

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on 3 April 2014 at 7.30 pm at Coddington Community Centre**

**Present:**

**Members:** Cllr O'Donnell (Chairman),  
Cllrs Allen, Armstrong, Cox, Molloson, Parrett.

**CC & DC** Cllr Maureen Dobson

**Clerk:** Mrs Y Wellard

1. **Apologies for Absence.**  
Apologies were accepted from Cllr Carver, Cllr Elliott, Cllr King and Cllr Bell.
2. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.
3. **Public Contribution.** There were no members of the public present.
4. **Public Contribution – County and District Councillor.** Cllr Dobson sent apologies for a late arrival due to another meeting. Her comments are included within agenda items later in the meeting.
5. **To receive and accept:**
  - a. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 6 March 2014.**  
Proposed by Cllr Parrett and seconded by Cllr Armstrong, the minutes were approved, and signed by the Chmn.
  - b. **Accounts for March 2014.**  
Proposed by Cllr Molloson, seconded by Cllr Cox, the accounts were agreed, and signed by the Chmn.
6. **Matters arising from the minutes.**
  - 6 (4e)** Cllr Parrett confirmed that she had asked the Village Handyman to keep check on the amount of litter and to put in extra time when needed.
  - 6 (8a)** An email from Jeremy Hutchinson, Environmental Health Officer, suggested that the drainage problem from Greenfields had been solved. However, Cllrs reported that the ditch still smelt and requested a site meeting with Mr Hutchinson.
  - 10 (iv)** Several Cllrs expressed an interest in visiting the Highways Dept. and suggested Monday 2 or 9 June, for the Clerk to arrange with Mike Keeling.
  - 12 (a)** A response from Paddy Tipping re policing of the St George's Day Parade had been received. He would discuss the matter with the Chief Constable on 28 April.
  - 12 (b)** Notts CC had confirmed that a second consultation on the Local Minerals Plan would begin mid-May.
7. **Finance.**
  - a. **To approve expenditure as at 3 April 2014:**

	£
Clerk's net salary – March	288.00
HMRC – Clerk's quarterly PAYE	216.00
Community Centre hire for carol singing	48.00
Parish Council use of Jubilee Room Feb/March	28.00
N&SDC – dog bin contract 2013/14	53.04
Notts CC – salt	65.00
Bruce Richmond – March invoice	53.11

Proposed by Cllr Parrett, seconded by Cllr Molloson, the invoices were approved for payment.
  - b. **2013/14 Year End Accounts**  
Cllrs received copies of the draft final accounts for 2013/14. It was agreed that Mike Elliott be asked to carry out the internal audit. Members thanked the Clerk for her work on finance.

**c. Review of Financial Orders for Coddington.**

The Clerk advised that she and the Chmn were updating the Finance Regulations based on the new model published by NALC. These would be circulated for approval prior to adoption at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

**d. On-line Banking**

New arrangements for on-line access to the NatWest bank accounts were being made. It was agreed by Members that the Clerk, Chmn and Cllr Parrett would have access.

**8. Administration.**

**a. Footpaths**

- i. Cllr Cox again raised the suggestion of a defined pathway for runners and walkers along Drove Lane which would include a link for footpaths 3a and 4. It was agreed to put the idea forward during the visit to Mike Keeling's office.
- ii. It was felt that people should be made more aware of the network of footpaths around Coddington. Information on accessing the map on the village web site could be included in the next newsletter.
- iii. The Clerk was to invite Alan Hudson from Sustrans to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the possibility of a track from Coddington to Newark.

**b. Coddington Community Association.**

Cllr Armstrong reported that the latest social event was very successful, raising about £600, and that the financial position was looking stronger.

**c. Village website and newsletter.**

- i. Following feedback from the NALC Clerks' Workshop on administration, it was agreed that draft Parish Council minutes could be put on the web site before approval at the following meeting, once all Cllrs had checked them. Cllrs were to advise the Clerk of any necessary changes to the draft within 7 days of circulation. Thereafter, the Clerk would publish the minutes clearly marked as "draft" until formally approved.
- ii. Further to the notice in the newsletter, no offers of help to edit the CVN had been received. The Clerk would put an advert on the web site and the notice boards, and at the village shop.

**d. Best Kept Village Entry.**

It was agreed that Rose Vale Farm's boundary fence on Balderton Lane should be a named exclusion from the competition. It was suggested that if any privately owned gardens were particularly untidy, the Clerk could send a reminder about the competition to them and their neighbours. Cllr Dobson would refer any unkempt council owned properties to N&SDC.

**e. First World War Commemoration.**

The Chmn reported that the project was progressing well, and Jackie Armstrong was editing the booklet. Cllr Dobson was thanked for her contribution of £200 towards printing costs. There would be a church service at 6pm on 3 August, conducted by Mike Bache, as Rev David Anderton would be on sabbatical leave. Members suggested serving refreshments after the service.

**f. Page's Wood.**

The Chmn would ask Malcolm Baker about involving Coddington Scouts in tidying up the wood.

**g. Tree works.**

- i. The Chmn, Vice Chmn and Clerk had met Jason Clarke, Heartwood Tree Care, on site at the junction of Old Hall Gardens and Newark Road to discuss the work that had been recommended by N&SDC. The Clerk tabled his quotation of £430 for all three trees, which covered crown lifting and the removal of lower branches and ivy. Cllrs considered

this a reasonable price, and as Mr Clarke was well qualified, and had also been recommended by 3 parishioners, it was agreed that he should be invited to do the work.

- ii Cllrs noted that approval for tree works in the conservation area had been granted for 1 Drove Lane and 9 Newark Road.

#### **h. Defibrillation Unit.**

As no prospective First Responder volunteers had undertaken training, it was reluctantly agreed that the project would have to be shelved.

### **9. Planning.**

#### **a. 14/00308/FUL - Land adjacent to 22-26 Balmoral Drive.**

##### **Application for change of use from grassland to gardens.**

The application raised a number of questions concerning the designated use of the land and its sale by N&SDC. Consultation with the Parish Council had been delayed because the original correspondence had been erroneously sent to Newark Town Council, leaving insufficient time for the Parish Council to obtain information. It was felt that the application lacked clarity and sufficient detail. Cllr Dobson was also pursuing the matter with the Planning Department.

On a proposal from Cllr Molloson, seconded by Cllr Cox, the Parish Council voted to oppose the application. (The agreed response is attached as appendix 1).

#### **b. Land North and East of Fernwood**

##### **Proposed residential development for up to 950 dwellings and associated facilities.**

There were no objections to the plans. The Parish Council was very pleased with the proposal to close Hollow Dyke Lane to motor vehicles other than buses, which meant that Coddington was unlikely to be affected by increased traffic. Members welcomed the plans for a pedestrian and cycle route, but questioned why a bus route was needed along Hollow Dyke Lane.

#### **c. Planning decision 13/01623/FUL**

The application for 2 houses adjacent to 4 Yew Tree Way had been refused by N&SDC,

### **10. Allotments.**

The Allotment Group had nothing to report.

### **11. Roads, Environment, Transport and Services.**

- i. The dispute over boulders on the grass verge of Chapel Lane had been resolved. Notts CC would replace the boulders with marker posts.
- ii. The 50mph speed limit signs were now in place on the C208 and ready for the third interactive sign to be installed. The LIS bid for gateway signs had not been successful, and Cllr Dobson suggested that the bid be re-submitted.
- iii. Cllrs briefly reviewed progress on points raised in the village walkabout last year. The **Clerk** would list the outstanding priorities for discussion during the visit to Mike Keeling's office in June.
- iv. A complaint had been received from a resident of Henton Close about the amount of dog faeces around the Thorpe Oaks playing field. **Cllr Dobson** would ask if a third dog bin could be provided by N&SDC.

### **12. Miscellaneous correspondence.**

- The Boundary Commission's final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for N&SDC had been received. A full copy of the report was available at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). The proposals submitted by Coddington Parish Council had not been deemed to be a persuasive argument. Cllrs commented that they did not find the Boundary Commission's arguments persuasive. Consultees were invited to participate in an on-line survey to review the processes – [www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/lgbce-opinion-survey](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/lgbce-opinion-survey) to which the **Chmn** would respond.
- The Clerk highlighted an article in the Coddington School newsletter showing a photograph of a car parked across a driveway on Valley View and the headline "If this was your drive, would you want it to be blocked like this nearly every day?" Parish

Council Members welcomed the Head Teacher's commitment to resolving parking problems at the school.

- An invitation to attend National Armed Forces Day on 22 June. The Chmn was unable to attend and there were no other expressions of interest.

**13. Matters of immediate note.**

Cllr Parrett gave an update on the progress of the new Newark & Sherwood Neighbourhood Watch Group. A full report will appear in the village newsletter.

**14. Matters for the next agenda.**

The Clerk drew attention to two late planning applications which had been given an extension for consideration at the next PC meeting. Cllrs were to view the plans

**15. Next CPC Meetings:**

**Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 17 April 2014 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.**

Francis Towndrow, Chairman of Say Yes to Newark Hospital Campaign, had been invited to give a brief update on the work of the group during the open forum section of the meeting. The Clerk would arrange refreshments at the start of the meeting.

**Annual Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 1 May at 7:00pm in the Village Hall.**

To be followed by the ordinary PC meeting.

**The meeting closed at 21:30.**

**Appendix 1 – Agreed Response to Planning Application 14/00308/FUL**

1. At its meeting last night Coddington Parish Council considered this application. Members firstly expressed their surprise that an area of public open space within the West Ward of the civil parish had been sold without reference to themselves. If N&SDC was divesting itself of public assets, the Parish Council would have welcomed the opportunity to consider acquisition of this site to ensure its continued use as a public amenity
2. Taking Agenda Item 9a, Coddington Parish Council voted to oppose this application. We have further observations below, but specifically:
  - a. The "grassland" area under consideration is part of the green amenity zone on the eastern margins of the Newbury Avenue development, and has been for the past 14 years or so. This zone is a buffer between the housing areas and the A1. Moreover, the built-up area to the west lacks green zones so the proposed enclosures will detract from the total extent of open spaces.
  - b. The Parish Council considers, further, that the proposed additional fencing shall have a detrimental effect on the open character of the local landscape.
3. Turning to the Application Form, the Council believes that the detailed completion of Part 14 is inadequate and potentially misleading:

- a. "Grassland" suggests an open area of countryside, possibly under rough grazing. It is not, we suggest, a sufficient description for the site under consideration, which is a regularly mowed and short cropped public open space, maintained by the local authorities. Indeed, mowing has already started this year.
- b. To describe the site as "currently vacant" is disappointing. Also, it is disingenuous not to allude to any current use. We know that the site still is, and has always been, used as a public open space for pastimes including children's play and ball games, general exercise and dog-walking.
- c. Furthermore, it is unclear if this application represents a joint submission from the residents also of Nos 22 and 26 Balmoral Drive. If so, then we would expect to see certificates at Part 8 reflecting declarations from each household. Alternatively, it would be helpful to see 3 individual applications - concurrently.
4. Through the case officer we have sought detail from the original planning consents when, we believe, this area was designated as part of the public open spaces for the development in perpetuity. We still await that information.