

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on 2 April 2015 at 7.30 pm at Coddington Community Centre

Present:

Members: Cllrs O'Donnell (Chairman), Allen, Bell, Carver, Cox, King, Molloson, Parrett.

Clerk: Mrs Y Wellard.

In Attendance: Cllr Maureen Dobson, 4 members of the Parish.

1. **Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Elliott (family commitments) and Cllr Armstrong (holiday).

2. **Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

3. **Lorry Watch.**

Alan Knight, Nottinghamshire Trading Standards who had been due to speak on how to deal with the problem of lorries driving through the village, had sent his apologies. His visit would be postponed to a later date. Cllr Dobson pointed out that a Lorry Watch Team had already been set up in Coddington – current members were Cllr Parrett, Mr Paul Hatherley and Mr Andrew Stokes; Mr Andrew Dring and Mr Paul Fletcher agreed to join them. Cllr Dobson referred to an email from Mr Knight on observations that he was already following up; he would be collecting further information to bring to a future Parish Council meeting. Mr Stokes agreed to be the Lorry Watch Co-ordinator for the village, and would pass the details of lorries sighted to Trading Standards, with a copy to Cllr Dobson.

4. **Public Contribution.**

a. Mr Andrew Dring drew attention to the gates which had been erected across the concrete roadway at the end of Yew Tree Way. Although this was privately owned land, there had always been access for walkers, and local people viewed it as a presumed right of way as they had used it for more than 20 years.

The Chairman explained that he had already visited the landowner, who regretted that it had become necessary to secure his property in this way because of the small minority responsible for abuse, vandalism, theft and fly tipping. Since 1973 however, when the land was owned by the MOD, statutory declarations had been in place under Section 31 of the Highways Act to prevent the route becoming a public footpath. After the land became privately owned, a further declaration was made, in 2005. Without 20 years free of declaration, therefore, there could be no presumption of a public right of way.

b. Mr Dring also raised the issue of speeding traffic. He acknowledged that there had been a big improvement since the interactive speed signs were installed, but some drivers were still ignoring the limit, one car driving through the village at about 80mph every day at around 5:45am.

5. **District and County Councillor.**

a. This would be Cllr Dobson's last meeting as Coddington's District Councillor, due to NSDC's ward boundary changes. Cllr Dobson thanked everyone for their support and friendship, and expressed her satisfaction that the transfer of ownership of the Community Centre, and the outstanding maintenance issues, had been successfully resolved. Cllr Dobson wished to donate a tree to be planted in the village in memory of Cllr Vincent Dobson. This offer was gratefully accepted by the Parish Council.

b. The increasing number of vehicles using Coddington as a cut-through would continue to be a problem as traffic avoided town centre and ring road congestion. It would be at least 2026 before any improvements were made to the A17/A46/A1 roundabouts. The County Council would be looking at ways to improve access for the new National Civil War Museum as visitors would cause additional congestion in the town.

c. There had been no decision on gravel extraction; the Notts CC Environment Committee was due to meet in September.

6. **To receive and accept:**

a. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 5 March 2015.**

Proposed by Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Parrett, the minutes were approved, and signed by the Chmn.

b. Accounts for March 2015.

Proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr King, the cash book for March was agreed, and signed by the Chmn.

7. Matters arising from the previous minutes.

6. Development of land south of Newark: Martin Russell had confirmed that results of tube counts would be published on the County Council web site. Cllrs discussed the effect that new developments would have on the volume of traffic using Balderton Lane which had already seen a large increase in traffic and was now set to become much worse. The Clerk would write to Neil Hodgson and Andy Warrington at Notts CC, asking them to discuss with Cllr Dobson the Parish Council's concerns.

13. Trees on Balderton Lane: There had been no response from NSDC Planning to the reports of tree felling without consent in the Conservation Area. The Clerk would contact the Enforcement Officer again.

8. Finance.

a. To approve expenditure at 2 April 2015:

Proposed by Cllr Molloson, seconded by Cllr Cox, the following payments were approved:

	£
Clerk's net salary (March)	328.00
Village Hall Hire	77.00 (i)
Tree and Plaque for Coddington School	122.28 (ii)
Coddington Community Centre Maintenance 2014/15	3,078.64 (iii)
NALC subscription 2015/16	244.62
Allotment lease 2015	110.00

(i) £56 of this was for CAGE meetings as agreed.

(ii) Previously agreed as part of the Jubilee celebrations.

(iii) 50% of the net amount to be reimbursed by the CCA.

b. Review of 2014/15 Budget.

Copies of the report showing receipts and payments for 2014/15 under each budget heading were circulated. There had been no unexpected expenditure or overspend on the budget in any area. All income and expenditure would be published on the web site by 1 July, to meet the new Transparency Code requirements.

c. Request for Funding from 1st Coddington Guides.

The Guides needed to replace two of their 6-man tents, currently on offer at a sale price of £69.99 each. They would be able to pay at least £50 from their gift aid receipts due in May. It was proposed by Cllr Molloson, seconded by Cllr Parrett and agreed by a show of hands, to donate £100 to 1st Coddington Guides towards the cost of the tents. (Cllr Carver abstained from the vote).

9. Administration.

a. Coddington Community Centre.

Copies of the District Council's buildings condition survey provided by Darren Wardale had been previously circulated to Members. The transfer of ownership to the Parish Council had been approved by the NSDC Policy Committee, and would go ahead once all the maintenance work agreed by NSDC had been completed.

The Parish Council had received three estimates for independent structural surveys of the Centre of £1400, £650 and £400. Following discussion on the relative merits of each estimate, Cllr Parrett proposed, seconded by Cllr Cox and agreed unanimously, that the services of ML Consulting represented best value at £650 fully inclusive, with a maximum turnaround of 15 days from first instruction to full report.

b. Village News and Website.

The March newsletter had been well received. The only addition to be made for the next edition would be a Contents index inside the front cover.

The Clerk would ensure that all information required to be published under the updated Transparency Code was on the web site.

c. Footpaths, Page's Wood, Open Spaces.

- i. Cllr Bell reported that the footpath through the woods was being used as a bridleway. The Chmn said that this had already been reported to Angus Trundle at Notts CC, and would be monitored for future reporting.
- ii. Litter was becoming an increasing problem. Cllr Dobson had asked for a 'litter squad' and would request a litter bin next to the seat on Drove Lane. Cllr Cox suggested organising a village litter pick or involving the Scouts and Guides. The Chmn would contact the Scout Leader. The Clerk would mention it to the Guides and Coddington School, and also contact Alan Batty (NSDC) for any other help or advice.

d. Village Handyman.

The only applicant for the job had since withdrawn his application.

e. Best Kept Village Competition.

Cllrs unanimously agreed that the village would enter the competition again this year.

10. Planning.

a. Application 15/00402/FUL - Single storey extension, 24 Balderton Lane.

The original plans had been withdrawn. The amended plans had addressed the Parish Council's previous objections, and were given unanimous support.

b. Application 15/00362/FUL - Side extension, 5 Newark Road.

The majority of Cllrs expressed concerns about the proximity of the extension to the boundary of the next door property and its mature holly trees. By a show of hands the plans were rejected by 5 members, with 3 abstentions.

c. Refusal of 15/00139/FUL – Development of land on Main Street.

The Case Officer's report stated that whilst the Housing Needs Survey had identified a shortage of housing in the Winthorpe Ward, there was no evidence of specific need in Coddington. Further, viewed as part of the wider Newark area Coddington was not a principal village able to sustain new development. Cllrs therefore questioned whether there was any value in a housing needs survey covering such a large area, and felt that Coddington should have its own parish survey of housing need. The Clerk would raise this request with the Planning Department.

11. Allotments.

The three vacant allotments had been advertised in the village, and could now be filled. The Clerk and Cllr Allen would speak to the new tenants.

12. Roads, Environment, Transport and Services.

a. Proposed Cycle Route to Newark.

The Chmn and Vice Chmn had a very positive meeting with representatives of the Town Council who were keen to take the plan forward, as a first step in a cycle network for the whole area which could access specific funding sources.

b. Lorry Watch. *This topic was dealt with in full under item 3 on the agenda.*

13. Correspondence.

- A planning application for 5 wind turbines at Hough on the Hill had been refused by SKDC.
- The Coddington School newsletter had highlighted cars flouting the new parking restrictions.

14. Matters of Immediate Note.

Cllr Bell reported that there was still a foul smell from the drains opposite Greenfields. Cllr Dobson said nothing more could be done, but to wait for the new Klargestor to be installed.

15. Date of Next Meetings.

Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 23 April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 7 May at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 14 May at 6:30pm in the Village Hall, followed by a presentation on defibrillation units.

- 16. Conclusion.** The Chmn thanked Cllr Dobson, on behalf of all the Cllrs, for her exemplary contributions as Coddington's District Councillor. Her unstinting interest, commitment and support had reached into numerous aspects of the life of the village and its wellbeing.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.