



Delivering Quality Services to  
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

## Coxhoe Parish Council

**Meeting** Monthly  
**Date** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012  
**Time** 7.00 pm  
**Venue** Landsdowne House, Coxhoe

### **Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held at 7.00 pm in Landsdowne House, Landsdowne Road, Coxhoe, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.**

**Present:** Councillor P Dodsworth (in the Chair), Councillor Mrs B Hepplewhite, Councillor Carole Parkes, Councillors S Dunn, K Pounder, D Smith, R Mayo, J Taylor and G Shotton. **Clerk:** Mr D Vasey. **Also Present:** PcsO C Dunn, County Councillors Mr D Morgan and Mrs M Plews. **Apologies:** Councillor C Thirlaway and T Rowe.

**11.304 Members declarations of interest:** Interests in EDRC AAP, Quarrington Hill Village Hall, Quarrington Hill Village Partnership and CDALC items were declared by Councillor K Pounder, interests in Quarrington Hill Village Partnership item were declared by Councillor Carole Parkes and interests in Active Life @ Coxhoe item were declared by Councillor Mrs B Hepplewhite and Councillor S Dunn.

**11.305 Questions from the public:** There were no questions from the public.

**11.306 Police report:** The police report for the 31st March 2012 to the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012 was discussed by Councillors. PcsO C Dunn highlighted the reduction in youth related incidents compared with recent months and also advised of prompt action in relation to recent criminal damage to doors at the leisure centre and of planned local initiatives in relation to purchase of alcohol identification checks.

**Resolved:** That the police report be noted and displayed on the village notice boards. That the Parish Clerk distribute details of the revised Neighbourhood Warden support and new contact details.

**11.307 Minutes of last monthly meeting:** Held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 were considered and the following matters arising noted. Following seeking clarification from the Police on the number of youth related incidents reported in Quarrington Hill, the police have advised that in the next publication of Hill Talk there will be an article on how to report incidents to the police and on the importance of getting an incident number. The chairman updated Councillors on the positive initial meeting between the Parish Council, other local groups and members of Coxhoe Village Hall committee, where future work to develop a plan to take the village hall forward was welcomed. The Parish Clerk advised that a response to issues raised by Councillor K Pounder in relation FLiC would be sent by the Parish Clerk following a meeting of the directors of FLiC on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the last monthly meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 be approved and signed as a true record.

**11.308 Free school for South Durham:** Councillor S Dunn introduced members of the free school for South Durham group, who had kindly agreed to update Councillors on their progress to date. Group members outlined the team that is place to support the bid, including its capacity, expertise and vision. Since the first public meeting they have been successful at the first round stage and are now through to the interview stage. Councillors discussed the potential intake, possible locations and associated transport issues. The group members present were thanked for attending the meeting and for their full update.

**Resolved:** That the update is noted and the Parish Clerk forward a copy of the letter sent to group in January 2012 in relation to the proposed Parkhill Village extension scheme and potential for community use land.

**11.309 Parish Clerks report and correspondence for information:** The Parish Clerk presented the Parish Clerks Report, which is a report circulated prior to the meeting covering ongoing items and

items of information and correspondence. The following items were highlighted (1) Availability of land adjacent to 40 Landsdowne Road declared surplus by DCC. (2) Durham County Credit Union. (3) Coxhoe Village Green Development Working Groups request for £300 to explore water course to enable options for a village pond to be progressed further.

**Resolved:** That the information in the report be noted and the outstanding on-going items be progressed. That the Parish Clerk arrange for the Durham County Credit Union to attend a future Parish Council meeting. That approval is given in principle subject to ratification at the next meeting of the Parish Council for up to £300 to explore the water course to enable options for a village pond to be progressed further.

**11.310 Coxhoe Community Partnership:** The circulated monthly report for April 2012 was discussed and the delay in the launch event for the Limestone LinX project to the autumn was noted.  
**Resolved:** That the update be noted.

**11.311 Quarrington Hill Village Partnership:** Councillor K Pounder advised that the AGM had been held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and that there were now six trustees. Issues in relation to getting the youth club up and running in Quarrington Hill were also detailed and positive experiences which may assist from the same process followed to establish the youth club in Coxhoe were shared.  
**Resolved:** That the update be noted.

**11.312 Active Life @ Coxhoe:** Councillor S Dunn updated Councillors on the work about to commence to create a new studio, on other funding bids which are in the process of being submitted to fund further improvements and of initiatives proposed to Durham County Council in relation to the sports pitch and skate park near the leisure centre.  
**Resolved:** That the update be noted.

**11.313 Planning applications:** Councillors were advised that no planning applications had been received for comment / consideration, or determined under delegated authority from 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012 to the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.  
**Resolved:** That information is noted.

**11.314 Finance:**

**11.314.1 Accounts for payment:** Details of financial payments required for the month had been circulated, together with the month end bank balances figure after the income and expenditure during the month.

**Resolved** That all payments presented be signed and paid:

Creditor	Reason	£
Total Business Solutions	Copier April 2012	19.58
D Vasey	Salary May 2012	
Durham County Council	Room hire Landsdowne House	10.00
D Vasey	Course	77.25
Association of Local Councils	CDALC Subscriptions 2012/13	459.97
T P Gardens	Grass cutting	530.00

**11.314.2 Financial information 2012/13:** Councillors considered the format proposed to present the information in during 2012/13 developed through the Finance Committee, which reflected the 2012/13 agreed budget of £84,445 and the amended PP2 sub list of projects.  
**Resolved:** That the format be approved.

**11.314.3 Capital Budget 2012/13:** Councillors considered the report detailing the capital budget for 2012/13, which outlined individual scheme budget approvals and commitments to date. Councillors also considered a request to agree allocating from capital a budget of £1,000 to cover replacement of IT equipment (laptop, software updates and printer).  
**Resolved:** That the information is noted and that the request is approved to provide from capital a budget of £1,000 to cover replacement of IT equipment (laptop, software updates and printer).

**11.314.4 Medium term financial plan:** At the Finance Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012 the development of a medium term financial plan was considered and the Parish Clerk was asked to prepare a draft framework. Councillors considered the framework presented

including the identification of potential funds for Parish Plan 2 in the medium term.

**Resolved:** That the medium term financial framework as set out in the report be approved and subject to further consideration as part of the setting of the 2013/14 budget and precept. That the Parish Clerk establishes a register of financial pressures to be considered when further developing the medium term financial plan and annual budgets.

**11.315 Flower beds, planters and hanging baskets consideration of tender for 2012:** Parish Councillors considered the four tenders submitted and selected tender number two on the basis of price and quality. Further consideration was given to the budget available in the agreed 2012/13 budget and to the planting of the flower beds in Quarrington Hill.

**Resolved:** That the contract for the provision of flower beds, planters and hanging baskets be awarded to Thinford Nurseries for 2012 and subject to performance for a further two years. That the budget for this area of work be increased by £1,000 through a transfer from the Parish Plan 2 reserve in 2012/13. That the flower beds in Quarrington Hill are not planted in 2012 and that the Quarrington Hill Village Partnership look at future options for the flower beds.

**11.316 DCC Garden tidy services increased fees and grass cutting issues in Quarrington Hill:**

Councillor K Pounder highlighted grass cutting issues in Quarrington Hill linked to the none collection of grass cuttings and of quality issues linked to the Durham County Council garden tidy scheme which is paid for by residents currently costing £1.25p per week. Similar concerns in Coxhoe linked to the grass cutting service were highlighted.

**Resolved:** That the Chairman write to Durham County Council expressing the concerns of residents in relation to the none collection of grass cuttings. That Councillors advice residents with concerns over the quality of the garden tidy service to raise these directly with Durham County Council.

**11.317 Coxhoe Park maintenance issues:** Councillor B Hepplewhite raised the on-going need for maintenance and County Councillor D Morgan advised that Durham County Council were looking at the possibility of a formal internal capital funds application and other local members funding possibilities for the adjacent car park area, ramps, re painting and the space net, additionally he confirmed that the repairs to the skate park surface had been commissioned and would be carried out.

**Resolved:** That the information be noted and that the Parish Clerk liaise further with County Councillor D Morgan in relation to possible other sources of Durham County Council funding being considered. That County Councillor D Morgan request County Council officers to liaise with the Parish Council before consideration of the removal of any equipment and to contact manufacturers in relation to repair of the space net.

**11.318 Poop bags outcome of pilot scheme to provide free bags:** Councillors considered the outcomes of the pilot scheme including cost to date and distribution method of the bags. It was concluded that the potential annual cost could not be justified given the unclear environmental impact and that through Parish Plan 2 implementation that educational and enforcement actions be considered.

**Resolved:** That the pilot scheme be brought to a close once existing supplies of poop bags have been used and up and that no further poop bags be purchased.

**11.319 Great North Resource Centre:** Councillors discussed this potential scheme with is partly funded with AAP funding, considering the information available. Concerns in relation to consultation prior to AAP funds being allocated, general awareness of the scheme and fit with Parish Plan 2 were expressed.

**Resolved:** That the Parish Clerk write to J Bellis at the AAP seeking full details of the scheme and of the consultation process followed.

**11.320 Date and time of next meeting:** Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 30th May 2012, at 6.30pm in Landsdowne House, followed immediately by Annual General meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed on 30th May 2012 as a true record of the meeting:



Cllr. P. Dodsworth (Chairman)

Cllr. S. Dunn (Vice-Chairman)