



Delivering Quality Services to  
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

## Coxhoe Parish Council

<b>Meeting</b>	Monthly
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2014
<b>Time</b>	7.00 pm
<b>Venue</b>	Coxhoe Village Hall

### **Minutes of the proceedings of the monthly Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm in Coxhoe Village Hall, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014.**

**Present:** Councillor P Dodsworth (Chairman), Councillors S Dunn, Mrs B Hepplewhite, K Pounder, T Rowe, T Gorman, W Lavelle, A Plews and K Simpson.

**Clerk:** Mr G Price. **Other:** County Councillor M Plews. Parishioners 16.

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr S Dunn chaired the meeting.

**36.Apologies:** None received.

#### **37.Members Declarations of Interests:**

Chairman declared an interest in all matters relating to Coxhoe Village Hall (CVH).

Cllr. S Dunn declared an interest in all matters relating to Future Leisure in Coxhoe (FLIC).

Cllr. W Lavelle declared an interest in all matters relating to FLIC and Coxhoe Village Partnership (CVP).

Cllr. B Hepplewhite declared an interest in all matters relating to Coxhoe Village Hall.

Cllr K Pounder declared an interest in all matters relating to East Durham AAP, CDALC, Quarrington Hill Community Centre and Quarrington Hill Village Partnership.

#### **38.Questions From The public:**

Residents raised concern about the public health of residents in the village with many people seriously ill and suffering from a variety of ailments. The council was asked what it could do to assist in such matters. The Chairman advised that this was not an issue that could be directly addressed by the parish council and if residents could their concerns in writing it would be able to consider matters more appropriately and if necessary refer them to the local Public Health Authority. The County Councillor advised that reports relating to such matters were being considered by the principal authority and Coxhoe's statistic were no worse than other areas. Information on the state of public health in the parish would be forwarded to the parish when available.

A resident expressed concern at the length of time he had been waiting for a council bungalow in the village. This matter would be addressed by the Durham County Councillor.

Residents express concern at the condition of the building opposite from the village hall as its condition was in a state of disrepair. The Chairman advised that this in private ownership and planning enforcement had already been involved. The council would make enquires with planning department regarding the concerns of disrepair.

Residents express concerns at the condition of the main road in coxhoe which was in need of resurfacing. Furthermore, street cleaning and cleaning of the curbs from detritus was also raised. The council would contact DCC Highways on this matter.

Residents expressed concerns at the Cornforth Lane Turning Circle suggesting that this road should be blocked off to stop through traffic from abusing this route. Members advised that this matter was to be raised at the PACT meeting. The Chairman requested information to be forwarded to the parish council from the PACT meeting on this matter.

### **39. Police and Neighbourhood Wardens Report.**

A written report was provided from the police for the period 2<sup>nd</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July which advised of the considerable focus in respect of the influx of Irish Travelers. The Police had worked with Durham County Council to try to alleviate the situation and extra resources were brought in to provide necessary attention and reassurance for residents and staff at the Sports Centre.

Residents expressed several concerns regarding horse traps in the street ignoring traffic laws and causing a nuisance and danger to motorists. Despite calls to the police there was little response. The Chairman advised that these matters would be forwarded to the police with copy of resident's letter.

The Chairman further advised that residents should call 101 and report all issues to the police as more calls received will move the issue up the priority ranking. The parish council would also contact the local police advising of the issues raised.

### **40. Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014.**

It was **resolved** that the minutes provided a true record and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

### **41. Travellers Issues.**

Many residents had attended the meeting to express their concerns at the disruption, nuisance and dangerous activity caused by owners of horse and traps who were misusing public highways. The Chairman again advised that residents should contact the police via the 101 number and report such incidents. These matters would also be forwarded to the local police by the parish.

Residents were concerned at the recent development proposal from Durham County Council to provide a Travellers Site at the old Colliery Pit Bath's at Kelloe. This matter was discussed at a public meeting in Kelloe and raised many concerns. Kelloe parish council would be seeking support from neighbouring parishes on this matter. The Chairman advised that the parish would make contact with neighbouring parishes on this proposal to provide support.

The parish would also seek information from Durham County Council on this proposed Traveller site.

Residents expressed concern at the Travellers who gained access to the fields by the Sports Centre via Landsdowne Road. It was apparent that the security post was not in place or was inadequate in preventing such access. The Durham County Councillor would liaise with grounds staff on this matter.

Resident also expressed concerns at the condition the field was left in after their departure and the cost of the clean-up. Residents advised that the police did everything they were asked to do regarding their presence and perhaps through their presence this may have caused them to move off.

A meeting on the issue of Travellers is being held on the 15<sup>th</sup> July with Durham County Council, Police and residents. The venue is thought to be Kelloe Workingmen's Club.

Cllr P Dodsworth having entered the meeting late took over as Chairman.

### **42. Churchyard, Footway and Dog Fouling Complaints.**

Many residents had raised issue with upkeep of the grounds around the village. It was apparent that the growth of hedges, grass, weeds/nettles in public spaces was an eyesore and obstructing

public footpaths. Members advised that walkabouts with Durham County Council were undertaken months ago concerning footpaths to Coxhoe and Kelloe from Quarrington Hill and only part of the works were undertaken. Road signage was also overgrown and in places site lines at junctions were being obscured.

Members advised residents that matters concerning highways should be reported via the Highways Action Line (HAL) as this logs reports and creates a response inspection.

#### **43.Asset Transfer and Partnership Working Meeting with Durham County Council.**

Members advised that a meeting was scheduled for 10am, 7<sup>th</sup> July at Quarrington Hill Community Centre to discuss several areas of land in the parish. Members and the Clerk would attend.

#### **44.Community Reports.**

- I. Quarrington Hill Village Partnership** (no report provided).
- II. Coxhoe Community Partnership** (a report was circulated with the agenda).  
It was **resolved** to accept the report.
- III. Coxhoe Village Hall**  
Representatives provided a brief update to the council.  
It was **resolved** to accept the report.
- IV. Active Life Centre Coxhoe.**  
Representatives advised that grant funding for further lighting replacements was decline and further efforts continue. Solar panels on the roof are still being investigated. The Centre had suffered disruption to service during the Travellers presence.  
It was **resolved** to accept the report.
- V. Young People including Coxhoe Youth Room** (a report was circulated with the agenda).  
It was **resolved** to accept the report.

#### **45.Correspondence for Information and Action.**

- i.** The Clerk advised of the reply received from the Post Office recognizing the previous concerns raised by the parish and did not offer any solutions to the way in which the new post office would operate.
- ii.** The Clerk advised of the LCR Summer edition 2014 which was received.

#### **46.Durham County Councilor Update.**

Cllr Plews advised of the recent AAP Budgetary Engagement Exercise that was undertaken to determine budget needs.

The combined authority project for Principal Authorities in the North East is progressing.

The Hitachi factory is progressing well.

More Arts and Cultural Festivals are planned in the county with the Cycle race again being a success.

Business rates are being reduced for small business.

The Bedroom Tax is a cause for concern in the authority and therefore additional finance is being allocated to this.

An additional £1M is also set aside for those in need facing welfare cuts (especially aimed at those most vulnerable).

The Cabinet has met with MP's and representatives from the House of Lords regarding the budget cuts with a further £110M anticipated in the years ahead. Such cuts will have an impact on council services.

£500K is being set aside to create an employability scheme to encourage young people into the working environment.

An extra £10k will be allocated to each AAP area to support the vulnerable.

#### **47.Planning Applications.**

The Clerk was not aware of any considerable planning matters. However, with the email system being down there could be some in the system.

#### **48.Quarrington Hill Ward Councillor Vacancy.**

The Clerk advised that he was not aware of any reply from the Electoral Office as email was down. He would check on this and if there is no call for an election instigate the co-option process to cover the full area of the parish.

#### **49. Recognition of Quarrington Hill Village Partnership.**

Members received a copy of the above partnerships constitution.

A member from Quarrington Hill advised that in previous minutes the council had discussed issues concerning Quarrington Hill **Community** Partnership and this was therefore not relevant to the **Quarrington Hill Village Partnership (QHVP)**. Technically this was wrong and therefore not applicable to the 'Village Partnership'. Despite this misstated name of the organisation, the member further advised that Coxhoe Parish Council did not have the 'powers' to manage the affairs of QHVP and that by doing so it was acting beyond its legal powers (*ultra vires*).

The Chairman advised that it was the duty of the parish council to ensure that any funds provided to groups and organization was used appropriately and that those groups were operating as per stated in their terms of reference/constitution. It had been noted from residents of Quarrington Hill that they had been excluded from participation in the meetings and affairs of this organization and it was therefore operating outside the terms of its constitution. Other members of the council reiterated this concern and needed to be assured that any resident of Quarrington Hill could actively participate in the workings of this organization for the good of the village.

The member from Quarrington Hill was not prepared to discuss this matter any further with the council.

The parish council requested the next date of the QHVP meeting so that it may publish the date for the benefit of the community in Quarrington Hill.

#### **50. Finance.**

##### **50.1 Schedule of payments for June 2014**

**The Clerk circulated a list of payments that the council was required to pay.**

Members **resolved** to accept the schedule of payments (vouchers 400826 to 400832).

##### **50.2 Requests for Financial Assistance.**

###### **a) Quarrington Hill Banner Group.**

Members **resolved** to provide £200 to support this group with transportation costs for the Durham Miners Gala.

###### **b) Quarrington Hill Youth Group.**

Members **resolved** to provide £200 to support this group's Litter Pick Fundraising efforts.

###### **c) Active Life Centre.**

Members **resolved** to provide £200 to support this group's where additional costs had been incurred with the Travellers presence.

###### **d) Friends of Coxhoe Primary School.** (Cllr K Simpson and S Dunn Declared an interest in this group and left the meeting whilst this item was discussed).

Members **resolved** to provide £200 to support this group to help fund the Summer Fare.

#### **51. Date and time of next meeting.**

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 7pm at Coxhoe Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

**Signed on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 as a true record of the meeting:**

**Cllr. P. Dodsworth (Chairman)**

**Cllr. S. Dunn (Vice-Chairman)**