

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN SAXTON VILLAGE HALL
THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 2016**

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Present

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

2 members of the public
County Councillor Andrew Lee

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

To receive progress report and further proposals and suggestions from volunteer gardening group – members of the group, Mrs Joan Richardson, and Mrs Ruth Porter were present; the third member, Ms Sally Smart, had sent apologies. The group presented its survey and written proposals, which concentrated on maintenance and conservation. For ease of reference this report will be inserted in the Minute Book. A proper written record will be kept by the group, including photographs to record the location of bulbs. Among residents volunteering are Paul Jordan, Chris Clayton and Bruce Sanderson, as well as Gary Westmoreland who had offered to cut the grass verge opposite his property, and Martyn Fryer who will cut along Cold Hill. It was established that there would be two cuts a year to remain the responsibility of the Parish Council, in May and October, though the work would be directed by the gardening group; the Clerk would give them the contact details of the contractor previously employed. Cllr. Andrew Lee offered a monetary contribution towards the cost of strimmers. Lastly, it was determined that the hedge to the east of the dyke along Main Street was the bailiwick of either the owner of the land, Lindsay Firn, or the tenant, Richard Bayston, and the Clerk would follow this up in the first instance. Finally, there was a formal vote of thanks recorded to the gardening group.

To receive Chair's report on transfer of title of Village Hall from the Parish Council to the Village Hall Management Committee – the Chair had liaised with the Committee and received assurance that Rural Action Yorkshire (RAY) would insert a clause in the new constitution to the effect that if any sale or disposal of this major asset (the Hall and the land on which it stands) is ever proposed, then the decision must be put to the Parish as a whole. It was stressed that while there is great faith in the members of the present committee, whose integrity is not in any way being impugned, the future make up of the committee can not be known, and whilst acknowledging that the VHMC has the right to have the title transferred, it is incumbent on the Parish Council to safeguard the interests of the Parish as a whole. RAY will draft the insertion, and the VHMC will put it to us to see.

To receive Chair's report on quotations sought with regard to, and to decide upon, future drainage work in the village – the Chair would continue to chase. The Clerk was asked to request a quotation from DBH for clearing out the dyke, which was considered a requirement before winter.

To receive Chair's further remarks over response by Cricket Club to donation conditions – the work was now to begin by the end of September, for completion by the 5th of November. A date for the donation was tabled for the next meeting.

To receive Cllr. Ms Marshall's report upon progress re registration of the Woodland Walk as a village green – the legislation in this respect had changed inasmuch as it is now necessary to demonstrate unimpeded use for a minimum of 20 years. Residents who will confirm that they have used it for this length of time for walking or for dog walking are needed, and Mrs. Joan Richardson came forward. An alternative method would be to identify the actual present owner of the land, and Cllr. Ms Marshall would consider consulting the archives for this information.

To consider further and decide upon a replacement seat for the corner of Saxton Lane and Scarthingwell Crescent – Cllr Andrew Lee offered a contribution of £500, in light of which the