

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN SAXTON VILLAGE HALL  
WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2014**

441

Present

15 members of the public attended this meeting

Also Parish Councillors

Mr. G. Fairclough

Mr. B. Wilson

Ms C. Barrowman

Ms J Marshall

Apologies for Absence

These had been received from Cllr. Mrs. Hodgson.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

This had been held on Tuesday the 4th June 2013. One member of the public only was in attendance, but he had no specific business; there are therefore no matters arising from the previous Annual Parish Meeting.

Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the disruption there had been at the two previous Parish Council meetings, and asked that the disagreements be left behind, and that the community move forward as a cohesive whole. The floor was then opened to the public.

Annual Cycle Race – Ruth Potter asked whence permission was obtained for the cycle races coming through the village, expressing concern that they were a nuisance, potentially dangerous and now more than annual. Chris Clayton, himself a cyclist, confirmed permission was usually given by the police, sought by the British Cycling Federation, who carry all the required insurance and prove any necessary stewards. It was noted that bicycles are not subject to a speed limit. The Clerk was instructed to contact the police in the first instance for more information over routes, frequency and timing of cycling events.

Traffic diversion through the village – complaint was made by a number of people that despite the official 7½ ton weight limit through the village, heavy lorries were being diverted through. A recent example was the closure of London Road. The meeting was advised that the police are responsible for traffic diversion, but that they usually pass the task to Highways, along with financial liability. The Chairman pointed out that at the present time the sanction against heavy lorries coming through the village is environmental and not structural – that is to say there is no alarm raised that heavy plant could cause structural damage. The Clerk was asked to write to Glen Donaldson at Highways asking that the classification be changed from environmental to structural.

HS2 Route – Ms Marshall reminded the meeting that the route currently proposed is Barkston through Fenton to York. Unsurprisingly, the Church Fenton Pressure Group has suggested alternative routes, and they are either side of Saxton. The Parish Council has already objected. However, the pressure group has since involved their MP and a petition has gone to Parliament. The concern is that their argument is getting lot of publicity, and that whilst we are believing we have no cause for concern, we could in fact be in for a shock. Ms Marshall therefore suggested that residents should write to their MP if they do object, pointing out the reasons Saxton was originally rejected as a possible HS2 route. The Clerk was asked to compose a flyer to go to every house in the village with bullet points, also to contact our MP, Nigel Adams, and the Towton Battlefield Society.

High Speed Broadband – Ms Marshall advised that anyone wanting this service should read NYCC's and/or BT's publicity leaflets...

Saxton in Bloom – Sally Smart reported that the gardening group was flourishing; woodchip had been laid along the woodland walk pathway, and residents had been most generous with both their time and plant donations. It was confirmed that all unpaid volunteers were covered by the Parish Council's insurance. Discussion followed regarding whether or not to spray the overgrown sides of Love Lane, and it was decided not to do this.

There was a demand from Ms Oakiey for freedom of information over the Parish Council's decisions relating to the PCU, and this was reinforced by Cllr. Ms Barrowman. The Chairman ruled that sufficient time had been expended over this, and no further response would be made.