



Delivering Quality Services to
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

Coxhoe Parish Council

Meeting	Monthly
Date	Tuesday 10 th March 2009
Time	6.45pm
Venue	Coxhoe Village Hall

Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly council meeting held at 6.45pm in Coxhoe Village Hall, Tuesday 10th March 2009.

Present: - **Chairman** Cllr. P. Dodsworth and

Cllrs: - S. Dunn, B. Hepplewhite, C. Thirlaway, J. Taylor, K. Pounder, G. Shotton, R. Mayo, C. Wigham, D. Smith; Also Co. Cllr. D. Morgan & City & Co. Cllr. M. Plews.

Clerk Mrs. M. Robinson

09.34 Apologies: For lateness received from Cllr T. Rowe (joined as indicated*)

09.35 Members Declaration of Interests - Cllr D. Smith for Sanderson Street & Planning and Cllr Pounder for police report.

09.36 Hellen's Development

The Chairman welcomed Mr Gavin Cauldwell Smith who provided the current information on the Hellen's Development. The intention is to provide affordable starter homes, some detached and semi-detached, but no flats with some public open spaces. House construction would be expected towards the end of 2009 with availability early 2010. Remediated tree work would be provided as part of the overall scheme and the industrial site would be remediated ready for development as the market improves. Fencing would be in place shortly enclosing the site and an application is anticipated within 2 months. Permission for the cycle route had been given.

Planning – Section 106 agreements could include an improvement to the through route into Coxhoe along with screening, public art as well as improved access to Basic Cottages area. Mr Smith was asked to reconsider the company's current strategy by bringing highways up to an adoptable standard and gaining highways engineers approval. He undertook to re-look at this and to table designs to the council for comments. Following a highways assessment, an upgrade of the entrance road junction was not a requirement.

09.37 Questions from the Public – None present

09.38 Police Report

Written report received and PCSO expanded on this. Concern expressed over vandalism of play park, though incidents not always reported to police or neighbourhood forum. Also maintenance and monitoring of CCTV cameras. Reporting of accidents not part of report, but still requested by members in view of recent accidents in Quarrington Hill.

Resolved to

- i.** Ask leisure centre staff to report incidents of vandalism to police and neighbourhood forum.
- ii.** Ask for some Neighbourhood Warden cover in the evenings in future.
- iii.** Ask police to provide information on accidents.
- iv.** Write to DCC regarding monitoring and maintenance of CCTV cameras.
- v.** Invite the Anti-social Behaviour Officer to a parish meeting in the summer.

09.39 Minutes of meeting held 10th February 2009 – were approved as a true record and signed.

09.40 Matters of information

09.40.1 Transfer of Assets – unable to negotiate on property until new Unitary Council in place; land transfer requests negated by the process and number of different sections / people involved and conflicting advice provided; green spaces transfer plan provided for consideration and agreed that the areas indicated on the plan were those areas council had agreed to consider for transfer at the appropriate time; old railway line (city council owned cycleway) noted to be in poor condition, but note made that it could be considered for a P3 grant to upgrade the surfaces. Advice to be sought from DCC Elaine Fields.

09.40.2 Cycle Routes – to be extended at Quarrington Hill to Cassop and redirected in some places. Funding application would be required.

09.40.3 Front Street Planters – require DCC to fill them.

09.40.4 Old Picture House / Club Area – concern over pigeon waste on newly replaced paving – Noted for this to be reported to environmental health. Club to be asked to look at litter issues.

09.40.5 URRI works – problems with light brackets and funding being sought from City Council, also thank you letters to be sent on vast improvement to the area to DCC, Katherine Grezzo, Operations Section – Service Direct & County Councillors.

09.40.6 Traffic problems being experienced in The Avenue/ Rosylyn Mews area. Site meeting requested with highways.

09.40.7 War Graves updated information – circulated – received

09.40.8 Village Hall car park – Executive committee seeking further advice.

09.40.9 Speed Visors – confirmation of design by DCC, Power posts by DCC cost £3907.40 and price with Varitext (£8877.40 + VAT) agreed and order placed.

09.40.10 Coxhoe Traffic Calming – completed. Invoice for £17,588 paid as agreed last meeting.

09.37 Correspondence

Durham County Council Correspondence (*) - Nil

City of Durham Council Correspondence - Nil

County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) Correspondence

09.37.1 Special General Meeting 4th April at DCC Local Governemtn Review & AAP meetings update– B Hepplewhite attending.

Other Correspondence

09.37.2 EDF Public Meeting 11th March – no one was available to attend.

09.37.3 NHS Co Durham Extraordinary Board Meeting 3rd March – received.

09.37.4 Town & Parish Standard issue 4 – received.

09.37.5 Zurich Insurers – annual cover renewal & allotments endorsement

09.37.6 Boundary Committee – confirming 126 unitary councillors – received.

09.37.7 Letter of thanks from the pigeon association.

09.38 Reports

09.38.1 Review of the effectiveness of the internal audit – Resolved to accept the report.

09.38.2 Coxhoe Community Partnership Project Updates – received.

a. Churchyard Project – Site meeting still to be arranged to progress installation by Cllrs Dunn & Plews

a. **Quarrington Hill Village Partnership** – Cllr Dunn reported on the meeting he had attended to represent the council on various issues and to encourage more partnership working. Copy of the report noted in that Traffic figures were explained and noted that the aims of the Parish Plan had been achieved. Additionally a speeding problem investigated in Church Street, with supporting evidence, was soon to be addressed through further traffic calming methods. The Partnership were asked to re-consider the view of residents in respect of the play park equipment and positions and to seek further consultation with residents in order that the community

embraced and supported the project. Resolved to offer space on the notice board to display play park plans.

b. News letter for the village produced and distributed by the Partnership

09.39 Meetings to :-

- a. **Address environmental issues** such as hanging baskets, street furniture, street scene and further improvements – Resolved to establish a sub-committee to address these issues.
- b. **Address how the council communicated with its residents**, including web site, newsletters, notice boards – Resolved to establish a sub-committee to address these issues.
- c. Resolved that both sub-committee meetings report back to full council in April.

09.40 Environmental contractors – Quotations had been requested from contractors in respect of provision of horticulture and grounds maintenance. Having considered the information provided, it was resolved that the existing contracts with TP Gardens, which is unchanged from last year; and Thinford Nurseries, which represented a modest increase of 50p per basket and £5 per watering session, be renewed for one year.

09.41 Finance

09.41.1 Reconciliation of accounts from last meeting presented. Resolved to accept the report and investigate systems of accounting. N King to be asked if he can assist in completing the end of year accounts and annual return.

09.41.2 Photocopier provision – Resolved to continue usage of existing one in current position at present.

09.42 Grants & Donations

09.42.1 CAB – resolved to continue to support CAB and to enquire what the cost would be to provide the service for the coming year.

09.43 Accounts for payment

Creditor	Reason	£
Viking Direct	Stationary	69.13
M. Robinson	Clerk Salary	
DCC	Traffic Calming Coxhoe	17,588

09.44 Planning Applications: -

09.44.1 Village business signage – members requested that the increased number of signs be advised to the planning authority with a view to ensuring quality signs of an appropriate nature are encouraged. Those not in compliance to be asked to be removed.

09.45 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 13th April, 2009 6.45pm in Coxhoe Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21.25 hrs

Signed as a true record of the meeting on 10th March 2009



Cllr. P. Dodsworth Chairman

Mrs. M. Robinson Clerk

Cllr. S. Dunn Vice Chairman