

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 11 APRIL 2024

AT 7.30pm in CODDINGTON VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Parish Councillors Nerissa McDonald (Chairman), David Armstrong, Mike Ayers, Lorna Mosedale, Wendy Parrett, District Councillors John Lee and Emma Oldham, Jadene Bale (Clerk) and various members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

Co. Cllr Debbie Darby sent her apologies.

2. To receive and accept minutes from the APM held on April 2023

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were proposed as a true record by the Chairman and agreed by those present at the 2023 meeting. These were signed at the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

All matters raised at the previous meeting were answered on the night. No further action required.

4. Annual Reports of the Parish Council

a. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman presented the annual report and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked all Parish, District and County Councillors for their hard work on behalf of the village including those councillors and previous clerks that have contributed to the work this year.

The Chairman also thanked Malcolm Baker for his work as a volunteer editing the Coddington Village News and as Chairman of the trustees for Coddington Community Centre. Planning, Safety and local events were all topics included in her report. (Chairman's Report in full – appendix 1).

b. Allotment Working Group Report

Cllr Parrett presented the Allotment Group's report on the 24 allotments. At the beginning of the year there were 2 Coddington residents on the waiting list. They have now been given plots on the allotments. The waitlist has now increased to 3 Coddington residents and over 15 non-residents. The allotments are inspected by the Parish Council three times a year with the first one now having been completed. Letters will be sent out shortly to those who have been identified as needing a reminder to keep their allotments in good order.

c. Finance Report

The Clerk presented a short finance report, highlighting that £31,324 had been spent with an income of £18,702. Meaning the council spent out of CIL and reserves £12,622 – the majority being from CIL funds.

The CIL funds are to be discussed under agenda item 10. The accounts to be published on the Parish Council website and to be available for public inspection during the audit in June/July.

5. Annual Report of Coddington Trust Fund

Very few residents of Coddington have requested help this year and Chairman David Armstrong asked anyone who might be aware of people in need to encourage them to apply and to remind them that all information is treated in the strictest of confidence. Contact details for the Trust Fund can be found in the Coddington Village News. (Coddington Trust Fund Report in full – appendix 2)

6. Annual Report of Coddington Village Hall Charity Trust Committee

The Chairman, Maggie George reported that bookings were up and the hall is now being used every weekday with a regular hire booking meaning there are a range of activities, something for everyone. The Chairman also advised that the CVH Trust were looking to refurbish the toilets this year. (CVH Report in full – appendix 3)

7. Annual Report of Coddington Community Centre Association

The Chairman, Malcolm, thanked Ian Lawson for continuing to maintain the building and keeping it ready for the hirers and Sally Briggs-Price for handling the bookings and finances. The Chairman also addressed issues such as the car park flooding, the leak in the windows, internet, gates, sports day access and equipment. (CCA Report in full – appendix 4)

8. Annual Report of Coddington C of E Primary and Nursery School

The Headteacher advised that the school currently has 400+ children, of which, 40 are Nursery age. They have recently received a Good Ofsted report. This year the school has seen 60 year 6 children go to 8 different secondary schools. The Head advised that the school has a full complement of staff and have had no struggle recruiting, which proves how well the school is doing. The school has 3 Core Values: Care, Community, Courage. The Christmas fair – the first to be held in 80 years – was supported by friends of Coddington School and raised over £4000 towards the new library. The school conducted a survey that found a lot of the 400+ children had never been to the theatre. Thanks to Coddington Trust Fund for subsidising, the school were able to organise a trip to Newark Palace Theatre, in order for all of the children to watch a live performance. In September, a Family Engagement Officer will be starting at the school to help engage with families who may be struggling and need some help reaching out. The main worry for the school is that the government has said all staff need 5% pay rises, but has not funded this themselves, which means the schools budget needs to stretch for pay rises for all for 60 staff. On a lighter note, the school won best school for primary football and is the 3rd best football team in the Midlands.

9. County and District Councillors

Emma Oldham

It is Cllr Oldham's 1 year anniversary of becoming a District Councillor. Cllr Oldham is petitioning Notts CC to sort out Newark and Beckingham Road. Cllr Darby will present Emma's petition on the 16th of May. Cllr Oldham supports Coddington Scouts Group internally through council and externally through fundraising. Cllr Oldham made reference to a death in a local family and in her role, being able to advocate for a bench to be assigned for a memorial area as part of the various resident case work outcomes she has achieved. Working together with Cllr Lee, they have achieved a joint grant to Community Trust Fund. They have verbally been told that they can get funding to repaint the basketball court on Thorpe Close. There is an exciting Mental Health Project coming soon. Cllr Oldham has supported the school and worked closely with the school in order to actualise an outdoor eco classroom, renovate nursery entrance (with help from the rotary club), to plant trees and installed a birdbox. She has also been volunteering with Coddington Rainbows and fundraising and made a plea, for anyone who has the time, to volunteer at Rainbows as they need more volunteers.

Johno Lee

Is heading into 10th year as a District Councillor. Some Highlights over the 10 years include:

Thorpes Close – has had the new HRH playpark, fencing to secure it, grass/soil bunds put in. The painting of the basketball court and ongoing conversations for the 5 aside to make good. Development application to put flats and bungalows has been pushed back. Hoping to transfer that land to District so it cannot be developed – continued pressure to stop development.

Thorpe Oaks was once a unloved green space. Now they have installed goal posts and astro turf. Massive investments to stop illegal encampments. New extension of playpark took 8 years but its in. Some more work planned on Thorpes Close.

Campaigning for glass recycling has been one of Cllr Lee's priorities. On his 2nd year as district councillor he was quoted £825,000 to have glass recycling. It came on top of priorities in a community survey – bins are now being rolled out for glass recycling.

Some 'not great things':

They lost the appeal on the box development and the application across from the school and appeals near the pub. Now no 5-year land supply issue so cannot use this anymore as reasoning for unwanted development. Coddington lost a post office. However there is now a second pub up and running.

And things to come: a boundary review and the aforementioned Mental Health Project.

Thank you to the parish and a special thanks to Dobson and Morrison.

10. Community Infrastructure Levy Funds

Clerk to the Parish Council, Jadene Bale, advised that £7,275 CIL funds are held by the Parish Council. These funds need to be spent on the provision, improvement, replacement, or maintenance of physical, social, and green infrastructure in Coddington. A recent consultation in the CVN had seen very few suggestions from residents on how to spend the funds.

11. Open Forum

- Dist Cllr Lee offered congratulations to Coddington Parish council for having the lowest precept rates in surrounding areas. Meaning they are continuing to spend public money wisely.
- Malcolm Baker asked about the future development of the green area at Sterling Drive. It was promised by both Cllrs in attendance that this site will not be developed, mainly due to its proximity to the A1.
- Reverend Phil Smith raised issues with dog fouling and asked specifically if any fines have been sent out by wardens etc. Cllr Lee advised no fines had been sent out. He noted Coddington PC have invested in more dog bins and in order for wardens to attend and produce fines, intelligence from residents would need to be provided including dates time and descriptions of dog and owners. Cllr Oldham advised that not a single resident of Coddington had been in touch to complain about dog fouling and urged people to contact her, as it is under her remit. The Parish Council will forward any complaints anonymously to Cllr Oldham, if reporters are worried about being identifiable. Cllr Oldham advised they had recently organised a pop up locally to advise on good dog ownership and suggested to host one on Thorpes Close. Parish Cllr Parrett advised the bins are often full and discussion was had about acquiring a new bin. Cllr Lee was to look into a new bin for Thorpes Close.
- Joyce Allen advised the footpath, from Chapel Lane to Hall Farm, had a lot of potholes and some ad-hoc patches. The Chairman of the Parish Council advised that any highways issues can be reported by the MyNotts App. The Clerk advised that if residents cannot access the App, then please email in and the Clerk will put it through for them. Cllr Lee advised that the machinery that can repair the roads can only be used in the summer months so patch repairs are to tide the roads over until more substantial works can be done.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Appendix 1 – Chairman’s Report

I will start by thanking all the Parish Councillors, District and County Councillors for their hard work on behalf of our village, the time and effort that all councillors put in is to be noted.

There have been a few changes within the Parish Council this year. Cllr Dikkes and Cllr Parkhouse, who were much valued Councillors have moved on and we have welcomed Cllr

Debbie Brookes, Cllr Des Allen and Cllr Neil Hudson and recently Cllr Jarvis all of whom will certainly contribute much to the Parish Council and the village in general.

Our previous clerk Dawn Hockenhull also moved on this year, we thank her for all her good work whilst she was with us. We now have appointed a new clerk Jadene Bale, who I am certain will be a great asset to the Parish Council – hoping she will enjoy it too. Thanks once again to Yvette Wellard who “held the fort” during the recruitment process.

Malcolm Baker continues to volunteer as editor for Coddington Village News for which we thank him, as always, and as he is of course the Chairman of the trustees managing Coddington Community Centre, he must be a glutton for punishment, . We shall hear a report from himself later.

Thanks also go to the working groups within the Parish Council including the Allotment group - we shall hear a report from Wendy Parret shortly .

Plans and Planning

As you know the development of one warehouse next to the A17 Curry's site has been approved by District Council's Planning Committee but we mention that the Parish Council are keeping in contact with the developers.

The archaeological site proved interesting ! An unexpected discovery to add to the history of our environment.

We had very few responses to the CIL money recent consultation in the CVN had seen very few on how to spend the funds, but are working on those we have received and will keep you informed.

Consultation

The A1 slip road speed , double yellow lines at Newark Road, and Thorpe Close are, respectively, are at various stages of consultation and will be posted when the consultations have come to definite conclusion.

Safety and Security

Due to the unlawful entry into the community centre car park, a high level barrier has been installed at the Community Centre.

The Parish Council have on going discussions with VIA - especially regarding parking & speeding control within the village including one way and permit parking on Brownlows Hill. We also constantly lobby the District Council for better upkeep of the pavements and pathways within the village.

Events

The Parish Council, village groups and volunteers came together to create a splendid day to celebrate the Coronation - much hard work and enthusiasm by all. A great day for all and remember 30th June this year for another Community Event!

Once again the Community Centre was the venue for the Carols Round the tree which was pure delight as usual . Much enjoyed by all who attended and again thanks to all volunteers, Newark Band, Reverend Phil, School Choir, WI and organisers who made the evening, despite the weather, We look forward to the annual event this year.

I will end the report by thanking all Parish, District and County Councillors once again and all volunteers who help Coddington to remain a pleasant and safe place to belong.

This will be my last report as Chairman as I will be handing over to the next Chairman shortly - and also resigning from the Parish Council.

Thank you.

Nerissa McDonald

Appendix 2 – Coddington Trust Fund Report

In 2023 the income for the year was just over £36,750, this is from the rents for the Almshouses and the farmland which the Trust Fund owns in Coddington, but also from the Trust Fund's investments.

In 2023 outgoings were just over £15,000. This was spent on Relief in Need, professional fees, the maintenance of the Almshouses, their gardens, and surrounding areas. In 2023 £4,000 was spent on Relief in Need, slightly lower than the previous year.

Progress has been made in resolving the insurance claim and extent of repairs to structural damage to an extension to one of the Almshouses, so work on the demolition and rebuilding of the extension should be carried out this year, with limited disruption to the tenant.

The Trust Fund has assets in the region of £335,000 invested in various bank or building societies, as well as bonds and shares. Advice is currently being sought on the investment strategy to ensure that the Trust can meet its objectives on the maintaining the Almshouses and providing Relief in Need in the future.

Very few residents of Coddington have been seeking help from the Charity so far this year, as in previous years. I would expect that with the present cost of living challenges that there must be people out there who need help. We continue to advertise in the Village Newsletter, and we feature on the Coddington Community Facebook group. We plan to develop a stronger relationship with the school to help target help to people in need in Coddington.

If you are aware of someone in need, please encourage them to apply. All the details are in the Village Newsletter. Applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

David Armstrong – Chairman

Appendix 3 – Coddington Village Hall Report

Following on from the lean post-Covid months during which many of our regular hirers had struggled to continue with their groups through declining numbers, whilst ad hoc bookings were becoming increasingly hard to secure, I am happy to report that this past year has seen a much more buoyant period for the Village Hall.

We now have regular hirers filling the Hall each weekday, offering a wide range of activities as diverse as tap dance to ballroom and adult ballet to youth choirs. Added to this are the long-standing groups such as the Coddington Brownies and the Coddington Women's Institute, meaning the Hall really does offer something for everyone of all ages.

As well as the popular "Live & Local" concert evenings, the Trustees endeavour to offer a wide variety of fund-raising events. The past year has seen plant sales and table fairs as well as quiz nights and a Christmas Fair. The quiz night held in March was full to capacity, and

these events draw people in from across the district, many of whom later go on to book the Hall for their own events.

Especially encouraging are the level of repeat bookings seen recently from hirers who have been extremely impressed by the light, bright and welcoming atmosphere of the Coronation Hall. The addition of fairy-lights has proved popular for both small children's parties as well as more intimate adult evening celebrations.

Meanwhile, the Trustees work tirelessly to ensure the Hall is kept in the best possible condition, and the dedicated volunteers of the maintenance team have recently carried out works to repair storm-damage to the felt roofing of the shed, as well as ensuring the gardens are kept in pristine condition.

Plans are well underway to commence a total refurbishment of the toilet facilities this year, and we have been successful in securing a grant of £7,500 from Nottinghamshire County Council towards the costs of this project.

Naturally with a building of this age there is always much to be done, and there will always be small mountains to climb to ensure the Hall is preserved for future generations of the village to enjoy. However, I feel that the Hall has weathered the turbulent, stormy times of the past couple of years and is now sailing into calmer waters to again resume its place as the jewel in the village's crown.

Maggie George - Chairman

Appendix 4 – Coddington Community Centre Report

The Community Centre continues to be in demand with bookings coming in regularly. I would like to thank Ian Lawson for continuing to maintain the building and keeping it ready for our hirers. I would also like to thank Sally Briggs-Price for handling the bookings and finances for us amongst other things.

We continue to see weekend party bookings and enquiries come in which keeps us busy at the weekends. The rest of the time is taken by our regular hirers. Despite seeing some fall by the wayside, we are continuing to see new user groups make bookings.

Following some complaints about the flooding of the car park we looked into the problem with the following results:

- 1) The car park floods after a prolonged period of heavy rain.
- 2) To install a different drainage system and tarmac the side of the car park closest to the road would cost around £20,000.
- 3) If we closed the centre each time the car park flooded it would take us more than 10 years to lose £20,000.
- 4) If you look at other county areas which flood after heavy rain you can see that no action has been taken to install additional infrastructure to correct the problem.
- 5) The car park drains within 24 hours so not further action was deemed necessary.

We began to experience leakage from the Velux windows. A local Velux qualified builder was engaged to inspect them. We also planned to install blinds to the windows to darken the hall for presentations.

When the builder went to fit the blinds, he found that Velux made 2 different models of our window and do not support the one we have. A third-party blind has been sourced and will be installed in October when we have the heating serviced as we will have the access equipment again. During the inspection the leak was found to have been caused by a build up of debris which was preventing them from closing. This has been added to our maintenance schedule.

The new gates have been installed and do not appear to be causing any issues. I am looking at our risk assessments to incorporate the gates into our systems.=

In December we received an internet bill for just under £70 as opposed to the £10 per month that we had been paying. We suspected that this was caused by someone streaming video at the centre. The trustees agreed that it was time to upgrade our internet to fixed line which would not have a download limit. This has been completed, we now have Wi-Fi throughout the building.

In January the W.I. hosted an evening with Prof Sir Johnaton Van Tam which went very well and highlighted a few things we need to address:

- 1) 120 people is a workable number, but we do not have enough chairs. For the evening, we borrowed some from the village hall but to be self sufficient we would need to purchase 40 folding chairs ourselves.
- 2) The external lighting around the back of the building is not working properly to provide emergency guidance around the building. This is being resolved.
- 3) Our little speaker is not really suitable for this application, we will be looking at improvements.
- 4) Our projector is rather old and not fit for purpose now.
- 5) The emergency exit to the rear of the building is not paved to the safe refuge, while it may have been acceptable when the Community Centre was built, I am certain that it does not conform now. A path needs to be put in place from the rear doors to the muster area / school entrance path.

Last year we let our users down as we were not on the ball for the School Sports Day. We need to close the car park on sports Day to ensure that there is parking available for Paying Centre users. Normally the car park is full to capacity with parents' cars. We have asked for communication with the school to allow us to manage this, but it has never really been set up. I will try to resolve the communication issue.

Malcolm Baker