

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2016
IN CODDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Members: Cllr Linda Cox (Chairman).
Cllrs Bernard Allen, David Armstrong, Mary Carver, Chris Gangel,
Mary Mollosos, Bob O'Donnell, Wendy Parrett, Lyn Rowden-Allen

District & Co. Cllrs: Cllr Maureen Dobson, Cllr David Payne.

Clerk: Mrs Y Wellard.

Public: 10 members of the Parish, Mr Michael Palmer (Coddington School).

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Cllr Jane Hedge, Mrs Tamsin Caputa (Head Teacher).
2. **To receive and accept minutes from the APM on 23 April 2015.**
Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were proposed as a true record by Cllr Armstrong, seconded by Cllr Carver, and agreed by those present at the 2015 meeting.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
15/8. The Library Access point is now open at the Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, with free tea and coffee thanks to a donation from Cllr Johnathan Lee.

15/12. Cllr Dobson reported progress in resolving the footpaths issue. Discussions on developing a circular walk around Beaconfield were ongoing, and there would be another public meeting on 24 June.
4. **Annual Report of the Parish Council.**
 - a. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman presented the annual report on Parish Council activities during the year, including the Minerals Local Plan Consultation, transfer of ownership of the Community Centre to the Parish Council, the installation of a defibrillator and discussions over rights of way at Beaconfield. The Chairman thanked Cllr O'Donnell for his work on the Boundary Commission's county boundary consultation which had successfully resulted in Coddington remaining within the Collingham Division. Thanks were also expressed to Mr and Mrs Dethick for their annual survey of Coddington's footpaths, to Malcolm Baker for his work as editor of the CVN, to the District and County Councillors, and for the support of the Vice Chairman and the Clerk. (Full report – appendix 1).
 - b. **Allotment Working Group Report.** Cllr Allen reported that all allotments had been let and were well kept, apart from one which had hardly been used and was being monitored. There were currently no Coddington residents on the waiting list.
5. **Annual Report and Observations on the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016.**
Copies of the draft annual accounts were circulated, and the Clerk highlighted some of the financial activities of the year. (*The accounts are published on the Parish Council web site*).
Mr John Bartley questioned whether the £200 given to Coddington School towards the DARE project was an effective use of funds. The Deputy Headteacher explained what he felt was the value of the project in preparing children for the challenges of adolescence.
Mrs Isobel Turner asked for what use the burial fund was intended, and a discussion followed on how much burial space was available at All Saints' Church. The **Parish Council** would make enquiries about the churchyard's remaining burial capacity.

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

The Chairman, David Armstrong presented his report and circulated copies of the annual accounts. The Centre is in a good financial position. The floor of the main hall has been re-laid and solar panels installed by the District Council to help towards energy costs. An increase in charges was being considered in order to meet the extra cost of the new minimum wage. Thanks were expressed for the Caretaker Ian Lawson's work, and to the Trustees who covered for his absence. (Report and accounts – appendix 2)
7. **Agreement of Overage Deed for the Transfer of Ownership of Coddington Community Centre from the District to the Parish Council.**

It was confirmed that all the outstanding maintenance and improvements which the District Council had promised as part of the transfer agreement had been completed by them. The initial proposal by NSDC for an 80 year overage payment period had, on advice from Larkens solicitors, been reduced to a 30 year period, and NSDC would receive 50% of the value of any sales during that time. There was general agreement by those members of the Parish present that this was a good deal, and they supported the transfer under these terms.
8. **Annual Report of Coddington Village Hall Charity Trust Committee.**

The Chairman, Cllr Bernard Allen congratulated the team of volunteers for its excellent care and cleaning of the hall. The Village Ventures programme was very successful in raising funds, and the new insulation had more than halved the cost of heating. The Committee was now applying for grants for stage two of the renovations, and letters of support from residents would be welcome additions to the applications. The Secretary, Mr David Turner outlined plans for the next stage of refurbishment, and added that although income from lettings was slightly down, this had been off-set by cheaper gas and electricity. A new portable stage and light-weight tables had been purchased, as well as a projector and new wall lights.
9. **Annual Report of Coddington Trust Fund.**

The Chairman, Mrs Pat Bartley presented the annual report for the Trust Fund.(Appendix 3) A total of £7,040 had been donated in the last year, although only 45% of this was directly to people in need. Other donations included the village defibrillator and the library access point at the Village Hall. A survey on the Chapel Lane cottages had revealed a range of problems which will require several thousands of pounds to be spent. The Trust encourages people to apply for assistance, which could be other than financial help, and to raise awareness, a copy of the accounts will be forwarded to the Parish Clerk for inclusion in the June CVN.
10. **Annual Report of Coddington C of E Primary and Nursery School.**

The Deputy Head Teacher, Mr Michael Palmer presented the school's report. He explained the new admissions policy which was to be imposed by the County Council, based purely on distance from the school, so that the attendance of siblings at the school, was no longer a valid criteria for new admissions. The temporary classrooms have been in use for 13 years, but as there is no funding or space for any permanent expansion, families have been concerned that the new housing development will further contract the catchment area. However, based solely on distance, catchment will include the whole of the Coddington parish.
11. **Annual Report of Coddington Community Spirit Group.**

No report had been received from the Community Spirit Group as the Chairman had recently resigned. However, Cllr David Armstrong informed the meeting that plans for the Queen's Birthday celebrations on 11 June would still go ahead, and also the annual Carols Round the Tree event in December.

12. **Open Forum.**

Members of the parish raised the following points:

- Concerns about the dangerous staggered crossroads at the junction of Drove Lane with the A17. (*Although the County Council has said that there are no plans to change the junction, the Parish Council will continue to raise this point when appropriate.*)
- The crossroads at The Plough was also highlighted as a danger because of the speed of traffic on the C208 and the increasing number of cars using Main Street as a cut through to Balderton. It was noted that the speed limit has been reduced to 30mph through East Stoke even though it is no longer on the main A46 route, and it was suggested that the Parish Council should pursue a further speed limit reduction from 40mph to 30mph for Coddington.
- Parked cars around the Village Hall and Scout Hall were also highlighted as a problem, causing reduced visibility for drivers. It was suggested that a mirror could be positioned opposite the Village Hall. (*The County Council has previously ruled out a one-way system for Brownlow's Hill and Main Street.*)
- It was proposed that in common with many other schools, there should be a 20mph speed limit on Brownlow's Hill.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Appendix 1 - Parish Council Chairman's Report

This is my first report, and I welcome the opportunity to share the work of the Council with you.

We have an active and committed Parish Council. The Council comprises 10 members, of which three are new - Councillors Mrs. Linda Rowden-Allen, Mrs. Jane Hedge and Mr. Christopher Gangel. Sadly Cllr Barry King resigned due to ill health and we also learnt with sadness of the death of a former Chairman Mr. Hugh Daybell.

It has been a busy year, dominated by the Minerals Local Plan, the transfer of the Community Centre to the Parish Council, footpaths, and boundary change, which I shall report on:

Minerals Local Plan:

The Council has strongly objected from the beginning, to the inclusion of Coddington in the Minerals Local Plan. In the final stages of the adoption of this plan, members of the Council attended the County Council's Environment and Sustainability Committee as well as a full Council meeting at County Hall, and heard for ourselves the debate. We value the fierce and articulate support of County Councillor Maureen Dobson.

At the full Council, meeting 2 amendments were made, County Councillor Maureen Dobson, on the review of the traffic assessment and County Councillor Brian Laughton on the apportionment of gravel. Both amendments supported the exclusion of Coddington and another village in the area from the Plan.

There was then a Consultation Period when the Parish Council submitted that the MLP was not sound on the two grounds of traffic re assessment and gravel apportionment and therefore Coddington should be excluded from the MLP.

We now wait for the public examination of the plans and submissions by the Inspector. The Parish Council will continue to strongly advocate Coddington's exclusion from the mineral plan and wish to be called to speak at the examination.

The Council had strong objections to the format of the consultation which was very difficult to use, and has written to Notts CC Planning Team with our concerns.

Transfer of Ownership of the Community Centre from NSDC to Parish Council

This will be discussed later on as you will see from your agenda.

Footpaths.

Cllr Dobson, Parish Councillors and CC Officers have been working to resolve the issue of footpaths to enable walkers to access Beacon Hill Conservation area via the bridge under the A1, and the land owner's wish for privacy and safety (with the accompanying problems of motor bikes, graffiti, dog fouling)

Cllr. Dobson had warned us that this would take time and so it has proved to be. This is not yet resolved but a public meeting has been called for in June.

Boundary Change

The Local Government Boundary Commission invited comments on the drawing of the divisions for Nottinghamshire County Council's 67 councillors. Our thanks to Cllr O'Donnell who successfully argued the case for Coddington to remain in the Collingham division. Both the Parish Council and residents appreciate that Coddington is a rural village with greater links to the larger rural division of Collingham rather than the urban division of Newark.

Other concerns and issues that the Council has dealt with:

Drains

Perhaps the term "drainage system" is too strong a word because there are few plans and at various times areas of the village have suffered problems.

This year, the problem has been the smell off the junction of the A1/C208. Cllrs Mrs Wendy Parrett and Mr. R. O'Donnell have worked to resolve this problem.

Best Kept Village

We came second in 2015. Thanks to everyone who did their bit.

Judging, this year will be taking place between June 6th- 22nd July.

Thank you to everyone who is going to make an extra special effort.

You may have wondered why Coddington did not light a beacon this year to celebrate the Queen's birthday in April. The Council felt that the village should have a more positive approach by making the village "fit for a Queen". If you would like to help, please look at notice boards for dates for specific areas of cleaning, which could be looked after during June and July. A commemorative tree will be planted later to mark the occasion.

PCSO Katie Hyde

The Council is in contact with the new PCSO, Katie Hyde. One issue is parking for the school. School parking is not a new problem and affects most schools. However whilst the short term nature of parking is recognised, dangerous parking cannot be accepted, including double parking, blocking residents' access or causing obstructions on verges.

She has reported on some anti social behaviour, which was dealt with promptly.

Christmas Carols Round the Tree.

This was for me the best one yet as we stayed outside full time and actually sang round the tree. This event has brought the village together and is becoming a 'must attend event'

Thanks to the Community Spirit for their organisation of the event, The WI, The Gray family, All Saints Church and the School for their contribution.

Donations to Organisations

The Council has donated funds to the Scout Movement to improve the building, to Coddington School to support the DARE programme, the Guides for a tent. It is also supporting Coddington Village Hall in the second phase of refurbishment.

Defibrillator

This has been installed at the Community Centre with full instructions for use by the whole community. The Parish Council was supported in its provision by financial support from the United Charities. Our thanks to the charity and to Cllr Chris Gangel who is the valued co-ordinator.

Footpaths, Open Spaces

Cllr Parrett and Cllr Hedge have completed NSDC's Survey of Open Space Provision. It had been a sizeable, but valuable task, identifying and categorising 35 pockets of land, most of which are in private hands. The Council is now identifying community assets.

Trees have been planted to commemorate the late County Councillor Mr. Vince Dobson at the Community Centre and on the Millennium Garden for Mr. David Hedge a previous chairman of the Parish Council.

Thank you to:

Mr. and Mrs. Dethick for their annual 'footpath' walks.

NSD Councillors Mr. J. Lee and Mr. D. Payne

County Councillor, Mrs. M. Dobson especially for her staunch support and tireless effort for Coddington's exclusion in the Mineral Local Plan, and resolving the footpath issue.

The Parish Councillors for their hard work, support and contributions especially the Vice chairman Cllr. R. O'Donnell.

Residents who attend the Parish Council meetings

The CVN editor and delivery team

Coddington Garden Club for a spring tidy of the Millennium Garden

And last but not least,

The Clerk. Mrs Y. Wellard, for her dedication, professionalism, patient and most of all stamina.

Linda Cox.

28.4.16

Appendix 2 – Community Centre Report

Coddington Community Association report to Annual Parish meeting.

2015-2016 has been another good year for the Community Centre, with a profitable and sustainable future expected.

Thank you to:

- The Trustees of Coddington Community Association (CCA) - Providing cover for our caretaker during recovery from injury and holidays and help with fund raising events at the Centre. Still need more trustees or volunteers to help out
- Angela Hardwick - Looking after the bookings and welcoming new customers
- Georgia Powell - Ensuring we get the money in from customers
- Ian Lawson - Providing excellent caretaker support to our customers
- Sandra Cotton - Tending the borders around the Centre
- Fred Reed - For auditing our annual accounts each year
- Parish Council - Supporting the Centre on 50% share of inspection and servicing costs and for insurance of the building

Changes over the past year:

- Scheme of works completed by Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) in preparation for transfer of Community Centre to Coddington Parish Council.
- Continued with fund raising music, film and theatre events, including Village Ventures in liaison with Village Hall, which have now raised a total of over £1,300 profit for the Community Centre (see separate sheet).
- Beryl Rimmer recently resigned as a Trustee due to other commitments, and we welcomed Lin Rowden-Allen as the new nominated Trustee for the Parish Council.
- Georgia Powell resigned as Clerk in January, returning to full time work. Currently been split into two voluntary roles: Collecting money from customers – David Armstrong, taking meeting minutes - Lin Rowden-Allen
- Purchases made of LED car park lighting (by CCA) and solar panels installed (by NSDC) to reduce future energy costs at the Centre.

Finances:

- Audited accounts for 2014-2015 (to end July) – small profit of £224 made, after refurbishing main hall floor (at a cost of £1,680). (see separate sheet).
- Healthy bank balance on 26th April 2016 of £24,902, close to the maximum reached in recent years of £25,103 in March 2015.
- Changes from Minimum Wage to Living Wage in April 2016 will increase salary costs, and a small increase in booking fees is planned.

Appendix 3 - Coddington Trust Fund Report

CODDINGTON TRUST FUND. REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 2016

Full Trustee meetings were held four times during the year. Other work, e.g. visits to applicants for Relief in Need, visits where deemed necessary to recent beneficiaries and meetings with contractors

In the year to 31 12 15, the Trustees made grants totalling £7040. Of this amount 45% was in grants of Relief in Need to applicants needing essential financial support. A greater total amount, 55%, was in grants unrelated to the relief of poverty eg £1,000 towards the cost of a Defibrillator, £250 towards the Village Hall Library Service etc.

During the year the cottages on Chapel Lane were examined in accordance with our obligations to arrange a full survey of the properties every five years. A wide range of problems, eg from faulty rainwater goods to the absence of fire break walls in the attics of the cottages was identified. The Trustees have already had some works undertaken (where further problems could arise if remedial action is not undertaken straight away) and plans are being considered, and quotations sought, for further works. The likely total costs may well be in the region of £5,000 in the coming year.