

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2023

AT 7.30pm in CODDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Parish Councillors Nerissa McDonald (Chairman), David Armstrong, Mike Ayers, Linda Cox, Lorna Mosedale, Bob O'Donnell, Wendy Parrett, District Councillor John Lee, Dawn Hockenhill (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Co Cllr Debbie Darby and Dist Cllr Betty Brooks.

2. To receive and accept minutes from the APM held on 28 April 2022

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were proposed as a true record by the Chairman and agreed by those present at the 2022 meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

a) The Parish Council have contacted local landowners and will continue to research opportunities to find land for burials.

b) The one-way system public consultation results have been forwarded to Via for their final decision.

c) The staggered crossroads at the junction of Drove Lane and the A17 is one of the many highway's issues being addressed by the Parish Council to the County Council.

d) The Parish Council are in discussion with the County Council on the state of the footpath and cycle path along the C208.

4. Annual Reports of the Parish Council

a. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman presented the annual report and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked all Parish, District and County Councillors for their hard work on behalf of the village and Councillor Linda Cox, who has recently stepped down as a Parish Councillor after many years of dedication to the role. The late Councillor Bernard Allen was warmly remembered, and best wishes sent to his wife and family. The Chairman also thanked Malcolm Baker for his work as a volunteer editing the Coddington Village News and as Chairman of the trustees for Coddington Community Centre. Planning, roads and pathways, local events (including the upcoming Coronation of King Charles III) and the new Village Sign were all topics included in her report. (Chairman's Report in full – appendix 1).

b. Allotment Working Group Report

Cllr Parrett presented the Allotment Group's report on the 24 allotments. At the beginning of the year there were 4 Coddington residents on the waiting list. All of them have now been allocated plots after two allotments were vacated, an existing tenant decided to halve her plot and a further tenant has given notice to vacate. The land is rented from the District Council and with their agreement, a tenant is to be allowed to keep chickens but must follow strict regulations mainly due to bird flu. The allotments are inspected by the Parish Council three times a year with the first one now being due.

c. Finance Report

Copies of the draft annual accounts were circulated, and the Clerk highlighted the healthy balance which includes circa £12,000 of CIL money from new housing developments. The CIL funds are to be discussed under agenda item 10. The accounts to be published on the Parish Council website and to be available for public inspection during the audit in June/July.

5. Annual Report of Coddington Trust Fund

Assets of circa £310,000 are held by the Trust in various banks, building societies, bonds, and shares. Very few residents of Coddington have requested help this year and Chairman Pat Bartley is concerned that in the present economic climate there are residents who can benefit from the help of the Trust but who haven't come forward. She asked anyone who might be aware of people in need to encourage them to apply. Contact details for the Trust Fund can be found in the Coddington Village News. (Coddington Trust Fund Report in full – appendix 2)

6. Annual Report of Coddington Village Hall Charity Trust Committee

The Chairman, Maggie George reported that Covid and lockdowns have impacted negatively on bookings, made worse still by competition from a new venue in Newark. A grant from Asda has enabled a new kitchen to be fitted and redecorating has given the Village Hall a significant uplift. The trustees are working hard to continue with refurbishments and in their efforts to attract new hirers to the Village Hall. (CVH Report in full – appendix 3)

7. Annual Report of Coddington Community Centre Association

The Chairman, Malcolm Baker thanked Ian, Marion, and Sally for their hard work in running the centre. Bookings are on the increase and the Chairman welcomed Red Fox Fairs with their first event at the centre being held shortly. An issue with the boiler has been rectified and the centre is currently in the B category for energy ratings. He thanked the Parish Council for their help with car park issues at school

times and stated that the next major project will be the drainage issues in the car park. (CCA Report in full – appendix 4)

8. Annual Report of Coddington C of E Primary and Nursery School

Rebecca Major introduced herself as the new Headteacher from September 2023. The school has a new Chair of Governors and Mrs Major advised that there are spaces for more Governors should anyone be interested. In the region of 420 children attend the school with numbers varying across the year groups and in line with numbers across the region. The school are very much aware of struggling families within the school and are working hard to help those families. As the Headteacher Mrs Major considers herself ambitious and holds the school in high regard. She believes education should be enjoyed rather than endured. Regarding the children, she wants them to be ambitious, self-confident and to flourish.

9. County and District Councillors

Co Cllr Darby provided a written report – appendix 5.

District Councillor Lee spoke about the securing of kerbside glass recycling and the protection of green open spaces including Thorpe Oaks play park. The District Council are to provide new play equipment at Thorpe Oaks funded from a district wide allocation of £150, 000. The bunds at the play park are looking good with willow trees to be planted soon. There is a need to supply areas for the travelling community to settle but these need to be in the right places. A recent planning application for a traveller site in Balderton had been refused. He confirmed that there were no plans to open Hollowdyke Lane to traffic. On wider issues he spoke about new projects within the district including the Aerospace Institute, the Castle Gatehouse project, and the YMCA and about neighbourhood programmes such as Days of Action, Safer Streets and Community Speedwatch.

(Dist Cllr Lee's Wider Report – appendix 6)

10. Community Infrastructure Levy Funds

Clerk to the Parish Council, Dawn Hockenhull advised that circa £12,000 CIL funds are held by the Parish Council. These funds need to be spent on the provision, improvement, replacement, or maintenance of physical, social, and green infrastructure in Coddington. A recent consultation in the CVN had seen very few suggestions from residents on how to spend the funds, so it would be repeated in the June edition of the CVN and posted on Facebook.

11. Open Forum

- Mike Cox asked Dist Cllr Lee why only half of Balderton Lane had been fully resurfaced with the other half just being patched at the sides. Cllr Lee advised that this issue should be taken up with the County Council.
- Mike Cox advised that anyone paying council tax to the District Council could access the Civil War Museum free of charge.
- David Armstrong asked Dist Cllr Lee whether there was a timescale for mending potholes. Cllr Lee advised that this issue is dealt with by the County Council and there could be various reasons why repairs were delayed.
- Mike Ayers asked the Chairman of the Village Hall whether there was dialogue between themselves and the Community Centre in relation to bookings. If the Community Centre was already booked, did they refer the request to the Village Hall? The Chairman of the Village Hall confirmed that there was.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Appendix 1 – Chairman’s Report

Welcome everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting 2023, thank you for attending.

I will start by thanking all the Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors for their hard work on behalf of our village, the time and effort that all councillors put in is to be noted. I would like to thank Councillor Linda Cox who has retired recently and thank her for her hard work and dedication over many years and the Parish Council will miss her knowledge, input, and enthusiasm.

We have also lost Councillor Bernard Allen who I am sure you all know, passed away recently at the age of 97 - still contributing most robustly to his position on the Parish Council! A stalwart supporter of Coddington Village in so many ways, we shall all greatly miss him and give our warm wishes to his wife Joyce and family for the future.

Thanks as always goes to Malcolm Baker who continues to volunteer as editor for Coddington Village News (not an easy task!) and as Chairman of the trustees managing Coddington Community Centre. We shall hear a report from himself later.

Thanks also go to the working groups within the Parish Council including the Allotment group - we shall hear from Wendy Parrett shortly.

Planning

The development of one warehouse next to the A17 Currys site has now been approved at the District Council’s Planning Committee following their decision not to contest a planning appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. The Parish Council aim to seek legal advice on the next stages of this development, which includes up to six more warehouses.

The Parish Council have responded to the formal consultation on the preferred route for dualling of the A46 Newark Bypass, mainly on the severance of the footpath to Winthorpe.

We have recently objected to a planning application for a Travellers site on Barnby Road near the Balderton Lane crossroads. This application has been rejected by the District Council planning committee.

Consultation

A one-way system consultation was held this year. There were under 50 responses which were fairly evenly split, with 59% in favour of a one-way system and 41% against – this has proved not be a strong enough positive response from the residents of Coddington to convince Nottinghamshire Highways to change from the status quo. The collated results have been sent on to Via and we are awaiting a reply from them for any further comments.

Safety

Matters have been addressed with speed bumps installed at the Community Centre, a Puffin crossing at the Plough crossroads, and we are now focussing on the “Speed on the C208 and A1 Slip Road”.

You will probably have seen the speed watch team on the C208 and Balderton Lane - my thanks to all those in that group for giving up their time -and for wearing a day glow jacket.

Events

The Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II was a time for celebration. The Parish Council and village groups and volunteers came together for a splendid weekend of celebrations.

This was followed sadly by the passing of the Queen Elizabeth II and the Village paid their respects with a vigil at the Community Centre.

Once again, the Community Centre was the venue for the Carols Round the tree which was pure delight as usual - with some bold innovations and the Salvation Army Band. Thanks to all concerned.

A Christmas tree has been planted but it will be a few years before it reaches the dizzy heights for decoration! There has been further planting with a tree to commemorate the late Cllr Maureen Dobson.

Village Sign

The new Village Sign has been a joyous event this year with the beautiful artwork from Paul Handley, and the ceremony when the tape was cut by the “Guardians of the Village Sign” and a blessing given from Rev Phil Smith of All Saints' Church Coddington.

Now we have the Coronation of King Charles III! Thanks to all who have come together to organise this weekend. I'm sure you have all seen the posters – Sunday Big Lunch at the School (more bouncy castles of course!) and the Monday at the Church for display and teas. Sounds, like a great Coronation celebration in Coddington!!

I will end the report by thanking all Parish, District and County Councillors once again and all volunteers who help Coddington to remain a pleasant and safe place to belong.

Thank You.

Cllr Nerissa McDonald

Appendix 2 – Coddington Trust Fund Report

In 2022 the income for the year was just over £18,600, this is mainly from the rents for the almshouses and the farmland which the Trust Fund owns in Coddington, but also from the Trust Fund's investments.

In 2022 outgoings were just over £13,000. This was mainly spent on professional fees, the maintenance of the almshouses, their gardens, and surrounding areas. In 2022 almost £4,500 was spent on Relief in Need, which included a donation of £1,000 which was made to Collingham Food Pantry, because through the school, the Food Pantry provided food parcels to the poor and needy of Coddington who had applied to the Charity for Relief in Need.

The Trust Fund has assets in the region of £310,000 invested in various bank or building societies, as well as some bonds and shares.

Very few residents of Coddington have been seeking help from the Charity so far this year. I would expect that in the present climate that there must be people out there who need help. We continue to advertise in the Village News, and I believe that we feature on a Coddington Web page. If you are aware of someone in need, please encourage them to apply. All the details are in the Village News. Applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

Pat Bartley – Chairman

Appendix 3 – Coddington Village Hall Report

The CIO has been fully operational since 1st January 2022. The impact of Covid and lockdowns had a profound effect on the Village Hall, in as much as some Hirers chose not to return due to declining numbers for their various groups. Despite robust advertising through the likes of Facebook, plus the development of a new Village Hall website, we are still significantly below capacity for bookings. In addition, we now need to compete against a new, purpose-built venue in Newark which offers both a large carpark as well as full cafe facilities.

On a more positive note, we were successful in an application for a grant from Asda and the award of £7,500 enabled a new fitted kitchen to be installed. In addition, the main hall has been professionally redecorated, complete with new curtains. Along with the purchase of new storage cupboards for the small hall and an upcoming refurbishment of the main hall's sprung floor, the facilities now have a fresher, brighter appearance that has been well received by Hirers.

The Trustees work hard to maintain the building, most of which is carried out by volunteers' efforts. Major priorities, however, are to insulate the old corrugated building in order to

improve energy efficiency and also upgrading the toilet facilities. Meanwhile, efforts to encourage new Hirers to use the Hall remain ongoing.

Maggie George - Chairman

Appendix 4 – Coddington Community Centre Report

I would like to start by thanking Ian for his ongoing attention to detail in ensuring the Community Centre is always ready for the next Hirer. I would like to thank Marion for the work she carried out. Marion left us last year for personal reasons. Following an application and interview process we hired Sally Briggs-Price to continue the work Marion had started and she has settled in very quickly and become an integral part of our team. Thank you, Sally.

Since all Covid Restrictions were lifted the Community Centre has seen activity increase. On Mondays we are now very busy, the rest of the week has some availability. The weekends are becoming busy with Saturday mornings continuing to be fully utilised and Sunday Evenings regularly booked. The remaining availability is being booked by birthday parties. We welcome Red Fox Fairs to the community centre with their first event being held this Sunday 30th April.

At the beginning of the year, we had an issue with the boiler in that a sensor failed which took a few weeks to replace as a part needed to be ordered. This did not cause too much trouble as we used electric heaters to keep the function room warm. The engineers tell us that the rest of the boiler is in good condition. The usual yearly maintenance is ongoing. We will be resealing the main hall floor this year and have started the process of obtaining quotes for the work.

While working through the Energy Performance Certificate report in order to make as many improvements as possible we raised a few questions. Having spoken to the assessor our details were put through the new and updated software which indicate our building to be about 6 points inside the B category.

The car park continues to be heavily utilised at school times, my thanks to the Parish Council for providing the 'No Waiting' cones. They do not appear to be moving which indicates that they are having an effect. Having spoken to Glenn the parking problem is moving to the highway as they are beginning to park on the grass verge outside the centre.

The drainage in the car park is our next major project to work on. We have looked at putting a drainage gully at the back of the bays to help drain the water as the structure under the blocks appears to be degraded. However, this may not be a solution as the water settles in the middle of the bays. When the drain is checked after rainfall a slow flow can be seen. I have spoken to a contractor with a view to receiving a quote for replacing the blocks with tarmac and installing a better drain to take the water away. I have not yet received the quote.

Malcolm Baker - Chairman

Appendix 5 – Report from Co Cllr Darby

I have now started to meet with the Parish Council on a Monday evening every few weeks, for a more one to one meeting which is proving successful. Over the last year I have reported several Nottinghamshire County Council issues. One thing that is a big issue is speeding along Beckingham Road and Beacon Hill Road. I have emailed Via regarding the speed from 40 to 50 and back to 50, a few times now, it would make sense for this stretch to be 40 not change to 50. When I get an update, I will be in touch.

Coddington school have had issues for a long time regarding the way parents are parking their cars. I am pleased to say Via are bringing a Safety awareness into school in June to speak to the students, I have offered my support with this to school and hopefully we can look into raising awareness with parents too. I will speak to Cllr Lee nearer the time to ask if he too would like to support this, working together on this would be fantastic.

Seeing the Puffin Crossed being done this year has been a great achievement, the Late Maureen Dobson would have been delighted this was finally done. I know Maureen, Cllr Lee, the Parish Council, and residents really worked hard to get this done.

I met with Shelia Bache a couple of weeks ago at the Village Hall she raised the concerns about the toilets in the hall, that they are not ideal so asked if I can help to find some funding to help with costs. I have spoken to our research officer and awaiting to hear back.

There is also the outstanding work that was started in Aug 2019. So, I have contacted Via to get this chased up.

Any problems that cannot wait for our one-to-one meetings please do not hesitate to contact me.

Councillor Debbie Darby

Appendix 6 – Report from Dist Cllr Lee

We are pleased to present our Annual Report for the year 2022-2023. This year has seen an unprecedented level of progress and development across the district. The Space Airspace Institute has been a standout success. The Institute will provide -needed skills and training to the workforce, helping to create new jobs and business prospects. The construction College will also help to further develop the district's skills base. The Castle Gatehouse project will provide a much-needed boost to the local economy, while the business grants have helped to fund many innovative initiatives. The Southern Link Road A1 Overbridge will help to improve access and reduce traffic congestion, while the full fibre broadband has improved internet access. The Affordable Housing Program has provided much-needed affordable housing for those in need, and the Empty House Policy has opened up many new opportunities for housing development. The Regeneration Policy has seen a number of new projects and initiatives, while our tenant repairs and community activities have been greatly

improved. The YMCA and our play areas have been improved to a high standard, and this has helped to create a vibrant and safe environment for local children and families. We are proud of the accomplishments we have achieved districtwide,

Our Days of Action, Safer Streets and Community Speed Watch programs have all seen tremendous success, with more people getting involved with improving the safety and security of our neighbourhoods. We have also been expanding our CCTV network and taking more action against off-road motorbikes. Our commitment to biodiversity has also been strong this year, with our Tree Planting Strategy, Working with Schools, biodiversity, and our Diversity National Way Strategy all making great strides in preserving our environment. We also launched our Open Space Strategy and Kerbside Glass Collection program to help protect our green open spaces, and we have been targeting hardening to make them more resilient. We are incredibly proud of all the work we have done this year and would like to thank everyone who has been involved and supported our efforts. This is by no means a full list of everything we have achieved this year.

But just a summary.

Councillors John Lee and Betty Brooks