

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on 6 October 2016 at 7:30 pm at Coddington Community Centre

Present:

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

Clerk: Mrs Y Wellard.

In Attendance: County Cllr Dobson (from 20:30), District Cllr Lee. 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Rowden-Allen and District Cllr Payne.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest from Cllrs.

3. Public Contribution.

Residents of Chapel Lane spoke about mixed messages from the Planning Inspector's decision on The Plough and confusion over the current position of the applications.

4. District and County Councillors.

Cllr Lee explained the current position on The Plough. The Appellants had also submitted an appeal on the second application, and the District Council had withdrawn its objections to avoid another costly hearing which they were unlikely to win. Therefore both sets of plans now had approval.

As Cllr Dobson would be arriving later, it was agreed to postpone the rest of item 4.

5. To Approve Minutes of the September Parish Council Meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Gangel, seconded by Cllr Allen, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 September were agreed and signed by the Chmn.

6. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes.

4/vii. Thorpe Close fencing. Cllr Lee had not heard anything further on Newark & Sherwood Homes' plans to restrict Travellers setting up camp and would make enquiries.

4/xii. Greenfields. Cllr Lee reported that the Environment Officer was carrying out weekly checks. The Clerk had emailed Alan Batty (NSDC) about the smell, but had not received a response.

6/10ii Speed Gun Training. Cllr Gangel reported that there were four volunteers for training, and he was now waiting for a response from the PCSO.

9b/iii. TPO List. Cllr Lee said that he would remind Lee Robinson to respond on CPC's list of TPOs.

9g. Carols Round The Tree. The date for this event would remain at 14 December as it was not possible for the school to take part on the alternative date.

7. Finance.

a) To Receive and Accept Accounts for September 2016.

Proposed by Cllr Parrett, seconded by Cllr O'Donnell, the September cash book was agreed and signed by the Chmn.

b) Approval of Expenditure at 6 October 2016.

Proposed by Cllr Molloson, seconded by Cllr Parrett, the following items were approved for payment:

Clerk's salary, September	367.16
Admin expenses July - September	46.90
Handyman salary and expenses, September (5 weeks)	182.70
Town & Country - grass cutting, September	450.00
Doug Line – allotments and removal of fallen tree	348.00
Grant Thornton – audit fee	240.00
NALC Training x2 (Chairmanship)	50.00
Community Centre Room Hire - Apr, June, July	42.00

- c) Contribution Towards the Cost of a Report on The Plough.
The report had been commissioned by a resident of the village, and there had been a suggestion that the Parish Council should make a contribution as the report had been in support of its own planning objections. The Clerk advised that it was not appropriate for the Council to give money to an individual retrospectively when there had been no agreement in place prior to the report being commissioned. **The Clerk** would seek confirmation from NALC.
- d) External Auditor's Report.
The Clerk read out the report. The audit had been signed off by Grant Thornton with no matters to report. However, attention was drawn to the retention of documents, as the Clerk had been unable to produce the previous year's Notice of Date for Exercise of Electors' Rights and Completion of Audit Notice which were requested as additional information. The Clerk's confirmation that all notices had been displayed on the notice boards for the correct period of time had been accepted, with the stipulation that all notices be retained in future.
- e) Half Year Budget Review
Copies of the budget summary were circulated. The Clerk drew attention to the external audit fee which had doubled from the previous year, and to the over-spend on tree works which would have to be covered by the contingency fund.
- f) Funding for Coddington School DARE Project.
Cllrs considered a request from the school for a donation towards the £900 cost of the drugs' awareness campaign for Year 6 children. In order to comply with the grants and donations policy, the **Clerk** would request details of the School Account.

8. Planning.

- a) Development Plan Review Consultation.
Copies of a draft response had been previously circulated. The draft response was agreed with the inclusion of a further point suggested by Cllr Payne, to be added to the revised SP3 criteria, proposing that additional weight be given to the character of a village 'where the development lies within, or affects the setting of a conservation area.'
- b) Electricity Sub-station, Brownlow's Hill.
The Chmn, Clerk and two Cllrs had met with Western Power representatives at the site to explore what could be done to soften the impact of the large metal box outside the school, which was felt to be detrimental to the street view in a conservation area. Sean Ingram (Wn. Power) agreed to plant shrubs at either side of the sub-station and to pave the front where a large hole had been left. The **Clerk** would obtain confirmation in writing from Wn. Power.
Cllr Dobson joined the meeting.
- c) The Plough Inn
Cllrs expressed their disappointment in the decision by the Planning Inspector to over-rule the LPA's objections with no reference to the Parish Council's submissions.
With the agreement of the Council, the Chairman closed the meeting for 10 minutes for further contributions and questions from members of the public.
Neighbouring residents were dismayed that the PINS report had not considered any of the points raised by them. The planning consent was subject to a list of conditions, and no development could commence until a phasing scheme had been submitted and approved by the LPA. It was reported that this condition had already been breached as work had been started, until the Enforcement Officer was called out.
Discussions centred around Condition 11 – Schedule of Hard and Soft Landscaping, and Condition 17 – Visibility Splays on the public highway. The **Clerk** would request a copy of the Schedule of Works and send a copy of the Schedule of Conditions to all Cllrs.
Concerns were expressed about the inaccessibility of Planning Officers for providing information. There was a proposal by Cllr Hedge, seconded by Cllr O'Donnell that a letter be sent to Matt Lamb, highlighting the Council's and residents' concerns, particularly with regard to the conditions attached to landscaping, boundaries and visibility splays, and with a request to receive copies of the phasing schedule and to be kept informed.
Cllr Allen abstained from the vote.

d) Planning Correspondence.

Attention was drawn to the particularly high number of planning permissions granted for trees to be felled within the conservation area – currently a total of 11, including 4 oak trees. Concerns were expressed that consent was perhaps given too freely without due consideration or provision for replanting. **Cllr Lee** would raise this with Lee Robinson.

9. Return to Item 4 – County and District Cllrs' Contributions.

- a) Cllr Dobson reported that the chestnut tree on Newark Road which was deemed dangerous had now been felled. There was still a dispute over ownership of the tree, and a list of ownership of all road side trees was to be drawn up by NCC.
- b) Cllr Dobson confirmed that the 106 money from The Heights development on Beacon Hill Road, Newark had been allocated to Coddington School for the replacement of the temporary classrooms. It was hoped that additional land on Balderton Lane would be available for use as a sports field.
- c) Cllr Dobson reported that Greenways was operating under license, but was being monitored by Environment Officer Tim Turner.
- d) Dist Cllr Lee said that he had observed litter being thrown from a catering van driving through the village and had written a letter to the company. It was not felt that any further action could be taken. **Cllr Lee** was reminded to report the rotting litter bin post on the Newark Road.

10. Administration.

a) Coddington Community Centre

- i) The Clerk reported that the transfer of ownership of the Community Centre from the District Council had been completed. The original deeds would be held by Larken & Co with a copy in the Parish Council files.
- ii) Some of the outdoor notice boards which had NSDC's name and logo would need to be changed.
- iii) Cllr Rowden-Allen's report on the AGM had been previously circulated. Cllrs noted that the boiler was to be replaced.

b) Trees and Open Spaces

- i) Review of mowing – Cllrs expressed disappointment in the standard of mowing by the new contractor. It was acknowledged that this was partly due to insufficient information being supplied in the mowing schedule, but also to the inferior machinery used which did not cut as well or as widely as had previously been done.
As there had been a considerable saving on cost, and funds were still available in the mowing budget, it was proposed by Cllr Parrett, seconded by Cllr Hedge and agreed, to ask Doug Lyne to do the final cut of the year, taking all the long grass back to the hedge line for the winter.
- ii) Millennium Garden – It was proposed by Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Carver and agreed, to allow a budget of up to £200 for planting shrubs on the slope of the Millennium Garden as proposed by Cllrs Parrett and Hedge. The **Clerk** would ask David Britten to strim the area again.
- iii) Oak tree for the Queen's 90th birthday – Cllr Parrett would provide a tree which she had been nurturing for the Parish Council, to be planted at the Community Centre in November.
- iv) Hedge cutting – It was agreed that Doug Lyne be asked to carry out the annual hedge cutting at the Community Centre, Page's Wood and the allotments.

c) Village Maintenance.

- i) Handyman's report – The Handyman had submitted a very thorough report on his first 3 months in post which highlighted a number of problems, some of which were the result of having no-one to collect litter during the summer months. It was hoped that volunteers would be available to help clear the excess rubbish which would be revealed on the final cut of the long grass. The Handyman had now been advised that any bulky or accumulation of rubbish was to be reported to the Clerk as fly tipping for the District Council to deal with. It was suggested that a trolley would be helpful for collecting the rubbish. **Cllr O'Donnell** would ask the Handyman for his view on this.
- ii) Litter bin for the C208 lay-by - Mike Keeling (NCC Highways) had done a site visit and reported no objections to siting a bin in the lay-by, subject to checks of the SU. The Clerk would seek advice from Ian Gilchrist (NSDC) on the type of bin and fixings. It was proposed by Cllr Gangel, seconded by Cllr Carver and agreed for the Clerk to proceed.

d) Allotments.

i) Lettings – The Clerk had sent letters to the three tenants who were neglecting their allotments. One had decided to give up his tenancy, and two resolved to clear their plots in the near future. Mr and Mrs Parkes had requested an extension to their allotment when the adjacent plot becomes vacant, but it was understood that they were planning to leave Coddington. The Clerk would write to remind them that allotments could only be let to people residing within 5 miles of the village.

ii) Review of Tenancy Agreement – Cllrs Parrett and Hedge proposed two additional clauses – for tenants to maintain the connecting grass footpaths in decent order, and to be allowed bonfires for allotment waste. Cllr Allen was unsure about bonfires, so the Allotment Group would meet for further discussion and present the revised agreement for approval at the next Parish Council meeting.

iii) Mowing, hedges and clearance - The Allotment Group would ask one of the tenants, Mr Dodd whether he would be interested in mowing the paths as he does regularly mow his own area. Otherwise, Doug Lyne would be asked to do another cut of the paths and also to cut the hedge. The question of who should be responsible for clearing overgrown vacant plots would be discussed by the Allotment Group for inclusion in the revised Agreement.

iv) Allotment Officers' Forum – Cllr Parrett and Hedge said that they would attend the forum at Hartsholme Park, Lincoln on 2 November. The Clerk would forward details to them.

At 21:30 Cllr O'Donnell proposed an extension to complete the agenda which was seconded by Cllr Parrett and agreed.

e) Community Assets.

The following sites were suggested as possible future community assets: The Fountain on Beaconsfield Drive; the corner plot between Yew Tree Way and Beaconsfield Drive; playing fields; Valley View's open space opposite the school; Village Hall; Scout Hall; Post Office.

f) Reports from Elected Representatives.

There was nothing to report.

11. Correspondence.

i) An invitation to the NSDC Civic Service on Sunday 16 October, commencing at the Castle at 1:50pm

ii) The Parish Council had been copied into a letter to the police from Mr Curtis about bikes being ridden across the fields at Beaconfield.

iii) A request from NALC to support their campaign against a proposal by DCLG to extend Council Tax Referendum principles to include smaller councils. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a response to the Local Government Finance Settlement 2017/18 Consultation in line with NALC's recommendations.

12. Matters of Immediate Note / Next Agenda.

i) Some of the notice boards were in need of attention.

ii) The Clerk would place an order for the free salt offered by NCC.

iii) Large advertising banners had again be attached to the C208 fence – one for NSDC's Game Fair and one for a Bingham School. The Clerk would contact the owners to remove the banners after their events.

13. Date of Next Meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be Thursday 3 November at 7:30pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.