

Claxton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 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, Andrew Mussell
County Councillor	None
District Councillor	None
Also in attendance	Charlotte Rust – Parish Clerk
Members of the public (MOP)	Eight

24.66 Welcome from the Chair.

Chair J Harwood welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting.

24.67 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Councillor V Thomson gave his apologies.

24.68 To receive any declarations of interest from Members & consider requests for dispensation.

Councillor A Gidlow declared an interest in agenda item 9 (minute 24.74).

24.69 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2024.

Councillor A Mussell proposed for Councillor J Harwood to sign the approved minutes, seconded by Councillor S Wallis-Garcia.

24.70 Adjournment for Public Participation (15 minutes allowed for). This provides an opportunity for members of the public to raise questions about and comment on items on the agenda before the Council make decisions.

A parishioner mentioned the noise complaint item, which he felt wasn't an issue as there are louder events affecting Claxton. He acknowledged the grass cutting item.

Erection of a flagpole at the Village Hall.

Councillor J Harwood clarified that the request to the Parish Council was to erect a flagpole on the land which is owned by the Parish Council however the Village Hall Committee can erect a flagpole elsewhere on the building as it is the owner.

A parishioner raised concerns over the upkeep and management of the flagpole as well as the legislation on flag flying. Councillor J Harwood confirmed that the Village Hall Committee would be responsible for the upkeep and management of the flagpole/flags and would be following the government legislation on flag flying and taking a common-sense approach. The guidance can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flying-flags-a-plain-english-guide>.

A parishioner raised the item that the Parish Council was to liaise with the Village Hall Committee to creating a questionnaire for parishioners. Following discussions the decision was taken not to proceed with the questionnaire as the Village Hall Committee felt it was not a feasible option and previous questionnaires had been poorly responded to. The parishioner expressed his disappointment that the questionnaire was not proceeding. He felt that by erected a flagpole there was a fine line between Patriotism and Nationalism which should be considered. He suggested using bunting as an alternative, as this was used for the King's Coronation.

A parishioner raised her concerns over flying the Union Jack flag as the flag itself is still divisive.

24.71 Matters arising from May's meeting, including Clerk's report.

Matters Arising

- Vegetation on Folly Lane – The Clerk has responded to the parishioner confirming that this area falls under Norfolk County Council's responsibility, and she has contacted Highways raising the poor visibility issue.
- Home Piece Track – Councillor K Mason-Billig responded to say that Norfolk County Council advise the Parish Council to contact Google directly to request the maps are updated. The Clerk confirmed that she had already contacted Google with this request.