

Claxton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on Tuesday 10th June 2025 in Claxton Village Hall (Subject to amendment until signed by the Chair at the next meeting)

Parish Councillors present	Jos Harwood (Chair), Adrian Gidlow (Vice Chair), Sue Wallis-Garcia
County Councillor	None
District Councillor	None
Members of the public	Three

25.42 Welcome from the Chair.

The meeting started at 7.30pm and Councillor Harwood welcomed all those in attendance.

25.43 To agree and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2024.

Councillor Gidlow proposed for Councillor Harwood to sign the approved minutes, seconded by Councillor Wallis-Garcia.

25.44 Reports:

25.44.01 Parish Council Chair's report – Councillor Harwood

The two main areas of focus in the last year have been the playground project and the implementation of the council's biodiversity policy.

The planning application for the play area, submitted in November, has at last been approved. There are conditions attached to it, the main one being the implementation of the biodiversity net gain plan and its ongoing maintenance. This involves us purchasing, planting, and nurturing 6 Crab Apple trees, providing the evidence we have done so over a 10-year period so it will require a commitment to looking after them once planted. We don't have a choice with this, BNG is a new requirement in planning to ensure developments do not adversely impact the biodiversity of the site and even a few items of play equipment are taken into consideration! I would like to thank Adrian for leading on this and the biodiversity working group and Reg Land for their help with this. Alongside this, the play area working group continued with their fundraising efforts and I on behalf of the council would like to express our very grateful thanks for the immense amount of work the PAWG team have put in.

The biodiversity working group has continued with its work auditing the biodiversity within Claxton and enhancing it. Three of the trees audited are on the Woodland Trust's ancient tree inventory. Having secured a the Clean up and Bloom grant, 700 spring flowering bulbs were planted by a group of volunteers from the village, these attract pollinating insects and over time will naturalise, providing an extensive display. Many thanks to Sue, Kevin, and Paul for your work with this. A group of volunteers from the village took part in the annual big litter pick recently, 4 sacks of rubbish were collected from the roads and verges. Many thanks to those who gave up their time to help with this.

Thanks, are also due to Mike Balmer who manages the SAM2 monitor which we share with Langley with Hardley, providing monthly reports of the traffic speeds, publicised on the website. The Speedwatch team have been out on a few occasions in the last year however weather and other commitments have made these sessions less frequent than we would like, many thanks to the team for giving up their time in the last year.

In September we met with Ben Goldsborough, MP for South Norfolk. We had a very useful meeting, sharing our concerns regarding the impact of large-scale development in neighbouring communities on the health, education, and transport infrastructure. He is keen to maintain contact with parish councils and offer help as needed.

Congratulations are due to Charlotte, our clerk, successfully completing the CILCA qualification, or Certificate in Local Council Administration. She has put in a huge amount of work over the last year dealing with the Lottery grant and the adoption of a new and more secure .gov email account to name but a few of the tasks she has dealt with alongside the day to day running of our parish council matters and I am sure my fellow councillors will join me in thanking her for all her hard work over the last year.