

# Claxton Annual Parish Meeting 2019

Minutes of Claxton Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 08 May 2019 in Claxton Village Hall at 7.30pm

(Subject to amendment until signed by the Chair at the next Annual Parish Meeting in 2020)

**Parish Councillors (4) present:**

Councillors Pat Clare (Chair), David Hamblin, Sarah Kennedy, Jason Cantrill

**District Councillor present:** Councillor Vic Thomson (arrived 8.15 pm)

**Also in attendance:** Carla Petersen (Clerk)

**Members of the public: 11**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | <b>Welcome to the meeting by Parish Council Chair</b><br>The Chair welcomed everyone to the Claxton Parish Annual Meeting.  |
| 2. | <b>Apologies for absence</b><br>Apologies received from Mr M Balmer due to another commitment.  |
| 3. | <b>To agree and sign minutes of Annual Parish meeting held on 16 May 2018.</b><br>Minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.  |
| 4. | <b>Parish Council Chair's report (Pat Clare)</b><br><p>We did not achieve an election in the Parish despite Mikes best efforts. Mary Button decided to not to continue as a Parish Councillor after serving 8 years, I would like to thank Mary on behalf of the Council for her contribution over the time. I have no doubt she will continue to be an active member of the Parish.</p> <p>I cannot introduce our new Parish Councillor tonight as he had a prior commitment before the date for tonight was set, but I think most of you here this evening will be aware that Mike Balmer is our new Councillor.</p> <p>Last May we welcomed Carla Petersen as our new Parish Clerk, she has found her feet with us and shown her commitment to the village, she is also helping us develop a working relationship with Langley with Hardley PC, as she is also their clerk.</p> <p>The Clerk has finalised the Financial Report for 2018-19 and copies are available here this evening. The Clerk is happy to take any questions you have.</p> <p>We do have one new face here this evening who I would like to introduce as he is new to us, District Councillor Vic Thomson, as we now come under the Rockland district and congratulate him on his re-election. We look forward to a closer working relationship than we had with our previous Councillor.</p> <p>The defibrillator was finally installed outside this hall, and several people took up the offer of training to use it. We thank the Pits Trust for the funding and the Village Hall for providing the power.</p> <p>The SAM2's speed signs which we successfully bid for funding for, will be shortly installed, and they will be on a running exchange with Langley with Hardley Parish Council, with whom we shared the costs. They will hopefully make a contribution to reduce the speeding traffic through the village, although I think we will always get the more 'hardened speeders'. Carla will bring us up to date in the Parish Council AGM that follows.</p> <p>Last November we took part in a National event of lighting beacons to commemorate the 100 year Anniversary of the ending of WW1, we had a light supper in village hall accompanied by various readings, followed by the last post and a reading outside along with the lighting of the bonfire and local members of the Surlingham choir led us in songs of the period, which rounded off the day's events well.</p> |

|    |   |
|----|---|
|    | <p>Broadband, we have seen 2 boxes installed in the Village which is already giving good speeds for those close enough to be in range. Church Lane should see a box installed later in the year, given that this is the area that has the lowest speeds it cannot come too quickly.</p> <p>This year again we have taken part in South Norfolk's Litter Pick, when our small team picked up 27lbs of rubbish from around the village.</p> <p>Dog fouling on footpaths throughout the Village has been a major problem in particular Mill Lane seemed to have suffered. The Clerk sourced signs which have been distributed to be placed in various places around the village.</p> <p>We have also issued two newsletters during the year, the latest covering Spring/Summer, we find this an effective method to keep everyone informed.</p> <p>The bus service has yet again been changed, but it seems to have settled down providing an adequate service.</p> <p>You will have hopefully seen the refurbished Village sign and planting below, a big thank you to my husband for his hard work.</p> <p>Lastly thank you my fellow Councillors for your commitment and the Parishioners who regularly turn out for our Parish Meetings.</p> |
| 5. | <p><b>Police Community Support Officers report</b><br/>No report to receive.</p>  |
| 6. | <p><b>County Councillor's report</b><br/>Councillor Barry Stone's annual report is available on the Village website.</p>  |
| 7. | <p><b>District Councillor's report</b><br/>Councillor Vic Thomson introduced himself and apologised for arriving late due to attending another meeting beforehand. The latest update on the George Lane Roundabout is that the gas main is not as deep as it should have been however a resolution is quite close. The New Hales roundabout has eased traffic problems. A small ward grant is available for projects up to £1000 and is available on a first come first served basis.</p>   |
| 8. | <p><b>Village Annual reports:</b></p> <p><b>Village Hall (Julia Kaye)</b><br/>The Hall Committee have been busy with the refurbishment programme. A lot has been done behind the scenes and the original entrance has been improved. Bookings have increased. The Art Group meets on Mondays and Yoga with Caroline is going strong. A Pilates teacher has been found and it is hoped in the future to hold an evening class. The Community Café continues to thrive. The 200 Club is beginning its second year. The Quiz held last June was most successful and it is hoped to hold two Quizzes each year probably in June and February. The 50/50 Auction held in September was quite a commitment but was a success and great fun. There is a Pamper Night arranged for next week and ladies and also gents are most welcome to come along. Any ideas for other events please contact the Hall Committee.</p> <p><b>Social Club.</b><br/>No report to receive.</p> <p><b>Church (Paul Carter)</b><br/>Whilst we reflect on our achievements for the year, we do so with the recent news that there has been no interest in the advertisement for a new priest to replace Reverend John who retired in</p>                                  |

September. Although this is disappointing news and provides the Ministry Team and Claxton PCC with various challenges, we wish John and Wendy a long and fulfilling retirement with more time for the family and friends in their home in Bungay. We have been advised by the Diocese that the lack of interest in the vacant post is not surprising given the large number of vacancies for Parish priests nationwide. Therefore, we can anticipate that we will be required to continue for the foreseeable future under Mandy's leadership and direction, supported by her Ministry team and the PCCs of the Bramerton Group. As a PCC we have demonstrated that despite our low numbers and demography, we have shown the resilience to continue to support St. Andrew's Church as our place of worship within this community. How sustainable this continues to be will be for those charged with providing the strategic and spiritual leadership for the Diocese. Our efforts to maintain the fabric, contribute to the Parish Share and sustain the relevance of the Church as a place of worship for the community will continue to help influence future high-level decision making.

Whilst the organisational politics of the Church and its role within society will continue to affect our PCC and community, we can be satisfied with the achievements delivered during the year. In the Spring we completed the renovation of the east window, a project that had been outstanding from previous quinquennial reports. The window had been renovated using funds provided by the family of John and Bernice Guymer, donations from the Fair on the Yare committee and wider fund raising and donations to the PCC. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Bishop Alan led a service of dedication for the renovation of the east window. The service was attended by members of the Guymer family, both the children and grand-children of John and Bernice which was a fitting tribute to them and their lives in Claxton.

That weekend had been a busy period for the PCC, because on the Saturday, there was a diverse musical experience involving 'Children's Musical Explorers' led by Laura Carter and an evening of musical entertainment with the saxophone quartet, 'Reed All About It' and the members of the Surlingham Community Choir. Memorable moments included a performance of Queens anthemic piece 'Bohemian Rhapsody' played by the quartet from the chancel of the church. Following this busy weekend, we enjoyed our Harvest Supper at Claxton village hall on the 13<sup>th</sup> October with the Harvest Festival service as our Sunday service. Many thanks to all who helped to organise and deliver this event which is always well received and attended.

This year was the centenary of the end of the Great War. The PCC had made plans to commemorate this event, like so many communities across the country. Three Red Sentinel crab apple trees were planted in the churchyard, one for each of the three Claxton soldiers who were lost. Janice Dix researched their lives, whose names are listed on the war memorial sited in the church porch. Their testimonies were presented at the service and recorded as emblems on one of crab apple trees. The church was decorated throughout with poppies and floral tributes. The ambience of the service was enhanced by music from 'Show of Hands' written to commemorate the national and personal sacrifice of so many individuals and their families. The service was very well attended and dovetailed with the village celebrations which included a display of WW1 photographs and materials provided by local folk, refreshments and a commemorative bonfire at the village hall.

As we approached the year end and the Christmas festivities, we enjoyed the annual St. Andrews ceilidh thanks to Janice and team. This has become a regular event in the PCC and village calendar and was well attended. It attracts people from far and wide who enjoy traditional dancing to jigs and reels. On the 23 December we delivered our annual Claxton Wassail which included Christmas music from a saxophone trio and carols accompanied by flutes and violin. Our Christmas day service was very well attended on a bright sunny and relatively warm winter day. Despite the late arrival of our minister, who had been delayed at an earlier service, we were able to celebrate and enjoy the special event together.

Throughout the year, friends and supporters have helped to maintain the churchyard as an amenity space for the community and as a 2-acre haven for the flora and fauna. Claxton Parish Council continue to support the PCC with its role in maintaining the fabric of the church and

churchyard. On behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank Claxton Parish Council and, in particular, Carolyn and David Moar who have continued to cut grass, strim nettles and improve the appearance of the churchyard. Their efforts have been augmented by various working groups. All of this work has ensured we retain the churchyard as a site of peace and tranquillity, full of wild flowers, buzzing with the sounds of insects, amplified by bird song for all who visit the site to enjoy.

### **Community Café (Rosie Gidlow)**

The Claxton and Carleton St Peter Community Café opens on the second Tuesday of every month between 10 – 12. The Café celebrated its third birthday in January this year and is usually attended by approximately 30 customers who come to enjoy the cakes, bacon rolls, sausage rolls and snacks. There is also a book exchange, dvd borrowing, children's corner, charity items and hand-made gifts. There will be a plant swop at the June Café. Any money in the kitty is used to buy table cloths and display stands.

### **Pits Trust (David Bissonnet)**

The full report and unaudited financial statement are available on the Village website and notice board.

### **Outline Plan for the Claxton Community Orchard (Paul Carter)**

An agreement has been reached between John Heathcote, Claxton Manor Estate and Pat Clare (Chair of Claxton Parish Council) for the parcel of land provided by the Estate for allotments to be used as a "Community Orchard". These arrangements are in the process of being formalised in a written agreement with the intention that the site is managed on behalf of the Parish Council by the Claxton Pit's Trust.

The aim is to make use of the former allotment site as an amenity for the village to provide and maintain an orchard of fruit trees with an under planted wild flower meadow. This will provide a nectar source for pollinators, a harvest of fruit for use by the Trust and an orchard of trees to benefit the wider environment.

The Pits Trust will take on the responsibility for planning, planting and maintaining the orchard with assistance as agreed from the estate with the preparation of the site prior to planting the fruit trees. The Trust will use its resources to deliver this plan according to a budget and timescale to be agreed by the Trustees.

It is proposed that where practicable the orchard will be planted with varieties of apples and other fruit which have their origins in Norfolk or East Anglia. The objective will help to sustain varieties of apple and other fruit which were bred in the county. Whilst this provides a challenge due to the availability of such varieties, the Trust has already purchased five container grown 'Norfolk Royal' varieties together with a Golden Hornet crab apple to act as a pollinator.

The site is approximately 1000 square metres (0.1 hectare or 0.25 acre). The numbers of fruit trees that can be planted in this space will depend upon the root stocks of the fruit trees purchased and the varieties of the cultivars selected the site. This will dictate the distance between the rows but there should be more than sufficient space to plant a substantial orchard. A conservative number would be 30 trees but there is space for more trees if varieties are selected with dwarfing rootstocks.

The trees will need to be protected from deer and/or rabbit grazing with tree guards or wire mesh enclosures until they are well established.

|     |   |
|-----|---|
|     | <p>The cost of trees will depend upon varieties selected and whether bare rooted or container grown. Current prices from specialist suppliers are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Container grown apple trees ~ £31.00</li> <li>• Crab apples for cross pollinators ~ £40.00</li> <li>• Bare rooted ~ £20.00</li> <li>• Tree guards or enclosures ~ £5.00 - £10.00</li> <li>• Posts and sundries ~ £5.00 - £10.00</li> <li>• 1kg 100% Native Traditional British Wild Flower Seed ~ £135.00</li> <li>• Maintenance – cutting meadow (Parish Council grass cutting contract)</li> </ul> <p>On the basis of these figures (excluding the cutting of the meadow) a budget of £1750 will be sufficient for an initial plan of 30 container grown fruit trees*, 5 crab apples and sundries. However, this will depend upon the availability of suitable Norfolk varieties. If bare rooted trees can be sourced, this will reduce the cost but will dictate when planting takes place. Container grown trees provide greater flexibility for planting times and allow for more mature trees to be planted.</p> <p>These figures do not include the costs of maintenance including cutting and clearing the meadow and the costs of pruning and collecting and processing any fruit. These matters can be discussed and agreed in a supplementary plan once agreement is reached and the wild meadow and fruit trees are planted.</p> <p>*Five Norfolk Royal and one Golden Hornet trees with sundries have been purchased. Sundries include tree ties, planting compost, fertiliser and root grow plant mycorrhizai.</p> |
| 9.  | <p><b>Tree Warden report</b><br/>No report to receive.</p>  |
| 10. | <p><b>Footpaths and Green report (Julia Kaye)</b><br/>The dog fouling signs have certainly helped to improve dog fouling matters however the issue still continues especially in Mill Lane and Peascod. The majority of dog owners are considerate and thanks are given to them for acting responsibly. As the summer progresses Church Lane may become overgrown and Claxton Estate might need to be contacted. If you are aware of any problems contact Julia Kaye or Helen Balmer.</p>   |
| 11. | <p><b>Local groups &amp; organisations report</b></p> <p><b>South Yare Wildlife Group (David Hamblin)</b><br/>A brief report of the activities of the group presented by David Hamblin, Treasurer of South Yare Wildlife Group. The group continues to flourish and has held events, walks &amp; talks in local villages throughout the year. It continues its practical work at Ducan’s Marsh off Folly Lane liaising with the Pit’s Trust and supervised by Kevin Parker. A recent estimate found c 5000 orchids on the site. Work on the site by volunteers following advice from Natural England continues and includes installation of numerous bird boxes. Membership is around 90 people and the group and under the Water, Mills &amp; Marshes initiative benefits from a grant from the Broads Authority reflecting the considerable number of volunteer hours that members contribute. Of special note is the great work being done by Rose Hoare supervising the Young Explorers enabling &amp; encouraging children to be active outdoors. Finally, our next event is the annual Breakfast with the Birds walk at Surlingham followed by breakfast at the Ferry Inn which is this Sunday 12th May. Anyone interested, please see me later and I can give details.</p>   |
| 12. | <p><b>Public participation</b><br/>One parishioner asked whether the George Lane roundabout could instead have traffic lights.</p>  |
|     | <p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 8.26 pm</p>  |