



Delivering Quality Services to
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

Coxhoe Parish Council

Meeting	Monthly
Date	Wednesday 5 th February 2014
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 February 2014.

Present: Councillor S Dodsworth (in the Chair), Councillors K Simpson, W Lavelle, K Pounder, T Plews, S Dunn, T Rowe, K Stokoe, B Hepplewhite and T Gorman. **Other:** County Councillor M Plews and J Blakey, Mr J Pearce (Barton Willmore), Ms S Armstronge (Barratts) and Mr J Reed (Durham County Council). **Clerk:** Mr D Vasey. **Apologies:** Councillors C Thirlaway.

13.239 Members Declarations of Interest: Interests in Active Life Centre @ Coxhoe were declared by Councillors S Dunn and W Lavelle, interests in Coxhoe Community Partnership were declared by Councillors B Hepplewhite and W Lavelle, interests in Coxhoe Village Hall were declared by Councillors B Hepplewhite and P Dodsworth and interests in EDRC AAP, Local Councils Committee, Quarrington Hill Community Centre, Quarrington Hill Village Partnership and CDALC items were declared by Councillor K Pounder.

13.240 Questions from the Public: No questions.

13.241 Police and Neighbourhood Wardens Reports: The Police report for January 2014 and the Neighbourhood Wardens report for December 2013 were considered by Parish Councillors. Members of the public and various Parish Councillors raised the issue of dog fouling, County Councillor J Blakey advised that following a recent walk around Coxhoe organised by Durham City Homes she had asked for a clean up in certain areas and for increased Neighbourhood Wardens patrols. Both County Councillor M Plews and J Blakey indicated that they were happy to take dog fouling complaints directly, or they can be reported on 03000 261018 or via the report it link on Durham County Councils web site. Councillor Pounder advised of the "don't fall foul of the law" and green dog walkers initiatives including free micro-chipping at Quarrington Hill Community Centre 10am to 2pm on the 12th February 2014. Councillor Dodsworth advised that the police had been informed of youth related drinking behind Coxhoe Village and along Parsons Walk.

Resolved: That the Police and Neighbourhood Wardens reports be noted.

13.242 Minutes of Last Monthly Meeting: Held on 8th January 2014.

Resolved: That the minutes of the last monthly meeting held on the 8th January 2014 be approved and signed as a true record.

13.243 Draft development proposals for land at Station Road Coxhoe: Mr Pearce from Barton Willmore acting on behalf of the Church Commissioners highlighted a number of points from the circulated paper and plans, including up to 50 two, three and four bedroom properties, layout principles including single access off Station Road and no through access onto the proposed Barratt development and that proposed section 106 agreement reflected affordable housing, local play facilities and education provision. Members of the public and Parish Councillors asked if there were to be any bungalows on either this or the Barratt development and raised concerns over access near to the junction. Both Mr Pearce and Ms Armstronge from Barratts confirmed no bungalows currently in either of their proposals and Mr J Pearce indicated that speed and visibility surveys had been completed to inform the location of the access. Access to the Barratt development from the A177 was raised and Ms Armstronge from Barratts advised that cost, safety and engineering issues had resulted in there being no proposals for a roundabout. Councillor Dunn advised that the school were keen to work with both developers and that both Parish Plan one and two had reflected the need for bungalows in Coxhoe.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

Mr Pearce (Barton Willmore) and Ms S Armstronge (Barratts) left the room.

13.244 Lighting head changes – Coxhoe: Mr Reed from Durham County Council responded to the following issues raised by members of the public and Parish Councillors. Residents and Parish Council not consulted on the street lighting policy, Mr Reed indicated that the policy was approved by cabinet following extensive public consultation, including ability to comment on the draft policy on Durham County Councils web site. The LED retrofits commenced without any prior notification to residents, Mr Reed advised that standard procedure for a letter drop pre works to all residents, no member of the public present indicated that they had received such a letter. Lighting levels and light spillage were discussed and Mr Reed indicated that Durham County Council has the power but not the duty to light the adopted highway and the updated street lighting policy referred to earlier voluntarily lights residential areas to a minimum of British standards. Crime and fear of crime were expressed by members of the public present given dark spots with new lighting.

Resolved: That Mr Reed will take part in a site visit with Councillor Dodsworth who will demonstrate the black spots highlighted at the meeting.

Mr Reed (Durham County Council) and County Councillor J Blakey left the room.

Item on draft development proposals land east of Parkhill withdrawn at the request of ID Planning.

13.245 Parish Clerks Report and Correspondence for Information: The Parish Clerk presented the Parish Clerks Report which reflected information on the future Parish Council meeting plan (items for future meetings), Coxhoe village green working group (next meeting information on the 13th February 2014), Quarrington Hill allotments land transfer (Parish Councillors were advised that following negotiations a revised offer from Durham County Council of £2,300 including their fees had been received and that delegated authority prior to the negotiations was for up to £2,000), outstanding items schedule (reflecting progress on actions from previous meetings), parking restrictions main street Coxhoe (the need to develop proposals, initiate necessary work with Durham County and seek long term traders parking next to the Co-op) and an update on the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership from Councillor Pounder (including priorities for 2014). Correspondence for information considered included Durham County Council chairman's medals 2013/14 (nomination information), Durham Association News (January 2014 edition), East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership (agenda for meeting on the 22nd January 2014 and draft minutes 9th October 2013), Smaller Councils Forum Meeting (notification of meeting on the 14th February 2014) and Licence variation (Coxhoe Leisure Centre).

Resolved: That the report be noted. That the Parish Clerk be authorised to accept the offer of £2,300 including sellers fees from Durham County Council in respect of land at Quarrington Hill Allotments.

13.246 Coxhoe Youth room: Councillor Dunn advised that this service may in the future be subject to financial cuts linked to savings being identified by Durham County Council in the Children and Young Peoples service area. Councillor Lavell advised that funding for Coxhoe youth room was secure for the twelve month period from 1st April 2014; however it was not certain who the youth workers would be.

Resolved: That Councillor Lavell would organise a special meeting to consider youth related matters in the parish further.

13.247 Durham County Councillors update: County Councillor M Plews advised that Durham County Council were looking at a potential housing transfer to a housing association, development of Durham County Councils medium term financial plan was ongoing and that consultation on bowling greens and the play parks strategy would be commencing soon. Additionally Councillor Plews indicated that it was the intention of Durham County Council to transfer the Kingswood land to the Parish Council.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

13.248 Community reports – Quarrington Hill Community Centre: The circulated report was considered and there were no questions.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

13.249 Community reports – Quarrington Hill Village Partnership: No update was available. A member of the public indicated that until recently there had been a monthly update on the work of the partnership, that there had been no recent meetings of the partnership, that there had been no

recent edition of Hill Talk and that they felt there was no consultation within the village on proposals in relation to the war memorial and the front street. Councillor Pounder indicated that he reserved his right not to respond and Councillor Dodsworth advised that the partnership was not a matter for the Parish Council and that Hill Talk would be raised with the partnership.

Resolved: That the Chairman and the Parish Clerk liaise with Quarrington Hill Village Partnership in relation to Hill Talk.

13.250 Community reports – Coxhoe Community Partnership: No update as no meetings in December 2013 and January 2014, the next meeting will be February 2014 with the meeting date moving to the last Wednesday in the month. Councillor Hepplewhite advised that Coxhoe post office would no longer act as a holding point for undelivered parcels and Councillor Dunn advised that both the school and the leisure centre were having difficulty banking a lot of change at Coxhoe post office.

Resolved: That the meeting arrangements be noted. That the Parish Clerk contact the post office and express concern that a like for like service does seem to be in place at the new location for the post office in Coxhoe.

13.251 Community reports – Coxhoe Village Hall: Councillor Dodsworth advised that the first AGM of the new management committee would be held soon, usage was continuing to increase and that as a result of grant funding decoration work to one of the upstairs rooms and work in relation to the dry rot would be taking place. Councillor Hepplewhite added that the reading room was now open and a member of the public complemented Coxhoe Village Hall on everything that was going on, adding that it was a credit to Coxhoe.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

13.252 Community reports – Active Life Centre @ Coxhoe: Councillor S Dunn advised of their £3,000 surplus in 2013 after financial support from the Parish Council and of ongoing work related to the organisation working towards being not dependent on grant funding from Coxhoe Parish Council after their current financial year. Formal thanks to Coxhoe Parish Council were expressed for the financial support to date. Energy reduction plans were touched on together with the need for funding to update the gym and that joint working was in hand re external areas with Coxhoe united.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

13.253 Planning Applications: Planning applications were considered from 7th January 2014 to 3rd February 2014 for 31, The Avenue, Coxhoe.

Resolved: That the application be noted.

13.254 Heritage Churchyard re instatement of damaged panels: Councillor Hepplewhite advised that two of the panels in Coxhoe Churchyard were damaged and needed relocating.

Resolved: That the Parish Clerk seeks costs for the work including assessment of new locations.

13.255 Finance:

13.255.1 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:

3 Mobile	Internet and Tele Jan 14 (791)	23.98
Mr D Vasey	Salary – Feb. 2014 (792)	
FLiC	Coxhoe Chronicle Printing (793)	129.00
Total Business Group	Copier Dec. 13 (794)	12.08
Total Business Group	Copier Jan. 14 (794)	26.61

13.255.2 Revenue and Capital Information 2013/14: Councillors considered the financial information presented for 2013/14, up to and including January 2014.

Resolved: That the information be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed on 5th March 2014 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)