



Delivering Quality Services to  
Coxhoe & Quarrington Hill

## Coxhoe Parish Council

<b>Meeting</b>	Full Council
<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2015
<b>Time</b>	7pm
<b>Venue</b>	Coxhoe Village Hall

### **Minutes of the proceedings of the Coxhoe Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm in Coxhoe Village Hall on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.**

**Attendance:** Councillors; S Dunn, T Plews, K Pounder, W Lavelle, C Hogarth, E Thompson, K Simpson and R Mayo.

**Apologies:** T Rowe, C Thirlaway, Durham County Cllr J Blakey, M Plews, PC M Olgivie.

**Absent:** B Hepplewhite.

**Other:** The Clerk Mr G Price, DCC Cllr. M Williams. 5 Parishioners.

#### **148. Declarations of Interests:**

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

Cllr. C Hogarth declared an interest in all matters relating to Quarrington Hill Allotments and the Kingswood Community Group.

Cllr. E Thompson declared an interest in all matters relating to Kingswood Community Partnership.

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 Community Partnership.

Cllr K Pounder declared an interest in all matters relating to Quarrington Hill Community Centre and Quarrington Hill Village Partnership.

#### **149. Councillor Vacancy.**

The Clerk advised that the period of notice for seeking expressions of interest to fill the Councillor vacancy by cooption only one expression of interest was received from Mr. Ron Mayo of Coxhoe. It was **resolved** that Ron Mayo be accepted as a suitable candidate to fill the post and the form of acceptance was duly signed.

#### **150. Police and Neighbourhood Wardens Reports.**

In the absence of the police a report was circulated in advance.

Members expressed concern that no reply was received from the Police regarding the incident at the Traffic lights reported the previous month. There was further concern expressed with vehicles doing U-turns at this junction. It was **resolved** for the clerk to seek the attendance of PC M Olgivie at the next meeting and to write to Brian Buckley at DCC Highways on these matters.

Members also express concern on the recent two incidents at the traffic island opposite Pizza Roma Take-away. It was suggested that the signage and vehicle parking were contributing to these incidents and perhaps DCC Highways could assess the matter. It was **resolved** for the clerk to write to DCC Highways on this matter.

DCC Cllr. M Williams joined the meeting.

Members expressed concern at the number of incidents in the parish and again requested the attendance of PC M Olgivie to the next meeting.

#### **151. Representations from residents of the parish.**

Parishioners expressed concern at the Car Washing operations that were taking place at the garage. This action was leaving copious amounts of water in the vicinity that was forming ice in cold weather and creating a hazard for pedestrians. Despite some drainage works the situation was still not satisfactory. It was **resolved** for the clerk to write to DCC Highways and Environmental Health on this matter.

**152. Minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015.** It was **resolved** that the minutes provided an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the chair.

**153. Minutes of the Meeting with Quarrington Hill Allotment Holders held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November.** It was **resolved** that the minutes be noted with amendments to be made.

**154. Clerks report on matters raised the previous month.** Report was circulated in advance. The clerk provided a brief update of matters circulated in the briefing.

In summary the Lighting engineer advised that to install a lighting column at the unadopted footpath between Quarrington Hill Community Centre and the shop would cost £2,000+. A practicable solution would be to install a bulkhead wall light on the Community Centre. The clerk had sent a request to the Community Centre requesting that they consider an arrangement whereby the parish council would pay for the purchase, installation and running costs of a bulk head light above the Community Centre fire escape but no reply was received. It was **resolved** for the clerk to write to them formally on this matter.

The Dog Bins have been installed and a contract with DCC to empty will be put in place. These units have now been added to the council's Registry of Assets.

DCC were requested to repair the lighting in St. Mary's Church. These units were Parish installations and the parish will be invoiced. They have also been added to the council's Register of Assets.

Notice Board for the wall adjacent the Bus Stop at the Methodists Church is ordered. This unit will be added to the council's Register of Assets after installation.

The replacement seating unit at the entrance to the grove. The clerk was advised that Cassop Cum-Quarrington had similar seating units and may be able to advise who the supplier was. The Clerk advised that the call for volunteers to plant bulbs on the Village Green had not been successful. Due to the time limitations the clerk advised that it was now time to engage our contractor to do this. It was **resolved** that the contractor be offered the work as per his quotation.

Old Mineral Railway Line. The Chair advised that Cornforth PC would be considering this matter at their next meeting.

**155. Durham County Councillors report.**

Cllr M Williams advised that the lighting along the path leading down from the Sensory Garden to the Pump House was not to be reinstated as this was determined some time ago in the DCC Lighting cut backs. Members raised concern regarding the lack of consultation on this matter although we were consulted on the Pit Bank lights out of Quarrington Hill and the lights on the road to Kelloe which were jointly funded by both parish Councils.

The Chair reported that the Bogma Hall Farm Planning Application had been approved for 155 house of which 6 would be bungalows. The planning application had comments concerning the access but highways department stated that with a protective right turn access off the A177 would "meet standards of safety". They also stated that the request for extension of the 30mph speed limit along by this entrance would not be agreed to by highways as it was primary road. The plan also included an emergency vehicle access on to Ashbourne Drive, consultation with the Parish Council was requested to prevent a rat run on to the A177 as with Cornforth Lane. The site plan showed a gap between plots 60/61 to give potential future access to the Church Commissioners Land proposed development. A request had been made to the planners and highways departments that this be used to also carry traffic from the Church Commissioner's development on to the A177 rather than on to Station Road, but if not, that access between these

developments be prohibited so that Bogma Hall Farm development did not also drain on to Station Road.

Cllr J Blakey had spoken at the planning meeting regarding the site compound that would be made for when the school was extended. This compound could be reengineered to make a lay-by for dropping off children at the school along the A177 to provide an additional and alternative route for parents once the development was completed.

Cllr M Williams also advised of traffic surveys undertaken in the area. Several speeding tickets were issued. Traffic calming measures towards Cornforth Bridge from Tursdale were being investigated.

Members enquired on the progress of installing the speed bumps at the Cornforth Lane entrance. The Chair advised that DCC were progressing this matter with ordering of goods in January/February installation.

Cllr M Williams also advised of DCC's ongoing consultation on the closure of the DLI Museum and relocation of contents to other venues. It was **resolved** that Cllr Pounder would draft a letter for the Clerk to send to Jenny Haworth at DCC on this matter.

Finally, Cllr M Williams advised of the DCC's intention to change the contracts of Teaching Assistants contract of employment/working hours.

**156. Report of the Children and Young Peoples Service Coordinator.** The brief report was circulated. The Chair advised that a meeting of the Youth Strategy team had recently taken place and reported that good progress was being made across a wide variety of points. There would be a call-out for funding bids from the AAP and Amanda was also working on a number of bids to support the work of groups.

**157. Community reports.**

- i. Quarrington Hill Village Partnership.** No report was received. Parishioners raised concern that they could not find out what was happening in the Quarrington Hill Village Partnership. Despite attempts to join the QHVP a parishioner remains excluded. The Chair noted the parishioners concern and would request a report from the organisation.
- ii. Quarrington Hill Community Centre.** No report was received.
- iii. Quarrington Hill Front Street Regeneration Scheme.** A report was circulated advising that the regeneration working group had met in November to discuss progress and review the timescales for the project. Phil Townsend, the artist/sculptor, brought along some of the tiles which will go on the central sculpture and presented photographs of what he has achieved to date. It has been very challenging for him in many ways but the central sculpture is now coming together and, seeing the progress was very exciting. The first two pieces of stone cut at the quarry unfortunately had to be rejected because of small cracks and, of course, Phil wants our sculpture to be the best and we need it to be durable. This caused a small delay but he now has the right pieces. Given that the two pieces of stone are quite large and heavy they will need to be completed outside. Of course that makes completion in the winter months quite difficult because of frosts and wet weather, or worse! Phil therefore anticipates that the central sculpture will be ready to come on site around the end of March or beginning of April. Illustrations were shown that depicted the wooden column which will sit between the two large stones and which depicts the shaft with the different seams that existed in East Hetton Pit. There is a tiny figure at the top of the column which is to scale so it demonstrates a perspective on the depth of the shaft. Recessed into the two large stones will be a series of tiles with drawings and text showing and explaining life in the mine. The group is continuing to work on securing funding for the two other sculptures which will sit at the top of Hawthorn Crescent and at Belle Vue. As you may recall we are also planning to introduce a

complimentary planting scheme around the village. One of the main hurdles for this scheme has been the acquisition of the various parcels of land. We are hopeful that we will be able to proceed in the spring around the village. The new flower bed on the land opposite should begin very soon so we can look forward to our first display in the spring of next year. It's been a long journey for this project but it is now becoming a reality and we're sure will give us a village centre of which we can be proud.

**iv. Coxhoe Community Partnership.** No report was received.

**v. Coxhoe Village Hall.** A report was circulated advising that heating system was now renewed and working well with good feedback from user groups. The Playgroup charity was wound up and surplus funds given to the Village Hall to purchase new toys. Fees, hours and sessions were reviewed and will come into place on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Successful events were the Peterlee Band Concert and Little Red Wagon show. Christmas activities arranged include; A Jolly Christmas Celebration, Wreath making workshop, Banner Group Concert and Hop Xmas Party. New activities introduced, Coxhoe Quilters and starting in the New Year is Art for Pleasure. Funding for Improving Activities for 60+ age range is being sort for groups and new entrance doors into the hall, kitchen/supper room, electric's for IT stations, tables, alarm, shutters and scaffolding. Insurance pay-out from the burglary will result in a loss of £2,000 due to under insurance and the insurance needs revising. The burglary also highlighted the need to improve security and revise cover from the insurer.

Internal improvements such as soap dispensers, hand washing heaters, toilet roll holders are all now fitted with funds from DCC councillors.

Funding from the CDCF has paid for the renewal of lights throughout the building. Carpeting of the stairs, landing and rear entrance to hall will be funded by a donation from the Ladies Club, new flooring in ground floor toilets using remaining funds from DCC councillors and the carpeting of meeting room 1 by the Village Hall funds.

Architect plans for building a lift to first floor is anticipate in the next few weeks.

Finally, rents and charges are being reviewed across all user groups. It was **resolved** that the report be noted.

**vi. Active Life Centre Coxhoe.** No report was received.

**vii. Youth Strategy.** This matter was covered in the Children & Young Peoples Service Co-ordinator's report.

**viii. Kingswood.** Members advised that a lot has happened in relation to Kings Wood since the last issue of the chronicle with positive progress on a number of issues. Firstly, importantly, the bid to Durham County Council for the transfer of the wood under a long term lease to the Parish council has been successful. The legalities should be complete ready for a handover in the late spring of 2016. This means that the hopes of residents to protect and have control over this much used amenity is at last a reality. Our thanks go to Coxhoe Parish council, our county councillors and especially to the officers of DCC who have been very helpful in getting us to this stage. Coxhoe Parish Council donated £100 to the partnership to open a bank account and start the process of applying for charitable status. They also submitted a bid for a grant under the delivering differently scheme to help us with start-up costs and was successful in securing £1,600 which we will use to purchase equipment for use in the wood. In October we held a volunteers meeting in the Community Centre where enthusiastic residents came up with a range of ideas on how to manage the workload. The partnership is committed to taking residents and volunteers' ideas on board and we will be holding further events over the coming months. Some of those who volunteered to help with maintenance will be working alongside the countryside rangers over the coming months in order to learn more about the work needed in the wood. Darryl Cox and John Butler from the ranger's service recently visited the wood and walked around with member of the committee. Even though we were in torrential rain it proved a very enjoyable and helpful exercise. They were generous with their advice and positive in their support of the plans already being made for the future of the area.

Though they will not be able to help with the maintenance of the wood because of staff reductions in their team, they will be available to offer advice and we appreciate that offer. What about the rest of Kings Wood? Some residents have asked about the future of the rest of the wood which runs down behind Hawthorn Crescent and out towards Kelloe. With DCC looking to make cut backs and to sell assets they were concerned that this area could become vulnerable in the same way as the wood behind Steetley Terrace. The Parish council and the Kingswood Partnership took up this concern and approached DCC to request to include this land in the lease. Much of that land actually falls within the Kelloe parish boundary so we asked them about the possibility of a partnership arrangement for the lease. They are equally keen to protect that area from development and are now working with DCC and Coxhoe Parish Council to include this land in the lease. This will mean more work but, given the problems of overdevelopment of nearby villages, it will be worth it to maintain the wood for ourselves and future generations. If you want to get involved in any way then you will be made very welcome just contact Eric Thompson ( 3771288 ) or Carole Hogarth (3771315) or come along to one of our meetings which are advertised on the notice board next to the shop. It was **resolved** that the report be noted.

- ix. Village Atlas.** Members advised that information was sent to Tony Devos on this matter.
- 158. Member's reports from meetings attended.**
- I. CDALC - Training.** Members (3) advised that they had attended the Standards Training session.
- II. EDRCAAP.** Members attended the Task Group meeting focusing on Young People.
- 159. PP2.** Members advised that as part of the Quality Award Scheme the Annual Action Plan will be reviewed annually and republished. This is scheduled for April.
- 160. Hanging Basket Review.** The Clerk would circulate the existing schedule and members would forward comments.
- 161. Car Parking.** The Chair advised that he had contacted Mr Gatenby regarding the possible use of the land to the rear of his premises and was awaiting a reply. No information was received from the Cooperative on their parking improvements.
- 162. Play Areas.** Members had become aware of the 'Open Space Needs Assessment' undertaken by DCC that highlighted a lack of Parks and Gardens in Coxhoe this matter should be considered by the council. Furthermore the planning application for Bogma Hall Farm also highlighted issues of a similar nature.
- 163. Parkhill and Land Transfers.** Land values have were still not yet received from DCC.
- 164. Old School Building.** Members express concern at the condition of the building and it is noted that the roof has collapsed further since the fire damage. It was **resolved** for the Clerk to write to DCC Planning concerning the condition of the site seeking it to be tidied up and perhaps cleared as it is becoming a dangerous building. Further the parish council considers that the plans could be amended from houses to flats to accommodate elderly people.
- 165. Recording of Council Meetings.** Members considered the proposal to purchase a Go-Pro Video Camera to record council meetings. It was **resolved** for the Clerk to purchase this unit with at least 64GB memory card and a policy for usage
- 166. Correspondence for Information and Action.**
- a) Invitation to Spennymoor Town Council Civic Carol Service.** This was declined.

- b) **CDALC – Registration and Declaration of Interests.** The Clerk circulated information on this matter for member’s information.
- c) **Council Website and Social Media Report.** The Clerk circulated the latest report produced by the site administrator for information.

**167. Finance.**

- a) **The schedule of payments for November were distributed for member’s approval.** It was **resolved** that the accounts presented to members be accepted this included all due payments, receipts, Direct Debits and account transfers.

Payee	Category	Debits	Credits
Coxhoe Village Hall	Premises Rent for Parish Council	1,000.00	
Coxhoe Village Hall	Purchase of Poppy Wreath	20.00	
Quarrington Hill Community Centre	Premises Rent for Parish Council	18.00	
G Price	Salary	1,516.12	
G Price	Stationery	1.50	
G Price	Projector Lamp	181.44	
G Price	Postage	18.88	
G Price	Notice Board	916.78	
Total Business Computers Group	Stationery	140.27	
Phil Townsend	Quarrington Hill EIP	7,000.00	
A Hithchens	Salary	1,076.84	
A Hithchens	Stationery	5.00	
Three Mobile	Telephony (Clerk)	31.51	
Three Mobile	Telephony (C&YPSC)	29.00	
Three Mobile	Telephony (C&YPSC)	25.00	
HMRC	November PAYE	615.17	
Total Business Computers Group	Stationery	103.34	
Mastercopy	Photocopier Usage	182.64	
GE Capital	Photocopier Contract	132.00	
Altogether Greener	Grounds Maintenance	743.60	
Atkinson Construction	Play Group Shelving Works	200.00	
Payments upheld	<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,957.09</b>	<b>00.00</b>

- b) **To consider the provision of financial support to Coxhoe Crusaders Netball Club.** It was **resolved** that £200 be provided on this occasion.
- c) **To consider the request for financial support from Durham Cathedral.** It was **resolved** that this be declined.
- d) **To consider the request to release the second instalment payment to the Artist for works to the Quarrington Hill sculptures.** It was **resolved** that this payment be deferred until the Section 106 funds are released from DCC. The Clerk was requested to liaise with DCC planning for the release of these funds.
- e) **Budget Performance Report.** The Clerk had circulated in advance details of the budget spending profiles to date.

**168. Official Precept Request from Durham County Council.**

Following the workings of the Financial Sub-Committee that had determine the budget requirements for the municipal year 2016-2017 and the final figures concerning the TAX Base and LCTRSS it was **resolved** that the precept for the forthcoming financial year be set at £87,008 (Band 'D' rate of £68.97).

**169. Planning matters.**

- i. **Planning Applications for Consideration.**

DM/15/02878/FPA	Mr S Brian 9 Church Street, Coxhoe DH6 4DD	Non-illuminated Signage.
DM/15/03098/FPA	Mr D Seymour. Land to the rear of Bogma Avenue, Coxhoe DH6 4EW	Cattle and general purpose shed for agricultural use.
DM/15/03557/FPA	Mrs J Baugham 68 Ashbourne Drive DH6 4SP	Erection of single storey extension at rear of building.

No objections or concerns were raised to the above proposals.

**ii. Planning Applications consider and now approved.**

DM/15/02889/FPA	Mr & Mrs P Redmond, 4 The Paddock, Coxhoe DH6 4SF	Erection of two storey extension at rear of dwelling.
DM/15/03059/FPA	Mr & Mrs M & J Lowe, 4 Aged Miners Bungalows, Quarrington Hill DH6 4QH.	Erection of single storey extension at rear of building.
DM/15/03079/FPA	Mr G Priano, The Stables, The Willows Farm, Coxhoe DH6 4HW	Conversion of redundant chicken shed to create 3 No. two bedroom units for holiday let use.

**170. Neighbourhood development plan.**

- a) Update from meeting with DCC Planners.** The chair advised that he would circulate the minutes form the Coxhoe Community Partnership.
- b) Proposed Schedule.** The Chair advised that the work involved would be as much and more but similar to what the council had already undertaken in producing the parish plan but have the additional focus on planning.
- c) Future Meetings.** Future meeting dates proposed 16<sup>th</sup> December, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 and 27<sup>th</sup> April.

**171. Exclusion of the Press and Public.** No matters.

**172. Date and time of next meeting.**

The next meeting of the council would be on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015 starting at 7pm in Coxhoe Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9.25pm.