

Minutes of the Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th December 2007 at Coxhoe Village Hall.

P Dodsworth in the chair

Present: S Dunn, K Pounder, C Wigham, C Thirlaway, R Mayo, G Shotton and B Hepplewhite.

City Councillor M Plews

07.108 Apologies for Absence: D Smith

07.109 Questions from the Public

There were no members of the public in attendance and no questions had been forwarded.

07.110 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

07.111 Police Report

PCSO Wilkinson attended the meeting and presented the report for the period 14th November 2007 to 11th December 2007.

Assault - 1 reported incident – on road between Quarrington Hill and Kelloe on 27/11/07

Burglary - 1 reported incident–28/11/07 Cassop School – laptop computers stolen – press release –enquiries ongoing

Criminal Damage – 3 reported incidents –21/11/07 – damage to roof at Church Street, Coxhoe, 25/11/07 – damage to motor vehicle at Gladstone Terrace, Coxhoe, 03/12/07 damage to window at Cassop School

Anti-Social Behaviour – 4 reported incidents in Coxhoe, 1 in Quarrington Hill

There has been a notable reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents reported to police compared with previous 2 months. 5 youths in Coxhoe have been referred to YISP with consent of parents.

Vehicle Nuisance- 8 reported incidents in Coxhoe – 7 motorbike related and 1 road related. 2 reported incidents in Quarrington Hill – both motorbike related. Principal complaint around The Grove, Grange Crescent, Green Crescent area.

Crime Other – 16/11/07 incident with BB gun at Blackgate East, Coxhoe. 1 arrest. Charges pending

Other Issues – PCSO Wilkinson provided feedback relating to weight restrictions and abuse of traffic restrictions in Cornforth Lane detailed at last meeting. Concern was raised relating to the nearness of lorries to the path at Quarrington Hill resulting from the traffic measures. Concern was raised about the lack of knowledge of the emergency services accessing the nature reserve at Quarrington Hill

Resolved: the details were noted.

07.112 Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan

A comprehensive presentation was given by Victoria Lloyd, Rights of Way Improvement Plan Officer, on the plan and its implications for the Parish Council and local community. Ms Lloyd answered Members questions and detailed funding options.

Resolved: the details were noted.

07.113 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true copy and signed by the Chairman.

07.114 Points of Note

The Clerk had previously circulated an update of issues raised at the last meeting and these were discussed.

Resolved: the details were noted.

Reports of the Clerk

07.115 Budget and Precept.

The latest budget statement had been circulated for discussion. A meeting of the finance working group had been held previously and their budget recommendations, which had been previously circulated, were discussed at length.

Resolved:

(i) The level of precept for 2008/09 was set at £33,473 and the Clerk was to make the necessary return to Durham City Council.

(ii) A contribution of £1,000 to be sought from each Parochial Church Council towards the cost of churchyard maintenance.

(iii) A P3 application is to be made for funding to assist with rights of way maintenance.

(iv) The Clerk's salary to be increased in accordance with the national pay award and incremental increases to be paid each April in accordance with his contract.

(v) To increase the number of hours worked each month by the Clerk to 50 to reflect the increased workload regarding quality status and an honoraria be paid when quality status achieved.

(vi) The Clerk to look at the cost of replacing the Council's PC and co-ordinate the purchase or lease with the Chairman.

(vii) No extension to the current number of hanging baskets provided in each village. Subject to cost Thinford Nurseries be requested to provide the service in 2008 and financial regulations be waived due to the requirement for a local service provider.

(viii) Funding be provided to replenish the planters in Coxhoe (£200) and the flower beds at Quarrington Hill (£500).

(ix) The levels of allotment rents at Willow Cottages to remain the same for 2008/09, but be reviewed if improvements carried out.

(x) The levels of allotment rents at Quarrington Hill to remain the same for 2008/09, subject to the terms of the lease renewal.

(xi) The level of garden rents at Sanderson Street to be reviewed if for any reason sale does not proceed.

(xii) The level of grant for Coxhoe Village Hall and Quarrington Hill Community Centre to remain at £600 and £300 respectively.

(xiii) The total level of donations and grants to be increased to £3,500, with £1,000 of the total being set aside for the cost of play park provision at Quarrington Hill.

(xiv) The criteria for the distribution of donations to be discussed at the meeting in February 2008.

(xv) The current level of CAB outreach service to be continued. The Parish Council to contribute towards the cost of the service and the hire of the halls.

(xvi) The Parish Council to continue to pay for the installation and removal of Xmas lights at Coxhoe Village Hall.

(xvii) £1,000 be put aside for provision of lighting in both villages, subject to match funding by village partnerships.

(xviii) A fund to be created to meet the cost of any election and £1,000 be set aside in 2008/09

(xix) All other budget items and costs included as detailed in the summary of net expenditure included in the report were approved.

07.116 Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications in the area during the month. Two meetings had been held with the MP relating to the proposed Coxhoe Industrial Estate development and considerable concern had been expressed at the proposal. A draft letter had been produced detailing objections to the scheme. The Chairman and Vice Chairman had authorised the purchase of various documents from the Land Registry to assist the Council's stance on this issue

Resolved: (i) the draft letter be forwarded to the Planning Department and be circulated to local residents for their use (ii) the action re the Land Registry was confirmed and the fees of £72 to be reimbursed to Councillor Dunn

07.117 Traffic Management

The Clerk provided a verbal update from Gordon Wingrove. No further proposals had yet been produced for Quarrington Hill. The Avenue scheme had been delayed due to belated consultation with the bus companies. The West Parade scheme was awaiting official consultation

Resolved: the details were noted

07.118 Sanderson Street Gardens

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had met with the tenants of the gardens to the side of the properties and some agreement had been found that would allow the proposed sale to proceed.

Resolved: (i) the Clerk to contact the tenants to negotiate the agreed cost of sale, requesting responses by 31 January (ii) the Clerk to contact the County Association regarding relevant documentation

07.119 Willow Cottages Allotments

The Council had met with representatives of the allotment holders prior to the meeting and discussed the options to move matters forward. A new estimate had been received from the City Council, who now intended to use contractors, for removal of the potential asbestos fencing

Resolved: (i) to arrange a meeting with relevant parties to draw up documents to form an allotment association (ii) to let an overgrown plot to the Probation Service, subject to assistance with the allotments generally (iii) additional estimates be sought for removal of the potential asbestos fencing

07.120 Parish Plan

There had been a successful meeting with the MP and City Council officers and as a result housing development at Quarrington Hill would now be reviewed. The Clerk had written to Arriva requesting a meeting relating to their 55 service having now got the backing of other parish councils

Resolved: the details were noted

07.121 Crime and Community Safety

Minutes from the latest Coxhoe Youth Room meeting were detailed and issues of anti social behaviour discussed. Concern was expressed relating to lighting at the Leisure Centre

Resolved: a meeting be arranged for January and relevant persons be invited

Correspondence

07.122 Unitary Authority Implementation Orders

The Clerk provided information from the County Association and detailed potential changes to the parish election cycle

Resolved: the details were noted

07.123 Postwatch Network Change Programme

The Clerk provided the latest information from the County Association on the issue.

Resolved: the details were noted

07.124 Coxhoe Cycle Links

A letter had been received from a local resident expressing concerns relating to proposed highways works and felling of trees as part of this scheme

Resolved: the Parish Council note the concerns but support the scheme and the Clerk to advise the resident of this

07.125 Facilities and Activities at Quarrington Hill

A letter had been received from the MP relating to a perceived lack of facilities and activities for children and young people in Quarrington Hill

Resolved: the Village Partnership to provide the Clerk with relevant details to respond to the letter

07.126 Bus Stop at Bowers Court

A letter had been received from Durham County Council relating to a site meeting at Bowers Court on 13 December

Resolved: Councillor Hepplewhite to attend the meeting

07.127 Coxhoe Village Hall Rents

A letter had been received detailing rent increases for the use of rooms in 2008

Resolved: the details were noted

07.128 Electrolux

A letter had been received from Spennymoor Town Council seeking support for those employed by Electrolux

Resolved: the Clerk to contact the MP seeking support on behalf of local residents employed by Electrolux

Other Issues

07.129 Coxhoe Together

Councillor Hepplewhite gave a brief update on progress being made on various issues

Resolved: (i) the details were noted (ii) the Clerk to contact the City Council enlisting their support to register the village green

07.130 Quarrington Hill Village Partnership

Councillor Pounder gave a brief update on progress being made on various issues

Resolved: the details were noted

07.131 Accounts for Payment/ Requests for Financial Assistance

(a) A request had been received from Quarrington Hill Community Centre Association for a contribution of £16.50 for a poppy wreath

Resolved: It was agreed to provide a contribution of £16.50 under Section 137of the Local Government Act 1972.

(b) It had been necessary to purchase some replacement bulbs for the Christmas lights at Coxhoe Village Hall. A request had been received to pay the invoice for these bulbs

Resolved: It was agreed to pay for the cost of replacement bulbs at £26.32 from the Christmas lighting budget under Section 137of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

Creditor	Reason	Amount	Minute
Valuation Office Agency Quarrington Hiill	Valuation of garden land	£1468.75	07.12a
Community Centre Quarrington Hiill	Poppy wreath	£16.50	07.131a
Community Centre City Of Durham	Grant Joint Advert	£300.00 £46.97	226 07.101
N King Coxhoe Village Hall Association	November Salary Grant		07.18fi 226
S Dunn	Land registry fees	£72.00	07.116
R Dinning Ltd	Replacement Bulbs	£26.32	07.131b

.....
Signed as a true copy of the meeting Chairman

..... Clerk

(Pages 31 – 35 inclusive) Date