



# **CODDENHAM**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

### **Coddenham Community & Sports Hall**

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#### **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Present: Cllr Burton, (Chairman, CPC), Mr Phil McGahan, (EAAA),

15 members of the public, 3 members of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk.

#### **1. Chairman's Welcome.**

The Chairman, Mr Burton, welcomed those present and outlined the agenda for the evening.

#### **2. Apologies.**

Mr M West, Mrs J Soanes, Mr A Soanes, Mrs A Darrel-Brown, Cllr Hicks and Cllr Passmore sent their apologies.

#### **3. To Confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 27th, 2017 and to consider any matters arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on April 27th, 2017 were **Accepted** with no matters arising.

#### **4. East Anglian Air Ambulance Presentation**

Mr Phil McGahan gave a captivating presentation of the work of the East Anglian Air Ambulance Service, enhanced by some 30 or more slides showing details of the helicopters and examples of the equipment carried on each mission. A collection box was passed around at the end of the presentation resulting in a total of £44.90 donations to the service.

#### **5. The Chairman's Report**

The Chairman read a summary of his 30 years as a Parish Councillor, 13 of which he has served as the Chair of the Parish Council. His report will be published with the minutes.

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

Cllr Passmore's annual report will be published with the minutes.

#### **7. The Dukes Head**

The Chairman outlined the recent planning application and advised the meeting that, although the Parish Council had recently made detailed objections to the application, any parishioner was entitled to make their own representations to the planning authority which would carry the same weight as the Council's comments.

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

Cllr Hick's annual report will be published with the minutes.

#### **9. The Proposed Gyrotary Experimental Traffic Scheme.**

The Chairman outlined the current position, explaining that the County Council had recently held a consultation session at the Community Centre when Parishioner's views were sought regarding the need for the proposed scheme. In response to a question from the floor Mr Burton advised that the Parish Council had not yet taken a view on the scheme and that it will be considered at a future Parish Council meeting, in light of the responses from the consultation. Another Parishioner asked whether Helmingham Parish Council had been consulted. Mr Burton replied that the Councillor Hicks had been in contact with the Councillor for the Helmingham Ward and that the Parish Clerk had advised the Clerk at Helmingham PC of the details of the consultation. A Parishioner expressed her concerns that

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she had received no communications, whilst her neighbours had. The Chair replied that the maildrop advising parishioners of the consultation session had been arranged by the County Council and that he had ensured the inclusion of the details in the Parish Newsletter. Another Parishioner stated that he was against the proposal for a number of reasons, in particular, the risk to the future of the village shop.

### 10. Simon Pott, Chair of Trustees, to speak about the work of the Day Foundation

Mr Pott was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting.

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

Mr McDonnell speaking as Chair of the Gardemau Trustees, gave a verbal report to the meeting, outlining the Trust's grants to various events and activities supporting St Mary's Church and its work in the Parish over the last year and its regular donations to FIND, a local charity which helps families in need in Ipswich and surrounding villages, and funding of equipment for the Ipswich Soup Kitchen, which is partly staffed by volunteers from Coddendam and other villages in the benefice. Mr McDonnell also explained that The Lady Catherine Gardemau Educational Foundation continues to offer bursaries, supports the Mothers and Toddlers Group and, together with the Parish Council and Day Foundation, has made a grant towards the installation of adult outdoor exercise equipment on the Recreation Ground.

Mr McDonnell, then gave a brief presentation on the work of the Churchyard Management Group, a group of volunteers and representatives from the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council, who aim to maintain the churchyard as a beautiful community space, whilst minimising the cost to the ratepayers of Coddendam. Key activities include grass cutting, weeding and the maintenance of some of the physical infrastructure of the churchyard. Mr McDonnell gave a few highlights of the last 12 months which are detailed in his full report published with the minutes:

Mr McDonnell then mentioned that the Annual Open Gardens event will take place next year having found a coordinator, Mrs E Margaritelli, but just a little too late to arrange the event for 2018.

The Chair thanked Mr McDonnell for his presentation

### 12. A report from the Responsible Financial Officer of the Parish Council

The Council's Responsible Financial Officer gave a presentation of the Parish Council's financial position as at the 31st March 2018 and explained the process by which the accounts would be inspected by both Internal and External Auditors.

The Council's precept for the year 2017/18 was raised to £56,622 and the End of Year balance of £49,257, (including Reserves), was up from the previous year's £30,896. The precept for 2018-19 has been reduced to £29,342 reflecting the carry-over of unspent reserves from last year and the generous donation of £13,152 from the Day Foundation to cover the annual cost of the financial loan on the Community Centre. The RFO explained that the end of year figure had been reallocated across several the new budget cost codes in recognition of possible expenditure in 2018/19, leaving a General Reserve of £7417.

The Clerk then answered questions from the floor.

### 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. The Clerk gave a brief report on recent consultations with Anglian Water regarding the continued flooding on Lower Road and a meeting with the Traffic Manager dealing with the imminent closure of the High street and Church Road for the installation of fibre optic cables.

In the absence of any further business the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 9:05pm