

Minutes of the Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 14th August 2007 at Coxhoe Village Hall.

S Dunn in the chair

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

Apologies for Absence: P Dodsworth, County Councillor Morgan, City Councillor Plews

7.29 Questions from the public

There were no members of the public in attendance, but the following queries had been received by Councillor Dunn:

a) Concern had been expressed relating to the state of the public right of way along the bypass at Coxhoe. This issue had already been raised with County Council and a response was awaited.

b) Mr Jones had again raised the issues relating to Quarrington Hill churchyard. The Clerk had passed all of the correspondence on to the Diocese to action but the Parish Council was unable to assist further. Maintenance in the old part of the churchyard was discussed.

Resolved: the Clerk to contact the countryside rangers' team to ascertain when if and when it was best for works to be carried out.

07.30. Minutes from Meeting held on 10th July 2007

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

07.31. Police Report

On this occasion no report had been received and the police were not represented at the meeting.

07.32 Points to Note

The following details were noted:

a) Coxhoe Village Signs

No further progress had been made at this time due to the school holidays.

b) Training

The Clerk detailed the training course for Councillors, which would commence at 6:30pm on Tuesday 28th August at Coxhoe Village Hall

c) Maintenance of public rights of way

The Clerk had contacted the County Council about the state of the old railway line walk and had been advised that it was a priority 3 walk scheduled for maintenance once a year. This would be carried out in the near future. Walkways that were the Parish Councils' responsibility had been recently cut.

07.33. Reports of the Clerk

The Clerk reported on the following issues and the details were noted:

a) Planning Applications

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

- i) Erection of a single storey pitched roof extension to rear elevation of existing dwelling at 1 Meadow View, Coxhoe
- ii) Erection of a single storey pitched roof extension to rear of existing dwelling at 27 Beechfield Rise, Coxhoe

- iii) Erection of a single storey pitched roof extension to side elevation of existing dwelling at 52 Petterson Dale, Coxhoe
 - iv) Erection of a single storey pitched roof extension to side/rear of existing dwelling and conversion of garage to a habitable room at 1 Blackgate West, Coxhoe
 - v) Confirmation had been received of the planning approval for tyre storage at Joint Stocks Quarry and further details were provided
- Councillor Hepplewhite declared an interest in item ii) and took no part in the discussion

b) Traffic management

Information had now been received from the County Council on the various schemes.

- i) The order had been placed for the temporary works at Gem café.
- ii) There were 7 objections to the revised Avenue scheme and a Highways Committee meeting would be held to hear these objections.
- iii) Works had been ordered for the chicane east of Cassop school
- iv) Cushions were to be proposed between the crossroads and the chicane and were currently under consultation.
- v) Proposals were being finalised to extend the street lighting and speed limit at the west of the village.

Resolved: the Clerk to contact the County to see if the objections at The Avenue relate to the scheme revisions. A further meeting with Gordon Wingrove be arranged for Thursday 6th September and the police be invited to the meeting.

c) Members Code of Conduct

Members had previously adopted the model code of conduct. The City Council had now confirmed that they had adopted the model with one addition relating to members' interests

Resolved: the addition be incorporated into the code of conduct and duly adopted.

d) Quality Council

The clerk had attended the first mentoring session and had started to put together the first modules of the portfolio. An item on quality status would be included in the latest newsletters. The Clerk had written an information document on quality status for inclusion on the Council's website and this was approved.

e) Maintenance of Seats

The two seats placed in the churchyard at Coxhoe were in need of painting and the one next to the church had become insecure

Resolved: the Clerk to order the redecoration and repair of the seats. This to be funded from the allocation for new seats in the budget.

f) Draft Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The plan was a large document that did not refer to specific areas or improvements needed. The Clerk provided details of a P3 training event on the 29 September.

Resolved: the Clerk to contact the County Council and ask for someone to attend a future meeting to explain the effect of the plan on the parish.

g) Budgetary Update

The Clerk circulated an up to date bank reconciliation and budgetary statement and the details and its implications were discussed at length. The Clerk provided an update on the possible sale of gardens at Sanderson Street and Councillor Smith declared an interest and left the room at this point and took no part in the discussion of this item. The possibility of the provision of a Community Development Officer if funding was available to move forward the parish plan was discussed

Resolved: i) the budgetary process would be discussed in detail after further cost details

were received on traffic management and the working party had looked at parish plan implications ii) the Clerk to contact the Community Council about funding

07.34. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and noted.

a) Sanderson Street Gardens

A letter had been received from Mr Wilson relating to the garden to the rear of his property and requesting that he keep the tenancy during the period that his property was let to tenants.

Resolved: Mr Wilson to be advised that he can retain the tenancy, subject to the possible sale of land.

b) Review of Licensing Policy

A consultation document had been received from the City Council on this policy and was circulated to Members.

c) Policing Plan 2007/08

The Clerk provided details of the availability of this policy on the website www.durham.pa.gov.uk

d) Local Government Reorganisation

The Clerk circulated a letter from Durham County Council advising of the latest developments on reorganisation.

e) Bus shelters

A letter had been received from the County Council detailing the procedure on the removal of a bus shelter

07.35 Other Issues

a) Parish Plan and Action Plan/Partnership Updates

Following the joint meetings of the Parish Council with Quarrington Hill Village Partnership and Coxhoe Together updated documents on the current situation were circulated and discussed. Coxhoe Park had been granted green flag status and an event was to be organised for October. Tarmac paths at Coxhoe churchyard had been reinstated.

Resolved: **i)** to write to the MP requesting assistance in the bid to get additional housing for Quarrington Hill **ii)** the Clerk to contact the County Council regarding unoccupied industrial units at Quarrington Hill **iii)** the Clerk to contact other local parish councils to get support for a revised bus service to Gilesgate (Tesco) **iv)** Councillor Smith to find more information on action that can be taken relating to unsightly properties **v)** work to be carried out on including issues from the Quarrington Hill website on the Parish Council website and updating it.

b) Coxhoe Churchyard

A cardboard camp had been made among bushes at the churchyard

Resolved: to contact the City Council to ask for its removal

c) Hedges- Quarrington Hill

Hedges were overgrown on land opposite Belle Vue and youths were congregating there

Resolved: to contact the Countryside Ranger team to ascertain ownership of the land and to rectify the problem

07.36 Accounts for Payment/Requests for Financial Assistance

a) A request was received from the 12 Villages Community Network for a donation towards the cost of new projects

Resolved: on a vote it was agreed that the request was received. No action to be taken.

b) A request was received from Quarrington Hill Community Centre for a donation towards their banner project.

Resolved: The Clerk to look at similar funding requests and further details to be requested from the group via an application form to consider the level of donation.

c) the invoice from Kantara included a renewal of the domain name as part of the website service

Resolved: to continue with the website domain name through Kantara

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

Creditor	Reason	Amount	Minute
Kantara Ltd	Website service/domain name	£175.08	07.28c
Thinford Nurseries	Hanging baskets/watering QH	£756.94	313
Thinford Nurseries	Hanging baskets/watering Coxhoe	£1828.07	313
N King	Salary – July		07.18fi
TP Gardens	Grasscutting July	£540.00	249

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Signed as a true copy of the meeting Chairman

..... Clerk

(Pages 14 – 17 inclusive) Date