

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2015
IN CODDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Members: Cllr O'Donnell (Chairman).
Cllrs Allen, Armstrong, Carver, Cox, King, Molloson.
District & Co. Cllr: Cllr M. Dobson.
Clerk: Mrs Y Wellard.
Public/Press: 7 members of the Parish were present.
Guest Speakers: Hayley Allison, Asst. Drt of Operations, Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust.
Michael Thompson, SFHT.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Bell, Cllr Elliott, Cllr Parrett, Mr and Mrs Turner (VH Cttee), Mrs P Bartley (Chmn Coddington Trust Fund), Mrs Caputa (Headteacher, Coddington School).
2. **To receive and accept minutes from the APM on 17 April 2014:**
Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were proposed as a true record by Cllr Molloson, seconded by Cllr Armstrong, and agreed by those present at the 2014 meeting.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
14/3. Having previously agreed to put on hold plans for a defibrillation unit for the village, the Parish Council would now be looking at the options available. There was to be a presentation for Cllrs on 14 May to provide more information.

14/6. Coddington Trust Fund had rejected the Parish Council's request for water and electricity supplies to be connected at Charity Farm field as they did not want any change to the use of the site.

14/12. Highways have refused to make improvements at the Drove Lane / A17 staggered crossroads as they do not deem it to be sufficiently dangerous. The Parish Council will continue to raise this issue with NCC when opportunities arise.
4. **Presentation by Hayley Allison, Assistant Director of Operations, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust:**
The aim of Ms Allison's talk was to dispel misinformation about the range of services available at Newark Hospital and to assure local people that the hospital was working at capacity for outpatients, treating an average of 400 patients a week in the Minor Injuries Unit. Although only day case surgery was available in Newark, it was hoped to increase this provision to 7 days a week with longer theatre opening hours every day. Management were also looking at ways to improve transition rates for rehabilitation in Newark after surgery elsewhere. Questions were answered by Ms Allison and Mr Thompson on the reduction in services available at Newark, a lack of choice of treatment centres, the need for more clinics and diagnostic services, and out of hours primary care issues.
5. **Annual Report of the Parish Council:**
 - a. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman presented his annual report (*Appendix 1*) on the Parish Council's achievements during the year, highlighting the transfer of ownership of the Community Centre to the Parish Council, the World War 1 commemorative booklet and completion of road safety measures. Looking ahead, issues for the Council to focus on will be the increasing number of vehicles using the village to bypass the town's traffic congestion, and the anticipated effects of future developments at Fernwood and south of Newark, on which the Parish Council will continue to make representation.

The Chmn paid tribute to two prominent local figures who had both contributed much to the life of the village. Cllr Vincent Dobson had been Coddington's County Councillor for many years and had initiated the road safety improvements in the village. Mr David Hedge had been a Member and Chairman of the Parish Council for many years, and had also contributed to many other aspects of village life.

During the year, Cllr Elliott had reluctantly retired as editor of the village newsletter, and the Chmn expressed the thanks of the Parish Council for the work he had done for so many years. The Parish Council was very grateful to Malcolm Baker for volunteering to take on this role.

Due to ward boundary changes, Coddington would have 2 new District Council representatives following the election. The Chmn expressed warm wishes and appreciation to Cllr Dobson for all her help, particularly in achieving a smooth transition of ownership of the Community Centre, and for her outstanding contribution to the village as its representative at District Council.

- b. **Allotment Working Group Report.** Cllr Allen reported that all allotments had been let, and there were two people on the waiting list. The paths had been mown and all the plots were well kept. Allotment holders had again received vouchers for a 10% discount scheme at Hardy's Garden Shop.

6. **Annual Report and Observations on the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015:**
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*).

7. **Annual Accounts of Coddington Trust Fund:**
Mrs Bartley had submitted the annual report for the Trust Fund which the Chmn read out (*Appendix 2*). Views were expressed that the Trust should be more transparent; some people felt that it was too constrained and should do more with its funds and be more open and accountable. Cllr Dobson commented that charitable trusts with historic origins do have a different approach, but sometimes need to be updated. Mr Bartley pointed out that the accounts are published on the Charity Commission's web site.

8. **Annual Accounts of Coddington Village Hall Charity Trust Committee:**
Cllr Allen reported a successful year both financially and with progress on improvements to the hall, thanks to a full team of volunteers. Copies of the financial statement were circulated. Special thanks were given to Mrs Jane Hedge for her work as booking clerk and collector of rents which had shown a 25% increase. Also to Mr Fred Reed for auditing the accounts. The next phase of improvements would be to the toilets, entrance and Reading Room, which it was hoped could be used as a community library.

9. **Annual Report of Coddington C of E Primary and Nursery School:**
The Head Teacher had sent her apologies as she was currently on a visit to Coddington's partner school in Israel. The report was presented by the Deputy Headteacher, Mr Michael Palmer. The school was almost full to capacity, and in some years, Coddington children were being turned away. New play equipment had just been installed thanks to fund raising by parents, and they were looking at ways to make the facilities available out of school hours. Council members expressed concerns that Coddington children were being turned away and felt that there should be a review of the admissions policy by NCC. Cllr Dobson said that the situation needed to be resolved, ideally by expanding the site, particularly in view of the new housing development at Beacon Heights, but such measures would take time.

10. **Annual Report of Coddington Community Association:**
Cllr Armstrong presented the Coddington Community Association report and circulated copies of the annual accounts, (*Appendix 3*) which showed a much stronger financial position, due to the additional fund raising events and increased lettings. More Trustees were

needed to help run the Centre. The Chairman thanked Cllr Armstrong for his management and achievements in improving the finances of the Centre.

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

No report had been received from the Community Spirit Group.

12. **Open Forum:**

i. Mr Bartley asked what the position was on a proposal to site a bus shelter on Newark Road. Cllr Dobson replied that this was not a decision for the Parish Council. NCC Officers had made a site visit and had found that there was no suitable site for a shelter. Cllr Dobson added that as the bus service is now more reliable, a shelter is not essential.

ii. Mr Bartley also drew attention to the public footpaths which were routed across the A1. The Chmn explained that there was nothing that could be done about this.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Appendix 1

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 23 APRIL 2015

CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

1. **Introduction.** This has once again been again been a very active year for the Council. Success has not always been achieved in meeting our aims, but we continue to move forward. As always, Maureen Dobson has strongly promoted our interests and causes as our District and County Councillor.

2. **Social.** During the past year, in addition to clubs and societies, the village has been treated to an excellent range of entertainments and events by All Saints’ Church, the Village Hall, Community Centre and Scout Group. The attendance levels have varied but these hard-working groups do need more support, from across Coddington, to sustain the core elements of our community. They cannot continue indefinitely without fresh faces. The Parish Council again arranged for the Christmas tree outside the Community Centre. The common feeling was that the Christmas Carols Around the Tree service at the Community Centre was the best yet, and we were all grateful to the WI, Coddington Community Spirit, All Saints’ Church, and the School for their contributions.

3. **Highways and Services.** The third interactive sign, on the C208 by the Community Centre, was installed last summer. There haven’t been any specific follow-up traffic censuses yet but the 3 signs are perceived to be having some deterrent effect on speeding motorists. Some traffic surveys continue, as a preliminary measure prior to the major developments planned for the south side of Newark. We have, however, asked for a further meeting with the County Council regarding the speeding and over-use on Balderton Lane, as a "rat-run" to/from Balderton and Fernwood. At present also, the Lorry Watch Group is being expanded because of the continued flaunting of the HGV ban, although some reporting of offending HGVs has been taking place. On a larger scale we express, whenever possible, our concerns regarding the impact of the South Newark development and the proposed gravel extraction will have on Coddington, arising from Newarks’ wholly inadequate traffic infrastructure. Councillor Maureen Dobson has very firmly voiced both our and her serious misgivings, at both district and county levels.

4. **Gravel Extraction.** Last June Nottinghamshire County Council opened another consultation phase for its new Minerals Plan; this still included the 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 again expressed strong opposition on a number of grounds. Several other potential major sites in the Trent valley have now been included, which gives us the hope that Coddington's substantial gravel reserves might lie undisturbed, for this Plan at least. On this occasion, however, a public meeting was held in the Village Hall on 24 June. Attended by over 100 villagers, a separate action group – Coddington Against Gravel Extraction (**CAGE**) was formed. The Group, with its specialist sub-groups, submitted its own findings and arguments to Notts CC. The Group has also had more media contacts and discussion with our MP. The County Council will consider all evidence again in September, prior to preparation of a final consultation document (again!). This will then be submitted, with all responses, to the Planning Inspectorate in London.

5. **Review of Electoral Boundaries.** We discussed last year the changes which will see Coddington and Barnby merge into a new 2-councillor ward with Balderton North, with effect from May 2015. Additionally, Newark and Sherwood District Council has completed its own minor review of ward boundaries. The Parish Council supported proposals to merge Coddington West Ward (some 60 dwellings west of the A1, off Newbury Road) into Newark Town Council's Beacon Ward. This also takes effect from May 2015. With Maureen Dobson's invaluable assistance, we have negotiated a settlement of £7,836 with the District Council to mitigate the future loss of precept income this transfer incurred. We also took the opportunity to get the parish's boundary line with Newark Town Council redrawn, along the central reservation line of the A1; this simple measure, long overdue, has removed a number of small and confusing anomalies. The Local Government Boundary Commission, however, never seems to let up. It has now invited comment on the drawing of the divisions for Nottinghamshire County Council's 67 councillors. We have submitted our reasons for wishing to remain part of the Collingham division.

6. **World War 1 Commemoration.** Our commemorative booklet "The Great War – *Coddington Remembers*" was distributed to all households by 4 August 2014. The booklet received considerable praise both in and outside the parish. I must acknowledge the superb work of the editorial team who contributed to this considerable achievement – David and Jackie Armstrong, Mike Bache, Jane Hedge, Mary Molloson, Fred Reed, David and Isobel Turner. On Sunday evening, 3 August 2014, here in Coddington's All Saints' Church, a moving WW1 Vigil Service was held, conducted by Lay Reader Mike Bache with great dignity and compassion. On Tuesday 11 November, again in our church, Reverend David Anderton led a lovely service involving the senior classes of Coddington School, and at the service I presented a special bound edition of our booklet to the School.

7. **Community Centre.** Leaving detail on the Centre to David Armstrong for later, I shall report on the recent agreement with Newark and Sherwood District Council for the transfer of the freehold of the Community Centre, and site, to the Parish Council. Some 20 residents attended the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting, held on 28 January, to discuss NSDC's proposal. Also present to provide more information and to answer questions were Maureen Dobson and 2 officers from NSDC. The terms of the existing lease (34 years left) included return of the Centre in its original condition! There were already some issues, eg wooden fascia and soffits, car park flooding etc for the PC/CCA to deal with. Prior to transfer of title, NSDC would spend some £21,000 – £24,000 to replace all the wooden fascia and soffits with UPVC, install solar panels to reduce the large electricity bills, and resolve the car-park flooding. The Parish Council voted to accept the NSDC transfer proposal, subject to the prior satisfactory completion of all the agreed remedial works, and the provision of a satisfactory legal agreement. The Council is now arranging an independent structural survey. We will keep you advised on progress towards formal signing. Again, I must acknowledge Maureen Dobson's substantial contribution to the whole process.

8. **Planning.** Although there have been few full planning applications, the Parish Council has not been wholly at ease with NSDC's Adopted Policy which effectively debars development within the parish except for "a proven local need". At present the answer always seems to be "no". We have advised NSDC that Coddington requires a detailed village survey to establish our specific needs, or otherwise, for affordable housing.

9. **Best Kept Village 2014.** I am delighted to record Coddington's 1st place in the Notts 2014 Best Kept Village Competition (700 – 2000 population category). Although the Parish Council tries to prepare for this each year it is really a case of well done, and thank you, everybody.

10. **Issues.** Despite our Best Kept Village placing, litter is a continuing problem, especially since the retirement of our Village Handyman, for whom no replacement can be recruited, so far. Litter remains a continuing and widespread difficulty, not helped by the passing traffic through the village. We still rely on all residents to encourage prevention and better standards.

11. **People.** Again, I must gratefully acknowledge those who have supported us, in various ways, during the past year. Particularly, we have welcomed those attending our meetings and also those who have given support across the village's wider range of activities. Our so reliable Coddington Village News distributors, always supportive, have also been there for other door-to-door distributions in the past year.

At our March meeting, the Council noted with sadness the passing in February of Mr Vincent Dobson. Vincent had been Coddington's County Councillor for 24 years, until 2013, contributing to and achieving many improvements for the village.

Very sadly, I must also record the passing last Saturday, 18 April, of David Hedge who was twice Chairman of this Council before his retirement in 2011. David made a dedicated and exceptional contribution to this village over many years, as a Parish Councillor and in many other aspects of our community, including the Scout Group, Pages Wood and Village History.

Last year we noted that the Village News editor Frank Elliott, was seeking a replacement. We are delighted to welcome Malcolm Baker as his replacement and thank him for stepping into this demanding role.

Also, April 2015 is the last full month for Parish Councillors Frank Elliott and David Bell, who are not standing for re-election. Our thanks go to both. But looking ahead, no new members have come forward for next month's elections – like our village groups above, the council cannot operate effectively without fresh volunteers.

But next, my personal thanks go to all the Councillors for their support and contributions in the last year. Finally, the entire Council acknowledges Parish Clerk Mrs Yvette Wellard's excellent work and support for us this year, it has been a very busy time for her.

April 2015 marks the final full month in office for Maureen Dobson as our District Councillor. Her departure from this role arises from the regrettable NSDC ward changes I mentioned earlier. We all thank her for her outstanding contribution and work as Coddington's District Councillor. With her unstinting interest, commitment and support, reaching into so many aspects of the life of the village and its wellbeing, Maureen has far exceeded any job description that might exist!

Appendix 2

Coddington Trust Fund

In 2014 Coddington Trust Fund had a relatively busy year, with some changes to the tenancy of one of the almshouses.

The income for the year was just short of £18,000, this is mainly from the rents for the almshouses and the farmland which the Trust fund owns in Coddington, but also from the Trust Fund's investments.

Outgoings were over £14,000, with nearly £6000 being spent on relief in need. This includes a £2000 donation which the Trust Fund makes annually to Collingham Rural Advice Centre to secure the services of John Pitchfork for the residents of Coddington. We have also helped individual villagers who have demonstrated a financial need to the Trustees. Every year John Pitchfork manages to secure several thousands of pounds in state benefits for the needy of Coddington. Details of how to contact John are published in every edition of the village newsletter as are the details of the Trust Fund. A further £5000 was spent on the maintenance of the almshouses and garden maintenance. In 2015 it is expected that a greater amount will be spent on improving the almshouses.

The Trust Fund has assets in the region of £190,000 invested in various bank or building society accounts as well as some bonds and shares. As Chairman I consider that this balance should be preserved to provide income for future generations.

Pat Bartley
Chairman
April 2015

Appendix 3

Community Centre report to Annual Parish meeting.

2014-2015 has been a good year with a profitable and sustainable future expected.

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 and Georgia Powell
 - o Ensuring we get the money in from customers
- Ian Lawson
 - o Providing excellent caretaker support to our customers
- 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 Working on transfer of Centre from District to Parish Council
- Parish Council
 - o Supporting the Centre on share of maintenance costs and insurance of the building (see separate sheet)

Changes over the past year:

- Continued with fund raising music and theatre events, including Village Ventures in liaison with Village Hall, which have now raised a total of over £1,100 for the Community Centre over the last 2 years (see separate sheet).
- Georgia Powell appointed as new Clerk
- Purchases made of new mood lighting to support fund raising events at the Centre
- Rates of pay increased for Clerk and Centre Manager.
- Nominal charges now made for all storage space to the Centre, to help manage the limited resource available

Finances:

- Audited accounts for 2013-2014 (to end July) – profit of over £5,800 made (see separate sheet)
- Unaudited accounts to 16th April – over £900 profit to date, after costs of around £1700 to refurbish the main hall floor (prior year donations from Cllrs Vincent and Maureen Dobson).
- Lower maintenance and repair costs expected than unusually high level of the previous year.