

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**held on 1 October 2015 at 7:30 pm at Coddington Community Centre**

**Present:**

**Members:** Cllrs Cox (Chairman), Allen, Armstrong, Gangel, King, Molloson, O'Donnell, Parrett, Rowden-Allen.

**Clerk:** Mrs Y Wellard.

**In Attendance:** Co. Cllr Maureen Dobson, District Cllrs David Payne and Johnathan Lee, Jill Sanderson, NSDC Housing Devt. Officer, Miles King, Midlands Rural Housing.

**1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Carver, and from Cllr Dobson who would be arriving late.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

Cllr Parrett declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application 15/01582/FUL, which had been submitted by her next door neighbour.

**3. Housing Needs Survey.**

Jill Sanderson and Miles King answered questions about the scope of a housing needs survey and the role of Midlands Rural Housing, which is commissioned to carry out surveys on behalf of local authorities across the East Midlands. North Muskham's Housing Need Survey was referred to as an example, which covered both affordable housing and market preferences. If a survey was carried out under NSDC's annual programme, there would be no cost to the Parish Council, particularly if the parish organised its own distribution of surveys. Mr King explained that affordable housing includes both homes for rent at 80% of the area market value and shared ownership schemes. Planning issues always take priority over the findings of a survey, but planners do take into consideration any shortage of a particular type of housing, which has been highlighted in a survey. *JS and MK left the meeting.*

**4. Public Contribution.**

There were no members of the public present.

**5. District Councillors.**

i) Cllr Payne advised postponing a housing needs' survey until after the Issues Review which could re-define local planning criteria.

The recent decision to approve 3 new houses adjacent to 60 Main Street had highlighted some of the problems of SP3's criteria. The Planning Officer had recommended that on balance, the development would be an improvement to the area, and in this case, 'need' had become a secondary issue.

Cllr Payne drew attention to two further contentious planning applications, which were due before the Planning Committee, Post Office Row and Willowdene. Cllr Cox said she would attend the planning meeting on 6th October.

ii) Cllr Lee had received complaints about the Coddington bus service over the cancellation of the first and last service of the day, and also about parking problems at the school. Cllr Rowden-Allen said that parking outside school was causing a problem for bus drivers. Cllr Parrett suggested looking again at a one-way system on Brownlow's Hill and Cllr Allen said that better use could be made of space on the C208. The issues will be referred to **Cllr Dobson** to see what more can be done.

**6. To receive and accept:**

**a. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 3 September 2015.**

Proposed by Cllr Gangel, seconded by Cllr Armstrong, the minutes of 3 September were approved, and signed by the Chmn.

**b. Accounts for September 2015.**

Proposed as correct by Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Molloson, the cash book for September was agreed, and signed by the Chmn.

*The District Cllrs left the meeting and Cllr Dobson arrived.*

## 7. Matters arising from the Previous Minutes.

**6 iii)** The Clerk had spoken to the homeowner at the corner of Old Hall Gardens about the height of his hedge, but he did not accept that it was causing a problem, and did not wish to reduce the height. Cllr O'Donnell suggested further investigation into the original planning conditions.

**7 i)** Members reported that the smell from the area around Greenfields had still not improved. The Clerk was forwarding daily reports to Jeremy Hutchinson who was investigating other possible causes.

**9 b)** The Clerk reported that the fountain area on Beaconsfield Drive was still registered to the developers, Persimmons. They would be contacted re maintenance.

**10 a)** The Clerk reported that the owners of Willowdene did not want to remove the willow tree unless advised to because of the extent of the roots under the building and in the drains. They also intended to replace dead trees, which had been cut down.

**11 f)** Lee Powell, Newark & Sherwood Homes said they were not aware of any demand for toddler play equipment at Thorpe Close. There was no room for any further equipment in the fenced-off area and facilities for young children were provided at Thorpe Oaks playing field.

**11 g)** Cllrs noted as unsatisfactory the MP's response re their lack of representation at the Newark Traffic Summit.

## 8. Finance.

### a) To approve expenditure at 1 October 2015:

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

	£
Clerk's net salary (September)	341.84
Admin expenses July - September	36.67
Village Handyman (September)	107.25
Grant Thornton, Audit	120.00
Community Centre Insurance	1044.22
Larken & Co. (deposit)	300.00

### b) Auditor's Report.

Grant Thornton reported no issues, but had questioned why Cllrs had responded positively on an effective system of internal audit at a meeting on 7 May, when the internal audit was not completed until 24 May. The Clerk would respond that 'internal audit' had been interpreted in more general terms as internal financial controls.

### c) Half Year Budget Report.

Copies of the 2015/16 budget and spending figures to date had been previously circulated. Cllrs were aware that additional expenditure relating to the transfer of ownership of the Community Centre had not been included in the budget, but could be covered by contingency funds and savings made elsewhere. Otherwise, the budget was on track; it had not been necessary to transfer any money from reserves during the first half year.

### d) Grant Applications.

#### i) Coddington School DARE Project.

Copies of invoices relating to the project had been received. The school said they had also applied to Newark Town Council for funding, but had not received a response to date. As agreed at the last meeting, £200 would be donated.

#### ii) Coddington Scouts.

The Scout Leader, Malcolm Baker had not yet applied to any other sources of funding, but would send further information when available.

## 9 Administration.

### a. Coddington Community Centre.

i) Cllr Molloson pointed out that the floor crack in the main hall had not been highlighted in the survey by ML Consulting.

ii) Cllr Cox reported that the liaison meeting had discussed additional responsibilities for the Centre's Management Team after the transfer from NSDC ownership. These would include a

planned maintenance programme and a designated repair and replacement fund. Costings would be needed for replacement signs and for regular maintenance issues such as the water treatment plant.

iii) Cllr Rowden-Allen agreed to take on the role of Parish Council representative on the Community Centre Board of Trustees.

iv) The Clerk would ask Doug Lyne to cut the Community Centre hedges, and Cllr Armstrong would check ownership of the over-grown elder bush between the Centre and the School.

#### **b. Footpaths.**

i) Cllr Dobson reported that Neil Lewis, NCC's Senior RoW Officer had met Mr Hounsfield and Mr Hutchinson, and both had agreed a route of permissive footpaths around their fields. Mr Lewis would continue to negotiate with all three landowners to achieve a circular walk. There was to be another public meeting in February, and the Chmn would put an update in the December newsletter to keep people informed.

ii) Cllr Parrett had received an email from Mr Curtis with a photograph of a trespasser on his property. PCSO Mike Munro was advising Mr Curtis on security.

iii) An email had been received from the tenant of the field behind Old Hall Gardens where horses are kept, complaining that walkers did not always keep to the footpath which runs across the field, and some allowed their dogs to run around and did not clean up after them. The tenant intended to erect a fence either side of the footpath and was willing to contribute towards the cost of a dog bin on the field. She also had a complaint about adjacent properties, which were using gates to access the field from their gardens. The Clerk had put up some temporary signs and would make enquiries about a dog bin and the cost of signs from NSDC. The Chmn would contact the planning officer for an update on the shelters made from pallets which had been given temporary consent.

#### **c. Trees and Open Spaces.**

i) Lee Robinson, NSDC, had made recommendations for the reduction of the cherry tree at Old Hall Gardens, removal of dead branches overhanging the road from Page's Wood and work on trees at the Millennium Garden. The Clerk had submitted applications for the work at OHG and Page's Wood, and the Millennium Gardens had been referred to Matt Duckworth at NCC.

ii) The laurel hedge opposite The Plough was still partially covering the speed sign and the fire sluice valve signs. The Clerk would contact Highways again to ask how this would be resolved.

iii) It was reported that there were two dead ash trees on the Willowdene site. The Clerk would ask Lee Robinson to check them.

iv) Commemorative tree planting – the Clerk would contact Mrs Hedge re purchasing a rowan tree for the Millennium Garden and Steven Jackson, Winthorpe Parish Council about an oak tree for the Community Centre.

v) In response to the Parish Council's question about replacement trees on Balderton Lane, the Enforcement Officer Adrian Adams said it would be unfair to ask the landowner to plant more trees as he had been told to fell his trees by NCC Highways.

#### **d. Allotments.**

Cllr Allen reported that the neglected allotment had now been cut down, but still not dug over. It was agreed to send a warning to the tenant with the renewal notice in December that the allotment would be repossessed if not cultivated within 3 months.

#### **e. Christmas Arrangements**

December 16 was confirmed for Carols Round the Tree, to be organised by the Community Spirit Group with mulled wine supplied by Cllr Dobson. Cllr Allen would see Mr Gray about supplying the tree and hoped to erect it on Monday 7 December. A workshop for making decorations was to be held at the Village Hall on 28 November, and the Parish Council would provide a prize for the best tree decoration. Cllr Armstrong would get last year's decorations out from storage at the Community Centre.

**f. Winter Salt.**

As very little of the salt in the bins was used last year, it was agreed to just order the 5 free 25kg bags.

**g. Defibrillator.**

There was to be a meeting of the Working Group on 14 October. The defibrillator unit had been ordered, and the Clerk would contact a local electrician to get a price for connecting the heated cabinet.

**h. Best Kept Village.**

The judges' comments were received and would be published in the newsletter.

**10. Planning.**

**a. Application 15/01582/FUL – 45 – 47 Newark Road.**

Rear single storey extension, removal of chimney stack and internal alterations.

Cllrs commented on the poor quality of the planning documents, which had been difficult to read on the web site. There were no objections to the plans.

**b. Wind Turbines, Fulbeck Airfield.**

Although the wind turbines would have no direct visual impact on Coddington, Cllrs voted by a majority (one abstention) to submit an objection to NSDC and SKDC, as the area is an important recreational amenity for the enjoyment of open countryside, contributing to the rural setting of the village, and Cllrs also wished to show support for neighbouring parishes who would be directly affected.

**c. NSDC Plan Review Consultation.**

NSDC were launching a public consultation on an Issues Paper – the first stage of a review of planning policies and allocations, which will run from 5 October to 16 November. Cllrs were requested to access details of the consultation online, for discussion at the next Parish Council meeting: [www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/planreview](http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/planreview)

**d. Housing Needs' Survey.**

It was agreed to postpone a survey of housing need for Coddington until after the District Council's Local Development Framework Plan Review.

**11. Correspondence.**

- A reminder of the Parish Council Conference on 5 October at Kelham Hall.
- NALC AGM on 18 November at Epperstone Village Hall
- Invitation from Coddington School to the DARE graduation ceremony. Cllr Cox gave her apologies, but three other Cllrs said they would be able to attend.

**12. Matters of Immediate Note / for the Next Agenda.**

- The Clerk was asked to report street lights out on Main Street and Newark Road
- The underground leak had sprung again on Main Street, and STW would be digging up the road
- Cllr Gangel volunteered to help with Lorry Watch and would contact the co-ordinator, Paul Hatherley. The Clerk would contact Chris Allen at Collingham Parish Council about training with the speed gun.
- The remains of a burnt out car in The Plough car park to be reported by the Clerk.

*On a proposal by Cllr Parrett, seconded by Cllr Cox, it was agreed to extend the meeting in order to complete an item on staffing which was deemed confidential and is minuted separately.*

*Cllr Dobson left the meeting.*

**13. Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 5 November at 7:30pm in the Community Centre.

**The meeting closed at 21:45.**