



Delivering Quality Services to
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

Coxhoe Parish Council

Meeting	Monthly
Date	Wednesday 24 th February 2010
Time	6.45pm
Venue	Landsdowne House, Coxhoe

Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held at 6.45pm in Landsdowne House, Lansdowne Road, Coxhoe, on Wednesday 24th February 2010.

Present: Councillor S. Dunn (in the Chair) and

Councillors: Mrs. B. Hepplewhite, R. Mayo, K. Pounder, A. Rowe, G. Shotton, D. Smith, and Mrs. C. Wigham.

Clerk: Mrs. M. Forster

Also Present: County Councillors D. Morgan and Mrs. M. Plews, and B. Watts and D. Reid (Quarrington Hill Village Partnership) and J. Hepplewhite (Coxhoe Community Partnership) (all for part of meeting).

10.26 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Dodsworth, J. Taylor and C. Thirlaway.

10.27 Members' Declarations of Interest: Conflicts of interest had been declared by Councillor Dunn in Request for Provision of Salt Bin at Ashbourne Drive and Councillor D. Smith in Sanderson Street. (Both Councillors withdrew from the meeting for consideration of the respective items).

10.28 Questions from the Public: D Reid of the Quarrington Hill Village Partnership asked whether the Stage 3 Assessment had been carried out for the traffic calming measures installed near the school at Quarrington Hill. He stated that in his opinion the measures were not as safe as they should be and cited examples of wagons travelling too close to the kerb to straddle the speed humps and commented that surface water gathered at the speed humps resulting in children walking to school getting soaked by passing traffic. He considered that the barriers were not large enough. Discussion included that the Stage 3 assessment would include speed and vehicle counts only; the number of lorries had reduced since the opening of the link road; safety barriers had been installed at a cost of £200 each for each of the speed humps and this had been unprecedented; and checks would have been carried out on the height, distance and width of barrier required for safety purposes. The County Councillors commented that they did not know what other measures could be taken in view of what had already happened to slow traffic in this area. Other comments included that it was disappointing that the public were concerned over this as there had also been a large amount of money expended to widen the path to make more room for pedestrians when the cycle routes work had been undertaken. It was agreed that the County Councillors confirm that the necessary checks had been undertaken and ascertain when the Stage 3 Assessment would be carried out.

D Reid asked whether signage would be introduced for the cycle path, including warning that this crossed the road and County Councillor Morgan confirmed that it would. J. Hepplewhite added that there would also be interpretation panels at the school. D Reid expressed concern at the position of the crossing near the corner and County Councillor Morgan stated that this had been guided by the County Council Engineers who were the experts on the distances required from bends. D Reid expressed concern that the lights at Belle Vue were of different heights and asked whether this would be changed. County Councillor Morgan explained that the large light carried the power system for the area and was the main cabling to the street lights and domestic supply and the others were required legally to light the area.

Resolved That County Councillors seek confirmation that appropriate checks had been carried out prior to installation of the speed humps and barriers near the school at Quarrington Hill and ascertain when the Stage 3 Assessment would be carried out.

10.29 Police Report: Mark Ogilvie and PCSO Chris Dunn were present at the meeting. Mark Ogilvie gave details of the Police report that had been circulated covering the period 25th January to 17th February 2010, together with an update of action taken against matters raised at the last Parish Council meeting. He would need to investigate further the assault reported by Councillor Pounder and advise him accordingly. He would also contact the gentleman at the vicarage who was experiencing difficulties with youths. A murder had taken place on 2nd February for which a suspect had been charged. He stressed that this was an isolated incident out of place with any of the surrounding villages. There had also been one assault, three burglaries, two thefts, five incidents of criminal damage, one incident involving drugs, and eighteen incidents of anti-social behaviour. The next PACT meeting would be 25th February at 6.30 p.m. in Quarrington Hill Community Centre. Motor vehicle thefts had increased due to residents leaving keys in their cars whilst they were warming and defrosting them. The damage to a window in the Front Street at Coxhoe that had been witnessed had resulted in the perpetrator being charged. A drugs warrant had been successful as a result of community intelligence being acted upon and it was stressed how important it was that residents advise the Police. Two of the three youths who had signed acceptable behaviour agreements were adhering to the conditions and intelligence was being gathered on the third in order that the anti-social behaviour order route could be pursued should their behaviour not improve. Speed watch equipment had been deployed the previous week and Councillor Pounder and PCSO Dunn had attended at the Front Street of Quarrington Hill. These constituted mobile stands where the community worked with a PCSO and letters were sent to people who had sped past the signs, with the emphasis on education rather than enforcement.

J. Hepplewhite thanked Mark Ogilvie for submitting an informative article for the Coxhoe Chronicle and asked that he incorporate a hierarchy diagram for the next issue advising what action would be taken against youths who misbehaved. Mark advised that the Police were working with partners to educate youngsters, including visits to Chester-le-Street Police Station for mock-ups of booking youths into custody, and had set up a social networking site. A Member stated that it would be good to ask peers what action they considered should be taken against youths who misbehaved. The Clerk added that she had sent the minutes from the meeting of 18th February in connection with anti-social behaviour as a reminder of action that the Police had stated they would carry out. The Chair stated that the crime statistics for the month looked horrendous. M. Ogilvie advised that they had reduced from the previous month and it was hoped that the reduction would continue. As much resource as possible was being put into Coxhoe and plain clothes officers had operated in the area over the last two weekends.

Resolved That the Police Report be noted and displayed on the village notice boards.

10.30 Quarrington Hill Community Centre: Clive Lawson entered the meeting and handed the Chair a letter which was read out. This advised that, due to the age and health of the Quarrington Hill Community Centre Management Committee, they were finding it increasingly difficult to continue the work necessary to maintain the high standards reached. They had, therefore, reached a difficult decision that they would retire in November 2010. The number of bookings, usage and membership levels were dwindling and the letter advised that if the village wished to maintain the use of a Community Centre then residents needed to make use of it, preserve it for future generations and join the Management Committee to take over the day to day running of the Centre. If this did not happen then the Centre would have to close. Mr. Lawson thanked the Parish Council for their assistance and support over the years. He added that new people needed to take over its running, including positions of Chair, Treasurer and Trustees. Members expressed their sadness at this news and their gratitude for the hard work undertaken by Mr. Lawson and other members of the Management Committee during their office. The Chair advised that the Parish Council needed to absorb the information and discuss what could be done to rally support from the community and work with the Community Partnership and the County Council to ensure that the Centre was retained. Councillor Pounder advised that he would be willing to assist in sorting a new set up to take over after November. Representatives of the Community Partnerships advised that they would include articles

for each edition of the village newsletters until the end of the year and the Chair stated that this needed to include details of who to contact to get involved.

Resolved That articles be placed in all editions of both village newsletters to the end of the year asking for volunteers to take over the running of the Quarrington Hill Community Centre and that this matter be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council for ideas as to how the Parish and County Councils could assist the situation outlined.

10.31 Minutes of Monthly Meeting held 27th January 2010 had been circulated.

Resolved That the minutes of the last monthly meeting held on 27th January 2010 be approved and signed as a true record.

10.32 Matters of information: The Clerk updated that **(1)** she had written to Gavin Cordwell-Smith and provided him with the names from the Coxhoe History Group for consideration for the **Hellens Development** and the information on the level crossing gates that had previously been sent to the artist and the Principal Planner. She had reiterated the feelings expressed at the meeting and asked that the position be reconsidered with regard to the street naming and the planning gain monies. **(2)** She would contact the alternative provider with regard to **Clocks Remedial Work** as workload allowed. **(3)** The next session of the **CILCA Mentoring Course** was scheduled for 25th March. **(4)** She had not been advised of any progress on the issue of the land ownership of the **rough land adjacent to the allotments at Quarrington Hill** being ascertained with a view to the Parish Council procuring this to provide additional allotment sites. **(5)** There had been nothing further to an acknowledgement on 10th December from the County Council with regard to the policy on the replacement of **Wheelie Bins** so she had chased progress. **(6)** On the **asset transfer** of Quarrington Hill allotment site, she had sent the location maps and plans that the County Council had requested for each of the three potential asset transfer areas the Parish Council may be interested in and would update Members on any further information as it was received from the County Council. County Councillor Mrs. Plews added that there would be no progress on Landsdowne House until a strategy had been formulated with regard to community halls. The Parish Council would be consulted on this and they would have to look carefully at the costs if maintenance costs were to be met following the transfer. **(7)** The Clerk had chased an answer from the County Council on the query regarding the **responsibility for the footpath at Quarry Road**. They had advised that they had done a search on the City and County Council systems and these showed no result. A Member stated that he had been contacted by residents about the need for plants to be cut back on the footpath and cycle path to Raisby. It was reiterated that this may belong to Sherburn House as they had received royalties from the aggregate from Raisby. It was suggested that the Clerk contact Michael Young from Tarmac who may be able to assist. **(8)** The **fencing repairs outside the tip** had been carried out and County Councillor Mrs. Plews advised that she was dealing with the state of the footpath in this area. **(9)** The Clerk had sent a request to Adrian Varty at the County Council to enquire about the possibility of the **Memorial lights** being operational for one hour in the morning and to ask for someone to be shown how to alter the timer for future. **(10)** The meeting in connection with the **review of hanging baskets** could be arranged once the joint meeting on 2nd March had been held as this included looking at such matters. **(11)** On the Non-compliance with the **No Entry Restriction at Cornforth Lane Roundabout** the Clerk had contacted the Police about the possibility of the use of mobile residents' cameras to record motoring offences and provided them with contact details for the AAP Co-ordinator. **(12)** She had raised the **unauthorised development issues** with the Planning Enforcement Officer who was currently investigating the issues. **(13)** She had asked the County Council to look at the additional area of **raised paving** mentioned at the last meeting and to carry out necessary repair works. A Member asked about improvements to the footpath between Bower Court and Commercial Row and was advised that one side of the footpath was being improved and then the other would follow in order that pedestrians could still use a footpath in the area. **(14)** On the **insurance review**, a further invoice from Zurich for an additional £110.25 for extra items added by the previous Clerk had been sent to the previous Clerk's home address. The Clerk was currently in negotiations on the matter and would keep Members informed. **(15)** Following the suggestion made when discussion had taken place on the **EDRC AAP Local Councils Committee**, she had rang the

CVS and they advised that they would visit all the voluntary organisations in the Coxhoe area and explain who they were, find out the organisations' requirements, and talk through any assistance they could provide, such as with funding. A Member suggested that following the CVS' visit to Quarrington Hill Community Centre, there should be a multi-agency meeting. Councillor Pounder offered to obtain information relating to usage and funds prior to such a meeting being arranged. **(16)** The Clerk advised that she had referred the concerns expressed at the last Council meeting to the **Standards Board**. **(17)** She had sent the Council's nomination in for the **Buckingham Palace Garden Party** and would update Members once the draw had taken place and the Council was notified of the results. **(18)** She was attending the **Clerks Foundation Course** 25th February at Great Aycliffe. **(19)** She had sent the letter of **permission to access land** to St. Andrew's Church. **(20)** The Chairman had passed on the Parish Council's gratitude for the **excellent work undertaken by the County Councillors**. **(21)** The Parish Council's objections in connection with the **planning application for land to the Rear of 15 and 16 Front Street East** had been sent to the County Council. The application had been approved by the Central and East Durham Area Planning Committee. County Councillor Mrs. Plews advised that a similar application had been refused previously and the decision overturned at appeal and it had therefore been considered that a precedent had been set. She gave details of a planning seminar being arranged by Roberta Blackman Woods, M.P. Members commented that work would need to start within the next year on the next Parish Plan and that this should include discussion with Planners due to the number of dilapidated buildings and unauthorised signs in the Parish. County Councillor Mrs. Plews added that this was a problem across the County and it would be helpful to get some old buildings converted to affordable new properties for young people to live in. **(22)** The Clerk advised that the **photocopier** had been ordered from Total Business Group and a delivery date was awaited. Members agreed to continue to pay the quarterly maintenance cost for the photocopier situated in the Village Hall and advise the Association that this would be reviewed in the next budget setting process for 2011/12.

Resolved (i) That the information be noted, the outstanding resolutions be actioned and progress be requested on those issues raised with other parties; (ii) That the Clerk advise the Village Hall Association that the Parish Council would continue to pay the maintenance contract for the photocopier at the Village Hall and review this as part of the budget process for 2011/12.

10.33 Joint Meeting re Lighting and Other Improvements at St. Mary's Church and Front Street, Coxhoe: This had been arranged for Tuesday 2nd March commencing at 2.30 p.m. in Landsdowne House. The meeting would include representatives of Coxhoe Parish Council, Coxhoe Community Partnership, Durham County Council and St. Mary's Church. Introductions would take place at Landsdowne House and then lighting (interim and long term) and footpath improvements would be considered on site at St. Mary's Church; followed by a visit to the Front Street of Coxhoe to look at improvements, including looking at the location of, various street furniture such as notice boards, sign posts, bins, hanging baskets, and plans for street lighting (including the potential for Christmas lights and portable CCTV cameras). Discussion would include possible improvements and next steps. The Chair stated that should lighting be required at the Church and the Village Hall car park, the same contractor could be asked to look at both areas. The land ownership issues at the Churchyard would be discussed at a future meeting following the conclusions of the joint meeting.

Resolved That the information be noted and Jeff Stephenson be invited from the County Council to provide advice as to risk assessment requirements on positioning of street furniture.

10.34 Meeting held 16th February to discuss improvements at Willow Cottages Allotments – The Chairman of Willow Cottages Allotment Association had asked if the Clerk would make arrangements for a meeting involving him and the Secretary, the two County Councillors for the area (Councillor Morgan had submitted apologies due to a previous commitment), Craig Sinclair of Groundwork Trust, and with the Clerk and the Chairman of the Parish Council invited as the landowners. Groundwork Trust were working with the Association to source funding for improvements to the site, including paths to allow wheelchair access, fencing, water supply, and a visibility mirror for the hardstanding. The Association had been successful in obtaining some funding already including £5,000 from Durham Foundation and had applied to the County Councillors for assistance from the Neighbourhood Fund.

They had involved the CVS and also had advice from Awards for All. Groundwork were helping with other funding applications including for AAP funds and were working up a scheme to have a community garden and possibly a community shed on the allotments as that would be more community inclusive and attract more funding. They were also looking at the possibilities from healthy eating and having a small amount of sales from the produce to be more self sustaining. They would carry out project management and look at involving the school and possibly the Tarka centre. They also mentioned that they had a team of youth workers who they would involve and look at trying to include youths in the project. Once the project and funding were more certain they would ask for another meeting to keep everyone informed. Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite stated that she would submit an article in connection with this to the next Coxhoe Chronicle.

Resolved that the information be noted.

10.35 Speed Visors: The Clerk had chased progress on the speed visors at Coxhoe with Gerry Jones at the County Council again. She had provided him with further details after more investigation and asked that he send the appropriate instructions to allow the Parish Council to be provided with the information required as to size and location of garden and how much the reinstatement works to the garden would cost if NEDL did them so that the Parish Council could get a comparative cost from TP Gardens. The response that Gerry had sent prior to that clarified that Durham County Council did not pay for provision of power to a post. County Councillor Morgan advised that the north bound pole had been powered; paid for by the local Members' funds. The Chair expressed the Parish Council's gratitude. Gerry's correspondence reiterated that the Cassop end of Quarrington Hill was only agreed for one direction and both sites at Coxhoe for only one direction and that that was what the County Council had agreed with the Parish Council and Police. He had responded further that the known costs for the South bound pole at Coxhoe would be £517 + VAT but that the full costs would not be known until the trench was dug (there may be additional for reinstatement and wayleave) but that the County Council could not proceed with the job until they had a written undertaking from the Parish Council that it would cover all costs – known and unknown. County Councillor Morgan offered that the County Councillors would pay any costs above £700. Members concurred and noted that the Coxhoe poles could be in one direction each but asked that it be reiterated that it had been agreed at the site meeting that the visor near to the garage at Quarrington Hill would be able to be rotated in both directions. The Chair stated that this would finalise the Parish Council's programme of traffic management and asked that data logging information be provided prior to the movement of the visors from Quarrington Hill.

Resolved That the Clerk advise the County Council that the Parish Council would meet the costs of powering the south bound pole at Coxhoe up to a maximum of £700, with the County Councillors meeting any costs above that amount; that they had noted that the visors at Coxhoe could operate in one direction each; reiterate that it had been previously agreed that the visor near the garage at Quarrington Hill could be used in both directions; and request that the County Council provide data logging information on the number of activations at Quarrington Hill prior to any movement of the visors from there; and that they provide costs for rotation of the visors.

10.36 Correspondence:

10.36.1 Durham County Council:

a) EDRC AAP Local Councils Committee – The agenda for 16th March and minutes of 19th January had been circulated. Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite submitted apologies as she would be out of the country.

Resolved That the information be noted

b) Advance Notice of a Parish and Town Council Conference being organised by Legal and Democratic Services and the Chair of the Standards Committee to be held at County Hall on 19th July had been circulated

Resolved That the information be noted.

- c) A letter from Durham County Council's Planning Policy section had been circulated which asked for comments to the **County Durham Plan – Sustainable Design Supplementary Planning Document – Issues Paper** consultation and entries to a photography competition by 1st April 2010. The issues paper set out what a design guide would cover to advise householders and developers how to achieve better design standards in new developments.

Resolved That the information be noted.

10.36.2 **County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC):**

- d) **NALC E-Bulletin** – the latest briefing had been circulated.

Resolved That the information be noted.

- e) Details had been circulated of consultation including workshops being held across the County to shape the **County Council's Equality Scheme**.

Resolved That the information be noted.

- f) The National Association of Local Councils had released the latest **Model Standing Orders** on 1st February 2010. Copies were available for order via the County Durham Association of Local Councils. Following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, a copy had been ordered in order that Coxhoe Parish Council's Standing Orders may be updated to ensure they complied with best practice.

Resolved That the order be ratified and the expenditure of £25 be authorised.

10.36.3 **Other Correspondence**

- g) Information had been circulated from **Electricity Alliance** regarding the **replacement and rerouting of the overhead electricity transmission line that ran between the electricity sub-stations at Spennymoor and Norton**.

Resolved That the information be noted.

- h) A **resident of Ashbourne Drive** had written to ask whether the Parish Council was able to provide any assistance in the **provision of a salt bin** following the request for one on the corner of 85 Ashbourne Drive being refused by the County Council as it did not meet their criteria. The correspondence circulated from the County Council explained the financial situation and that this restricted the provision of bins to streets with severe gradients where there were special features to be taken into account. **Councillor Dunn declared an interest in this item** as he lived further up that street and would therefore benefit should a bin be provided by the Parish Council. It was considered that he could participate in any general discussion relating to whether the Parish Council may wish to consider having a policy to deal with such requests but he withdrew from the meeting for discussion on the specific request as it could be considered to be a private and prejudicial interest. Councillor Dunn vacated the Chair and Councillor Smith was elected to Chair the meeting for this item. The Clerk advised that the County Council, in connection with a previous request for help, had stated that if an area did not meet the criteria set by the County Council then a Parish Council could fund the bins at its own cost but must service the bin and collect the salt at the County Council's depot. County Councillor Morgan had provided further information that installation of the bins cost approximately £350 per bin and that the Parish Council would then be responsible for refilling and maintenance costs of £100 per annum per bin. He had also indicated that the County Council's criteria for salt bins did not usually apply in residential areas particularly if there was no bus route and that the Parish Council may have insurance liability. Further details were provided on the potential for liability of the Parish Council and of residents using the grit. Members discussed the matter in detail, including the costs involved, particularly in light of the precedent that would be set should assistance be provided in this instance; many other requests had been refused in the past; environmental factors including the runoff from the salt bins in the summer and the

nuisance caused by youths disrupting the contents; and that this was a County Council function and the Parish Council did not have the resources, financial or human, to provide, maintain and insure for salt bins in residential areas. Members considered that whilst the Parish Council would have liked to provide assistance, it was not possible to do so in light of all the factors discussed.

Resolved (i) That the resident be advised that for the financial and practical reasons outlined, it would not be possible for the Parish Council to provide a salt bin in the location requested; (ii) That future requests be refused for the reasons outlined and an article be included in the Winter 2010 issues of the village newsletters outlining that this was the responsibility of the County Council and their criteria for such.

10.37 Coxhoe Community Partnership: Councillor Dunn rejoined the meeting and resumed the Chair. The joint meeting would be held 2nd March to discuss street furniture in the Front Street and lighting and improvements to St. Mary's Church yard. The Clerk had chased the County Council for progress regarding the request for the litter bin and litter picking in the Living Churchyard and been advised that new measures were in place for the litter collection. John Lowes, the Clean and Green Manager wished to meet representatives of the Parish Council to discuss further improvements that could be made and it was agreed that he be asked to join the joint meeting on 2nd March. Thanks to County Councillor Morgan's involvement, things had moved on with the provision of computer classes in Coxhoe. Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite had met with Diane Mahoney from the County Council who considered that Landsdowne House would be an ideal venue and was going to put a funding application together for laptops and hoped to start classes after Easter. She was also looking at the possibility of the introduction of craft classes. There had been no response to the enquiry as to whether the County Council could assist with the development of a website for the Parish Council and progress had been requested on this. An article updating on the Parish Council's work had been submitted to both Partnerships for incorporation in the village newsletters, the final proofs of which were awaited for the Chair, Vice-Chair and Clerk to look over prior to the March issues being printed. The agenda for the Partnership meeting of 3rd February had been circulated, together with the projects update of 22nd February and the Youth Room Partnership agenda for 11th March.

The Community Partnership representatives updated that subsidence had occurred to the left of the Church door at St. Mary's where enabling work had recently been carried out. The County Council had filled the area twice. It was not known whether the cause was the inadequate backfilling of the excavation works or that the original specification for the area had not allowed for the weights of modern refuse collection and grasscutting vehicles. County Councillors were requesting that such vehicles park in the main Church car park. Estimates were being prepared to bring the area back to a level standard. Everything was on track for the Dedication Service for the Living Churchyard; the electrical contractor would be altering the timing to allow for the Memorial Garden lights to be on for an hour in the morning and the Partnership had requested that the Project Manager arrange for reseeding of the area. A response was awaited from the Coalfield Regeneration Trust with regard to the possibility of funding for doors at the Village Hall. Interpretation panels had been ordered for the Cycle Routes but the County Council wanted the Partnership to have Public Liability Insurance for the vergeside planting. The Chair advised that he understood that the Parish Council's insurance covered volunteers and this could be checked and advised. The Partnership stated that funding claims were required by 31st March. The Youth Room Partnership meeting had been rearranged to 11th March and the Partnership requested that Parish Councillors attend such meetings whenever possible. They stated that the County Council needed to take responsibility for maintenance as the Green Flag Park Assessment was due. It was hoped that a mobile screen and projector could be procured for community and Parish Council use. It was agreed that Councillors Dunn and Mrs. Hepplewhite discuss this further as there may be some scope for a projector and screen to be provided with only the cost of ancillary equipment to be met by the Parish Council. The Partnership had carried out a progress report on the Parish Plan and provided it to the Clerk for future maintenance.

Resolved (i) That the information be noted and further responses be awaited from the County Council with regard to provision of a litter bin in the Living Churchyard, computer classes in Coxhoe,

and assistance with development of a new Parish Council website; (ii) that the Parish Council request that their contractor for grass cutting use the main car park at St. Mary's Church and not drive past the main door to the Church; (iii) That the Parish Council express concern to Wilf Newell at Service Direct (with copies to the County Councillors) that the subsidence to the left of the Church door may have been caused by inadequate backfilling of excavation works; (iv) That the Clerk check the Parish Council's insurance cover for volunteers and advise the Partnership and County Council with regard to the level of cover; (v) That measures be taken to procure a projector and screen for use by the Parish Council and the community, with ancillary equipment costs to be met by the Parish Council.

10.38 Quarrington Hill Village Partnership: The agenda for 22nd February and minutes of 24th January had been circulated. Bob Watts, the Chairman of the Partnership, was present and updated that the Secretary was unwell and very much missed; applications had been submitted for funding for further equipment; the Youth Leaders had been complimented on the good behaviour of the young people participating in the rock climbing course; funding applications were ongoing for the play park and the lease was progressing slowly whilst queries were being looked at by the County Council's legal department. The Partnership had limited resources and was spending a lot of time dealing with correspondence relating to issues over the running of the Partnership that a group of residents had raised with the Charity Commission. The Commission had advised that they should not get involved until all other avenues had been explored and had suggested mediation. The Partnership was in agreement with this recommendation and had asked the Commission to ask the residents to contact the Partnership in order that the appropriate arrangements may be made. A letter had been received from the residents asking that the Partnership arrange a meeting and the Partnership had responded outlining the recommendation of mediation. Their response was awaited and the Partnership representatives asked that the Parish Council support the recommendation of mediation and give the message that they did so.

They stated that a large amount of work had gone into the play park over a long time including the consultancy process, the business plan, children being involved, planning approval, and funding procured. The Partnership needed to concentrate their efforts and time on actions for the benefit of the community and mediation was the best way to resolve the current situation. It had not been possible to arrange an Easter Fun Day due to limited resources expending time on this. Parish Council Members commended the Partnership for their good work and advised that they valued the work undertaken by all partners and voluntary organisations. They supported the Partnership and wanted it to make progress on actions to benefit the community. It was in the interests of all parties that the situation be resolved and the Parish Council would strongly encourage all parties to take up the suggestion of the Charity Commission of mediation and two way communication.

Resolved That the information and the Parish Council's support of the recommendation of mediation be noted.

10.39 Crowtrees Heritage Group: The agenda for 11th February and minutes of 14th January had been circulated.

Resolved That the information be noted.

10.40 Web Statistics: had been circulated for the period 25th January to 22nd February 2010.

Resolved That the information be noted.

10.41 Traffic Calming at Quarrington Hill: Councillor Pounder updated that the traffic calming scheme including four speed humps at Church Street had been carried out and areas in Quarrington Hill where it was suspected that speeding was taking place would be passed to Mark Ogilvie of the Police for addition to the list of areas to be looked at with the mobile cameras. County Councillor Mrs. Plews, Bob Watts and David Reid left the meeting.

Resolved That the information be noted.

10.42 Finance:

10.42.1 **Budget Update:** An account summary had been circulated that showed income and expenditure for the year and current balances reconciled against the latest bank statements. Details were circulated of the budget for 2009/2010, with income and expenditure and the variance against each budget heading to the end of January. The Clerk went through the budgetary comparison information in detail. The overall situation had improved greatly over the last couple of months due to winter seasonal spending reductions; VAT reclaims being brought up to date; and the unexpected receipt of the backdated wayleave monies. With the amounts agreed to be carried forward for items not completed within the year and the outstanding commitments for the year, the Council was on budget. Central Services was the only budget heading overspent due to unanticipated expenditure and some budget allocations being underestimated as a result of the changes in Clerk. The Chair commended the Clerk for the work undertaken on the budgets.

Resolved That the information be noted.

10.42.2 **Applications for Grants and Donations:** Members discussed applications for grants and donations and whether the Council should devise a policy of broad guidelines for each application to be assessed against, including other funding available to the applicants and what benefit was obtained within the Parish. The Clerk advised that this would be required to meet Quality Council status as it was part of the assessment for the CILCA qualification. County Councillor Morgan left the meeting.

Resolved That applications be assessed on their merits at present but that work be undertaken towards production of a policy for applications for grants and donations.

(a) Great North Air Ambulance - Councillor D. Smith declared an interest in this application as he used to work for the organisation and took no part in the decision thereon. Their letter stated that they wrote annually to Parish Councils in North of England to ask for a grant to ensure that their vital service was maintained of transporting seriously ill or injured patients from rural and urban areas to a place of care. A payment of £50 had been made the previous year. Members considered that this service could be a great benefit to residents of the Parish and should be supported.

Resolved That a donation of £50 be made to Great North Air Ambulance under Section 137 expenditure.

(b) Victim Support - were asking for a financial donation to assist them in continuing their service of supporting victims and witnesses of crime. A letter had been circulated indicating their objectives for the year for the North East. Members considered that this service could benefit residents of the Parish and this was a worthy cause that should be supported. J. Hepplewhite left the meeting.

Resolved That a donation of £50 be made to Victim Support under Section 137 expenditure.

(c) Coxhoe Village Hall Association – a letter had been circulated from the Village Hall Association asking for financial assistance in their running of a premises for the use of the community. This had been received after the agenda had been sent but it was agreed that this could be handled at this meeting as a decision had already been made when the budget had been approved for the year to make a grant of £1000 to the Village Hall Association to assist them with their work for the benefit of the community.

Resolved That a grant of £1000 be made to the Coxhoe Village Hall Association under Section 137 expenditure.

10.42.3 **Accounts for payment** – Details of financial payments required for the month had been circulated, together with the month end bank balances figure after the expenditure.

Resolved That all payments presented be signed and paid:

Creditor	Reason	£
Viking Direct	Printer Cartridges and stationery	41.53
T P Gardens	Grass Cutting and Hedge Trimming	370.00
Scottish Power	Electricity for Memorial Garden lights	16.94
3 Mobile	Broadband & Mobile January	32.47
M. Forster	Clerk Salary and postage	

10.43 Planning Applications: Details had been circulated of planning applications that had been determined under delegated authority from 27th January to 22nd February 2010 and of applications received since the last meeting. Members agreed that with regard to **Ref 054/TPO – Felling of 2 no. Horse Chestnut Trees and Replacement with 2 no. Mountain Ash Trees at Vicarage Terrace** it was a shame that these trees had already been removed but noted the contents of the letter giving reasons for the application, including that one of the trees was unhealthy and may have infected the other and those of anti-social behaviour and road safety hazards. Members discussed **County Matters Application 4/54 – Proposed Relocation of Site Compound at Joint Stocks Waste Disposal Site** and expressed concern about the access road and vehicle movement in the area. This was a road where many vehicles were fast moving and there was the potential for accidents with large vehicles turning right and travelling slowly up the hill. They discussed the potential for a road being provided within the site for movement of vehicles to the top of the site prior to traversing the main road but concurred that this would be impractical and cost prohibitive. They asked that the concerns be brought to the attention of the County Council who could be asked whether it would be possible for mitigation measures such as a mini roundabout or speed restrictions to be looked at in consultation with the Police. Councillors Rowe and Smith left the meeting. **Resolved** (i) That the information on delegated authority decisions be noted; (ii) That the information on application 054/TPO at Vicarage Terrace be noted; (iii) That with regard to application CMA/4/54 for the proposed relocation of site compound at the Joint Stocks Waste Disposal Site, the Clerk advise the County Council (with copies to the County Councillors) of the Parish Council's concerns in connection with highway safety and ask that they liaise with the Police to provide a suitable solution.

10.44 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 24th March 2010 at 6.45 p.m. in Landsdowne House.

10.45 Visit to Coxhoe by the Government Department for Communities and Local Government – The Clerk advised that since the agenda had been circulated, the Parish Council had been advised that Coxhoe had been chosen for a visit by the Department following Durham Rural Community Council singing the praises of the way in which the Parish Council and Coxhoe Community Partnership worked together to produce benefits for the community. The visit was likely to take place on Monday 22nd March and would entail the Government representatives meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council, Mr. and Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite from the Community Partnership, and representatives of DRCC to talk through projects and working together and then be shown the projects on site. **Resolved** That the information be noted and that the Treasurer of Coxhoe Community Partnership also be invited to attend the visit.

10.46 Exempt Information – Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public: **Resolved** That in view of the confidential nature of the following items, the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960.

10.47 Co-op and Village Hall Car Parks

10.48 Sanderson Street: NOTE: Councillor D. Smith had previously **declared an interest** in this item prior to leaving the meeting.

Minutes of Coxhoe Parish Council held on Wednesday 24th February 2010

The meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Signed on 24th March 2010 as a true record of the meeting:

Cllr. P. Dodsworth (Chairman)

Cllr. S. Dunn (Vice Chairman)