

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 10th April 2007 at Coxhoe Village Hall at 6:30pm.

F Burn in the chair

Present: G Shotton, D Smith, J Taylor, P Dodsworth, B Hepplewhite,
Apologies: J Ashford, S Dunn, T Duffy, M Crathorne and D Carruthers,
Also Present: J Ogden, R Brown, S Lunn, J Hepplewhite, and R Mayo

Annual Report

The Clerk introduced the annual report and the Chairman detailed the activities of the Parish Council over the course of the past year and summarised the functions of the Parish Council to those present. The Clerk then summarised the draft accounts for the financial year just ended.

Questions

The Chairman then opened the meeting to questions from the public. There were no questions on the report itself, however the following issues were raised:

City Councillor J Hepplewhite felt that the Parish Council budget was very small considering all of the issues that had been highlighted in the parish plan. It was explained that there had been much debate when setting the current precept, mindful of the schemes that the village had expressed a wish to be delivered. The Parish Council set a modest increase to their element of the council tax, but agreed to look at current saleable assets and alternative methods of funding. Accepting the limited funding available through the annual precept the majority of funding for village improvements was not now available within local government, but was available for local groups. The Parish Council would work closely with these groups to deliver the parish plan.

Mr Ogden expressed his views that not enough was being done to combat crime and vandalism in the community. Whilst statistics showed that there was little crime compared to other villages, it was felt that this was because of an apathy on behalf of the public to report incidents, this despite much publicity in local publications. It was felt that too many office jobs were being created and there was not enough 'bobbies on the beat'.

Details were provided of the work being carried out by the Parish Council and Coxhoe Together to put things in place that would help to combat crime and the fact that the Police Authority was normally represented at monthly meetings. Coxhoe Together had recently met with Inspector Dodds and in another meeting the Police Architectural Liaison Officer had highlighted a number of issues, and a report was expected in the near future that would provide a basis for some self-improvement works. The Parish Council was advised that there was now a level of expertise within the village on alcohol and drug dependency and this may be invaluable in future planning.

The Parish Council were strongly urged to take a lead in ensuring that something was done to improve the current situation. The Parish Plan had highlighted crime and community safety as a major issue, but had made traffic

calming the number one issue. Works were now underway in Coxhoe and were in the planning stage for Quarrington Hill on traffic calming and so crime and community safety would now be prioritised. It was proposed that a crime and community safety meeting would be held shortly after the May elections. All agencies would be invited and the initial meeting would be fully open to the public. A working party would then be formed to try to initiate the requirements. Hopefully the prioritisation of this issue would ensure that progress was made over the next year.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and the meeting ended 7:05pm

.....

Signed as a true copy of the meeting Chairman

..... Clerk

(Pages 1 – 2 inclusive)

..... Date