



CODDENHAM
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Coddendam Community & Sports Hall

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2019

Present: Cllr Burton, (Chairman, CPC), 30 members of the public 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, Cllr Hicks and Cllr Passmore sent their apologies.

3. To Confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 26th, 2018 and to consider any matters arising

The minutes of the previous meeting held on April 26th, 2018 were **Accepted** with no matters arising.

4. The Chairman’s Report

The Chairman commented that the Parish Council was nearing the end of its four year period and that the recent elections had resulted in only 7 existing councillors being elected, unopposed, for the next four years. He advised the meeting that the remaining four vacancies were open to any interested parties who might wish to be co-opted onto the council and that the co-option process would begin at the Annual General Meeting to be held in May.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to those councillors who were standing down from the Council:

Cllr John Keeble for his many years of service during which he was forthright in his championing of the maintenance of the watercourses around the village, and more recently the implementation and monitoring of the Speed Indicator Device;

Cllr Jane Soanes for her dedication to the maintenance of the Children’s’ Playground and the Recreation Ground, and her service on the Community Hall Management Committee;

Cllr Mitch Lock for his contributions to the social life in the village, bringing a number of events to the Community Hall and the Summer Fete over recent years;

Cllr Mike West for his more than 47 years on the Parish Council, 10 of which were served in the Chair. Cllr Burton recollected that Cllr West was responsible for the instigation of the Children’s Playground, the original seesaw being one of his initiatives. He was very involved in the development of the Community Hall and Sports Centre, as he put much effort into the discussions with the local planning authority to have the site freed for the development and a great deal of the design of the building being from his pen.

The Chairman also raised the matter of the Info Box which needs looking after. Jane Soanes and Julia Keeble have volunteered to take on the task for the foreseeable future but they would welcome other volunteers to share the duties. The Chair asked Parishioners to remember that the facility operates as a book Exchange rather than a book Depository, as it has recently become a little overstocked.

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Finally Cllr Burton advised the meeting that, after 15yrs as Chairman of the Parish Council, he had decided to stand down, whilst remaining as a Councillor but letting someone else take the reins for the next year.

5. Mid Suffolk District Councillor Tim Passmore's report.

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

6. Suffolk County Councillor Mathew Hicks' report

Cllr Hicks' annual report will be published with the minutes.

7. The Coddendam Community and Sports Hall

The Chairman invited Mr Andrew MacPherson to address the meeting on the future of the Community Centre. Mr MacPherson gave a presentation, with slides, on the proposal to transfer the Community Hall and Sports Centre to a charitable management trust and introduced his fellow trustees on the recently created Charitable Incorporated Organisation. He explained that the objects of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) are to manage Coddendam Community & Sports Centre including the Playing Field, associated land and sports facilities, for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Coddendam and the surrounding area without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinions, including the use of the facilities for meetings, lectures and classes or other forms of recreation or leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants and endeavouring to protect and develop the purpose of the charity.

Mr MacPherson then described the planned route towards achieving the aim of transferring the Community Hall to charitable status, subject to legal guidance and conditions that will protect the original purpose of the facility and any historical bequests. He outlined the historic financial situation and explained that the Charity plans to reduce dependency on parish council funds by 50% over four years. This it is hoped, represents a minimum.

Mr MacPherson then outlined the Trustees' hopes for the future of the community centre, to be rebranded as 'The Coddendam Centre'.

Mr Macpherson then answered a number of questions from Parishioners, clarifying issues on grant funding, and development of the current layout to be more usable as a conference and training facility.

The Chairman thanked Mr McDonnell for his presentation, a copy of which will be published with the minutes.

8. The Future of Coddendam Food Stores

The Chairman invited Mr Davin McDonnell to address the meeting on the future of the Village Shop. Mr McDonnell explained that the current lease comes to an end next month and that it has not been possible to find alternative lessees to take on the shop as a commercial enterprise. A small group of volunteers has been working to establish whether there is a demand and support for the shop to continue as a community enterprise. A survey which resulted in more than 125 responses from 400 forms issued showed only 1 response against the proposal to keep the shop going. 38 individuals offered to be involved in the running of the shop and a further 25 in helping to establish the facility. The Volunteer group has approached the Day Foundation which has provided a small grant to engage the Plunkett Trust to advise and assist in developing the project and they will be meeting with the volunteers next week. It is likely that the first steps will be to call a dedicated public meeting to engage the public support and Mr McDonnell emphasised that if this is not forthcoming the shop will

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close. If there is enough support to take the project forward it is unlikely that a community shop will be operational on the 1st June but the gap in service will be kept to a minimum. The Day Foundation have indicated that they may be able to support the venture if there is a clear statement of demand, i.e. financial backing from the community.

Mr Gudgin, as the owner of the shop premises, thanked the Volunteers for their efforts in keeping the shop in operation for the benefit of the village and expressed his support for the initiative.

Mr McDonnell assisted by other members of the volunteer group, then answered a number of questions from Parishioners on matters relating to the continuation of the Post Office facility and the greater use of cars if villagers do not have a shop within walking distance.

The Chairman thanked Mr McDonnell for his presentation.

9. Reports from Representatives of Village Clubs and Groups.

Mrs McDonnell advised the meeting that Coddham Tennis Club was no longer financially viable and that it would close. She commented that if volunteers came forward to run the club it may be possible to continue but that any future planning will await the development of the future management of the Community Centre.

10. 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 raised a question regarding the Parish Council's projected budget as published in the Newsletter. The Chairman advised that there may have been a typing error and that this would be investigated for the next Parish Council meeting.

Mr Hall asked that parishioners be reminded of his email cascade tree.

In the absence of any further business the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 7:55pm