



Delivering Quality Services to  
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

## Coxhoe Parish Council

<b>Meeting</b>	Monthly
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 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 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**

**Attendance:** Councillors; P Dodsworth (Chairman), S Dunn, B Hepplewhite, T Rowe, C Hogarth, W Lavelle, A Plews and K Simpson.

**Other:** The Parish Clerk Mr G Price, Durham County Councillor M Plews.

Parishioners: 2      Police: 0.

**Absent:** Cllr's T Gorman, K Pounder, C Thirlaway.

#### **97. Declarations of Interests:**

The 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) and Coxhoe Primary School.

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, Coxhoe History Group and Coxhoe Village Partnership.

Cllr. K Simpson declared an interest in all matters relating to Coxhoe Primary School as a Governor.

#### **98. Representations from Residents of the Parish.**

Parishioners raised concerns regarding vehicles crossing the Green at Green Crescent estate which was now covered in deep car tracks. This situation had worsened during the period when the road resurfacing works were being undertaken as a diversion of traffic through the estate exasperated the situation. Parishioners suggested that the area should be closed from vehicles (Residents Only Access) as a matter of safety to residents and especially children.

DCC members had been informed of this matter as well as the MP. Cllr M Plews was aware of the area being used as a short cut and was investigating the matter through DCC Highways.

It was agreed for the Clerk to write to DCC Highways and the Police on this matter to seek a solution to this issue.

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

A written report was received from the Police and circulated prior to members.

It was **resolved** that the report be received.

#### **100. Minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014.**

The Chairman advised that Cllr Pounder had requested changes to the minutes on the grounds that the chairman had cause to caution a member following a personal comment made against another member.

The chairman had replied advising that the comment made by an individual at the meeting, was simply a point of correction from him as the chairman and the comment made did not in any way influence the outcome of the vote. The comment was not requested to be revoked at that time and therefore the minute should stand as recorded.

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

**101. Clerk's Report on matters raised from the previous meeting.**

The clerk gave a verbal report on the matters raised at last meeting and the actions taken and responses received.

It was **resolved** to accept the report.

**102. Community Reports.**

**I. Quarrington Hill Village Partnership.**

No report was received.

Members again raised issue on the partnerships operation by way of inclusivity and that no revised 'Standing Orders' for the working of this group have come forth to this council.

**II. Quarrington Hill Community Centre.** No report received.

**III. Coxhoe Community Partnership.**

A quarterly report was received last month and no further report was provided.

Members were still concerned about the signage in the Church Yard that needed repairs. The clerk advised that one of the units was taken away for pricing up and he was still awaiting its return and costing.

It was **agreed** to wait until the quote is received and to hold this work until the council's financial position improved.

**IV. Coxhoe Village Hall**

Representatives advised that the centre had held a Police Choir event and the WW1 presentation by the History Group and was soon to host the Wreath laying event.

It was **resolved** to accept the report.

**V. Active Life Centre Coxhoe.**

Representatives circulated information concerning the financial position of the organisation. It is anticipated that by the end of the financial year it will break even. Its target to become financially independent in 3 years of operation is being achieved and appreciation was given to DCC and the parish council for its financial support during this period.

The financial year ahead would be challenging with a shortfall of £22,000 to be addressed. A grant application for £20,000 was declined due to over subscription but an award recently received to redevelop the gym/weights room to an Olympic standard is pressing ahead.

Events are arranged for a Xmas evening with ticket sales passing breakeven point. A New Year Eve event is also planned. A new Table Tennis Club is also starting.

The Chairman provided his appreciation to the organisation for achieving a sound financial position. It was **resolved** to accept the report.

**VI. Young People including Coxhoe Youth Room.**

Representatives advised that the application to Awards for All was to be resubmitted.

Refurbishment of the Youth Room was being planned with improved kitchen facilities.

It was **resolved** to accept the report.

**103. Correspondence for Information and Action.**

- a) The Clerk advised of the notification received from DCC concerning the B6291 Road Closure for resurfacing which was considered far too late a notification.

Members **resolved** for the Clerk to include this matter in with the letter to DCC concerning the traffic issues in Green estate. Furthermore to advise that the notification was provided too late, lacked consultation with the parish council and residents, and resulted in causing chaos in Coxhoe. Members further added that the entrance to Cornforth Lane was being used as a planned alternative route for residents but drivers had received tickets from traffic police. After several tickets had been issued the sign was eventually covered over to allow approved access for residents.

- b) The Clerk advised of the letter of thanks received from the '2 cool for school' group in Quarrington Hill for the donation provided.
- c) The Clerk advised of the information received from DCC on the winter salting routes.
- d) The Clerk advised of the information received from CDALC concerning the AGM to be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November at County Hall.
- e) The Clerk advised of the invitation to attend the Celebration of Limestone Landscapes on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November at Seaham Hall.

#### **104. Durham County Councillor update.**

Cllr Plews advised that the Council would be continuing its position on Council Tax Benefit. A further £20m of savings were to be implemented next year with optional plans for a £70m reduction. A more lengthy report will be provided at the next meeting.

#### **105. Facebook.**

Members debated the merits of having a Facebook page. Concerns were expressed at the comments posted concerning councillors and that the council should only recognise formal matters sent to either Councillors or the clerk by email or in writing. On the other hand, members considered Facebook as a modern means of communication that worked fast and as experienced in recent issues (Travelers and Road works) drew attention to matters quickly.

It was **resolved** by members to continue using Facebook as a communication medium and the Clerk was requested to seek a policy on this matter.

#### **106. Revised Standing Orders for the Council.**

Minor changes remain outstanding. These revisions will be done and final copy circulated for approval at next meeting.

#### **107. Revised Financial Regulations for the Council.**

The Clerk had revised these documents as per previous meeting. It was **resolved** to accept the revised regulations.

#### **108. Hanging Baskets and Floral Containers and Grounds Maintenance.**

The Clerk advised that drafts of these documents were completed and suggested several members to go through these prior to any Invitation to Tender being released. It was **agreed** to do this on the 12<sup>th</sup> November at 6.15pm.

#### **109. Painting of Village Signs and Steel Seating.**

Members considered the quote provided by DCC and requested the Clerk to seek two further quotes from local painters.

#### **110. Planning Matters.**

##### **Applications submitted or under consideration.**

Planning Proposal DM/14/02378/FPA. No objections raised.

Planning Proposal DM/14/02852/FPA. Members expressed concerns on this application and requested the Clerk to lodge objections similar to the previous proposal for this site and in addition the increased potential traffic with the adjacent proposals at Bogma Farm.

Planning Proposal DM/14/03195/FPA. No objections raised.

##### **Notification of Planning Applications Approved by Durham County Council.**

Planning Proposal DM/14/02654/FPA.

Planning Proposal DM/14/02624/FPA.

## 111. Finance.

### Schedule of payments for October distributed for member's approval.

Payee	Category	Withdrawal	Deposit
<b>Current Account Opening Balance</b>			<b>£2,883.45</b>
PCS DLR Branch	Printing Recharges		5.87
CIT Vendor Finance	Photocopier Lease	133.20	
Tenancy	Rent for Paddock at Churchyard		150.00
Total Business Grp	Photocopier usage	99.73	
Clerk	Employee Salary	1,439.92	
HMRC	Tax and NI	465.98	
The Coronation Press	External Printing Charges	125.00	
CDALC	Employee Training	54.00	
Three Network	Mobile Telephony	125.14	
Thinford Nurseries	Watering and Planting	1,185.60	
Durham County Council	DCC P3 Grant		440.00
Quarrington Hill CC	Memorial Wreath	18.00	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3,646.57</b>	<b>595.87</b>
<b>Current Account Balance</b>			<b>£-167.25</b>
<b>Deposit Account Balance</b>			<b>£6,005.33</b>
<b>Total Balances</b>			<b>£5,838.08</b>

Members **resolved** to approve the above schedule of payments (vouchers 400866 to 400874) and for the Clerk to undertake a transfer of funds to refresh the current account.

## 112. Notice Boards.

It was **resolved** to purchase a unit when finance available for Quarrington Hill in Blue colour with banner and the parish logo to be included.

## 113. Clerk's Report.

The Clerk advised that he had completed the Grounds Maintenance and Hanging Basket documents and would be preparing a Tender Document for renewing the Photocopier/Printer. The precept determination is required in the coming months therefore a report on the council financial position and anticipated outturn for 2014/15 and anticipated expenditure for 2015/16 will be done to assist the council in determining the precept for next year.

## 114. Date and time of next meeting.

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 7pm at Quarrington Hill Community Centre.  
The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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

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

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