



Delivering Quality Services to
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

Coxhoe Parish Council

Meeting Monthly

Date Wednesday 28th July 2010

Time 6.45 pm

Venue Landsdowne House, Coxhoe

Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held at 6.45 pm in Landsdowne House, Lansdowne Road, Coxhoe, on Wednesday 28th July 2010.

Present: Councillors P. Dodsworth, S. Dunn, Mrs. B. Hepplewhite, R. Mayo, K. Pounder, A. Rowe and G. Shotton.

Clerk: Mrs. M. Forster

Also Present: County Councillors D. Morgan and Mrs. M. Plews (part of meeting) and I. Forster (Assistant Clerk).

10.158 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Smith, J. Taylor, C. Thirlaway and Mrs. C. Wigham.

10.159 Members' Declarations of Interest: Councillor D. Smith had declared a conflict of interest in Sanderson Street. Councillor K. Pounder declared an interest in the application for a donation to Quarrington Hill Community Centre as he was a Member of the Shadow Committee.

10.160 Questions from the Public: There were no members of the public present.

10.161 Police Report: The Police report had been circulated for 17th June to 14th July 2010. The Chairman of the Parish Council, as promised at the last meeting, had written to express disgust at the punitive fines issued to the youth who broke the conditions of his ASBO. Inspector Anderson had replied that people should not be disheartened and that it may have been judged harsher if the three separate defaults had been dealt with separately. M. Ogilvie added that the Police had raised this with the Court and been advised that leniency had been applied as it had been breaches of location and the youth had not committed any offences whilst in those locations. Other matters that had been raised with the Police during the month were the builders' vans from the dentists parking in the Front Street causing problems for the traders' deliveries. The traders had been advised that there were no parking restrictions and had spoken to the company themselves and they had agreed to try to reduce the number of vans parked at any one time to resolve this. A resident's concerns over the level of vandalism in the park over recent weeks including the destruction of the sun dial and the snapping of trees had also been referred to the Police and County Council. The County Council had advised that the new Neighbourhood Warden, John Halliday, would be looking into this. The Police had advised that they would liaise with the Leisure Centre staff to see if there was any potential for CCTV footage and would give increased patrols.

PCSO Neil Wilkinson had advised that he had transferred to Sherburn Office and David Airey and Chris Dunn would be covering Coxhoe. Neil had asked that the Clerk thank the Parish Council on his behalf for the support they had shown him over the last three years and the Clerk had thanked him on behalf of the Parish Council for his work over that time. Members advised that it was a shame that Neil would no longer be working in Coxhoe as he knew the area and the people were familiar with and respected him. M. Ogilvie advised that David Airey and Chris Dunn had been well briefed and knew the issues and personalities in the area. He stated that the Police and Anti-Social Behaviour Unit at the County Council had worked together to combat the problems at Quarrington Hill, including twice daily patrols. Positive feedback had been received and the situation seemed to have settled substantially. The Police were thanked for their efforts. Members stated that they had heard that Anti-Social Behaviour Orders were to be scrapped. M. Ogilvie replied that if that was the case, then it was

likely to be for future applications. Orders already in place would still stand. The Police left the meeting.

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

10.162 Minutes of Monthly Meeting held 23rd June 2010 had been circulated. The Quarrington Hill Councillors present were asked to confirm that they were happy with the minutes in connection with their views on the query raised by Quarrington Hill Village Partnership and they confirmed that they were and that the minutes did reflect their views. Councillor Shotton stated that he no longer lived in Quarrington Hill. He supported a play park but considered the present scheme rather large and that it would be better split into two parks.

Resolved That subject to the word "County" being replaced with the word "City" on minute 10.143, the minutes of the last monthly meeting held on 23rd June 2010 be approved and signed as a true record.

10.163 Matters of information: The Clerk updated that **(1)** she had reported last month that work was ongoing by County Councillors to procure improved **CCTV in Coxhoe** and have the park monitored centrally at Durham. A meeting had been arranged involving the County Council and Police on Tuesday 28th September at 11.30 a.m. in the Youth Room at Coxhoe Leisure Centre. County Councillor Morgan had made arrangements for the Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council to be invited to the meeting, as well as a representative of Coxhoe Community Partnership. Members confirmed the representation in order that the appropriate Officers at the County Council may be advised. Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite confirmed that she would be able to attend as the Coxhoe Community Partnership representative and County Councillor Mrs. Plews added that County Councillor Morgan would be their representative as she had a prior commitment. **(2)** It had been reported last month that the pole at Coxhoe would be powered ready for a **Speed Visor** by 2nd July. An email had been sent from Gerry Jones to County Councillor Morgan advising that the electricity company had finally finished their work at Coxhoe and he had instructed the Street Lighting Section to move the speed sign from Quarrington Hill as soon as possible. He would review the previously agreed arrangements the County Council had with the Parish Council and draw up a rota for the signs as soon as he could. He had been asked previously to arrange this in the most cost effective manner to fit in with the County Council schedule and to provide the appropriate figures for Quarrington Hill prior to removal of the visor. **(3)** Councillor Dunn had made progress on the land ownership of the **rough land adjacent to the allotments at Quarrington Hill** with a view to the Parish Council procuring this to provide additional allotment sites. He had advised that Durham County Council owned this land according to the Land Registry Search carried out. Councillor Pounder stated, however, that he had information that Durham City Council had sold this years ago. The land title numbers were different and it was agreed that the two Councillors investigate this matter and report to the next meeting. **(4)** The Clerk had reported last month that she had sent a reminder to the County Council on the information required on the three potential **Asset Transfers**. Nothing further had been received. Members commented that there was a need to ascertain whether the Parish Council would be able to continue to utilise accommodation at Landsdowne House prior to the budget setting process for the following year in order that it could be decided whether the Village Hall licence fee needed to be paid. The utilisation of the offices needed to be regularised and guaranteed. County Councillor Mrs. Plews stated that the County Council may not wish to transfer this asset at a peppercorn rate in view of the County Council's budgets and as this may set a precedent. County Councillor Morgan added that the County Council may seek to secure the best possible income for their assets and that it may be worthwhile seeking a meeting to move the asset transfer requests forward. A Member suggested that various options for Landsdowne House could be looked at, rather than the Parish Council taking on the whole management and maintenance responsibilities. All options and financial implications needed to be considered. County Councillor Morgan stated that the Parish Council should write to the Chief Executive of the County Council advising the timing of the first request for the information on the three potential asset transfers; setting out the assets they were interested in; and providing emphasis to the time constraints for seeking assurance that the Parish Council could continue to use Landsdowne House. The Vice-Chair agreed to draft such a letter and forward it to the Clerk to place

on letterhead. **(5)** The Chairman of the Parish Council had looked at whether he could alter the timer on the **Memorial lights** but advised that this was fairly complicated. Any future changes would need to be made by Durham County Council as and when required. **(6)** The review of Coxhoe Parish Council's **Standing Orders** and the **Policy for Applications for Grants and Donations** would be done as time and workload allowed. The Clerk had investigated the possibility of **direct debit facilities**. The legal position at the moment was that local councils could only make payments by cheques signed by two Councillors. An email from CDALC had been circulated that advised that a legislative reform order was being called for so hopefully the position would change by the end of the year. **(7)** For information, total additional **unpaid hours** worked to date from both employees was 240, or 311 if unclaimed holidays were added on. **(8) Gate and Fencing at Parson's Walk** – Councillor Thirlaway, as promised, had checked the gate. He had advised that the spring was fine and he was sorting the gate hinges which needed oiling. Nothing further had been received from the County Council on the solutions they were looking at for the problems of the verge around the steps being used by horses and vehicles and of measures required to prevent access at the middle of Parson's Walk. **(9)** Congratulations were issued to the Chairman who had made an entry on behalf of the Parish Council to the **DRCC Community of the Year Competition**. He had received notification that Coxhoe had been shortlisted. The judges were to visit on Tuesday 3rd August at 2.00 p.m. As the Clerk to the Council and various representatives of Coxhoe Community Partnership were on holiday then, a request would be made to amend this but the Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council would accompany the Chairman for the meeting if this was not possible. **(10) Hanging Basket and Planter Service** – The extension of the hanging basket service to Station Road and The Avenue was still to be investigated. There had been a request for more flowers to be displayed at Coxhoe. Information had been provided with regard to what was currently provided and ideas requested as to what and where people would like to see any additional floral displays. This request would also be included in the Parish Council article in the Coxhoe Chronicle newsletter so that if ideas were put forward the Council could look at these as part of the budget setting process for the following year. The size of the hanging baskets was queried in comparison to a neighbouring parish. The baskets were larger than those quoted for by the previous provider and may be too heavy for the brackets if they were any larger. They were of a different construction to the neighbouring parish and the flowers were still growing. Members advised that lots of good comments had been received in connection with the planters in the Front Street of Coxhoe. A Member suggested that the Environment Committee should meet following the sterling work of the Assistant Parish Clerk to discuss how things could be expanded in future years, including the possibility of shopkeepers and residents being encouraged to have hanging baskets and window boxes. They added that they had asked the Clerk to Monk Hesleden Parish Council to contact the Clerk to provide information on their endeavours and their Christmas tree and lights. County Councillor Morgan advised that the new lamp columns should be installed in the Front Street of Coxhoe in September. Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite stated that Coxhoe Community Partnership would not be able to provide lights in the trees at the Memorial Garden as the account had been closed although the Partnership had not provided the final claim. **(11) Insurance for 2010/11** – A full response was still awaited from Zurich on the queries raised and the Clerk had sent a reminder email to chase progress. **(12)** Other than the Christmas lights update, nothing further had been received on the actions required as a result of the **Joint Meeting re Improvements to St. Mary's Church and Front Street**. Once all information on schemes and costings had been received another meeting would be called to progress this prior to the land ownership issues at the Churchyard being discussed. A couple of matters had been raised with regard to street furniture on the Front Street and the overall street scene. A Member had been asked by residents about the seat across from the Fish Shop at Coxhoe (on the corner past the Fish Shop as you turned left into The Grove on the opposite side to the Fish Shop) being removed by the County Council. County Councillor Morgan had looked into this and had been advised that the seat had been removed at the request of Paul Parker, the Neighbourhood Warden at the time. He had received reports of anti-social behaviour and the seat had been vandalised and damaged beyond repair. Members commented that this seat was well used, particularly by elderly members of the community, and should be replaced, preferably by a metal seat that would not be as susceptible to vandalism. Such seats provided previously following a tendering process were considered to have cost

approximately £500. County Councillors agreed to pay £300 towards the costs if the Parish Council paid the remaining £200. The County Councillors would also arrange for a tidy up of the area as concrete had been left from previous structures and a bin was required. The Parish Council expenditure would be ratified by having a specific agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting and the seat could be replaced with one of the same design as those outside the Workingmen's Club, outside the vicarage and at Station Road. Planting in tubs could be looked at in close proximity to the seat if finances from the flower and plant budgets allowed. The Chair advised that he would report nettles coming through the seat opposite the Black Horse to the County Council Neighbourhood Warden. The second area was that a Member had been asked when the County Council would be renewing the footpaths in The Avenue, Blackgate and Cornforth Lane area as these were making the village appear scruffy and did not add to the impression given by the Front Street. County Councillor Morgan had responded that there was no general intention to renew the footpaths in those streets and he would not expect so for some time in the future. Paths deemed to be unsafe by the highway inspector would be repaired but the repair limited to the hazard. **(13)** Councillor Pounder and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk had attended the **Conference on Standards** and Quality Status at County Hall on 19th July. There had also been an update on progress from the Local Council's Charter and the presenters had advised that there would be a review after a year. **(14)** As a result of a large host of emails in connection with the **bins at Quarrington Hill football field** being replaced, a meeting had eventually been held on site with David Fishburn and the local Parish Councillor. A location for the dog bin had been agreed to be installed by 20th July and the litter bin was to have been ordered for delivery within a couple of weeks of the site visit held 12th July. The Member had advised that there was now a new dog bin and litter bin in position but that another litter bin had been burnt out the previous week. The Member had raised this with the County Council Neighbourhood Warden. **(15)** A Member stated that with regard to **Unauthorised Development and Planning Enforcement Issues**, window frames were still at Carrs DIY and Barratts had put a big banner on the side of Commercial Road West although the Planning Authority had specifically written to them serving notice. He would raise this with the Planning Enforcement Officer. The Chairman added that it was good to see that the Former Cinema had been painted and work had been carried out to improve the old Fish Shop. **(16)** The Clerk stated that now that the minutes of the last meeting had been approved, she would forward the appropriate extract to the **Quarrington Hill Village Partnership in response to their query** with regard to the support for the play park. The two Quarrington Hill Parish Councillors present confirmed that they were happy that the minutes reflected their individual views and that they had nothing further to add. **(17) Quarrington Hill Community Centre** – The Clerk had raised with the Parish Council's contractor whether he could carry out the pruning of the hedge surrounds at the Centre. He had advised that it was too late notice to do a general tidy up prior to the Britain in Bloom competition and, as the County Council had also advised, he would not cut the hedge during the bird nesting season. A further meeting of the Committee had been agreed for 2nd August with a Community Development Officer hopefully attending. The Officer would help with advice on requirements for a Summer Fete planned for Saturday 21st August. **(18)** The Clerk had written to the Commercial Manager of **Arriva** asking why they used such old buses in Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill and expressing concern that this caused frequent breakdown of service. He had advised that he had passed the email to the Head of Operations as he was in a better position to respond. **(19)** Councillor Pounder and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk had attended the **EDRC AAP Local Councils Committee** on 20th July. This had included a presentation on the County Durham Plan consultation. The minutes of that meeting and the draft agenda for the meeting to be held 21st September had been circulated. **(20)** The Clerk had sent the information on the **Wildlife Fund** to Crowtrees Heritage Group and Quarrington Hill Community Centre as requested. **(21)** She had written to **St. Andrew's Methodist Church** to provide permission to dispose of the top soil on to the paddock. She had also spoken to the tenant of the paddock to confirm that they were happy with the suggestion and the Church had confirmed that they had also done so. **(22)** Cheques and letters had been prepared for all the **applications for donations**. The Council had received a letter of thanks from the Coxhoe Allotment Association for the payment of £200.

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 Councillors Dunn and Pounder investigate the issue regarding the land ownership adjacent to the allotments at Quarrington Hill and

report back; (iii) That the Vice-Chairman draft a letter to the Chief Executive of the County Council advising the timing of the first request for the information on the three potential asset transfers; setting out the assets the Parish Council were interested in; and providing emphasis to the time constraints for seeking assurance that the Parish Council could continue to use Landsdowne House; and forward it to the Clerk to place on letterhead; (iv) That a meeting be convened of the Environment Committee to discuss how floral displays could be expanded in the future, including the possibility of shopkeepers and residents being encouraged to have hanging baskets and window boxes; (v) That the Clerk make arrangements to have a metal seat installed to replace that previously at the corner of The Grove, with County Councillors contributing £300 towards the installation and arranging for tidying up of the site and provision of a bin and the Parish Council's expenditure of £200 to be ratified as a specific item on the agenda at the next Council meeting; (vi) That the Vice-Chairman raise the planning enforcement matters mentioned with the County Council's Planning Enforcement Officer; (vii) That the Clerk forward the appropriate extract from the minutes of the last meeting to the Quarrington Hill Village Partnership in response to their query with regard to the support for the play park and advise that the Quarrington Hill Parish Councillors were happy that the minutes reflected their individual views and that they had nothing further to add.

10.164 Ratification of Expenditure agreed in principle at the last meeting: The Clerk gave details of items of expenditure that the Council had agreed in principle at the last meeting and that had been placed as specific items on the agenda for audit purposes and to accord with notice required. **(a)** was for a donation of **£200** to assist **Coxhoe Community Partnership** with their fund raising to carry out a refurbishment of the Youth Room at Coxhoe Leisure Centre. **(b)** The Council had agreed that the Clerk be authorised to make the appropriate arrangements for the County Council to provide, erect, remove, and store spiral **Christmas lights** annually for the fifteen new street lamps to be provided in the Front Street at Coxhoe. She had asked the County Council to proceed and requested confirmation that the costs would be £1,900 plus removal and storage costs in 2010 and £2,625 plus storage costs for ongoing testing, erection and removal in future years. Information regarding the removal and storage costs had also been requested. The URRP Project Manager had advised that the costs provided had been budget estimates and that a detailed estimate would need to be drawn to give a more accurate price.

Resolved (i) That a donation of £200 be made to Coxhoe Community Partnership towards the alterations to the Youth Room at the Leisure Centre; (ii) That the action taken with regard to Christmas lights be endorsed and the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to proceed with the ordering of works for the provision and installation of the Christmas lights by the County Council should the costs provided be within a reasonable margin of the estimates.

10.165 Hellens Development at Coxhoe: The Chairman, as promised, had written to the Chief Executive of Hellens requesting an update on the proposed railway crossing gates and the naming of the streets and advising that residents were unhappy at being inconvenienced again by the closure of the haul road and seeking confirmation that that would be the last closure required. Hellens had responded to advise that there had not been an opportunity to provide the gates with the existing scheme and the upgrade to the access road to Basic Cottages was costing a considerable amount of money, as was the percentage for art scheme, both of which had been agreed during the planning process. Mr. Cordwell-Smith had further advised that Hellens had been given an indication by Durham County Council that they would consider an application for housing on an additional circa 2 acres and that as part of the pre application discussions he had suggested to the Planning Officer that the railway gates could be provided as part of that permission. He had advised that he would be happy to come along to a Council meeting to discuss this and had asked for a drawing or photos of what was required. The Clerk had provided him with this again for the fourth time and requested that he let her know whether this was sufficient for his purposes. No response had been received.

On the street naming, Mr. Cordwell-Smith had advised that the streets had been named by Durham County Council already when he passed the suggested names to Barratt Homes and he suggested that there may be an opportunity with the new scheme to use some of the names suggested. The names had been provided to Mr. Cordwell-Smith as far back as February and he had been advised that they had been provided to the County Council in October 2009. Correspondence had been circulated from County Councillor Morgan showing the recommendation of "Prospect Place" and "Sandgate" to put to the County Council officer for two of the streets on the present development. The Officer had also advised that he would keep some of the other names on file to consider for future as the larger site seemed to have been designed to leave the option of extending it to the east. With regard to the third point raised by the Chairman, Mr. Cordwell-Smith had advised that Hellens did request an extension to the original road closure of two weeks due to the unforeseen ground

conditions under the road and that a week had been lost due to bad weather. He understood that a local County Councillor had objected to the extension so it had not been granted and they then had had to apply for a new road closure of 5 weeks which was longer as they had had to open up the road again at significant additional cost to them. He had advised that weather and ground condition depending; there should not be a requirement for any further road closures or extensions to the existing one.

Further correspondence had been received the day of the Parish Council meeting stating that Mr. Cordwell-Smith had had a further meeting with Durham County Council the previous day regarding an application for additional housing at Coxhoe. He had asked for the date of the next Parish Council meeting so that he could present the plans and progress the provision of railway gates as part of the application. He had advised that he had not received any of the Clerk's emails so the information had been sent for a fifth time and also forwarded from the Chairman of the Parish Council which he had now received. Mr. Cordwell-Smith was on holiday for the next Parish Council meeting and had asked for the September date but advised that the company were hoping to submit the formal application in September and should be able to forward detailed plans prior to the August Parish Council meeting.

A Member stated that it was not acceptable that gates could not be provided as a result of the present scheme and expressed dissatisfaction at the art provision being merely for the benefit of the development. There was a need to have something to benefit existing residents at the bottom end of the village or for a school or community centre benefit. He stated that someone senior from Barratts should be invited to a Special Meeting of the Parish Council with the Chief Executive of Hellens and that he may write an article for the Coxhoe Chronicle in connection with the Members' dissatisfaction in this connection and that school places needed to be looked at when additional housing was being considered. It was further stated that the article should include the concerns that the haul road needed to be retained to prevent the tip traffic from travelling through the villages as this had been campaigned for for years.

Resolved (i) That the information be noted; (ii) That the recommendation of County Councillor Morgan to name the streets "Prospect Place" and "Sandgate" on the present development be endorsed; (iii) That Mr. Cordwell-Smith and a senior representative of Barratts be asked to attend a Special Meeting of the Parish Council the week prior to the monthly September meeting to discuss the proposals for the potential additional 2 acre housing site; with County Councillor Morgan also being invited to attend; (iv) That the Vice-Chairman draft an article for the Coxhoe Chronicle about the need for payback to the community in terms of school or community centre facilities for housing developments and the need not to close the haul road as that would take traffic off the link road against what the Council had been fighting for for years; and circulate this for approval prior to publication of the Chronicle.

10.166 Quarrington Hill Village Partnership: had advised that they had agreed to return their meeting night to the last Wednesday of the month. This had been amended so that Parish Councillors could attend but this was not happening so it had been changed back to their preference. The Partnership had suggested a separate meeting with the Parish Council every three to six months to provide an update on their work. A Member stated that both Partnerships should be kept the same but Members considered that the Partnerships were autonomous and it was up to them how they operated as long as the Parish Council were happy with the arrangements for interaction with the Council. Some members of Coxhoe Community Partnership were already, by way of being Members of the Parish Council, present at Council meetings and could continue with the present arrangements of reporting to each meeting.

Resolved That the Quarrington Hill Village Partnership be advised that the Parish Council had agreed to receive updates by way of a separate joint meeting every four months and that they be requested to continue to provide update reports a week in advance of the meetings.

10.167 Coxhoe Community Partnership: The Clerk updated that Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite had been provided with the costs for tree lights at the Memorial Garden but had been advised that funding was not able to be used for them. The Clerk had asked T P Gardens to add cutting the turf and weeding the borders at the Memorial Garden to the usual maintenance schedule. Work was ongoing on the development of a new website in conjunction with the County Council. The Assistant and Parish Clerk had attended website training and now had access to a draft site to start uploading information. Nothing further had been received from Councillor Mrs. Plews in connection with her endeavours to obtain a hearing aid induction loop. She advised that funds were not available at the County Council

and this may have to be private funding and that it was not yet known what would happen with Landsdowne House. The Clerk had queried with Diane Mahoney whether the section within the County Council who were providing the computer classes would consider the potential funding of broadband at Landsdowne House. She had also queried the possibility and costs of the Council insuring the History Group's equipment and would advise further when responses were received. She had sent a letter as requested to advise the Partnership that the Parish Council would support the funding of the internal doors for the Village Hall to the tune of approximately £1020 (although it may be slightly more due to price increases since the original quotes). An agenda for the meeting held 30th June, minutes of the monthly and Annual General Meetings held 5th May and a Project Update as at 17th July had been circulated.

Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite added that an application had been submitted to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust towards the doors at the Village Hall and provided an update on the cycle routes. As little had happened with regard to assistance from the County Council on the regeneration of the village centre, it was proposed to ascertain costs from Groundwork Trust for them to submit grant applications and project manage the work; including the plans for where notice boards and planters should be in the Front Street; the possibility of an environmental planting scheme with rocks, shrubs, and an interpretation panel of the history of the area, between Wesley Place and the roundabout, with funding looked at as part of the Heritage Trail; planters and possibly a figure of a workman and an interpretation panel about the original blacksmith's at the railings outside the Workingmen's Club. She stated that a working group involving representatives of the Community Partnership and the Parish Council would be helpful. The Chairman suggested that a meeting be set up for later in September to start moving this forward. Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite added that she would draft an article for the Coxhoe Chronicle in connection with the churchyard advising that plants near headstones could not be cut down in case of damage and asking that families clear these areas and promoting the idea of the whole community working together to improve the churchyard.

Resolved (i) That the information be noted; (ii) That further information from the County Council in connection with the possibility of the provision of broadband and a hearing aid induction loop at Landsdowne House be awaited; (iii) That the response of Zurich be awaited in connection with the possibility and cost of the History Group's equipment being added to the Council's insurance policy; (iv) That a meeting be convened in late September of representatives of Coxhoe Community Partnership and Coxhoe Parish Council to discuss how to move forward the plans with regard to the regeneration of Coxhoe Front Street; (v) That Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite draft an article for the Coxhoe Chronicle promoting the idea of the community working together to improve the appearance of the churchyard.

10.168 Crowtrees Heritage Group: The agenda for the meeting of 22nd July and minutes of the ordinary and Annual General Meetings held 17th June had been circulated.

Resolved That the information be noted.

10.169 Coxhoe Banner Group: A response from the Group had been circulated to the letter that the Chairman of the Parish Council had sent advising that the Council would assist the Group in any way possible but felt it prudent to dovetail the project into the wider proposals for the regeneration of the area proposed for the Memorial. The letter had advised that Parish Councillors would attend meetings of the Group if they provided dates and explore how the two organisations could work together to deliver the project. The response advised that the meeting would be at 7.30 p.m. in Coxhoe Workingmen's Club on Tuesday 10th August. Councillors Mrs. Hepplewhite and Rowe and the Clerk were on holiday so unable to attend. Councillors Dodsworth, Mayo and County Councillor Mrs. Plews advised that they would attend if possible. On a related matter, at the last meeting it had been reported that the GPs were funding the Medical Practice and had been given the go ahead but there was a need to ascertain the size of the additional requirements for other services so the position had been deferred until July and that the Member of Parliament was taking the matter up with the Chief Executive of the PCT to ensure progress. No further progress had been advised.

Resolved That the information be noted.

10.170 Parish Council Responses to consultations by Durham County Council: The County Council was currently consulting on the County Durham Plan Core Strategy Issues and Options, the Housing Strategy Issues and Options, the Green Belt Assessment Scoping Paper, and the Settlement Study. At the last Parish Council meeting it had been agreed that a Working Party go through suggested responses following comprehensive papers issued from the Assistant Parish Clerk. The Working Party had met 22nd July and their agreed responses had been circulated, together with the various consultation documents and invitations to various consultation events that had been attended by Officers and Councillors of the Parish Council. Those involved were thanked for their substantial input. Councillor Shotton left the meeting. The Assistant Clerk gave details of the main responses and clarified Members' preferred responses where the hard copy document from the County Council differed from that on the website. He advised that one area where the Working Party had differing opinions was in connection with whether there should be more wind farms in the area. Members at the Council meeting, therefore, voted on this matter and the majority were not in favour of any further wind farms in the area. Members expressed their gratitude for the huge amount of work undertaken by the Assistant Parish Clerk in putting together the papers for Members and the comprehensive responses to the various consultations.

Resolved That the responses circulated, with the amendments and comments made at the Parish Council meeting, be agreed and sent to the County Council.

10.171 Correspondence:

10.171.1 Durham County Council:

- a) Details had been circulated of a **Temporary Road and Footway Closure on the Unclassified Commercial Road East** for five weeks from 28th June 2010.
Resolved That the information be noted.
- b) Details had been circulated of **Temporary Public Footpath Closures from Sedgfield to Metal Bridge** to enable electricity upgrade works between July 2010 and January 2011.
Resolved That the information be noted.
- c) The **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP Annual Report 2009/10** had been circulated.
Resolved That the information be noted.
- d) The **East Durham Rural Corridor AAP Board** minutes for AGM and monthly meetings held 19th May and Special Meeting held 16th June, and the agenda for 21st July had been circulated. The meeting on 21st July had been attended by Councillor Pounder and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk and there had been a presentation on the County Durham Plan consultation. A Member added that there had been a Forum meeting on 5th July and it had been mentioned that two way communications and residents' involvement were an ongoing issue. There were decreasing numbers attending the Forums and attendance needed to be encouraged.
Resolved That the information be noted.
- e) Details had been circulated of a **bus trip arranged for the EDRC AAP Board** around the AAP area on 27th July. This had been attended in part by Councillor Mrs. Hepplewhite. The Clerk had joined the meeting on its return to Landsdowne House for discussion on projects that may meet the aims and priorities of the AAP and local areas. It had been mentioned that developing the cycle links would assist the Transport aim and that linking together Community Aspirations and Young People could be assisted by looking at funding community development work and by the purchase of a bus to take mobile services to the community based on the communities' requirements e.g. young, old etc. There was also to be a small grants pot of £30,000. County Councillor Morgan had attended the bus trip. He added that areas of priority and schemes in progress had been highlighted to participants. The car park, Limestone Linx, CCTV and the Youth Room had all been mentioned.
Resolved That the information be noted.

10.171.2 County Durham Association of Local Councils

- f)** Details had been circulated on consultation on the **County Durham Compact** which was a partnership agreement between the public and third sectors and also on a proposed **County Association / SLCC Standards Committee Compact**.
Resolved That the information be noted and no response be sent in connection with either consultation.
- g)** Various documents in relation to the **National Association of Local Councils National Council Meeting** held on 29th June had been circulated.
Resolved That the information be noted.
- h)** Details had been circulated of **Training Courses** that the County Training Partnership and Durham County Council had agreed could be opened up to Parish and Town Council Officers and Members. The costs were £25 for a half day and £50 for a full day.
Resolved That the information be noted.
- i)** Details had been circulated advising that the Government was proposing that Section 106 agreements were no longer a suitable basis for obtaining planning gain and that the Government wanted **Community Infrastructure Levy** agreements to be reached with developers.
Resolved That the information be noted.
- j)** **NALC E-Bulletins** of 2nd and 16th July had been circulated.
Resolved That the information be noted.
- k)** The **Durham Association News for June 2010** had been circulated.
Resolved That the information be noted.
- l)** A further item that had been received from CDALC after the agenda had been sent and which needed to be considered at this meeting due to the timescale for applications was in connection with a trial for **Clever Bins** as part of a study being undertaken by Keep Britain Tidy. The bins were illuminated at night and were designed to attract the attention of the public and increase bin usage to reduce littering on the streets. Applications for consideration for inclusion in the trial by having 15 Clever Bins provided free of charge for up to a year needed to be received by 13th August. The approval of the County Council for the County to empty these as part of their normal clearance would also need to be gained as the Parish Council did not presently empty the bins in the area. Members discussed possible areas, including Church Street, but concluded that illuminated bins with adverts would detract from the appearance of the street.
Resolved That no application be made for Clever Bins.

10.171.3 Other Correspondence

- m)** The latest **NALC Events Bulletin** had been circulated.
Resolved That the information be noted.

10.172 Quarrington Hill Allotments – Review of Tenancy Agreements: was not yet complete due to excessive workload and correspondence.
Resolved That the information be noted.

10.173 Web Statistics: had been circulated for the period 28th June to 26th July 2010.
Resolved That the information be noted.

10.174 Finance:

- 10.174.1 Budget Update:** A financial account summary had been circulated that showed the balance at the end of the last meeting and income and expenditure during the month and

the balance at the end of the month. A budget summary had also been circulated showing that the Council was exactly on budget overall a quarter into the year. The photocopier was the only individual budget that was overspent but Members had previously agreed that this would be overspent due to the administration fee for the rental agreement, agreement to continuing to pay for the maintenance agreement for the copier at the Village Hall, and the colour Limestone Linx leaflets that had not been budgeted for. Insurances were showing as overspent but the amounts paid had been queried with Zurich so hopefully this may be reduced. A Member thanked the Clerk for ensuring that Members had an accurate picture on a monthly basis of the Council's financial position. They stated that there was a need to be mindful that Officers had already worked over 200 hours above what the Council had paid for and that workload was not decreasing. If the trend continued there may be the equivalent of £6,000 unpaid work for the year. The Chairman suggested that this matter be the subject of full discussion at the next Parish Council meeting. The Council needed to realise that a huge amount of work had been undertaken to bring the Council up to date and standard. There was a need to set realistic targets and focus on priorities.

Resolved That the information be noted and the workload of the Officers be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

10.174.2 **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	£
St. Cuthbert's Hospice	Section 137 Donation	50.00
Diabetes UK	Section 137 Donation	50.00
Scottish Power	Electricity Memorial Garden Lights April-July	23.95
Total Business Group	Landsdowne House copier copies May-July	345.85
Total Business Group	Printer Cartridges and stationery	54.59
T P Gardens	Grass cutting and maintenance June-July and 2 hanging baskets	1454.00
Smith of Derby	Annual Maintenance Millennium Clocks	372.48
Durham County Council	Legal Fees – Licence for Coxhoe Village Entrance Sign	25.00
3 Mobile	Broadband & Mobile June	31.75
M. Forster	Clerk Salary July and reimbursement postage	

10.174.3 **Applications for Grants and Donations:** Councillor Pounder declared an interest in the application by **Quarrington Hill Community Centre** as he was a Member of the Shadow Committee. He left the meeting during consideration of the item. The Shadow Committee were arranging a Village Fete on Saturday 21st August and were requesting a donation of £200 for the hire of a bouncy castle. Members commented that the Shadow Committee were very keen to move forward with events at the Community Centre and this was to be encouraged. Any donation would be made payable to Quarrington Hill Community Centre and the present Committee would need to release the funds as the Shadow Committee did not have funds available to them at present. Members concurred that the event would raise the profile of the Community Centre and provide good community involvement and it should be supported.

Resolved That a donation of £200 be made under Section 137 expenditure to Quarrington Hill Community Centre for the purposes of assistance towards the expenses incurred in organising the Village Fete.

10.174.4 **Additional Expenditure of £54 for Hanging Baskets:** County Councillor Morgan left the meeting. Councillor Pounder re-entered the meeting. The Clerk advised that when the review of hanging baskets and planters had taken place, there had been no information on file as to what the current schedule entailed. The baskets had been worked out as 50 for Coxhoe but it had been found that the Parish Council provided baskets at St. Andrew's Methodist Church. The agreement of the Chairman of the Parish Council had been sought to

the additional expenditure which had not been included for in the original quote from TP Gardens. The Assistant Parish Clerk had since trawled both villages and put together a comprehensive schedule of exact locations and requirements of current provision for future use in reviews of hanging baskets, flower bed and planter service.

Resolved That the additional expenditure of £54 for two additional hanging baskets be ratified.

10.175 Planning Applications: Details had been circulated of planning applications that had been determined under delegated authority from 15th June to 26th July and of applications received since the last meeting.

Resolved (i) That the information on delegated authority decisions be noted; (ii) That the information on application 516 for the erection of a detached dwellinghouse and garage at Land West of Beech House, Co-operative Terrace; be noted.

10.176 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 25th August 2010 at 6.45 p.m. in Landsdowne House.

10.177 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.

10.178 Co-op and Village Hall Car Parks:

10.179 Sanderson Street: Members noted Councillor D. Smith's **conflict of interest** in this item.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed on 25th August 2010 as a true record of the meeting:

Cllr. P. Dodsworth (Chairman)

Cllr. S. Dunn (Vice Chairman)