



CODDENHAM

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Coddenham Community & Sports Hall

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th April 2017

Present: Cllr Burton, (Chairman, CPC), Cllr Passmore, (MSDC), Cllr Hicks, (SCC),
28 members of the public, 6 members of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk.

1. Chairman's Welcome.

Mr Burton, as Chair of the Annual Parish Meeting, welcomed those present and outlined the agenda for the evening.

2. Apologies.

Mr David McDonnell sent his apologies.

3. To Confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 14th 2016 and to consider any matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held on April 14th 2016 were **Accepted** with no matters arising.

4. The Chairman's Report

The Chairman outlined examples of the work undertaken by the Parish Council: looking after parcels of land at Broomhill, Mill Hill, the Recreation Ground, etc., commenting on planning applications; consulting and representing the views of the parish on traffic flow and generally maintaining the infrastructure of the public amenities. The Chair thanked the eleven members of the Parish Council who volunteer many hours of their time, the staff, contractors and the other volunteers around the village who all bring their efforts and expertise to the benefit of the community. He then invited any who felt they had a contribution to make, to contact a Councillor or the Parish Council Clerk for details of how to get involved.

The Chair reported that a working group had taken soundings from residents on the provision of street lighting in the village and that there was a balance of opinion on the question of replacement of redundant equipment with the newer standard lighting. The Parish Council had considered the matter and concluded that the cost of replacement, at more than £1000 per light, was currently unaffordable, so the current equipment would be maintained for as long as possible and the matter would be revisited in the future.

The Chair reviewed the discussions over the last two years regarding the repairs to the church wall. Originally, the quoted costs were in the region of £70,000. Further discussion resulted in a new plan and a new quote of less than £3000 and work is underway to return it to its historic condition.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council was currently considering tenders for the new five-year contract for grounds maintenance.

The Chair advised the meeting on the new Community Infrastructure Levy, a charge on new building projects which is collected by the District Authority and is then distributed around the various parishes to help fund the provision of new infrastructure or improvement of existing facilities.

The Chair then invited members of the community to address the meeting.

Mrs Soanes, speaking as a member of the Playground Working Group, reported that the recent yearly inspection had identified a number of failures to certain parts of the children's play equipment on the recreation ground. During a recent community workday project volunteers completed much of the maintenance work and some of the repairs, which is expected to have saved £3000 of the budgeted expenditure. This money can now be reallocated to other budgets. Mrs Soanes reported that some dangerous aspects of the Adventure Trail had been removed and commented that the community will be asked to decide on whether to reinstate or replace the Adventure Trail. Any resident who wished to make their views on his matter known to the council was asked to send them to the Parish Clerk. Mrs Soanes expressed her

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admiration for the contribution of the volunteers in this effort and offered her thanks to all concerned. Mr Lock, speaking as a member of the Highways Working Group, reported that the group had not met recently but their efforts had resulted in the successful implementation of the 20mph zone throughout the village. He asked parishioners to consider ideas for dealing with the difficulties presented by Heavy Goods Vehicles using the B1078 through the village to which a number of those present made comments. Mr Lock outlined the new proposal for routing traffic around the village in a partial one-way system, commenting that there were pros and cons. Funding has been agreed by the County Council for a research project run by the Kiers Group on behalf of the County. The Working Group will be discussing this with the County and if agreed, (subject to a community consultation exercise), it will take some time to implement. Mr Lock outlined the potential route and answered a few questions from those present.

The Chair then explained that two of the village residents kept a voluntary overview of the two large recreational areas in the village, Mr Jeffrey looking after Broomhill and Mr Hardy looking after Mill Hill. In Mr Jeffrey's absence, Mr Hardy reported on a very successful workday on Broomhill, dealing with the spring clearing up preparation for the coming year. He then outlined the rotation scheme to clear brambles and nettles on Mill Hill, ensuring the maintenance of the wildlife habitat. Hazel coppicing is also underway, with particular regard to the risk assessment completed beforehand.

The Chair advised that a report from the Chairman of the Churchyard Management Group, Mr D McDonnell, is on the village website.

The Chair outlined a brief history of the Coddenham Youth Club which had been very successful until recently and asked Phil Turner, Chair of the CYC, to address the meeting. Mr Turner reported that numbers have been reducing over the last 18 months and as they now only have a regular 2-4 attendees the club is currently not viable. Last year, they had no funds for the fireworks although other villages have benefitted from previous display without contribution. The club team will run a publicity drive over the Summer with, hopefully, a Grand Re-opening. Mr Turner's proposal was well received and there were various suggestions from the floor as to how to revive the club.

5. A report from the Responsible Financial Officer of the Parish Council

The Parish Clerk gave a presentation of the Council's financial position as at the 31st March 2017, subject to the inspection of the Internal Auditor.

The Council's precept for the year was maintained at £50,000 and the End of Year balance of £30,896 was up from the previous year's by £4680. The precept for 2017-18 has been increased to £56,622 to ensure enough earmarked reserves for unforeseen events such as by-elections, asset maintenance costs, etc., which, if unused, will be carried over to the following year. The Clerk then answered a few questions from the floor.

6. Mid Suffolk District Councillor Tim Passmore to speak on District Council matters

Cllr Passmore touched on the points in his written report, published on the village website, advising that the proposal for 195 thousand homes over the next 20 years would double the rate of building over the last 10 years. After 2020 there will be no direct funding from Central Government.

Regarding the Dukes Head public house, Cllr Passmore advised that the District Authority were not in a position to use a compulsory purchase order. He was concerned that the Environmental Health team had not taken action on the rubbish tip behind the pub. Although not easily achieved, it may be possible for the District Council to find funding to develop a community asset.

Referring to the traffic flow through Coddenham during the closures of Orwell Bridge, Cllr Passmore has remonstrated with the Chief Constable to enforce the redirection of traffic. He discussed the possibility of restricting high sided vehicles to keep the bridge open and was looking at options to develop this proposal. Cllr Passmore felt that the Ipswich Northern Bypass probably will happen but that the discussions were at an early stage and it will be many years before anything is decided. Cllr Passmore will keep the Parish Council advised.

The Councillor advised that a decision has been taken that the District Council HQ will move into Ipswich and that receipts from sale of the current building will be reinvested into District. He reported that the new District Council website is now up and running and the new contact telephone number is 03001234000.

Referring to the new 20MPH speed zone, Cllr Passmore felt that a Community Speed-watch group could help to encourage drivers to stick to the limit.

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In answer to a question on the Dukes Head Cllr Passmore referred the meeting to the Bucks Head near Eye which has recently been relaunched as a Vegetarian Restaurant. Mr Simon Pott, advised that, as a local estate agent, he was of the opinion that the Dukes Head would not reopen and that the problem should be addressed as a listed building.

7. **Suffolk County Councillor Mathew Hicks to speak on County Council matters**

Quoting from his written report which is published on the Parish website, Suffolk County Councillor Mathew Hicks referred to the County's element of the Council Tax pointing out that it had been frozen for a seventh year but that this was unlikely to be repeated next year. He also commented that the National Living Wage increase will raise the salary costs for a large number of social workers which will offset the adult levy Cllr Hicks reported that Education is the No1 priority for the County. They had been slipping down the ranks and a great effort was made to improve. Recent results show a 66% to 90% improvement in 'good or outstanding' in school across the county.

Regarding Sizewell C power plant, Cllr Hicks reported that Suffolk County Council has taken a stand in its response to the Stage 2 public consultation on the proposed development. The Council is not happy with the information being provided on highways and environmental issues. Spoil heap and accommodation, construction, transport, environment and effect on local communities are not described well. County will be a thorn in the side to the developers and the Government where the decision will be taken.

Cllr Hicks reported that the architectural teams have been selected for the Upper Orwell Crossings Project, and the Lake Lothing Third Crossing, in Lowestoft and for the development of the planned heritage centre, 'The Hold', on the Ipswich Waterfront which is scheduled to be completed by 2019.

With specific regard to Coddendam, Cllr Hicks was pleased that the new 20mph zone was now in place. He was still concerned about the problems presented by the Orwell Bridge closures for the Village and commented that finding a solution would be difficult but he will continue to work with all other agencies to resolve the issue.

He advised that a meeting is planned for 30th May to discuss the proposed Gyratory scheme. He outlined that this could be a temporary measure for between six and twenty-four months. It is a matter for the Village to decide.

In response to Cllr Hicks Mrs McDonnell said that, as a teacher, she was very worried about cuts in education. Mr Peacock commented that the 20mph has made no difference at all. Cllr Hicks responded that averages are reported to be reduced, which raised a number of diverse responses from the meeting with many different suggestions being proposed. Cllr Passmore advised that he was arguing for more enforcement of the speed limit and that perhaps an the Parish Council could support him with a forceful email. In response to a question on comparative details, Mr Lock advised that a previous report that the 'perceived' speed was often more than actual. Cllr Hicks suggested that the use of a speed gun can have an effect on habitual abusers.

Chair thanked Cllr Hicks for his presentation and for his service to Coddendam and Suffolk over the last four year in and wished him well in the forthcoming election.

Mr Lock asked if interested people would contact him to resurrect the speed watch team.

8. **Mitch Lock to introduce a representative from Morelock Signs Ltd, to discuss automatic traffic speed signs**

The Chairman thanked Mr Lock for arranging the presentation from Ms Jill Taylor of Morelock Speed Signs Ms Taylor displayed GR 33 speed sign and described its various functions. Data from existing sites shows that speed is reduced. The display can be set to three different colours dependant on speed settings. It has a Data Logging facility with full software to control different time periods and different use of roads. It can be controlled from Android phone application which can change the set Speed, date and time. It can record speed of approaching and departing vehicles. The data recorded can be helpful to show whether signs are having the desired effect. It runs on two twelve volt batteries which last up to four week with 100,000 activations. There is a trickle charge option, if Highways allow use of post with electricity supply. Bespoke faceplates can be set to Council needs. 350 meter, 90degree angle effective arc. In a recent trial there was a consistent reduction of 25%. Many authorities around the country using the signs. Proven to be effective. Costs for a full function option are in the region of £2250.

Mr Pott advised that the Day Foundation Trustees may welcome an approach to fund the units. Ms Taylor addressed questions from the floor on comparisons with other units, driver psychology, use of data, etc.

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The Chairman asked whether the meeting was of the opinion that the Parish Council should consider the purchase of these speed signs. A show of hands in agreement appeared to be unanimous. The Chairman thanked Ms Taylor for a very informative presentation.

9. **Community Infrastructure Levy – Options for spending**

Coddenham will receive £1170 from the Community Infrastructure Levy and the chair asked for suggestions from the meeting as to how best to spend this money. In the absence of any suggestions he advised that the Parish Council would consult on options.

10. **Debbie McDonnell, Chair of Hall Committee to speak about the Community Hall and Sports Centre**

Mrs McDonnell speaking as Chair of the Community Hall Management Committee, presented her annual report to the meeting. She thanked the Day Foundation for funding extra chairs, the redecoration of the Hall and the recent project to examine how the Community Hall could be better utilised. There had been a good return on survey, resulting in the new Supper at Seven events. Launch of Facebook Page. Updating of Parish Website and Calendar. Possible Pilates and Aikido classes being explored. A return to the annual Coddenham Fete. Is being organised for 9th September. Anyone wishing to offer their services should contact Mitch Lock. The Committee would also like to promote the hall for conferences etc.

Mrs McDonnell reported that the Hall Income for 2016-17 is £1200 high than budgeted for. A small working party have cleaned the Bowls Green ready for the summer and anyone interested in playing can get details from the Hall Bookings Administrator. The full report will be published on the Village Website. The Chair thanked Mrs McDonnell for her presentation.

11. **Reports from Representatives of Village Clubs and Groups.**

Mr John Pelling, Speaking as the Village History Recorder outlined his work in recording the changes to Coddenham Village for the History Project. Mr Pelling explained that the historical data available from previous centuries was collected by people like him. His work involves tracking items such as planning applications, elections, the recent fatal accident at the bridge, changes to the natural environmental and other items of interest. The Village History Club is flourishing with speakers attending regular meetings. His Recordings are deposited at The Hold, Suffolk Record Office's new flagship heritage centre, in partnership with the University of Suffolk, located within Waterfront development in Ipswich. The Chair thanked Mr Pelling for his presentation.

12. **Simon Pott, Chair of Trustees, to speak about the work of the Day Foundation**

Mr Simon Pott, speaking as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Day Foundation, described the Day Family who provided the Trust Fund for the village and their wish to leave a legacy for the benefit of the village. He listed the other Trustees on the Board and advised that he personally was not a resident of the village, which has its advantages. The Trustees are interested in the priorities of the village, initially for older people, but then for others. The day Foundation has funded many issues for the village and although there is no school within its boundary, the Trust have funded projects for the primary school in another parish which the children of Coddenham attend. Mr Pott that when the Foundation proposed the new housing project this was initially unsupported by the Parish Council, but fortunately, passed by the planning authority. He reported that resources are available to work with the village on their priorities. Mr Pott answered a number of questions from the floor and the Chair thanked him for his attendance.

13. **Items raised by parishioners for consideration by the Parish Council**

The Chairman asked whether there were any other pressing matters that the meeting wished the Parish Council to consider at its annual meeting. A number of questions were raised which were answered by those present. A parishioner asked whether the list of names of persons demanding a poll for the recent casual vacancy could be published and the question of the purchased of speed signs was raised.

In the absence of any further business the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 10.15pm