

Coxhoe Parish Council

Meeting	Monthly
Date	Tuesday 9 th December 2008
Time	6.45pm
Venue	Coxhoe Village Hall

Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly council meeting held at 6.45pm in the Village Hall, Coxhoe on Tuesday 9th December 2008.

- Present: - Acting Chairman** Cllr. Stuart Dunn, and
Cllrs: - Keith Pounder, George Shotton, Ron Mayo, Tony Rowe, Barbara Hepplewhite, Jimmy Taylor & Dennis Smith, - (Cllrs. left as indicated *)
Clerk Mrs. M. Robinson
- 08.156 Apologies:** Cllrs. Paul Dodsworth, Colin Thirlaway Carole Wigham, (Also County Cllr. Denis Morgan. City & County Cllr. Maria Plews)
- 08.157 Members Declaration of Interests**
Cllr. D. Smith – Item 17 – Sanderson Street; Cllrs. K. Pounder & G. Shotton – item 14.2 Planning application Quarrington Hill Play ground.
- 08.158 Minutes of meeting held 11th November** – were duly agreed signed a true record.
- 08.159 Matters of information** - updated information sheet to be circulated by the clerk.
- 08.160 Questions from the Public –**
- 08.160.1 Clive Lawson expressed serious concerns over speeding and road safety on the Front Street in Quarrington Hill and showed photographs of a recent accident which occurred while children were going to school. He had written to Mr Wingrove expressing his concerns. The results of surveys taken over an extended period of time were shared, as well as the outcome of recent site meetings and other meetings which have specifically looked at possible further plans for the village, as well as what is achievable, given the width of the road etc. The 'Slow Down' vehicle activated signs for both communities were described, as well as the intention to do further traffic monitoring now the new road is open and the request for weight limits in some areas. Mr Lawson noted that since the opening of the road, there had been a reduction in heavy traffic from Premier Waste and that the bad odours experienced in the past from passing lorries had ceased. Mr Lawson looked forward to seeing the plans come to fruition.
- 08.160.2 Alison Dibble had concerns over the extended time delays for traffic passing through Coxhoe as a result of the URR1 works and the effect it is having on the business community, their takings, as well as residents. Of particular concern was the lack of information available when the bus stop was moved. Advised of the actions taken by the clerk and the County Council the previous week to address the concerns of residents and businesses and that there had been notice of the temporary bus stop which had been removed by children. DCC had written to the those people directly affected by the works on Front Street to inform them of the changes being made to address concerns. Mrs Dibble had welcomed the opportunity to express her concerns and was happy with the actions taken to date.
- 08.161 Willow Cottage Allotments Lease** – Alan McKeen & Robert Elliot attended on behalf of the Allotments Association. The lease had previously been circulated to the association and to all members. It was noted that the roadway leading to the allotments appears not to be registered, but that this is the access to the farm at the end of the track, which is currently owned by Mrs Oxley. The allotment holders have used the track for over 20 years to access the area.
- It was resolved that:-**
1. The Clerk look at access to allotments.
 2. Mr McKeen to provide a new site plan indicating how the plots are currently divided.
 3. The lease be signed by all parties, effective from 9th December 2008.
- The Lease was duly signed in the presence of councillors as detailed above and a copy was given to the Coxhoe Allotment Association. Two further copies were signed to remain on file.
- 08.162 Police Report** – no report
- 08.163 Correspondence**

Durham County Council correspondence -

- 08.163.1 Various information received regarding AAP's. Members had recently attended a further consultation meeting and expressed the views of the council. The previous response to AAP consultation remains valid and to be stated to the council once again.
- 08.163.2 DCC Blueprint - information received.
- 08.163.3 National Tree Week Grant – unsuccessful this year due to high number of applications and being dealt with on first come first served basis.
- 08.163.4 **Durham City Council correspondence**
- 08.163.5 Complaint against a member – letter received advising the matter has been referred to the Monitoring Officer for investigation.
- County Durham Association Local Councils correspondence**
- 08.163.6 Display Energy Certificate and Advisory Report – information received.
- 08.163.7 Durham Association News – circulated to members
- 08.163.8 Proposals for replacement District Committees – **Resolved** to support the proposals.
- Other correspondence**
- 08.163.9 NHS Seizing the Future Consultation papers – Previous resolution to support the full maintenance of A & E services at Bishop Auckland Hospital remains – information received.
- 08.163.10 Coates Butchers URRI & disruption to businesses – Following the actions of the clerk, DCC and contractors, concerns had been addressed and Mr Lowther had contacted the council to say he didn't think any more could be done and thanked council for its response.
- 08.163.11 Stepping Stones Conference – **Resolved** that the Clerk and Cllr Hepplewhite to attend.
- 08.163.12 Northeast Surveyors – Agenda item under exempt information
- 08.163.13 Residents complaints regarding gritting needed in Beechfield Rise, Lansdowne Road, GP Surgery area, Ashbourne Drive, Quarrington Hill Community Centre, also salt bins across the area being empty. – **Resolved** to refer this onto DCC with a request for gritting, grit boxes and refilling to be considered.
- 08.163.14 WEB statistics – received. Members asked that the WEB pages be reviewed. **Resolved** to agenda for next meeting.
- 08.163.15 St Mary's Christmas Service 24th December – invitation to do a reading. **Resolved** that Ron or Paul to represent the Council.
- 08.163.16 Coxhoe Village Hall Association – notice of termination of annual agreement room letting, to return to an hourly rated usage. **Resolved** to investigate other facilities available through the City Council, including Dave Marrs, and to discuss at the next meeting in January.
- 08.164 Reports**
- 08.164.1 **Anti-social Behaviour** – Concern expressed over the current apparent inadequacy in the system of reporting and dealing with incidents. Members suggested awaiting the new authority guidance on these issues.
Resolved that the report be received and Council
1. Write to City of Durham Council and DCC to seek resolution to the upgrading of the cameras in the play park.
 2. Monitor the episodes of ASB in the two communities.
 3. Consider actions to address ASB, through a joint meeting with the Neighbourhood Zone.
- 08.164.2 **Letterhead / Logo** – Letterhead with a logo example had been circulated. **Resolved** that the circulated logo be adopted as the Council's Logo. The words 'Developing Quality Services to Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill' to be included.
- 08.164.3 **Coxhoe Community Partnership** – project update received. Help with developing the Coxhoe Master Plan continues and could be assisted by AAP money in future. Inclusion of Quarrington Hill and Kelloe community groups in the development of the cycle-ways to be encouraged by the Partnership.
- 08.164.4 **Quarrington Hill Village Partnership** – no report.
- 08.164.5 **Communities and Local Government** – Code of Conduct – Resolved that the clerk responds in support of the document.

- 08.165 Notice Boards** – Coxhoe Village Partnership is looking at a scheme to provide boards and finger pointing signs at specific points throughout the village. The group are looking for companies to develop these and are making applications to funders. Resolved that Cllr's Mayo and Hepplewhite and the Clerk look at this project.

08.166 Office Hours – The Clerk reported that it may be better for the Council to have regular times when the public could access the Council via the clerk. Resolved that the Clerk arrange hours as required.

08.167 Finance –

- 08.167.1 Budget Update – the clerk presented the accounts during the precept setting process.
- 08.167.2 Under new governance guidance, it was **resolved** that Council carry out the usual financial requirements and that a 6 monthly review was probably necessary for larger councils only.
- 08.167.3 Re-alignment of fencing around Coxhoe sign at 4 mile bridge entrance – cost £100. Resolved to re-align the fence.
- 08.167.4 Christmas lights – to seek costs in the new year and obtain best prices through suppliers or other local authorities over the spring when prices are often cheaper.
- 08.167.5 Grants and Donations –
 - a. NEPAC – for children’s facilities in prisons – **Resolved** to receive the information.
 - b. Brown Close Resident Party – **Resolved** to donate £60, but to convey that a donation cannot be guaranteed each year.
- 08.167.6 Precept 2009/10 – **Resolved** that the Annual Precept for 2009-10 be £35,000. Cllr Smith requested that his vote for a nil increase in the precept be recorded.

08.168 Planning Applications: - Resolved to respond as follows:-

- 08.168.1 Acorn Business Park – to welcome being consulted over the impending application and await full planning application with interest.
- 08.168.2 Play Ground Quarrington Hill – Ref 08/00955 – Coxhoe Parish Council strongly supports the development of a first class play facility for Quarrington Hill but notes that there are concerns from adjoining neighbours and these must be taken into account in determining the plan so as to allow for acceptable plans to be agreed.
- 08.168.3 Ref 08/00998 – outline application land east of 24 Neil Crescent, Quarrington Hill. – Support the application.
- 08.168.4 15 Vicarage Terrace – to support the application
- 08.168.5 Coxhoe Memorial Garden – Own application – no comment.

08.169 Community Development Team – A letter of continued support for the Community Support Officers has been sent by the Coxhoe Village Partnership – awaiting a response from the Community Services Department.

08.170 Publication scheme – noted that this will come into operation in January.

08.171 Accounts for Payment

Creditor	Reason	£
Durham CVS	Coxhoe Chronicle printing	300.00
M. Robinson	Printer ink	24.39
Thinford Nursery	Contracted services	130.43
Total Business Group	Contracted services	44.60
Quarrington Hill Community Centre	Poppy Wreath	16.50
M. Robinson	Clerk Salary December	

Meeting closed at 2200hrs