

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
held on 5 January 2017 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, District Cllr Payne, Dist Cllr Lee, 8 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence.

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

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest from Cllrs.

3. Public Contribution.

- a) Mrs Deborah Cox spoke on behalf of residents of Yew Tree Way who were questioning authorisation by NSDC of work to trees covered by TPO N349 which stated that the trees on the site were in good condition with good aesthetic quality visible from the public highway, and that felling or pruning would have a severe adverse impact on public amenity. Residents were pleased that an application to fell an oak tree had been refused, but were very disappointed that the Local Authority had authorised further destructive work to the yew trees, in spite of a written apology received following the Authority's failure to protect the trees under TPO 34 in 2012. Mrs Cox circulated photographs and explained that yew trees 1 and 2 had been reduced to such an extent that they were no longer visible from the road as a public amenity. Residents were seeking written assurance that protected woodland would be re-planted and maintained under the terms of the TPO. The residents viewed the authorisation of application 16/01508/TPO as a further mistake by the Local Authority, this time with regard to TPO N349, resulting in further loss of the trees' visual public amenity.
- b) Mr Richard Dearlove drew attention to his complaint concerning tree workers who had entered his property without permission and removed branches from one of his trees whilst working at No. 4 Yew Tree Way. Senior Planning Officer, Matt Lamb had previously assured him that an independent assessor would inspect the tree, but that had not been done, and the work was carried out on the evening of Friday 23 December without giving notice. Mr Dearlove would be seeking redress for the damage to his tree and for trespass.

Cllrs agreed a proposal by the Chairman to bring item 8b, Yew Tree Wood, forward for discussion.

4. Yew Tree Wood – Planning Application 16/01508/TPO

Cllr Lee said that he had spoken to planning officers who confirmed that the work had been done in accordance with their recommendation, and he revealed that a new planning application had been submitted for the erection of two houses on the site of the trees in the garden of No. 4 Yew Tree Way.

The Council expressed concern that permission had been given for two yew trees to be drastically cut back and for one tree to be crown lifted, further reducing the visual amenity. This was especially damaging following mistakes made previously by NSDC officers in disregarding extant TPOs in place when the houses were built. The Council also noted with concern that Mr Dearlove had not been notified of the intended work or permission sought to enter his property.

Cllr Molloson questioned the competence of District Council officers to assess and advise on tree protection and management, and the Council echoed the public's disquiet that the officers' management of the TPOs for this site had been both inconsistent and poorly researched, and ultimately detrimental to public amenity.

Cllr O'Donnell proposed that a letter of complaint be sent to the Senior Planning Officer, Matt Lamb and to the local ombudsman, demanding an enquiry into the TPO management at the Yew Tree Wood site since the developer's original planning application for Yew Tree Way. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Carver and unanimously agreed by the Council. The Clerk would draft a letter to include historic and photographic evidence of the destruction of protected woodland.

5. District and County Councillors.

- a) Cllr Lee drew attention to the high number of break-ins in the area over the Christmas period.
- b) Cllr Payne confirmed that the Planning Committee was due to meet at 4pm on Tuesday 10 January to consider the application for two new dwellings on Brownlow's Hill, with a site visit in the morning. Cllr Cox said that she would attend the meeting and speak on behalf of the Parish Council.
- c) Cllr Dobson reported that ViaEM had cut back the hedgerow on their part of the A1 slip road, and had referred the remaining section to Highways England. Mike Keeling would investigate who was responsible for the overgrown brambles on the boundary of Greenfields.
- d) Cllr Dobson advised sending photographs of rubbish burning at Greenways to the Environmental Agency and reporting observations of unauthorised activity to the Enforcement Officer.
- e) Negotiations on the Beaconfield footpaths were ongoing. RoW Officer Neil Lewis had arranged a meeting with Mr Curtis.

6. To Approve Minutes of the November Parish Council Meetings.

Proposed by Cllr Carver, seconded by Cllr Allen, the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 3 November and 23 November were approved and signed by the Chairman.

7. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes.

3/11 10b The Clerk was still awaiting a reply from the insurers on the claim for damage to the Millennium Garden seat.

3/11 10c i Cllr Lee advised that NSDC officers were looking at possible sites for recycling bins – to be included on the next Parish Council meeting agenda.

3/11 10c ii Litter bin - A site visit with Mike Keeling, ViaEM had shown that it would not be viable to put a floor standing bin in the lay by on the C208 as the ditch would need to be built up to provide a flat surface for the bin to stand on. Mr Keeling suggested a small bin on a post, but Cllrs felt that this would not solve the problem, and Cllr Dobson suggested asking the NSDC litter team to sweep the area more regularly.

3/11 10c iii Cllr Gangel would make enquiries about the loan/purchase of a hand-held speed gun.

3/11 11 Cllr Mollosos had attended the Remembrance Day service organised by Balderton Parish Council at the Winthorpe Airfield and said that it was a very moving ceremony.

3/11 12 iv The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to those who had helped erect the Christmas tree.

23/11 7b. At the meeting of Cllrs Cox and Parrett at Greenfields, they were informed that the smell had been caused by the sewage treatment pump being accidentally switched off. However, Cllrs reported that there was still a smell in the area and a grey film on water in the dyke. It was agreed that the Clerk would send an update to Ian Firkin at the Environment Agency (copy to Philip Doughty NSDC and Cllr David Payne) with a suggestion that a fail-safe alarm system be installed.

8. Finance.

a) To Receive and Accept Accounts for November - December 2016.

Proposed by Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Gangel, the November - December cash book was agreed and signed by the Chmn.

b) Approval of Expenditure at 5 January 2017.

Proposed by Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Gangel, the following items were approved for payment:

Clerk's salary, November - December	734.32
Handyman's salary, November – December	327.80
Coddington Scouts (archive storage)	100.00
Coddington School DARE programme*	200.00
W Parrett – Expenses for Carols Round the Tree	49.13
I Turner - Plants for the Millennium Garden	43.97

*Cllrs were advised that Coddington School had now submitted sufficient information to comply with the Council's Grant Policy. It was also agreed to donate two £10 book tokens to the school as prizes for the winners of the Christmas tree decoration competition.

c) 2017/18 Budget.

Copies of the proposed budget for 2017/18 were circulated as a general guidance for setting the precept. Final figures were not yet available as Cllr Armstrong had not been available to provide figures for the Community Centre.

d) 2017/18 Precept.

The Clerk reported the Government's decision not to extend referendum principles to Parish Councils.

It was proposed by Cllr Molloson, seconded by Cllr Hedge and unanimously agreed to set the 2017/18 precept at £14,560, an increase of 2% on a Band D property, as a step towards restoring the precept income over a six year period to the precept level prior to the Boundary Commission changes.

e) Carols Round the Tree

Donations at the event totalled £50.12p which covered the expenses for refreshments.

9. Planning and Consultations.

a) The Plough Inn.

The Vice Chmn had attended the licensing hearing to represent the Parish Council. The Panel granted the licence applied for without amendment, but attached the following conditions:

Signage to advise customers to be respectful to residents and to leave the premises quietly.

The beer garden not to be used after 2200 hours.

A taxi calling service to be available and indoor seating provided while waiting.

b) Yew Tree Way.

This item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting (minute 4).

c) Planning Decisions/Correspondence.

i) Following concerns raised about the health of the ash tree on Brownlow's Hill which was over hanging the school entrance, there had been an inspection by NSDC officers who had declared it unsafe, and the tree had been felled with the condition to plant a new tree on the site within 3 months.

ii) 16/01840/FUL Erection of two houses on Brownlow's Hill. The Chmn would attend the Planning Committee meeting on 10 January to represent the Parish Council's views.

10. Administration.

a) Workplace Pension Scheme Enrolment

The Clerk confirmed that the Coddington Parish Council had been enrolled in the Workplace Pension Scheme which comes into effect on 1 July 2017. There was no further action to take at this stage as the Parish Council currently has no employees of pensionable age.

b) Coddington Community Centre

The Trustees had not met since the last Council meeting. The Chmn, Vice Chmn and Clerk had scheduled a meeting with the Management Committee Chmn in February.

c) Trees and Open Spaces

i) 2017 Mowing Contract – The Clerk had only received one quotation for mowing, but following a meeting with Mike Keeling, the mowing schedule would need to be redrawn and sent out for tender again, as Mr Keeling had recommended that verges on the C208 outside the 40mph limit should be maintained by the County Council team .

ii) Millennium Garden – Cllr Hedge reported that a variety of plants had been purchased and members of the village gardening club would help with planting. Any costs incurred in clearing the ground would be well within the budget for the project.

iii) The Queen's Birthday Oak Tree – The previously agreed site for the tree in the Community Centre grounds would not be suitable because of the underground water recycling system on the east side of the building. It was instead agreed to plant the tree on the corner of Brownlow's Hill which Cllr Parrett would arrange to do.

iv) Willow Tree at Coddington School – Concerns had been raised about the severe pruning of trees in the school grounds. The Clerk read out a letter from the Head Teacher which explained that the work was essential for the safety of the children, and had been carried out professionally under the guidance of the County Council.

d) Allotments.

i) Lettings – The three vacant plots had all been allocated. Two of the plots were being handed over in good condition, and the Clerk would arrange a meeting with the other new allotment holder to discuss clearing the overgrown plot.

Proposed by Cllr Gangel, seconded by Cllr Hedge it was agreed that there would be no increase in the rents and water charges for 2017. Cllr Parrett, as an allotment holder, abstained from the vote.

ii) Allotment Holders' Agreement

The revised allotment agreement had been previously circulated.

Proposed by Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Hedge, the revised Allotment Holders' Agreement was approved by a majority vote. Cllr Parrett abstained from the vote. Cllr Allen voted against the proposal as, based on past experience, he was reluctant to allow bonfires on the allotments.

Cllr Parrett agreed to be on call to deal with any problems arising from bonfires. The Clerk would send the revised agreement to all allotment holders.

e) **Reports from Elected Representatives.**

Cllr Cox had previously circulated her report from the Newark Healthcare Consultative Group.

On a proposal by Cllr O'Donnell, seconded by Cllr Parrett, it was agreed to extend the meeting by 10 minutes in order to complete the business on the agenda.

11. Correspondence.

- a) An email from a resident requesting that dog owners do not place dog waste in litter bins inside the fenced area of the Thorpe Oaks play park. The Clerk would put in a notice in the next CVN asking people to use the dog bins provided in the area outside the play area.
- b) A complaint was received about cars and refuse bins causing an obstruction on the pavement outside houses on Brownlow's Hill.
- c) Mrs Turner had asked the Council to investigate what could be done about the shortage of burial spaces in the churchyard and the rule of village residency for burial. The Clerk would reply that the Parish Council was unable to comment, as these matters are at the discretion of the vicar or the diocese.
- d) Mrs Smith had complained about the litter bin which NSDC had relocated on a lamp post directly outside her house. The Clerk understood from Mike Keeling that no litter bins should be attached to lamp posts, and would refer the complaint to Ian Gilchrist, NSDC.
- e) An invitation to the DARE Graduation Ceremony at Coddington School on 18 January at 9:30am. Cllr Parrett and Cllr Gangel said that they would attend.
- f) A report sent to the police was copied to the Parish Council for information, concerning intruders on Mr Curtis's land at Beaconfield on Boxing Day.
- g) A letter from Robert Jenrick MP thanking the Parish Council for its support in the campaign which had successfully stopped referendum criteria being extended to parish councils.
- h) Details were available from the Clerk on the following public consultations: plans to limit NHS prescriptions, policing priorities and spending, the Police and Crime Commissioner's policy for tackling rural crime.

12. Matters of Immediate Note / Next Agenda.

- a) The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 20 April 2017 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, subject to confirmation from the Village Hall booking clerk.
- b) The date for Carols Round the Tree was agreed for Wednesday 13 December 2017. The Clerk would advise the school and the Church and book the Community Centre. Cllr Parrett had drafted a schedule for Christmas arrangements which was filed under 'Village Events'.

13. Date of Next Meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 2 February 2017 at 7:30pm in the Community Centre.

There were two further confidential items which are minuted separately.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.