

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2019
at 7:30pm in the VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Cllr David Armstrong (Chairman). Cllrs Bernard Allen, Linda Cox, Chris Gangel, Mary Molloson, Bob O'Donnell, Wendy Parrett, Lyn Rowden-Allen, Mrs Y Wellard (Clerk) Co. Cllr Maureen Dobson (from 8pm), Dist Cllr Johnathan Lee, Mr Jon Brown, Headteacher, Coddington Primary School. 8 residents of the Parish.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** There were no apologies for absence.
2. **To receive and accept minutes from the APM held on 12 April 2018.**
Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were proposed as a true record by Cllr Gangel, seconded by Cllr Parrett and agreed by those present at the 2018 meeting.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
Issues raised at the previous Parish Meeting had been addressed by the Parish Council at subsequent meetings and there were no further matters arising.
4. **Annual Reports of the Parish Council.**
 - a. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman presented the annual report on Parish Council activities during the year. He thanked the Parish, County and District Cllrs for their support, Malcolm Baker for his work as editor of the Coddington Village News, Cllr Rowden-Allen for managing the Council's Facebook page, the work of the Clerk, the Allotment Group and all the volunteers at the allotments and with the Speedwatch team. The Chairman also paid tribute to Jane Hedge, who had recently retired from the Parish Council, whose knowledge and experience had been highly valued over the years. The Chairman also referred to the positive news that Coddington had been withdrawn from the new Local Minerals Plan and the Parish Council's disappointment in not being able to establish a new permissive footpath at Beaconfield due to a change of land ownership. (Chairman's Report in full – appendix 1).
 - b. **Allotment Working Group Report.** Cllr Parrett presented the Allotment Group's report on the continuing popularity of the allotments and the good community environment there. Volunteers had helped to install a new water trough and prepare the ground to replace the broken fence with a hedge on the eastern boundary. (Allotment Group report in full – appendix 2).
5. **Annual Report and Observations on the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019.**
Copies of the draft annual accounts were circulated, and the Clerk highlighted some of the financial activities of the year. The accounts would be published on the Parish Council web site, and be available for public inspection during the audit in June/July.
6. **Annual Report of Coddington Trust Fund.**
The Chairman, Mrs Pat Bartley reported a steady income from rents and investments. There had been additional expense on the refurbishment of the alms houses and requests for 'Relief in Need' were continuing to increase. Mrs Bartley thanked the W.I. for organising, cooking and serving the Senior Citizens' Lunch, funded by the Trust. Details of the work of the Trust are published in the quarterly Village News.

7. **Annual Report of Coddington Village Hall Charity Trust Committee.**

The Chairman, Bernard Allen thanked all the volunteers for their care and maintenance of the hall which was always very well kept, and said that he was looking forward to the next stage of the extension and renovations.

The Treasurer, David Turner presented copies of the annual accounts. Bookings were slightly down, but there had been a successful year of fund raising. It was hoped to start work next year on the new extension and renovation of the corrugated iron building at a total cost of £250,000. Volunteers to help with the work would be very welcome.

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

The new Headteacher, Mr Jon Brown introduced himself and thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to address the meeting and for its support of the school. He reported that the school roll was slightly down from 446 to 438 pupils due to a national lower birth rate, but there would be a full cohort arriving in September. At the Ofsted inspection in January, the school had maintained its level of 'good overall'. The school has strong links with All Saints' Church, and the Section 48 Church Schools' Inspection is due in May. The school works in collaboration with Christ Church School Newark, and since January 2019, has been designated a National Support School which generates extra income by sharing expertise. The school maintains international links with The Gambia and is part of a collaborative group, 'Together for Newark'.

Cllr Cox thought that it would be good for the older children to be given the opportunity to find out about the work of the Parish Council, and Mr Brown said that he did hope to arrange more community involvement.

9. **Annual Report of Coddington Community Centre Association.**

The Chairman, Lin Rowden-Allen reported that the Centre was in a strong financial position; the Booking Clerk had introduced new systems and bookings were up. She outlined plans for forthcoming events including a repeat of the successful Summer Fun Day in June. The Chairman thanked all the employees and Trustees for their hard work. (Community Centre report in full - appendix 3).

10. **Open Forum.**

Residents of the Parish raised the following points:

- i. **Concerns about the limited space remaining for burials in the churchyard.**
The Chairman reported that the Parish Council was actively seeking to locate land for a new burial ground within the village or an extension to the churchyard if possible.
- ii. **Villagers were saddened by the theft of lead from the church roof. It was felt that there was a need for more crime awareness.**
Cllr Lee advised that a new campaign, 'Report It' was being proposed across the district.
- iii. **Where will the bottle banks go when The Plough car park is sold for development?**
Cllr Armstrong said that it was regrettable that after considerable discussion, the Parish Council had been unable to find a suitable alternative location and the bottle banks would have to go. Cllr Lee reported that the District Council is planning to provide more facilities for home recycling.
- iv. **Removal of trees from the Brownlow's Hill development site.**
The Chairman explained that the Parish Council was in the process of lodging a formal complaint that trees and hedging had been removed without consent and during the nesting season. The County Cllr was asked to investigate whether the contractors had removed the hedge to gain site access from the C208 and whether the development was encroaching on County Council owned land.
- v. **Traffic and road surface noise on the C208.**
Co.Cllr Dobson acknowledged that there had been an increase in traffic cutting through the village and would ask for the road surface to be looked at.

- vi. **There were still serious concerns about safety at the staggered crossroads at the junction of the A17 and Drove Lane.**
Cllr Dobson stated that previous Highways inspections had reported that no change was needed to the junction.
- vii. **Parked cars blocking the pavement on Brownlow's Hill.**
Cllr Lee responded that the mobile camera unit was patrolling the school area regularly.
- viii. **When will double yellow lines be installed outside The Plough?**
Cllr Dobson confirmed that the work was scheduled for this financial year.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm

Appendix 1 – Chairman's Report

This has been another busy year for the Parish Council, and I would like to give thanks to the Parish, District and County Councillors for their hard work on everyone's behalf. Thank you to Malcolm Baker who continues to voluntarily act as editor for Coddington Village News, to Councillor Rowden-Allen for managing our Facebook page, to all those volunteering at Carols round the Tree, and to the Allotment Working Group who make sure this important facility in the village is well used and managed. I would also give praise to the Clerk for her commitment and professionalism in ensuring the Parish Council continues to operate smoothly and legally.

The most controversial planning applications in the village over the last year were made by the District Council to demolish all their rented garages in Coddington and replace them with social housing. The Parish Council wrote to the Secretary of State about how these and other planning applications were being managed; the follow up meeting with the Chief Executive at the District Council is expected to deliver some improvements at the District Council's Planning Committee. The Parish Council will continue to work on residents' behalf as these construction projects progress, inevitably causing some issues which will need work to resolve them.

There was good news on the County Council's development of the new Locals Minerals Plan, with the sand and gravel quarry at Coddington removed from the latest version of the plan. Further consideration of the plan is expected at the County Council in June, so watch out for a call to arms if the Coddington quarry reappears in the Plan.

After waiting for many months for the proposed permissive paths to progress, we are very disappointed to have now been informed that the land has been sold for industrial development. We are now seeking advice from the rights of way officer at the County Council on the best way to proceed to establish ancient rights of way – a process that we know takes many years and is not guaranteed to succeed without widespread evidence of previous use as a footpath.

Councillors Hamilton and Hedge have resigned from the Parish Council over the past year, and Councillor McDonald has joined us. I would like to give particular thanks to the hard work and dedication across many areas in the village shown by Councillor Hedge over several decades. The Parish Council will be advertising for two vacancies after the election date, following the resignation of Councillor Hedge and the planned move of Councillor Gangel to Newark Town.

Glen Bower has made a good impression as our new village handyman, with the role fitting in well with his crossing patrol duties at school times. Thank you to our previous handyman, James Norris, for the work he put in keeping our village free from litter. Keeping the village litter free and public areas tidy will be important as we enter the Best Kept Village competition in the summer.

The new 20 mph signs are now in operation outside the school, and more regular enforcement of parking restrictions in the area around the school is now take place at peak school times, with ticketing of violations. This is aimed at making everyone, particularly schoolchildren, safer at these busy times of the day. Thank you for the work put in by the Speed watch team who have also focused

their activities around school times but now plan to check for speeding traffic on other routes around Coddington, including the Plough crossroads with its new interactive warning sign.

We are waiting for BT to install a telephone line to the Community Centre – once this is in place there will be a weekly mobile Post Office in the village, providing the full range of services to residents.

A final thanks to the church, for procuring and hosting a display cabinet in All Saints to hold a copy of the World War I booklet during the final centenary year of remembrance. The graveyard at All Saints is almost full for further burials, so the Parish Council has approached Coddington Trust Fund about the parcels of land they hold as we search for a site for a new burial ground or an extension to the existing graveyard in Coddington.

Appendix 2 – Allotment Group Report

After the rents for 2019 had been collected we had 3 vacancies and no waiting list. The allotments were advertised in the CVN and on various notice boards in and around Coddington thus resulting in 2 requests for allotments and 1 existing allotment holder requesting an extension into a vacant plot, we have just a small area if anyone requests a small starter size plot.

We had received a request for another water trough towards the north of the area, it was purchased and the allotment holders helped to install it.

The sheds on the allotments were broken into just before Christmas and 2 cycles stolen but no tools, they were taken over the broken fence to the east so it was proposed that a hedge be planted to the east, hedge cuttings can be obtain free of charge through the Woodland Trust and the allotment holders have already started clearing the area ready for planting in the autumn.

We do have in place a 3 monthly inspection to maintain standards and if necessary letters are sent to allotment holders advising the area to be tidied before weeds start seeding into neighbouring allotments.

Appendix 3 – Community Centre Report and Accounts

The Community Centre has had an amazing year with much to be proud of and a financially viable year to look forward to.

In July we held a Midsummer Madness Fun day with the intention of promoting the profile of the centre, considering the heat and other events being held in the neighbourhood our event was well attended, we grossed £675 and made a profit of £470 which we hope to put to our next event Carols Round the tree on 12th December, we also aim to have a May celebration on 18th of May next year. The centre has also helped to raise funds for local charities by offering the centre free or at reduced rates.

We have lots of individuals to thank for the continued success of the centre and I would like to begin by thanking our Centre Manager Ian Lawson for all his hard work through the year in maintaining the Centre and helping our users.

Marion Fox Goddard our secretary and booking clerk always goes the extra mile when it comes to the Centre, its Users and its Trustees, since taking on the role she has become a very essential part of our team.

The work of the trustees cannot be underestimated and I thank them wholeheartedly for the time and effort they have put in on behalf of the Centre. A big thank you to Barry Wellard in particular who has admirably worn many hats throughout the year with a smile and great due diligence. A big thank

you also goes to Barry and Sheila Bache for covering for our centre manager when he was on holiday leave.

Following on from our summer event we now have an events committee in place, which I chair, it was their planning and enthusiasm that made our event such a success. So a big thank you to Malcolm and Amanda Baker, Jan and Alan Philips, Sheila Bache, Jane Hedge and Marion Fox Goddard.

You will in due course hear from Barry and Marion regarding our finances and bookings, I for my part would like to talk about the centre going forward.

Firstly with the help of the Parish Council and the Post Office it has been decided to use the centre for a “community post office” for a few hours once a week to give village residence the opportunity to use a full range of post office services.

Secondly, after talks with the new headmaster of Coddington School Mr Jon Brown we have agreed times for the school to hold an after school club at the centre. And it is hoped that next year the school can also run holiday clubs for the children at the centre. I really do think that for the future of the centre it is vitally important that we extend our working relationship with the school. I hope it will encourage more parents to get involved with our events and hopefully they will become more aware of the need for respect when using our car parking facility.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to Ben Casey as one of our trustees due to continued health problems. And to Emma Oldham due to her pregnancy with twins. We wish them both well and thank them so much for their time and commitment.

Another sad occasion is the resignation of Maureen Dobson our County Councillor who has been a trustee for many years and has worked tirelessly for the centre before even the first brick was laid, she has been a great support with all our endeavours and I can’t thank her enough.

This year we were very happy to welcome Malcolm Baker and Sheila Bache onto the committee of trustees both of whom have already made an impact on the centre with their help, ideas and enthusiasm, long may it continue.

I sincerely hope that our community centre will continue to thrive and cement its place at the heart of our community.