



Delivering Quality Services to
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

Coxhoe Parish Council

Meeting	Monthly
Date	Wednesday 5th June 2013
Time	7.00 pm
Venue	Coxhoe Village Hall

Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held at 7.00 pm in Coxhoe Village Hall, on Wednesday 5th June 2013.

Present: Councillor P Dodsworth (in the Chair), Councillors S Dunn, C Thirlaway, K Stokoe, W Lavelle, T Plews and K Simpson. **Other:** County Councillor M Plews. **Clerk:** Mr D Vasey. **Apologies:** Councillors B Hepplewhite, K Pounder, T Rowe and T Gorman.

13.106 Members Declarations of Interest: Interests in Active Life Centre @ Coxhoe item were declared by Councillors S Dunn and W Lavelle, interests in Coxhoe Community Partnership were declared by Councillor W Lavelle, interests in Coxhoe Village Hall were declared by Councillors P Dodsworth and T Plews, interests in the planning applications considered were declared by Councillors S Dunn and T Plews.

13.107 Questions from the Public: Residents from Basic Cottages raised the area of land where Foundry Row once stood and requested that the Parish Council consider approaching Durham County Council view a view to an asset transfer and taking on responsibility for the area of land. Appreciation for the work completed by Durham County Council was expressed however the residents felt the Parish Council were well placed to take on the maintenance of the area. Councillors questioned if the area was included in the existing village green transfer request, the Parish Clerk confirmed that the land in question was not included. The timing of the completion of the work in relation to the access road was raised.

Resolved: That the Councillors consider the request further linked to correspondence received which is on the agenda for latter in the meeting and seek timescales on behalf of the residents in relation to the access road.

13.108 Police and Neighbourhood Wardens Reports: The report from the Police covering the period 27th April 2013 to 30th May 2013 was considered by Parish Councillors, together with the Neighbourhood Wardens report covering the wider Durham area for April 2013.

Resolved: That the reports be noted and the Parish Clerk provide Councillors with contact details for the local police contact.

13.109 Minutes of Last Monthly Meeting: Held on 8th May 2013.

Matters arising: The Parish Clerk provided information on the area of land for sale when approaching Quarrington Hill from Coxhoe on the left just before and extending behind the first properties on the left in Quarrington Hill. The land is classed as pasture, open to offers, no guide price and has no planning restrictions, however it is not designated in Durham County Council plan.

Resolved: That the minutes of the last monthly meeting held on 8th May 2013 be approved and signed as a true record.

13.110 Parish Clerks Report and Correspondence for Information: The Parish Clerk presented the Parish Clerks Report which reflected information on Coxhoe Village Green (latest update following last meeting on the 15th May 2013 with progress linked to response from the developer and certainty over when funding will be available), Coxhoe Village Hall Memorial Gardens lights (reason for not currently working being investigated), Coxhoe play park equipment (confirmation that works have commenced), Quarrington Hill Church Yard (confirmation that the PCC Secretary has confirmed that they are not seeking closure of the churchyard), Parish Council Copier and office move (confirmation that new copier facilities being looked into and that the office move will commence on the 12th June 2013), Coxhoe Chronicle and Hill Talk (June 2013 editions now available), potential asbestos material

RB

Coxhoe allotments (update), Parish Councillor training (confirmation of internal training session on the 12th June 2013) and future meeting plan (covering items for future meetings). Correspondence for information considered included Local Councils Working Group (May 2013 meeting agenda), Coxhoe Quarry Liaison meeting (16th May 2013 notes of meeting), Durham City District Council for Voluntary Service (notice of closure due to lack of funding), weight restriction order (temporary suspension various roads Sedgfield, Coxhoe and Durham City), road closure order (A688, A177 and B6291 in June 2013), standards briefing session (open to all Councillors 26th June 2013 5.30 pm) and councillor/chairmanship training (open to all Councillors 9th July 2013 all day).

Resolved: That the report be noted and Councillor C Thirlaway and the Parish Clerk advance the risk assessment and understanding of the asbestos issue with Coxhoe Allotments Association.

13.111 Basic Cottages Correspondence Received: Parish Councillors considered the correspondence circulated received from A Scott of Basic Cottages. This was in relation to the area of land where Foundry Row once stood and requested that the Parish Council consider approaching Durham County Council view a view to an asset transfer and taking on responsibility for the area of land. The consideration reflected the issues raised in the earlier public questions session.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk express an interest in the area of land where Foundry Row once stood with a view to a nil cost asset transfer and clarify in relation to the village green transfer the rights in relation to the area not in the ownership of Durham County Council.

13.112 DCC Services Available to Parish Councils: Parish Councillors considered the paper giving details of joint working between Parish Councils and Durham County Council. It included examples of where Parish Councils work together with Durham County Council providing services for each other on a reciprocal arrangement and of services Durham County Council can provide on a fee basis. The services which could be of use if a new playground is developed at Quarrington Hill were noted, together with the increasing complaints linked to the poor quality of grass cutting where Durham County Council have responsibility.

Resolved: That Councillors advise County Councillor M Plews of any specific area in relation to grass cutting to be raised with Durham County Council.

13.113 Community Report – Quarrington Hill (incl. Village Partnership and Community Centre): Nothing to report.

13.114 Community Report – Coxhoe Community Partnership: Nothing to report.

13.115 Community Report – Coxhoe Village Hall: Councillor P Dodsworth provided a brief update on progress achieved by the new management committee, including improvements to the main hall and the installation of a new bar.

Resolved: That update be noted.

13.116 Community Report – Active Life Centre @ Coxhoe: Councillor S Dunn provided an update reflecting on the achievements of the first year of operation and actions in hand to consolidate and build on the positives, including attracting further funding especially for the gym. A successful visit had taken place in conjunction with Durham County Council with a foreign group looking at examples of good practice where the community take on the provision of services.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

13.117 Durham County Councillors Update: County Councillor M Plews advised of the current and future programme of savings Durham County Council is required to achieve and that they had been praised for their engagement with interested parties through the process to achieve savings. Councillor S Dunn stressed the need to ensure no further cuts to the local members budgets, as this is used effectively to address local needs which are on the increase linked to Durham County Councils savings programme. County Councillor M Plews further advised of government funds coming to the county linked to an empty homes initiative and of the potential of sharing of good practice with Stanley Town Council.

Resolved: That update be noted.

13.118 Planning Applications: Planning applications were considered from 30th April 2013 to 29th

May 2013, including 48, Garden Terrace, Coxhoe (extension of time), The Old Chapel, Front Street North, Quarrington Hill (variation of existing planning approval), Blackgate Garage, 20 to 23 Blackgate East, Coxhoe (change of use application).

Resolved: That the applications be noted.

13.119 Finance:

13.119.1 Accounts for Payment: Details of financial payments required for the month had been circulated and 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 Group	Copier paper	239.04
Total Business Group	Copier charges May 2013	80.85
3 Mobile	Internet and tel. May 2013	23.98
Mr D Vasey	Salary - June 2013	
Great North Air Amb.	S137 Donation	200.00
Guided Walk	Associated costs	396.16
Zurich	2013/14 premium balance	1105.73
T P Gardens	Grass cutting	275.00
Coxhoe Allotments Ass.	2013/14 rent reimbursement	200.00

13.119.2 Revenue and Capital Information 2013/14: Councillors considered the financial information presented for 2013/14.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

13.119.3 Request for donation – Coxhoe Athletic FC: Councillors considered the request for a donation.

Resolved: That the request from Coxhoe Athletic Football Club for continued support for the printing of the match day programme be supported up to a maximum of £200 and a donation of £100 be made given the low level of printing in 2012/13 under S137 expenditure.

13.119.4 Request for support – Durham City District CVS: Councillors considered the request for support.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk seek further clarification in relation to the project in the light of the Durham City District Council for Voluntary Service notice of closure due to lack of funding reported in the Parish Clerks report.

13.119.5 Draft Final Accounts 2012/13: Copies of the financial summary and income and expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2013 had been circulated. Copies had also been circulated of completed Sections 1 (Accounting Statements for Coxhoe Parish Council) and 2 (Annual Governance Statement) of the Coxhoe Parish Council 2013 Annual Return and supporting statements relating to Assets, Section 137 payments, General Administration Expenses, Bank Reconciliation for the year and explanation of variances required to be produced as an addendum to explain any variances of over £100 and 10% between last year's Annual Return figures and this year's. Councillors considered in turn points 1 to 9 in section 2 being the annual governance statement. Councillors were asked to approve all circulated documents for signature by the Parish Clerk and Chairman and onward transmission to the Internal and External Auditors.

Resolved That the Financial Statements, Income and Expenditure Sheets, Supporting Statements, Bank Reconciliation, Explanation of Variances, and Annual Governance Statement, including Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return, be approved for signature by the Parish Clerk and Chairman and onward transmission as applicable to the Internal and External Auditors.

13.120 Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

Resolved That in view of the confidential nature of the following items, the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act, 1960.

13.121 Exempt Information – Active Life Centre @ Coxhoe – consideration of financial information:

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Signed on 3rd July 2013 as a true record of the meeting:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Dodsworth', written in a cursive style.

Cllr. P. Dodsworth (Chairman)

Cllr. S. Dunn (Vice-Chairman)