

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2014
IN CODDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Members: Cllr O'Donnell (Chairman).
Cllrs Allen, Armstrong, Cox, Elliott, Molloson, Parrett.
District & Co. Cllr: Cllr M. Dobson.
Clerk: Mrs Y Wellard.
Public/Press: 1 member of the Parish was present.
Guest Speakers: Francis Towndrow, Paul Baggaley, Say 'Yes' to Newark Hospital Campaign.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Bell, Cllr Carver, Mr J Bartley, Mrs T Caputa, Mr M Cox.
2. **To receive and accept minutes from the APM on 16 April 2013:**
Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting having been distributed, were proposed as a true record by Mrs Allen, seconded by Cllr Molloson, accepted by those present and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
 - 5b. The Chairman reported that in view of the poor response to the recruitment of volunteers over the past two years, plans for a First Responder Team and Defibrillation Unit for Coddington had been put on hold.
 - 11b. The Parish Council had forwarded the request for a footpath diversion across the A1 to Clay Lane to the County Council. Angus Trundle had responded that a diversion would not be possible.
4. **Annual Report of the Parish Council:**
 - a. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman presented his annual report (copy attached) highlighting the road resurfacing work and measures to reduce traffic speed. The Chairman thanked Cllr Elliott for his commitment over the years to producing the village newsletter and supporters who helped with distribution.

Cllr Molloson proposed a vote of thanks for the Chairman, particularly for all his work on the Minerals Consultation and the Electoral Boundary Review.
 - b. **Allotment Working Group Report.** Cllr Allen reported that all allotments had been let, and there had been no objections to the 25% rent increase. All allotment holders had received vouchers for a 10% discount scheme at Hardy's Garden Shop.
5. **Annual Report and Observations on the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014:**
Copies of the annual accounts were circulated. Mrs Allen commented on the sharp increase in expenditure for the Community Centre, which Cllr Armstrong explained was due to additional repair and maintenance costs during the year.
6. **Annual Accounts of Coddington Trust Fund:**
Cllr Elliott circulated copies of the annual accounts which were showing a healthy balance. Trustees would like to see more use made of the funding and advice services, and it was suggested that information should be published in the newsletter to raise awareness of the Trust and the kind of help available.

The Parish Council would write to Coddington Trust Fund asking them to consider the installation of water and electricity supplies to Charity Farm to enable village events to be held on the field.

7. **Annual Accounts of Coddington Village Hall Charity Trust:**

Cllr Allen reported a successful year with a number of events providing additional funding. The old asbestos shed had been replaced, but the WREN grant for major improvements was still awaiting consideration. Cllr Molloson asked about plans for the Reading Room and community library. This would be part of the second phase for which a Lottery Heritage Grant was to be applied for, after the main building repairs and improvements.

8. **Annual Report of Coddington C of E Primary School:**

The Head Teacher, Mrs Tamsin Caputa had sent her apologies due to holidays and no report was available. Cllr Allen as a school governor reported that major drainage work was being carried out to improve the school playing field.

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

Cllr Armstrong presented the Coddington Community Association report (copy attached). Copies of the annual accounts were circulated, which showed a stronger financial position, due in part to the additional fund raising events, but more Trustees were needed. The Chairman thanked Cllr Armstrong for his achievements in improving the finances of the Centre. Copies of the monthly accounts were circulated for the previous and current financial years.

10. **Annual Report of Coddington Community Spirit Group:**

As no report had been received from the Community Spirit Group, Cllr Parrett gave an impromptu summary of past and planned events. More members are needed to help organise events.

11. **Presentation by Members of the 'Say Yes to Newark Hospital Campaign Group':**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Francis Towndrow and Mr Paul Baggaley who explained the group's concerns for the lack of urgent and emergency care in Newark with the continuing down-grading of Newark Hospital. They spoke about response and transfer times failing to meet targets, loss of services and reduction of beds at Newark Hospital, and the increase in mortality rates in the area. They asked that Coddington show support for the campaign by lobbying the Care Quality Commission and the Newark & Sherwood Clinical Commissioning Group to request an urgent review of the strategic plan for Newark Hospital.

12. **Matters Arising from the Public:**

Mrs Allen highlighted concerns about the dangerous staggered cross roads of the A17 and Drove Lane which are not protected by central bollards.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 17 APRIL 2014
CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

1. **Introduction.** The Parish Council has again had a busy year. It has however, been a mixed year for achieving our objectives, as you will hear shortly. Tonight, as a prelude to our Open Forum, Mr Francis Towndrow, Chairman of Say Yes to Newark Hospital Campaign, will give an update on the Group’s work.
2. **Social Events.** Since last year the Social Events Group has moved on to become Coddington Community Spirit and we shall hear their report later. Once again the Parish Council arranged for the Christmas tree outside the Community Centre.
3. **Highways and Services.** During the year we have seen the results of past endeavours for improvements. The resurfacing last summer of Main Street and Balderton Lane was supported by the refurbishment of many of the pavements along these roads. Significantly, however, we have seen the 40 mph speed limit extended a further 100 yards along the C208 towards Newark from the Community Centre, while the remainder of this section to the edge of Newark is now subject to a 50 mph limit. Two of 3 interactive road signs, east of the Plough crossroads, and at the southern entrance to the village on Balderton Lane, are now installed and working. The third sign, on the C208 by the Community Centre, will be installed shortly, following the extension of the 40 mph zone. We shall continue to press for the 40 mph zone to be extended along the C208 all the way to Beacon Heights. As ever, we are particularly grateful for District and County Councillor Maureen Dobson’s sustained work for the village on these issues.
4. **Village Improvements.** Last year I described our bid, under Nottinghamshire County Council’s Local Improvement Scheme, for new “gateway” signs on Balderton and Grove Lanes. We have just heard that our bid was not successful, but we shall try again this year. We are already aware, however, that the future LIS funds available county-wide will be considerably reduced. The LIS aside, the County Council has advised us that the promised improvements to the alignment of the footpath leading across the fields from Drove Lane to link with FP 5, will be completed during the summer. During last September Council members, but regrettably with only 2 villagers, completed a walking survey along some village roads and pavements, westwards from the Plough. This included Main Street, Newark Road and the C208. We are working through the list of observations and will repeat the route this autumn. Finally, and in response to our proposal, Newark and Sherwood District Council have registered the grassed areas at the entrance to Old Hall Gardens as an Asset of Community Value.
5. **Gravel Extraction.** Last October Nottinghamshire Council opened the consultation for its new Minerals Plan. It included a proposal to extract gravel from an area in the north-east of the village, north of the A17 and east of Drove Lane, from 2023 onwards. The Parish Council expressed strong opposition on a number of grounds. We now know that the consultation period is to be repeated shortly – our objections shall remain as firm as before, and could well increase in this forthcoming phase.
6. **Review of District Council Electoral Boundaries.** Since last May a review of Newark and Sherwood District Council’s electoral wards has taken place, with 7 district councillor seats being lost. Amongst these, N&SDC proposed that the Winthorpe, Coddington and Barnby Ward, with one councillor, be disbanded, and Coddington and Barnby merged with Fernwood. Over several rounds of consultations the proposed disbandment has stood, with Coddington and Barnby now to be

merged into a new 2-councillor ward with Balderton North. This was the Boundary Commission's own final proposal, which we resisted strongly on the grounds that given we must merge then it should surely be with Beacon Ward. Our substantial arguments regarding our strong links with Beacon Heights were not considered "sufficiently persuasive"! Your parish council found this most disappointing as neither N&SDC nor the Boundary Commission chose to produce any detailed arguments to substantiate their own varying merger proposals for Coddington. The changes will take effect in May 2015.

7. **World War 1 Commemoration.** At the moment a booklet is being produced to commemorate those Coddington men who served in the war. We shall distribute this to all households before 4 August 2014. At 6 pm, on Sunday 3 August 2014, there will be a commemorative service in All Saints' Church, Coddington.

8. **Issues.** Unfortunately vandalism and litter are continuing problems. Particularly, the fences alongside the C 208 pavement/cycle path have again been damaged, and litter remains a continuing and widespread difficulty. We must rely on all residents to encourage prevention and better standards. Finally, we still see HGVs ignoring the restriction signs; again, we can only urge residents to take details when possible and pass these to the County's web-site, detailed in the Village News.

9. **Thanks.** As always, the Council is grateful for all those who have supported us, in various ways, during the past year. Particularly we thank those who have attended our meetings and also those who give support across the village's wider range of activities. The Coddington Village News also always relies on those volunteers who help with its distribution. Finally you will have noted in the Village News that Frank Elliot, the editor, is seeking a replacement. The Parish Council wishes to thank him, publicly, for his exceptional work and commitment over the past 10 years in producing the Coddington Village News.

Community Centre report to Annual Parish meeting.

2013-2014 has been a good year with income up and costs under control, some customers leaving or planning to leave and new ones starting.

Thank you to:

- The Trustees
 - o providing cover for our caretaker during illness and holidays
 - o help with fund raising events at the Centre
 - o need more trustees or volunteers to help out
- Angela Hardwick
 - o Looking after the bookings and welcoming new customers
- Anne Powell
 - o Ensuring we get the money in from customers
- Ian Lawson
 - o Providing excellent caretaker support to our customers, and keeping working while recovering from illness
- Sandra Cotton
 - o Tending the borders around the Centre
- Fred Reed
 - o For auditing our annual accounts each August
- Maureen Dobson for supporting the Centre, including
 - o Donating food for the Decent Chaps event
 - o Arranging for a storage lock-up to be donated
- Parish Council
 - o Supporting the Centre on share of maintenance costs and insurance of the building

Changes over the past year:

- Price structure simplified, and prices increased from September, to reduce losses, aiming to save up for future maintenance work
- Added trustee indemnity cover to our insurance
- Generous donation of storage lock-up by A-Plant, improving facilities in demand by customers
- Positive change with the School now starting to use the Centre
- Fund raising events successful (raising around £900), and will be run again:
 - o Village Ventures (Him with His Foot in his Mouth – less funny than expected)
 - o Decent Chaps Jazz night with wine & ploughmans
 - o Jigsaw afternoons (next one on 3rd May)

Finances:

- Audited accounts for 2012-2013 (to end July) – small loss made
- Unaudited accounts to 16th April - £3k profit to date, helping to put money aside for future maintenance / redecoration costs.
- Main change is higher income, including fund raising events and effect of price increases.