



Delivering Quality Services to
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

Coxhoe Parish Council

Meeting	Full Council
Date	Wednesday 4 th November 2015
Time	7pm
Venue	Coxhoe Village Hall

Minutes of the proceedings of the Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held at 6.30pm in Coxhoe Village Hall on Wednesday 5th November 2015.

Attendance: Councillors; S Dunn, T Rowe, C Thirlaway, K Pounder, W Lavelle, C Hogarth, E Thompson and K Simpson.

Apologies: T Plews, Durham County Cllr J Blakey. **Absent:** B Hepplewhite.

Other: The Clerk Mr G Price, DCC Cllr's M Plews, M Williams. 1 Parishioner.

125. Declarations of Interests:

Cllr. K Simpson declared an interest in all matters relating to Coxhoe Primary School.

Cllr. C Hogarth declared an interest in all matters relating to Quarrington Hill Allotments and the Kingswood Community Group.

Cllr. E Thompson declared an interest in all matters relating to Kingswood Community Partnership.

Cllr. S Dunn declared an interest in all matters relating to Future Leisure in Coxhoe (FLIC).

Cllr. W Lavelle declared an interest in all matters relating to FLIC and Coxhoe Community Partnership.

Cllr K Pounder declared an interest in all matters relating to Quarrington Hill Community Centre and Quarrington Hill Village Partnership.

Cllr T Rowe declared an interest in all matters relating to Coxhoe Medical Practice and Coxhoe Village Hall.

126. Police and Neighbourhood Wardens Reports.

In the absence of the police a report was circulated in advance.

Members express concern that an incident of assault in Quarrington Hill was not included.

Members advised that an incident at the crossroads had a vehicle stranded in the middle of the junction causing obstruction and despite 3 calls the police never arrived.

Residents expressed concern at the number of burglaries reported by the police.

Members also expressed concerns at the road works along Station Road that resulted in traffic moving through Cornforth Lane ignoring signage raising concern from many residents. Again a lack of police presence allowed this.

Members were pleased that the road re-surfacing was completed as this was an issue that had previously raised complaints. With consideration to DCC's budget reductions Coxhoe had received major improvements to its roads/resurfacing.

It was **agreed** that the report be received and for the Clerk to forward the above points to the police.

The chair further advised that DCC Highways were to install the speed bumps at the Motorway entrance to Cornforth Lane and Cllr M Williams also advised that further traffic calming measures were being considered along Cornforth Lane by DCC Highways.

The Chair also advised that a meeting was held with DCC Highways regarding the Parking Restrictions in Coxhoe. Following DCC's consultation some 8 complaints were received. Highways were intending to have a report into council in December/January with installation of restrictions coming into place in Easter 2016.

Cllr M Plews further advised that traffic calming to the rear of the Cooperative Store was being investigated and residents were still seeking the last of the through roads in the Grove to be blocked off.

127. Representations from residents of the parish. None.

128. Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th October 2015. It was **resolved** that the minutes provided an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the chair.

129. Minutes of the Public Meeting on Neighbourhood Planning Meeting held on the 21st October 2015. The chair commented that the meeting was well attended and productive and had raised interest in the community. It was **resolved** that the minutes provided an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the chair.

130. Clerks report on matters raised the previous month. Report was circulated in advance. The clerk provided a brief update of matters circulated in the briefing.

Minute 98. With regards to seeking a long-term solution to Coxhoe Medical Practice an action needed to be agreed and issues raised with those concerned.

Minute 70. Hearing Loop for PC meeting room. This matter still remained outstanding.

Minute 83. Lighting between the Newsagents and Community Centre at Quarrington Hill. The clerk is to meet with DCC Highways on site to discuss possible solution to this matter.

Minute 102. Planting of Bulbs on Village Green is set for Saturday morning 7th November. A reply is awaited from DCC on the siting of the Dog Bins and the Quality Award submission required several revisions that are being progressed.

Minute 105g. A date to meet with Quarrington Hill Allotment holders was arranged.

Minute 105h. Information was received from Ferryhill Town council regarding the running of a Disc Parking for the Carpark. Any signage to be erected in the Carpark needs to be agreed by the CVH and parish council and to be mindful of ownership and responsibilities. The Chair had contacted Gatenby regarding a section of land for possible carpark.

Minute 106 iv. It was **resolved** to replace the old Notice Board on the wall adjacent to the bus shelter opposite the village hall. The Chair advised of other potential locations for additional notice boards but suggested other members to explore other possible locations. ALL TO NOTE and provide feedback.

Councillor vacancy. The Clerk advised that the closing date for calling an election was near closing and at present no response was received. In the event that no election was called the Clerk would implement the co-option process.

Old Mineral Railway Line. The Clerk further advised that a reply was received from Cassop Cum-Quarrington parish stating they were supportive of joint working to reinstate this route and would send a reminder to Cornforth PC.

Recording of Council Meetings (Video and Audio). The chair deferred this matter and requested more information be sought.

131. Durham County Councillors report.

Cllr M Plews circulated reports concerning the 'Devolution offer from the Government to the North East' and a roundup of information from DCC. Cllr M Plews encouraged all concerned to spare some thought to the campaigns for the Mayor and to link into these campaigns and vote as necessary.

Cllr M Williams advised of the Grab-a-Grant from Durham City Homes.

Members raised concern with regards to an empty property along Cornforth Lane that was boarded up and attracting problems. Cllr M Plews advised that this was reported to DCC Environmental Health but no issues were raised. However, concerns were still raised regarding the buildings security and its distraction to the surrounding properties. Cllr Plews would pursue this through DCC's Empty Property Team.

Members raised concern regarding the street lighting from the Sensory Gardens down to the Gas House. These units were still not operating. Cllr M Plews would seek to have this resolved via DCC Street Lighting.

132. Report of the Children and Young Peoples Service Coordinator. The brief report was circulated. The Chair advised that following a recent meeting her efforts would be directed to more strategic matters. It was **resolved** that the report be noted.

133. Community reports.

- I. Quarrington Hill Village Partnership.** No report was received.
- II. Quarrington Hill Community Centre.** No report was received.
- III. Quarrington Hill Front Street Regeneration Scheme.** Members advised that issues concerning the use of a Kiln were resolved by the Artiste although some concern is expressed in the quality of the stone provided for the central sculpture. A meeting would be called soon to discuss matters. Members advised that the Grant from CDCF was not yet approved for the project to proceed in part phase. The Clerk was requested to forward information to them concerning DCC permission to utilise the land. It was **resolved** that the report be noted.

DCC Cllr M Williams left the meeting.

- I. Coxhoe Community Partnership.** No report was received.
- II. Coxhoe Village Hall.** Members advised that much work had progressed whereby the heating system had been renewed, pipe work boxed, repainting of rooms, new lighting installed with some to be replaced and toilet roll holders installed. It was **resolved** that the report be noted.
- III. Active Life Centre Coxhoe.** Members advised that the Halloween party was successful, Christmas and New Year festivities were planned and being promoted. A financial review had been undertaken that had assessed the impact of the minimum wage that was predicting a deficit in the years ahead and needed to be addressed. It was **resolved** that the report be noted.
- IV. Youth Strategy.** This matter was covered in the Children & Young Peoples Service Co-ordinator's report.
- V. Kingswood.** Members advised that the Kingswood Plan was now being used as a model document for other organisations to use. Efforts to extend the project into land areas in Kelloe Parish were progressing and the Countryside Rangers were showing full commitment. Horse riding issues were discussed and this issue will be resolved in partnership with their interests. It was **resolved** that the report be noted.
- VI. Village Atlas.** No report was received.

134. Member's reports from meetings attended.

- I. CDALC meeting.** The outcome of the AGM was circulated for member's information.
- II. Neighbourhood Planning meeting.** A report was circulated from members who attended a recent event at Aycliffe. The Chair advised that the meeting raised some pertinent points concerning the views of the planning inspector and those of the Durham City Green Belt protectors. Several presentations were given that illustrated the importance of including issues of Public Health and Heritage in the neighbourhood plan. It was important to make all residents in the parish aware of the present situation and process of producing a neighbourhood plan.

135. PP2. No report provided.

136. Notice Boards. Discussed in Clerk's report.

137. Christmas Lighting. It was **resolved** that the lights would be set to come on during the hours of 3-12pm and 6.30-9am. The clerk advised that the electrician had been contacted and the timers would be renewed and these proved to be defective last year.

138. Hanging Basket Review. The Clerk was requested to circulate the existing list of hanging baskets and location where they are provided. Members would provide other ideas of where such baskets could be located and/or where alternative floral displays could be implemented into the environment.

139. Seating at Grove Junction, Station Road. Members advised that it was some 3 years or more since the council had received funds to replace this unit. The Clerk was requested to source information from Cllr M Plews on this matter and seek to have the unit installed.

140. Village Hall Car Park. The Transfer and Lease back is now agreed by Coxhoe Village Hall (CVH) and the Clerk is requested to forward agreement to the council's Solicitor's for guidance. CVH are requiring the car park to have restrictions to aid the use of the centre to restrain long stay parking. The chair advised that he had contacted Gatenby regarding the possible use of the land to the rear of his premises that was originally intended to be used by Gatenby for parking. Details of the Cooperative parking improvements are yet to be received and considered by the parish and CVH and it is believed that their proposal (business case) is being evaluated.

141. Parkhill and Land Transfers. Land values have not yet been received from DCC, but in principal they agree that most of the areas can be transferred to the parish with some being offered on a 10 year lease arrangement. Members **agreed** that if a 10 year lease was the only way to acquire some of the plots they were in agreement, but noted that this added to the legal issues.

DCC Cllr M Plews left the meeting.

142. Correspondence for Information and Action.

- a) **Minutes of the Coxhoe Quarry Liaison Meeting** were circulated for information.
- b) **Update from the Joint Stocks Landfill Site** was circulated for information.
- c) **The invitation to the NECA event** was circulated for information.

143. Neighbourhood development plan.

- a) Formation of Steering Group. It was **resolved** to hold an open meeting on the 16th December and invite Gavin Scott from DCC planning department to give a talk on the process.
- b) Access to information on the neighbourhood planning process to be carried on the website with further cloud library for information.
- c) Early Neighbourhood Plan research with Cassop and Sedgefield. The presentation of the Sedgefield neighbourhood plan was withdrawn from the recent meeting at Aycliffe due to concerns with consultation. Although contact will be made regarding their process and plan produced.
- d) Visit by DCC Planners for the 16th December.
- e) Launch of Volunteer request include in the open meeting on the 16th December.
- f) Time Plan. A draft of this needed to be discussed and clarified with the newly formed steering group when in place.
- g) Determining cost of producing the plan. Specialist input needs to be costed i.e. Housing Needs Assessment, Sustainability Assessment, Environment Appraisal, Heritage Appraisal, Health and Well-Being etc., prior to applying to Locality for a grant.
- h) Future meeting dates proposed 16th December, 24th February 2016 and 27th April.

Cllr T Rowe left the meeting.

144. Finance.

- a) **The schedule of payments for October were distributed for member's approval.** It was **resolved** that the accounts presented to members be accepted this included vouchers 400979 to 400988, receipts, Direct Debits and account transfers.

Payee	Category	Debits	Credits
GE Capital	Photocopier Contract	132.00	
Mr C Robinson	Rent for Paddock		150.00
Coxhoe Village Hall	Insurance Recharge		1,174.00
Transfer	Transfer		
Mastercopy	Photocopier Usage	36.00	
Transfer to Current	Transfer		30,000.00
Brian Crampton Ltd	CVH Heating	28,584.00	
R W Taylor	War Memorial	250.00	
North East Regional Employees Org.	C&YPSC Job Advert	180.00	
G Price	Telephone	-36.04	

G Price	Postage	14.47	
G Price	Salary	1,516.12	
A Hitchens	Salary	1,126.24	
HMRC	PAYE	565.77	
Thinford Nurseries	Hanging Baskets and Containers	3,975.60	
Total Business Group	Office Stationery	291.35	
Altogether Greener	Grounds Maintenance	503.60	
The Red Lion FC	Section 137	200.00	
Three Mobile	Telephony	37.24	
Three Mobile	Telephony	36.14	
Mastercopy	Photocopier Usage	79.53	
Transfer to Current	Transfer		4,000.00
	Totals	37,492.02	35,324.00

- b) New Banking Authorised Signatory.** It was **resolved** that Cllr K Simpson would replace the outgoing member.
- c) To consider the provision of financial support for 'Bite the Ballot'.** It was **resolved** that an application form be forwarded for their completion and upon receipt it would be considered.
- d) To consider the request for financial support from Coxhoe Village Hall.** Copy of the application was circulated. It was **resolved** that this application be declined and that arising from the finance meeting the allocation of £1,000 for rent/use of premises is to be paid by the parish. It was further **resolved** that the Parish Council would install the bar shutters on completion of the transfer of the premises as requested and no further actions on the other requests at this point.
- e) To consider the request for financial support from Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership to fund legal advice on challenging the decision to permit building of 190 dwelling at Parkhill.** This was declined.
- f) Minutes of the Finance Sub-Committee.** Minutes of the meeting were circulated and it was **resolved** that the recommendations be agreed too and accepted as part of the budget/precepting process for the forthcoming year.

145. Planning matters.

Planning Applications for Consideration.

DM/15/03059/FPA	Mr & Mrs J & L Lowe. 4 Aged Miners Homes, Quarrington Hill DH6 4QH.	Erection of single-storey extension at rear of dwelling.
DM/14/02820/FPA	Mrs E Hagan, Fairview, The Potteries, Front Street, Coxhoe.	Alteration to Footprint of Plots 9-12 and installation of Obscurely Glazed Windows to first floor bathrooms (all plots).

No objections or concerns were raised to the above proposals.

146. Exclusion of the Press and Public. No matters.

147. Date and time of next meeting.

The next meeting of the council would be on the 2nd December 2015 starting at 7pm in Coxhoe Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed on 2nd December 2015 as a true record of the meeting.

Cllr. S Dunn (Chair)

Cllr. C Hogarth (Vice-Chair)