

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN SAXTON VILLAGE HALL  
TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2014**

435

Present

Mr. G. Fairclough                      Mr. B. Wilson  
Mrs. E. Hodgson                        Ms J Marshall

Ms C. Barrowman – who arrived at 8-30 p.m., having a pecuniary interest in the first item and having been absent from the PCU discussion

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were signed as a true record.

Apologies for Absence

Received from Cllr. Mr. Denison

Proposal to Site  
Temporary Classroom  
on School Playing Field

Many members of the public attended this meeting; an attempt was made to record the numbers, but this was halted at 33. Three introduced themselves as school governors. They tried to insist that the speed ramp be discussed as the first item, since they were of the opinion that the Parish Council had reversed its involvement over the ramp. The Chairman explained that this item would be discussed in full later in the meeting when Cllr. Ms Barrowman was in attendance, and pointed out that the letter the Parish Council had sent to the Chairman of the Board of School Governors, Mr. Karl Shields, was most specific in that the school's contribution was being returned pending the result of the planning application for the ramp, not irrevocably declined, and that perhaps the three governors had not been made aware of this. Ms Oakley then said that the £5000 contribution was no longer available after the end of March 2014 – in other words that to lose the school's monetary input was probably to lose the speed platform. There were calls of both "bribery!" and "blackmail!" from the floor. The Chairman returned the attention of the meeting to the PCU, and the question was asked, again by Ms Oakley, who was consulted over the Parish Council's decision to object to the PCU, and the Chairman explained that the decision was unanimous among those members able to take part; Cllr. Ms Barrowman was not consulted, since she had a declared interest. It was further pointed out that, as elected representatives of the community, the Parish Council had a mandate to take decisions it believed to be in the best interests of the community without continuous reference to it; it was recorded that the decision to object to the PCU was taken by email. The Parish Council felt that it should have been kept fully advised and consulted over this proposal before the formal planning process began, and Cllr. Ms Marshall asked the three governors present to explain why the Board of School Governors had not consulted with either the Parish Council or with residents. Ms Oakley replied that as there was no requirement for them to do this, they had decided that the statutory consultation process was sufficient. In the event, the first sight the Parish Council had had of the formalised application was by letter dated the 14th February as statutory consultee by North Yorkshire County Council. It had written objecting to the proposal, and had engaged the services of a Planning Consultant.

Ms Oakley insisted that the objection to the PCU made by the Parish Council did not represent the view of Saxton residents, and in response the Chairman called for a show of hands in support of the objection; of the people present, only 3 were in favour of the PCU, and those were the three school governors mentioned. An attempt was again made by them to raise the subject of the proposed speed platform, but the Chairman pointed out that this item was for discussion when Cllr. Ms Barrowman rejoined the meeting; he confirmed that the Parish Council had not rejected the idea, only postponed its involvement with it; this decision also had been agreed by email.

There were many objections raised by the public, including the extra school staff parking on the streets outside residents' houses, the encroachment into the green belt, the proximity to two listed buildings of the temporary structure, quite unsympathetic to, and out of keeping with, its surroundings. The point was made that the application was for permanent permission for a temporary structure; at the previous Parish Council meeting a school governor had advised that the cost was envisaged at between £200K and £350K; it was felt that taken together these two facts evidenced that the PCU if erected would in fact become itself