

Minutes of the Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th June 2007 at Coxhoe Village Hall.

P Dodsworth in the chair

Present: G Shotton, D Smith, B Hepplewhite, S Dunn, J Beecham, R Mayo, C Thirlaway, K Pounder and C Wigham

Apologies for Absence : J Taylor

07.15. Minutes from Meeting held on 8th May 2007

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed as a true record

07.16. Police Report

PC Ogilvie presented the report, the details of which were noted.

Rowdy Nuisance – 6 reported incidents in Coxhoe – 1 youth related, 4 dispute related, 1 noise related.

8 reported incidents in Quarrington Hill – 2 neighbour related, 3 youth related, 3 dispute related

Vehicle Nuisance- 3 reported incidents in Coxhoe – 2 motorbike related, 1 parking
1 reported incident in Quarrington Hill – motorbike related.

Assault - 1 reported incident – assault at The Grove, Coxhoe on 19/05/07 – suspect unknown

Theft - 4 reported incidents – 23/05/07 2 x shoplifting Co-op, Coxhoe and
25/05/07 - suspect arrested, charges pending, 04/06/07 theft at
Church Street, Coxhoe – named suspect – enquiries ongoing

Burglary - 2 reported incidents– 15/05/07 – high value commercial burglary The
Avenue, Coxhoe, enquiries ongoing – 08/06/07- shed burglary,
Hawthorn Crescent, Quarrington Hill

Criminal Damage – 4 reported incidents – 02/06/07 – damage to door at Co-operative
Terrace, Coxhoe, 03/06/07 – damage to window at The Grove,
05/06/07 – damage to shrubs at the Sensory Garden, Coxhoe (CCTV
being investigated), 10/06/07 – damage to window at Belle Vue – one
arrest and charge.

Drugs - 09/05/07 cultivation of cannabis at The Grove, Coxhoe – 1 arrest,
enquiry ongoing

Other Crime- 12/05/07 – harassment at Neil Crescent, Quarrington Hill, suspect
arrested

Other Issues - with the completion of the Streetsafe initiative at Bowburn, there will
now be an increase in resourcing, with greater visibility from the PCSO's in each village.
An update was given on the reason for the objection to the traffic calming measures at the
Tarka Centre and a lengthy discussion followed on this issue.

Concerns had been raised at the Neighbourhood Forum relating to youths in Coxhoe
churchyard and the fact that incidents were still not being reported.

Serious concerns were expressed by Members relating to speeding traffic at Quarrington
Hill. A number of fixed penalties had been issued.

Concern was again expressed relating to lighting at Coxhoe, Coop. The Police were
progressing this matter.

07.17. Points to Note

The following details were noted:

a) Quarrington Hill Stones

The stones were now in place. Details needed to be provided to Durham County Council for
plants/flowers to be planted in front of the stones.

b) Coxhoe Village Signs

A meeting was to take place on the 13th June with the artist and Durham County Council to agree locations for the signs.

c) Hanging Baskets

It was expected that the hanging baskets would be in place during the next week.

d) Training

It had been agreed that a training course would be put on for the benefit of the Parish Council. Details and costs were to follow.

07.18. Reports of the Clerk

The Clerk reported on the following issues:

a) Traffic management

An update was given on the completed schemes. The proposals for the Tarka Centre had been rejected by the Police and an alternative location was now proposed by Durham County Council. Designs for the Quarrington Hill scheme would not now be carried out until the end of 2007. Formal consultation on The Avenue scheme would take place in the near future. All Requests for external private funding had been rejected.

Resolved: a meeting to be arranged with the County Council as soon as possible to discuss the Tarka and Quarrington Hill situations. If necessary the Parish Council would look to obtain funding for the Quarrington Hill scheme themselves in 2008 on confirmation that this would be repaid by the County Council.

b) Report of the Internal Auditor

The report was circulated and the recommendations regarding bank accounts, Clerks manual, agendas, meeting and minutes were discussed by Members

Resolved: the recommendations in the report are adopted as soon as possible.

c) Code of Conduct

A new model code of conduct had now been provided nationally and was circulated and discussed.

Resolved: that the model code of conduct is formally adopted by the Council without alteration

d) Freedom of Information Act

The Clerk circulated a copy of the model publication scheme for the act

Resolved: the Clerk to make further checks on the adoption of the scheme and if no details were available to adopt the core information in the core classes only

e) Planning Applications

The following planning applications had been received and were noted without objection

- i) Retention of steel container and retention of increased height of boundary wall adjacent to the main building of The Old Chapel, Front Street north, Quarrington Hill
- ii) Erection of a two storey pitched roof extension to the front, side and rear of the existing dwelling and erection of a single storey front extension to East House Farm, Coxhoe
- iii) Reserved matters application for erection of 1 detached two storey dwelling on plot 1 on land rear of Roslyn House, The Avenue, Coxhoe

- iv) Erection of a 2 storey pitched roof extension with first floor balcony to rear of 40 Neil Crescent, Quarrington Hill
- v) Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of a single storey pitched roof extension to rear of the existing dwelling, 66 Beechfield Rise, Coxhoe

f) Budget Update

The Clerk circulated the latest account and budget details for discussion. He advised that in accordance with the terms of his contract his salary should move to the next point on the scale with effect from 1st April 2007 at a rate of £8.035 per hour. He advised that a contribution payment for last years grasscutting works at Quarrington Hill churchyard had still not been received from the Parochial Church Council. The annual honoraria for the Chairman was confirmed at £50 per annum. Councillor Dodsworth confirmed that he did not wish to receive the payment.

Resolved: i) the budget details were noted ii) the increase in the Clerks salary in accordance with the national scale was approved iii) a further letter be sent to the Pariochial Church Council requiring payment.

07.19. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted.

a) Councillor J Taylor

A letter received from Councillor Taylor relating to the annual general meeting was read out and discussed.

Resolved: the letter was received and the Chairman to write a response providing an apology for any embarrassment that may have been caused by the situation.

b) M J Williams

A letter received from Mr Williams concerning the planning application re the Old Cinema at Coxhoe was read out and discussed.

Resolved: to re-iterate the previous comments of the Council on the application.

c) Insurance Facilities

The County Association had contacted the Clerk relating to potential savings in insurance premiums, through a link with Durham Rural Community Council.

Resolved: The Clerk to provide details of the Council's insurance cover and express an interest in the scheme.

d) Post Office Closures

Details of post off ice closures were to be announced shortly and any objections would have to be made quickly.

Resolved: if any local post offices were included in the closure list, objections be made.

e) Local Government Review

A further leaflet was provided by Durham County Council.

f) Quality Council

The Clerk provided booklets on the scheme for all Members and advised of a mentoring scheme commencing in July at a cost of £100.

Resolved: the Clerk to enrol on the scheme at the agreed cost.

07.20. Other Issues

Councillors raised a number of other issues and the details were noted.

a) Coxhoe Together

Councillor Dodsworth provided a full update on the application for the churchyard heritage scheme, the village hall improvement scheme, the planters and the master plan.

b) Quarrington Hill Village Partnership

Councillor Pounder provide an update of the annual report of the Partnership and detailed the main areas of work relating to traffic management, provision for children and young people, landscaping, crime in the community and housing.

c) Parish Plan

Progress on the implementation and procedures to move the plan forward were discussed. **Resolved:** The Parish Council would meet on a quarterly basis with Coxhoe Together and the Quarrington Hill Village Partnership to discuss the implementation of the plan. The first meetings to be 1st August and 25th July respectively and minutes of the monthly meetings to be supplied to all Councillors. A three year plan was to be prepared on the implementation of the parish plan.

d) Jubilee Way Cycle Route

Details of the proposals were given

Resolved: to provide a letter of support from the scheme

e) Crowtrees Heritage Trail

The organisers had received an award from Durham County Council for the scheme and were congratulated.

f) Disused buildings

New powers were now in place relating to disused buildings

Resolved: details be sought and where relevant action be requested

07.21. Accounts for Payment/Requests for Financial Assistance

a) A request was received from the Mayor of Durham for a donation towards his appeal fund

Resolved: a donation of £50 was agreed

b) The Clerk detailed the accounts for payment and the following were approved:

Creditor	Reason	Amount	Minute
G Bestford	Internal Audit Fee	100.00	124
Durham CAB	Outreach Service	624.00	204iii
TP Gardens	Grasscutting (May)	360.00	249
F Burn	Chairs Honoraria	50.00	07.18f
N King	Salary (May)		07.18fi
Soc. Of Local Council Clerks	Membership Fees	85.00	07.11f
City of Durham	Mayors Appeal Fund	50.00	07.21a

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Signed as a true copy of the meeting Chairman

..... Clerk

(Pages 6 – 9 inclusive) Date