

MINUTES of the MEETING of CODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Thursday 1 April 2021 at 7:30pm via ZOOM

Present: Cllrs Armstrong (Chairman), Allen, Ayers, Cox, George, Masding, McDonald, O'Donnell, Parrett.
Mrs Y Wellard (Clerk), County Cllr Dobson, Dist. Cllr Brooks.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Dist. Cllr Lee.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Public Contributions.

There were no members of the public present.

4. Co-option of Parish Councillor.

Having previously spoken to the two candidates for co-option, a vote was taken by show of hands and

RESOLVED by a majority decision to co-opt Mr Theo Parkhouse as a member of Coddington Parish Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting whilst he informed the candidates of the result and Cllr Parkhouse joined the meeting.

5. County and District Councillors.

Cllr Dobson informed the meeting that the Local Minerals Plan had now been formally adopted.

Investigations into drains around Greenfields were continuing with a multi-agency approach by NCC, NSDC and the Environment Agency. Shaun Brown (NCC Highways) held an on-site meeting with Brian Beddows (NSDC) and was waiting for confirmation of the Environment Agency's findings. Vegetation which was blocking the pipes would be cleared to see if this was the cause of the smell. Ian Curtis from the Environment Agency had been in contact with Cllr Cox to explain their findings.

Head of Highways, Shaun Brown, was planning to visit Coddington to look at the Stapleford Lane roundabout for consideration of safer access to the woods for cyclists and pedestrians.

It was reported that a lot of litter had been revealed in the dykes along the A17 after the removal of trees and that some of the felled vegetation had been left behind.

Another accident at The Plough crossroads had been reported and this was being assessed by Highways. When school returns after the Easter break, there will be a count of children travelling to Coddington school from the Morgan's Close area. A Crossing Patrol Officer can be recruited if there are more than 15 children crossing the road at The Plough.

It was reported that the school crossing lights on the C208 had stopped working again.

Cllr Brooks was asked to establish whether NSDC would be responsible for watering the new trees and hedging which they had just planted at Brownlow's Hill and to follow up the request for the hedge between Thorpe Close playing field and Beckingham Road to be cut.

6. Planning and Consultations.

a. 21/00428/FUL - Solar Panels, Hilltop Farm, Balderton Lane.

There were no objections.

b. 21/00570/FUL - Agricultural Storage Barn and Yard Resurfacing, The Woodlands Livery.

There were no objections.

c. 21/00667/HOUSE - Side Extension, 12 Penswick Grove.

There were no objections.

d. 21/00599/HOUSE - Two storey Rear Extension, 15 Old Hall Gardens.

There were no objections.

Cllr Dobson and Cllr Brooks left the meeting.

7. Minutes of the March Meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2021 were approved following an agreed amendment to remove the words 'of the play area for parents' from minute 7 (4/2/21/4).

8. Matters Arising from the March Minutes.

4 - There had not yet been any contact with Neil Lewis about the Clay Lane footpath.

7 - Cllr McDonald reported that the soft landscaping at The Plough had been completed.

The new bin in the lay-by on the C208 was being regularly emptied and litter thrown down around the bin was being cleared.

It was confirmed that the Coddington Neighbourhood Watch had been approved by the Neighbourhood Watch Network and the Facebook page was being widely viewed.

10 – The date of 15th December had been agreed with Coddington School for Carols Round the Tree and the Clerk would invite the Vicar.

8. Finance.

a. Approval of Cash Book for March 2021.

Proposed by Cllr Masding, seconded by Cllr George, the cash book for March which had been previously circulated was approved. It was agreed, on a proposal by Cllr Parrett seconded by Cllr George, that as the Newark branch of Santander was to close, the Clerk should look at transferring the Burial Fund Account to NatWest for ease of access.

b. Approval of Expenditure at 4 March 2021.

Approval of the following payments was proposed by Cllr George, seconded by Cllr Ayers and agreed as follows:

	£
Zoom subscription for April	14.39
HMRC – PAYE Jan – March	133.60
Materials for allotment fence repairs	77.35
Black sacks for litter picking Nov - Mar	14.95

c. Budget Review and Accounts at 31/3/21.

It was noted that due to Covid restrictions, expenditure was lower than expected resulting in a closing balance of over £4,000 in the revenue account at 31 March. It was agreed that £5,000 would be transferred to the Burial Fund, as increased funding was likely to be required in a few years' time given the expected closure for burials at Coddington Church.

Cllr Ayers asked how often tenders were invited for grass cutting and printing the CVN. It was explained that two alternative cheaper grass cutting contractors had been tried in the last few years but had not been as satisfactory as the local contractor who has better equipment and is familiar with all areas of the village. The CVN printing was switched from a Grantham company to Willsons of Newark as better value in 2015. The current service is very reliable and of a good standard, but alternative sources could be explored.

9. Administration.

a. Parish Council Co-option.

This item was moved to the start of the meeting.

b. Future Parish Council Meetings.

NALC had confirmed that the temporary legislation allowing remote council meetings would end on 7 May 2021. Coddington Parish Council's last meeting on Zoom (the Annual Parish Council Meeting) would be held on 6 May. It was proposed by Cllr Armstrong, seconded by Cllr George that the usual early June meeting should be cancelled as it would be difficult to maintain the social distancing restrictions that would still be in place. There was a counter proposal by Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Ayers that the June meeting should go ahead in the Sports Hall of the Community Centre if available, which would allow for greater social distancing.

The counter proposal was rejected on a vote of 4:5 and the original proposal supported on a vote of 5:4. It was therefore

RESOLVED: That there would be no scheduled meeting of the Parish Council in June. If a Planning meeting was necessary during May or June, Members would meet in person in the sports hall if available and members of the public would have the option of attending via Zoom or telephone.

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held via Zoom on Thursday 22 April at 7:30pm.

c. Community Centre Report.

The Trustees' report had been previously circulated detailing plans to re-purpose the changing rooms for extra storage space, leaving one shower for general use. There was a proposal by Cllr Armstrong seconded by Cllr Cox that as the changing rooms at the Centre did not have high usage and any changes to the lay-out would be reversible if required, the planned alterations should go ahead, and this was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

There were also plans to improve the garden areas and Cllr George reported that bookings were taking off again as the Centre gradually re-opens for activities.

d. Allotments.

The Allotments Group inspection reported that almost all of the plots were being very well maintained. There were applications for greenhouses on plot 3 and plot 7a for which the Allotment Group recommended approval. A letter had been sent to one plot holder who was blocking the pathway, and Cllr Parrett reported that this was still to be resolved. Cllr Ayers enquired about the waiting list which currently has 6 people from the village and 5 from outside the village, and whether there was any possibility of creating more allotments.

10. Roads, Footpaths and Open Spaces.

a. Litter.

A map of the village showing the position of existing bins was discussed and recommendations for additional bins put forward to alleviate the problem of bins over-flowing in spite of being emptied on a weekly basis. If the District Council could not provide any additional bins, the Clerk would obtain prices for new bins and ask permission to place them in the proposed locations. The District Council would also be asked about replacing their existing enclosed dog bins with open top bins as people were concerned about the spread of the virus when touching a bin to lift the lid. The Keep Britain Tidy Group was proposing a national litter pick and the Clerk would circulate details.

b. Page's Wood.

Cllr Cox reported that the Page's Wood wooden sign was deteriorating. The Clerk would make enquiries about refurbishing the sign and also the village sign on the Millennium Garden. Four or five car tyres had been dumped just inside the entrance to the wood and Cllr Ayers volunteered to take them to the recycling centre.

c. Open Space Strategy Report.

Cllr Armstrong had attended NSDC's Open Space Strategy briefing. The map of Coddington supplied by the District Council had missed several open spaces including The Green, Brownlow's Hill, Page's Wood and land off Stirling Drive which the District Council had previously offered to the Parish Council. The Clerk would submit Cllr Armstrong's amended map and a correction to the text on page 96 of the report.

d. Trees.

Concerns had been expressed about the number of trees being felled at The Old Parsonage on Newark Road which included some with TPOs. The Chairman and Clerk would check the TWCA details for the site and refer any questions to Lee Robinson (NSDC).

e. Stapleford Lane Survey.

A copy of Cllr Armstrong's draft online survey had been previously circulated and was agreed for publishing online.

The remaining items on the agenda, Greenfields and The Plough crossroads had been dealt with earlier in the meeting with the County Cllr.

10. Correspondence and Matters for Immediate Attention or the Next Agenda.

Correspondence was received from a resident of Brownlow's Hill concerned about an apparent lack of provision for wildlife by the developers of Hough's Yard, contrary to statements made in their Ecological Enhancement and Mitigation Strategy. The Clerk would circulate the email and make enquiries with the Planning Officer.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 6 May at 7:30pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 9:25pm