

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN SAXTON VILLAGE HALL  
THURSDAY 16 JUNE 2016**

495

Present

Mr. G. Fairclough                      Mr. B. Wilson  
Mr. G. Westmoreland                  Ms J. Marshall

5 members of the public  
County Councillor Andrew Lee

Minutes of the 2015  
Parish Meeting

These had already been signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Annual Cycle Race – Ruth Porter complained over a cycle race, held for charity, at which there were 948 competitors, which race was not properly stewarded. It was thought that since bicycles are not mechanical they are not subject to the usual legal constraints on speeding vehicles. The so-called Saxton Circuit was popular with cyclists due the lack of traffic lights, and it was conceded that there was little to be done, other than to ask Highways to let us have notice of any race. Andrew Lee would make enquiries and keep us informed.

Traffic through the village – our County Councillor reported that the Clerk had enquired over the possibility of Saxton's inclusion in the speeding community trial, in which members of the public were asked to report speeding vehicles to the police, and been advised that the trial was on hold for the present, but that when it is re-instated he thought there was a good chance Saxton would be included. He would keep us informed.

Open Discussion

Sally Smart raised the question of gardening around the village. She and Joan Richardson pointed out that there were people in the village very upset over what has happened this season on the Woodland Walk, where the indigenous flora had been cleared and replaced with foxgloves, hostas and ferns – none of which would occur naturally on that site. Concern was also expressed over clearing the leaf canopy, and the Clerk pointed out that the intention had only ever been thinning and crown lifting.

Sally agreed to formulate a plan, to which residents could contribute and in which they could be involved. The difficulty of keeping willing volunteers on side while at the same time asking them to stick to the overall plan was conceded, and at this point also Cllr. Ms Marshall reminded the meeting that the Woodland Walk was not yet officially in the bailiwick of the Parish Council, and volunteers working there might consequently not be covered under our insurance.

The Chairman asked for guidance, and Joan Richardson, Ruth Porter and Sally Smart volunteered to become the gardening group in overall control. The Clerk was instructed to obtain very large scale plans of those areas of the village concerned. It was suggested that a volunteer group might be formed specifically to collect grass cuttings left behind by contractors. Finally, it was agreed that high visibility tabards should be made available to volunteers, in the interest of health and safety.

Chairman's Annual Report

the Chairman commented that it had been an eventful and busy year, and there was a great deal of business to be dealt with later in that evening.

The meeting closed at 8-45, to be followed by the Parish Council meeting.