

Minutes of the Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th July 2008 at Coxhoe Village Hall.

S Dunn in the chair

Present: G Shotton, K Pounder, R Mayo and D Smith and County Councillor M Plews.

08.53 Apologies for Absence:

P Dodsworth, B Hepplewhite, C Wigham, C Thirlaway, J Taylor and County Councillor D Morgan

Resolved: all Members are required to provide apologies to the Clerk if not attending a meeting.

08.54 Questions from the Public

B Campbell and G Storey attended the meeting and discussed the difficulties relating to premises for Coxhoe Bowling Club

Resolved: (i) the Parish Council support the Bowling Club in their endeavours (ii) this issue be included on the agenda for the August 2008 meeting.

08.55 Members' Declarations of Interest

D Smith declared an interest in item 7(f) (Sanderson Street Gardens) on the agenda.

S Dunn declared an interest in item 7 (e) (Coxhoe Allotment Association) on the agenda.

08.56 Police Report

PCSO's Bennett and Wilkinson attended and presented the report, the details of which were noted, for the period 11th June 2008 to 8th July 2008.

Theft - 1 Reported incident - 16/06/08 (Theft of tools) Cornforth Lane, Coxhoe .

Assault – 2 Reported incidents – 13/06/08 (Section 20 GBH) Belle Vue, Quarrington Hill (2 arrested – enquiry ongoing) – 20/06/08 (Common assault) Grange Crescent, Coxhoe (1 arrest and caution).

Anti-Social Behaviour – 7x Reported incidents – Coxhoe (1x Youth related, 5x Dispute related, 1x other) – 3x Reported incidents Quarrington Hill (1x youth related, 2x dispute related)

Vehicle Nuisance - 2x Reported incidents – Coxhoe, (Both parking related) 2x Reported incident – Quarrington Hill, (Motorbike related – 1 motorbike seized)

Other Issues: 1 parking ticket issued on 07/07/08 at Sanderson Street.

Problems in contacting the police call centre and the possible issue of mobile phones were discussed

Resolved: (i) the details of the report were noted (ii) the issue of contact with the Police to be raised at the forum on Thursday 10 July and the Clerk to write to Inspector Smart on the issue (iii) the issue of mobile phones was deferred.

08.57 Approval and Signature of Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th June 2008 were approved by Members and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

08.58 Points of Note

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

Resolved: the details were noted

Reports of the Clerk

08.59 Planning Applications

The following planning applications had been received:

(i) 4/08/00530/FPA - Mr E Pratt - Erection of two storey pitched roof extension to side of existing dwelling with re-erection of detached garage to side of 37 Bogma Avenue, Coxhoe

(ii) 4/08/00536/FPA - Mr D Hewitson - Insertion of access gates with pillars to 2m in height to rear of existing dwelling, Avenue House, 5 Blackgate East, Coxhoe

(iii) 4/08/00402/AD - Coxhoe Parish Council - Erection of 4 no. decorative village entrance signs

- Highway verge opposite 5-9 Bridge End/Highway verge at junction of Station Road and the A177/Verge opposite Avenue Farm on B6291/Highway verge of Cornforth Lane, North of Mill House

(iv) 4/08/00551/FPA - Mr D Bowell - Widening of existing vehicular access and pitched roof to existing flat roof to front of existing dwelling, Grenville House, The Avenue, Coxhoe

(v) 4/08/00593/FPA - Stray-Aid Ltd - Siting of 2 no. cabins for temporary period of two years for use as veterinary surgery and erection of 2.2m high fence and gates between existing house and cabins, East Pasture Farm, Cornforth Lane, Coxhoe

(vi) Other Issues - In May 2008 the Council considered on application (4/08/00329) for the erection of 2 dwellings on land adjacent to 48 Garden Terrace, Coxhoe and gave no objections. The City Council advised that they rejected the application, but the applicant has appealed against this decision.

(vii) Planning Meeting – a meeting with Roberta Blackman Woods (MP) and Planning Officers to discuss various planning issues would take place on Friday 11 July 2008 at 9:30am at Coxhoe Village Hall

(viii) Premier Waste application – a petition consisting of a considerable number of names had now been completed relating to this application

Resolved (i) there were no objections relating to items (i) to (v) **(ii)** details of items (vi) to (viii) were noted.

08.60 Traffic Management

The Clerk had circulated the latest details relating to vehicle activated signs.

Resolved: (i) to request the County Council to provide a hard hired post to be sited on the way out of Coxhoe and to replace the current temporary post as part of the upgrade of their scheme in due course **(ii)** to request the County Council to look again at the issue of these signs in Quarrington Hill. **(iii)** to order a hard-wired sign from Varitext to be upgraded to County Council wiring specification when determined.

08.61 Co-option of Member of the Council

Interest had been shown by 3 persons wishing to be co-opted to the Parish Council, J Turton, A Rowe and R Heslington.

Resolved: (i) a decision would be made by secret ballot **(ii)** on ballot, A Rowe be co-opted as Member of the Council **(iii)** the Clerk to forward the necessary paperwork to Mr Rowe, and to thank the other persons for their interest.

08.62 Parish Clerk Vacancy

A meeting had been held on 4 July and 5 persons had been shortlisted for interview from the 19 CV's received. Draft questions for interview were circulated. The Clerk provided the latest position relating to the interviews.

Resolved: (i) interviews were to be held on Tuesday 22 July 2008 for the persons shortlisted **(ii)** Members would meet at Coxhoe Village Hall at 5:00pm on that date to prepare for the interviews **(iii)** the draft questions were noted.

08.63 Coxhoe Allotment Association

A request had been received from the secretary of the Association requesting that the Association be granted a 5 year lease for the allotments. S Dunn had declared an interest in this item but remained in the meeting as the interest was not prejudicial

Resolved: (i) the granting of a lease was agreed in principle **(ii)** the Clerk to contact the Association and obtain further information and look at required terms for the lease.

08.64 Quality Parish Council

The Clerk provided an update on progress with the portfolio and detailed requirements for quality status.

Resolved (i) the details were noted **(ii)** the Clerk to complete as much of the portfolio as possible during the next month.

08.65 Budget Update

The latest budget position statement had been circulated and was discussed. Additional hours worked by the Clerk were detailed by the Chair. The position relating to national insurance contributions had been circulated, and was discussed. The purchase of the publication, 'Governance and Accountability in Local Councils' for the new Clerk was discussed.

Resolved: (i) details of the latest budget position were noted (ii) to pay the Clerk for all additional hours worked (iii) the position relating to national insurance contributions was noted and payments agreed (iv) the purchase of the publication 'Governance and Accountability in Local Councils' was agreed.

Correspondence

08.66 Durham County Council – Parish Elections

A letter had been received relating to the possibility of parish elections in 2009 and had been circulated for discussion

Resolved: (i) the Parish Council oppose further parish council elections in 2009, and the reasons were detailed (ii) the Clerk to contact the County Council on this issue.

08.67 National Grid – Substation and overhead lines alignment

A consultation document on these proposals was circulated.

Resolved: the details were noted and the Clerk to write detailing the Council's comments.

08.68 Durham City Council – Community Governance Review

A letter had been received and circulated for discussion

Resolved: the Clerk to contact the City Council detailing the parish council's satisfaction with its current status.

08.69 Coxhoe Community Partnership

An update on the progress of various projects had been circulated and R Mayo provided an update. The issue of Xmas decoration was discussed.

Resolved: the details were noted and the issue of Xmas decorations would be investigated further in the future.

08.70 Quarrington Hill Village Partnership

Minutes of the last meeting of the partnership had not been received at this stage.

Resolved: a joint meeting between the Parish Council and both village partnerships be held in the near future

08.71 Accounts for Payment/ Requests for Financial Assistance

(a) A request had been received from MENCAP for financial assistance for their organisation.

Resolved: It was agreed to provide a contribution of £50.00 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

Creditor	Reason	Amount	Minute
Newsquest Ltd	Parish Clerk Advert	£900.36	08.40(ii)
Newsquest Ltd	Parish Clerk Advert	£105.75	08.40(ii)
Newsquest Ltd	Parish Clerk Advert	£23.50	08.40(ii)
Displaysense Ltd	Ballot boxes	£110.16	08.44
Durham City District CVS	Printing Coxhoe Chronicle	£350.00	214
County Durham Assoc Of Local Councils	Purchase of publication	£10.00	08.65(iv)
N King	June Salary + additional hours		07.18fi
N King	Reimbursed Admin Costs	£75.04	07.18fi
SLCC	Subscription	£91.00	08.49(ii)
Smith of Derby	Coxhoe – Clock Maintenance	£179.78	

TP Gardens	Grasscutting Contract	£555.00	249
Thinford Nurseries	Hanging baskets + planters	£1693.18	07.115(viii)
HM Revenues & Customs	NI Contributions	£64.71	08.65(iii)
MENCAP	Donation – Section 137	£50.00	08.71a

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Signed as a true copy of the meeting Chairman

(Pages 9 – 12 inclusive) Clerk

..... Date