLERK: Mrs Laura E J Edwards

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dr C Hall, District Councillor K Knaggs and County Councillor C Wood

ITEM 1: MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

PS welcomed the Parish Councillors and the parishioners to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 13th February 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 acting Chairman (PS). Apologies were accepted from Dr C Hall.

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) **Litter Pick** - Anne White asked if Councillors had noted the build up of litter on verges eg in Claxton on verges heading towards the A64. Anne White said that the Village Hall Committee were hoping that the Parish Council could organise a Litter Pick. Councillors expressed support for this idea and it was agreed to try to organise a litter pick before the grass grew too long. **LE to advertise Litter Pick in the villages / on the website for Saturday 14th April 2pm -4pm** (NB This has been deferred to **SUNDAY 6th MAY 2.30pm**). **LE to contact RDC to see whether they can supply any equipment eg bags and also collect the rubbish from the Village Hall car park.**
- 2) **Co-operative Purchasing - Mr D Smith** queried whether there had been any progress is finding out more about energy buying co-operatives. **PS** responded that he did not think there was definitive advice from Which? yet but lots of people were signing up, especially for gas and electricity. **PS to investigate information from Which? on bulk purchasing and find out what would apply to oil.** Mr D Smith highlighted that it would be in the interest of local fuel oil supply companies to supply to several properties in 1 visit so perhaps the companies should help organise the co-operative? **ALL to note any information on collective oil purchasing opportunities and report to future meetings.**
- 3) **Village Green Daffodils - Mr D Smith** wanted to highlight to the Parish Council that at the previous meeting, he had expressed concern about potential damage to the daffodils when local residents are using the green for play, walking dogs etc. Mr Smith felt that the Parish Council response that the daffodils are tough plants was 'cynical'. This was noted by Councillors. Other Claxton residents noted that the daffodils are looking lovely at the present time.

ITEM 3: PARISH CLERK VACANCY and SAND HUTTON PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

LE explained that she was still acting as Parish Clerk whilst the Council is looking for a replacement. There has been no further interest from anyone within the parish. There are 2 possible candidates from other villages who may be interested in the role and this will be pursued when the Chairman has returned to the UK. There is also a vacancy for a Sand Hutton Parish Councillor. **ALL Councillors to ask any Sand Hutton residents who may be interested whether they would be willing to be a Councillor eg at Saturday Social. LE and CH to devise advertisement for Sand Hutton Councillor to distribute on website/ notice boards etc.**

ITEM 4: GENERAL BUSINESS SECTION

RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANNING MATTERS:

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

- Decisions received since the previous meeting:-
 - Home Farm, Sand Hutton - Mr Rycroft - Ground mounted photovoltaic cells in rear garden. Approved
 - Land Adjacent to Warren House, Hall Drive, Sand Hutton - Mr Rickleton - Approved - 4 conditions
- New planning applications received since previous meeting:-
 - 9, Greenhills, Claxton - Dr Atang. Extension to rear of the property. Some concern over scale and boundary
 - Poppies, Main Street, Claxton - Mr Towler. Demolition of buildings to the rear and then construction of rear extension and garage/store to side. No objections.

Ryedale District Council correspondence: None to discuss.

NYCC correspondence: The Waste and Minerals consultation was noted - the waste element has more impact on our parish than the mineral extraction.

OTHER correspondence: The YLCA briefing on predetermination was noted. The Councillors debated whether all future YLCA documents could be received electronically only and voted to continue receiving the paper White Rose update etc. **LE to inform YLCA administration that the Council would still prefer paper copies of key documents.**

ITEM 5: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

LE introduced the discussion on the following outstanding matters:

NYCC HIGHWAYS ISSUES:

Village Signs - No further news to report but **AS** volunteered to liaise with Mike Young to support the sign making. **PS to try to sand and repaint the existing metal post in Sand Hutton. Outstanding Action - Mike Young to make a wooden finger post and obtain metal bracket to attach to wooden finger. 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 at the last meeting, North Yorkshire County Council has not yet decided how to interpret the central government advice for local use re traffic signs. Residents reported that some very large lorries have been passing through Claxton recently. **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.

Parking on Pavements - Councillors discussed this long running issue of cars parking on pavements and then making it very difficult for wheelchair users and pushchairs etc to use the pavement so they have to go out onto the road. The Parish Council is hoping to hear from PC Grant to advise if there have been effective ways of reducing this problem in other villages. **LE** provided information from the NY police which highlighted that parking on pavements is a parking offence and offenders can be issued with a fixed penalty notice. **PS to add a short piece into the Circular which includes a reminder that residents and visitors should try to avoid parking on pavements. Clerk to include similar message about parking on Enews and website.**

OTHER VILLAGE ISSUES:

Community Police Officer and Ryedale Policing - Recent Police reports were noted. The Parish Council is hoping to establish closer links with PC Grant, the policeman for our section of Ryedale.

Play Spaces for Children - Deferred until the next meeting.

Benches - **JW** reported that the Claxton bench remains in one of her sheds at the farm and restoration is work in progress.

Communication - The date for the planned Saturday Social was agreed as Saturday 21st April and will run from 2pm to 4pm. The main ideas for the Social were discussed and it was agreed to organise refreshments with homemade cake, plant swap, book and CD swap, website demonstration and Jubilee ideas table, The Annual Parish Meeting will be incorporated into the Social and will start at 3pm. Topics for the Annual Parish Meeting were debated eg Road Safety / Village Environment / Footpaths. **Parish Councillors to agree on a topic when CH returns to UK. PS to print off flyers for leaflet drop with date and activities. Re Footpaths PS to spray drainage ditches along 'path' between villages.**

Please see <http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk> for what happened on the day!

High Speed Broadband - **AS**, as a member of Local Steering Group, updated the meeting on progress on the broadband project. **AS** reported that the initial funding request paperwork is now with Ryedale. There is a need for more local people to complete the broadband survey and demonstrate support for the project. There is widespread political support for the project including from our MP, Anne Macintosh. There will be more information after a key meeting on 30th April but some of the progress has been delayed as internet suppliers complete a tender process. Andrew Fawcett explained to the meeting that there was some positive news that FERA were very positive about helping with the project and beaming broadband to the villages from their site at the science labs. There is a possible option to utilise the copper phone wires to distribute the signal but this need to be investigated. **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 - LE reported that Jubilee Planning meetings are taking place and the next one will be Wednesday 4th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Several Parish Councillors have participated in the meetings and the Parish Council expressed support for the plans for various events to celebrate the Jubilee. It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund a bush or small tree to be planted at the War Memorial for the Jubilee. **JW** noted that this should be planted in the autumn rather than in June to avoid the tree suffering in the summer. The Councillors also agreed that they would be receptive to a funding request for funds to run a picnic style event or for village decorations. An amount of funding was not agreed. **LE to present any Jubilee funding request at the next meeting and report any further plans.**

PARISH PLAN UPDATE

- **School playing field** - Councillors discussed the idea of hiring the school field for local families to use this spring and summer. **LE and SF** highlighted some of the problems of this plan, especially as few local parents have come forward to help supervise the hire sessions. For this to work in the future, the hire agreement would need to be between the school and the Parish Council but then a responsible adult would be able to request the field eg for football match and sign to say they were responsible and would leave the field as it was found. **SF and LE to arrange to see Mrs Wardell of Sand Hutton School to see if this variation in hire agreement could work. All to canvass local families to see if there is an interest in using the field eg ask during Saturday Social/ on website.**
- **Development of village website** - <http://www.claxton-sandhutton.org.uk>. **Andrew Fawcett** reported to the meeting that the website was doing well and had had 2,100 visits and 190 unique visitors. There are 22 subscribers who receive the automatic notification when something new is posted. **ALL to try to promote the website and appeal to local people to subscribe to receive updates since this is such an easy way to communicate Parish Council information.** Andrew appealed for anyone in the community who may be interested in joining the Webteam as a moderator, particularly from Sand Hutton. The current Webteam has lost Pete Tidball and as the site develops and grows, there needs to be more support to check the content of new material and posts. Full training would be provided by Andrew and Martin - if anyone is interested, please email the webteam@claxton-sandhutton.org.uk **Parish Councillors to agree dates with Martin Wheldon for training in the new email system for Parish Council emails.**

Also note there is now a colourful new school website <http://www.sandhutton.n-yorks.sch.uk/>

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 22nd March 2012 (including cheques issued):-

Current Account	£1,352.91	
Deposit Account	£1,520.77	Includes Parish Plan funds of £496.95
TOTAL	£2,873.68	Including Parish Plan funds as above

- Invoices paid /receipts received since previous meeting:
 - Expense £84.00 - Greenhills IT - website theme and framework (as agreed)
 - Expense £35.99 - Qtr 4 Administration expenses - Printer ink
- **Current Year** - **LE** highlighted that the figures are unlikely to change before year end (31st March). The expenditure for the year is going to be less than budget due to under spending on clerk salary (clerk has been volunteer in Qtr 4), village maintenance (rolling forward to next year) and street light maintenance (hard to predict). These reduced costs will have to be explained at audit but will mean that reserves are increased to a more comfortable level. **LE to complete the year end finance statements and compile all the required documentation for internal audit. AS to ask John Thompson whether he would be willing to conduct the internal audit on the year end finances.**
- **Parish Plan Finances** - **LE** reminded the meeting that within the Parish Council funds, there was still a significant balance for Parish Plan funds. This was due to have been spent by the end of this Financial year. **PS to chase George Ellis for grass cutting invoice and to ask Heritage Group whether heritage maps and leaflets are going to be printed soon.**
- **Budget 2012/13** - **LE** presented a new budget spreadsheet to Councillors and talked through the key figures. Levels of reserves were discussed and potential risks such as the aging streetlights and the uncertainty about the new Clerk. All Councillors agreed to this revised budget. **LE to incorporate new budget into future spreadsheets. LE to find out costs for a street light 'health check' for each street lighting column.**

ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS or ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

None

Items for future agendas:

Completing Resilience Scheme for the parish / Use of Phone boxes for Emergency Equipment - further discussion

ITEM 8: DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 14^h MAY 2012 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Sand Hutton. This will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

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

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

PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO THE WEBSITE TO RECEIVE EMAILS WHEN NEW ITEMS ARE POSTED!

Questions to: =====
Laura E J Edwards, Acting Clerk to the Parish Council,
[Email:laura.edwards@claxtonandsandhuttonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:laura.edwards@claxtonandsandhuttonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Publication Scheme - please contact Clerk, or in her absence the Chairman ,Caroline Hall, if you want to know any information about this Council and its workings.