



CODDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL PARISH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017

Coddendam Budget 2017-18

The Parish Council budget agreed for 2017-18 is shown below and is also available on the website

ANNUAL BUDGET & CODDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL 2017/18		Budget 17/18
Income		
Precept (inc. Support grant)		58822
Recycling Credit		400
Footpath Grant		240
Newsletter advertising		150
Interest Received		15
Allotments		150
Addition - Grants/Donations		0
Total Parish Income		57577
Expenditure		
Clerk / RFO Office		
Salary + HMRC costs		7500
Office Supplies		350
Mileage		400
Clerk - post/ telephone		300
Software		350
Sub Total		8900
Footpath & Park Maintenance		
Ground Maintenance + G'sman		4500
Street Lighting		530
Equipment repair/replace/ reserve		300
Playground Equipment/Benches		5000
Telephone Box		25
Churchyard Reserve		1000
Churchyard Wall repair		3000
Tree surgery		500
Sub Total		14855
Grants and Subscriptions		
Subs and Grants		430
Sub Total		430
Establishment Costs		
Full Insurance		3000
Hire of hall for PC mtgs		0
Professional Fees		200
Election Fees		6800
Training clerk/councillors		100
Bank Charges		75
Audit fee		450
Newsletter		400
Parish Council Reserve		2000
Sub Total		13125
Total Parish Exp (exHall)		37310
Hall Costs Included in Budget		
Finance Costs		
All loans PWLB		13152
Sub Total		13152
Running Costs		
Section 137		0
Delegated hall budget		7115
Sub Total		7115
Total Hall Costs		20267
Total Expenditure		57577
Projected Shortfall/Surplus		0
Community Centre Capital Reserve 1/3/17		8643
Current Account Reserve 1/3/17		251
Current Account Balance 1/3/17		22022
CommCentre Account Balance 1/3/17		950
Total		31866

For 2017-18 the precept, which forms part of your community charge payment, has had to be increased to enable the parish council to continue to provide the range and level of services enjoyed by the village in recent years and to meet its legal obligation to pay for elections demanded by electors. Coddendam has a much larger selection of facilities than many other comparably sized villages enjoy. This attracts people to move into the village and estate agents report that Coddendam is a very desirable place to live. It is also popular with visitors including ramblers and families with young children. The ease of car parking, the excellent playground and the well maintained and signed network of footpaths all attract people into the village. Many of these visitors use the local shop helping it to remain viable. The high-quality community centre (compared with village halls in the neighbouring parishes) is a popular and affordable venue for children's birthday parties and adult events. Providing these superior facilities comes at a price and therefore the precept for Coddendam is higher than that of many other small communities in Suffolk.

In the coming year, considerable maintenance of the children's playground is planned, as very little has been spent on it since it was built in 2010 this extremely popular facility is showing some wear and tear. Grants are being sought to support the parish council funds and our county councillor is also contributing to the project.

PWLB stands for Public Works Loan Board and each year (until 2030) we must pay interest on the loans taken out to help pay for construction of the community centre.

The Delegated Hall budget represents the amount of money that the Parish Council is contributing to the running, maintenance and upkeep of the community centre. This amount is above and beyond the income that the community centre generates itself, which is expected to exceed £12000 in the year.

? why not in
budget
separate A/c's for
Village Hall

All councils are recommended to have general reserves equal to at least 3 months spending of the council. For Coddendam this is about £14000. At the end of 2016-17 the reserves are expected to be about £150, which is unacceptably low. Therefore, there is budget provision to put money into the reserves.

Why were there 2 elections in Coddendam in the last year?

Many people have asked this question as few can remember there being an election for parish councillors in recent years.

All 11 parish councillors are elected for a term of 4 years, the last time being in 2015. As is often the case there were not enough people standing for the election to require a vote and all those that stood in 2015 were elected unopposed. If a parish councillor dies or resigns during the 4 years term the remaining parish councillors can co-opt someone to fill the vacancy (at no cost to the parish) unless 10 or more electors demand an election. During the past year 2 vacancies have arisen and on both occasions at least 10 electors have demanded an election. The Parish Council is then legally bound to hold an election, which is administered by the returning officer at Mid-Suffolk District Council. The Parish council, via the precept has to pay for the cost of the election which is approximately £2000 each time. The Parish Council has a policy to explain how co-option is carried out which is available on the website.

The Parish Council must be neutral in all elections and cannot comment on electors exercising their legal right to demand an election every time a vacancy occurs.

This is democracy in action, but the democratic process costs money.

this is a comment

The substantial increase to the precept this year is to recover the cost of two elections held in the past year and to make provision for a further election, if legally demanded by electors, this year. The budget allows for £6900 out of the total precept of £56622 to be spent on elections.

NOTICE OF ELECTION to fill one casual vacancy on Coddendam Parish Council

A request for an election to fill the vacancy was made in writing to the Returning Officer by TEN electors for the Parish by the required date of 29th March 2017. Those wishing to stand had until 4:00 pm on Tuesday 4 April 2017 to return nomination papers to the returning officer.

As only one person stood there will be no election and that person will be declared elected unopposed.

uncontested Election

not TRUE

— only a back slap

Coddenham Steet Lights, Renew, Reduce or Remove???

A Parish Council working group has looked at the options for the replacement of the street lights in the village owned by the parish council as many of them are quite old and some are now illegal in that they are mounted on electric poles too close to live wires. Maintenance of the existing units is becoming increasingly difficult often with the power needing to be switched off before works commence and a scarcity of bulbs and parts. Opinions expressed by parishioners at the annual parish meeting were mixed as some parts of the village do not have street lights and this is regarded as a preferable status whilst others called for the lights to be maintained. At the February meeting the cost of replacing all the lights was considered not to be affordable by the Parish Council now.

The existing lights will continue to be maintained where this can be done at reasonable cost but as they become unrepairable they will be switched off. This decision can of course be reviewed at a future date.



Coddenham Street Lights

- Parish Council Obsolete
- Parish Council Community Centre Path
- Suffolk County Council

Local history - Apotropaic marks

Sometimes called 'witch marks' apotropaic signs are thought to offer protection from witchcraft or other malign influence. On a visit to the Municipal Museum in Faro I was reminded of signs some of us have in our homes and are visible in St Mary's church.

Numerous civilizations - Carthaginian, Greek, Roman, Islamic and Christian - have left their mark on the region called by the Arabs al-Gharb. Some of these show distinct similarities, at least in belief if not always in appearance. The daisy wheel, which many of us will have made in idle moments, is a circle with six 'petals'. There are signs of one of these in an Islamic domestic dish. Anyone familiar with the Arabian Nights knows of demons and magicians. St Mary's has one clear and one indistinct daisy wheel on a pier on the north side of the nave. The technical term for daisy wheel is hexagram: so thought to defend against a 'hex' (a common term for a curse).

Fishermen in Faro are said to have caught nothing when they allowed an image of the Virgin Mary to be dropped into the sea. Once 'rescued' it blessed them with full nets. Stella Maris (star of the sea) was a sign of Mary, thought to protect seamen. While Coddtenham had few seafarers the images in church suggesting ships may have sought protection on life's voyage.

The two coats of arms, also on a north nave pier, might be similar to the regimental colours in cathedrals, to give thanks after conflict. They might otherwise have been inscribed to seek protection. In the ringing chamber are indistinct signs of names and dates, thought to be of men enlisted in the Great War. Were these inscribed in hope of return or after death? It is difficult to say, but it does show how great a cost we may pay when civilizations clash.

John Pelling



Coddtenham Churchyard Wall

This time last year the initial estimate for replacing the fragile churchyard wall was expected to cost up to £70,000. After much consultation with the diocese, structural engineers and flint wall experts a plan has been agreed to re-lay the brick courses and to re-point some of the flint work. An order has been placed with a specialist historic wall contractor to carry out this work starting in the spring at a much-reduced cost of less than £3000

Coddenham Churchyard Management Group

The CMG is an informal, voluntary and independent group which oversees the day to day management of the 'old' churchyard, around St Mary's Church. Its members include reps from the Parish and Parochial Church Councils, residents with properties near the churchyard and others with an interest in its management and conservation. The chair of the CMG is a member of neither council.

The churchyard is a County Wildlife Site, famous for its displays of wildflowers, and we try to balance the

needs of conservation with (e.g.) parking. In the past year, members have regularly cut the paths, undertaken planting of native trees, re-erected fallen tombstones, advised on the repair of the churchyard walls and repaired the storage shed, all at no cost to the community. If you are interested or could spare the occasional hour to help care for this key feature of our village, please contact me as below:

David McDonnell (Chairman, CMG) 01449 761793

deborah.mcdonnell3@btinternet.com

News from St Mary's

It was a pleasure to welcome so many villagers to our Christmas services, with the Christingle / Crib service particularly well attended. Children (in appropriate costumes) brought the figures of Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, animals and wise men from the back of the church to be placed in the 'stable', and the baby Jesus was added as midnight struck on Christmas Eve. The figures are really beautiful and if you haven't seen them, do come along next Christmas. We were able to illuminate the repaired cross (with its LED lighting) on top of the tower and there were many appreciative comments. It will be switched on again for Holy Week, between Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

On Good Friday there is a children's craft workshop at 9.45am at Hemingstone Hut followed by a walk to Coddenham and a service in the churchyard at 12 noon with hot cross buns in church afterwards. On Easter Sunday we have a family friendly communion service at 11.00am; singing will be led by the Benefice Choir and there will be children's activities and an Easter Egg hunt.

With spring in the air our popular monthly Saturday coffee mornings have restarted and there is usually an added attraction (as well as the cakes). On May 13th you can restock your garden from the plant sale, on June 17th there will be savouries (including sausage rolls) and July 8th is certainly a date for your diary as there will be a very special event – watch this space!

Ian Galbraith

New wall hanging for St Mary's church Coddendam

Come to Haysel House on 20th April from 7pm to find out more and meet those involved in making their contribution towards the completion of the Wall Hanging. It is to be completed for the Flower and Harvest Festival on the Weekend of September 16th - 17th. The focus for that Sunday is 'Peace' nation-wide but the theme of the Flower Festival is yet to be announced.

Each 12 inch square of the wall hanging is designed and made by individuals depicting their idea of the village and the church. We have several contributions finished and some in the process, and there is room for more. Some participants have little or no experience of

handwork in fabric, knitting or any sew-able medium and some have considerable experience and are offering their help to others.

This is a project for the whole village and already the creations are portraying glimpses of life and what is important to those taking part.

Please don't hesitate if you feel the slightest urge to take part or to view the project in the making on the 20th April.

We would love to see you, Margaret and Judy

The Coddendam Gardemau Charities

The last 12 months have seen the charities receiving more requests for funding than ever – perhaps a sign of the times. Although our resources are relatively limited, in 2016-17 we have made grants to Helmingham and Stonham Aspal Primary Schools (which most Coddendam children attend) for IT equipment and music teaching, funded an education bursary for a young lady in the village, supported the Mothers and Toddlers Group and made regular donations to FIND, the locally based charity for Families in Need. Contributions have also been made to the community work of St Mary's Church and, most recently, the charities paid for an Emergency First Aid at Work course run by the Red Cross at the Village Hall,

which was offered free to attendees. This resulted in ten Coddendam residents gaining a nationally-recognised accredited qualification – a real asset to our community. We have already had a number of enquiries from people interested in attending any future course.

For more information on the Gardemau Charities, please see the village website and watch for items in the Six Village News.

David McDonnell (Chairman, Gardemau Charities)
01449 761793 deborah.mcdonnell3@btinternet.com

Service and soup with fellowship and fun Haysel House Coddendam every Tuesday from 11.30 till 13.00

We have just had our thirteenth birthday party in the form of a roast turkey lunch followed by delicious puddings. The help to organise and provide the goodies were much appreciated.

Each birthday is celebrated with a cake, which happens many weeks in the year. The rendition of Happy Birthday is of the highest quality sung with great verve accompanied by our maestros.

Our service and soup happens every week due to the commitment of the helpers and those who support

which together create a very welcome atmosphere for all. We can always rely on Keith together with Rowena for their support which is so appreciated in such a wonderful facility. We are blessed by the fellowship and fun and would like to extend a warm welcome to one and all who would care to come along. A donation is suggested of £2 as it adds value to such an enjoyable lunch.

Judy Hailes

Coddenham Community and Sports Centre Survey



At the end of 2016 we were able to acquire funding for a survey formulated by Spinnaker HR to provide information to inform the future use of the Community and Sports Centre. The survey was issued to all Coddenham residents, current centre users and potential users. The response rate was 18% which was considered to be a good response (5% is often considered good!) Many thanks to all those who took the time to complete the survey.

The survey results were analysed and a small working party created to try to put some of the ideas into practice. The Centre's profile has already been raised by creating a Facebook page (Facebook/Coddenham village hall) and a Twitter account. The first of a series of village events has already taken place – an Italian Night – with food and a film - which sold out! We now have membership of Suffolk Cinema Network so further film based evenings are planned. We have found a local caterer who can provide fantastic food

for future events – so watch out for posters around the village.

We are planning to redecorate the hall and more chairs have been ordered so that we can seat more people at events. We are actively pursuing contacts to try to run more sports/exercise classes which were requested by many.

We are continuing to work with Spinnaker HR to investigate avenues of more commercial hire – training courses etc. which would increase revenue.

We would love to organise a village fete.....but need more volunteers to help. If you are able to help in any way pop in and see Jane at the shop or leave your details with Colin Hardy – Six Village News co-ordinator – hardyfamilycoddenham@btinternet.com.
Debbie McDonnell, Coddenham Community and Sports Hall Management Committee

Feedback from the hall booking administrator:

We had a good year with bookings increasing at the Village Hall. Summer proved to be very successful with children's parties and special events parties. At present we have two weddings booked and several parties in April which will give a fresh appeal.

Our first Pop-Up Restaurant in March was a sell out and a really fun evening, so much so that we have a further event in April to which there has already been an excellent response. It has been proposed we hold a Pilates class which I would like to have feedback if anyone is interested in taking part. With the recent amazing weather I would be pleased to receive any bookings for the tennis courts this summer.

To conclude we have wonderful facilities at our village hall let's use them. Please contact me for your future events or any new events that you would like to set up. Your opinions are very valued. Judith Challis
coddenhamcc@gmail.com or telephone 07729206532.

Coddenham Village Fete

Quite a few in the village have asked about the possibility of resurrecting the Coddenham Village Fete. We have excellent facilities in the Community Centre and the playing field opposite and all we need are villagers to come forward and help organise it. This is our village and community and here is a chance to make it a better place and have some fun along the way. We are looking for villagers to be part of an organising committee with a view to having the fete probably this September. No experience is necessary.

If you fancy having a go and doing something for our Community then please register your interest by emailing coddenhamfete@gmail.com

Thanks, Mitch

Coddenham Play Area



Installed in the spring of 2010 the play area was the result of community involvement and consultation and extensive research as to what the village children wanted. The community involvement played a major part in fundraising over the previous two years, not least from the substantial Playbuilder grant but also with two village fetes in 2008 and 2009. In addition the Day Foundation added funds to finalise the project and later the large slide was funded from 'Open Gardens'.

The equipment is extensively used by young and old of Coddenham and surrounding villages. It is of immense satisfaction to those involved in the many voluntary hours of fundraising to see the mass of children enjoying the play equipment on a warm summers day, and to hear their excited voices.

After 7 years there is now a need for a facelift. A working party is to meet on 9th April, and routine maintenance is organised by the Parish Council including regular professional risk assessments. Some difficult decisions will need to be taken in the future.

For example the 'Adventure Trail' will have to be removed as it is rotting and the community will need to decide whether to fund a replacement, or do we want to add other equipment? The 'Arch Seesaw' is failing should it be replaced with a traditional form?

The Parish Council have approached local charities for funding for replacements and repairs but we appeal to parents, grandparents, carers, children to let us know what you want AND how you can and are going to help raise the funds.

Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 27th April 2017, Community Centre

The purpose of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting provides an opportunity for parishioners to discuss parish affairs, and for village organisations to inform them and answer questions. It is NOT a meeting of the Parish Council.

- A Parish Meeting is NOT a council meeting. However, if present, the Chairman of the Council must preside. If the Chairman is not present, the meeting may elect a chairman from those members of the electorate present.
- Councillors are not compelled to attend the parish meeting and are not summoned. However it is good practice for serving councillors to attend.
- It is good practice to produce an annual report detailing the activities of the council, the annual budget and contact details of its councillors. It is also good practice to invite the District and County Councillors for that ward to give a report and the opportunity to answer questions from the electorate. It is also an opportunity for the electorate to hear from community groups.
- The agenda will be posted seven days before the meeting. Likely items to be discussed include a proposed trial of a partial one way system for traffic passing through the village and proposed new equipment at the playground and possible fundraising for this.

Annual General Meeting of the Council –followed by Parish Council Meeting, Thursday 25th May, Community Centre.

The purpose of the annual meeting of the Council is to elect the Chairman of the Council. The council may also appoint a vice-chairman and councillors to any committees and outside bodies on which the council is represented.

- Election of the Chairman must be the first business on the agenda, before any other business (including apologies). This item is taken by the outgoing Chairman, who must use their casting vote in the event of an equal vote.
- The chairman must sign a *Declaration of Acceptance of Office* before proceeding with the meeting.

In any order on the agenda a council may:

- Appoint a vice-chairman
- Appoint members to the council's committees
- Appoint members to outside bodies

The above two items contain guidance from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC)

GETTING OUR RECYCLING RIGHT !

Following a visit to Masons Recycling Facility at Great Blakenham, and seeing how vital it is that we ALL do our best to help the worsening situation of the amount of 'waste' we create, I will be pinning up advisory notices to show what and where waste should be disposed of. Hemingstone WI was so appalled at the result of us all tossing out 'stuff' we've finished with, that now is the time to wake everyone up to the worsening problem. Especially of concern :

- Don't put waste food into your bins – compost it
- Nappies must be put in RUBBISH bin
- Clothes, electricals and batteries put in RUBBISH bin
- All glass into bottle banks

Shirley West

Coddenham Village Hall Present....
A Pop Up Restaurant
Supper@7
Organised by Judith & Jane

Friday 14th
April 2017

Indian Food Served 7.00 – 7.30pm
First Race Starts 8.00pm

**Curry and
Racing Night**

 Tickets Available from
Coddenham Food Store

At £15.00 per head to include a two course meal and entertainment.
Bring your own drinks

East of
England
COOP

Trusted by
local families
since 1925

Meredith Greengrass
9 Marriotts Walk
Stowmarket
01449 612765



Funeral Services
eastofengland.coop/funerals



THE LITTLE GREY BIRD
at Helmingham Hall

HAND PAINTED FURNITURE & ELEGANT HOMEWARE
LONDON VINTAGE CHALK PAINT STOCKISTS
Opens again 1st May 2017 & its free to visit us!

www.thelittlegreybird.com

Follow us on Facebook - The Little Grey Bird At Helmingham Hall

CODDENHAM FOOD STORE

SUPPLYING A WIDE RANGE OF GOODS AND PRODUCE, LOCALLY SOURCED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE



Event Catering
Afternoon Teas & Buffets
Marquee & Furniture Hire
Fairground Garden Games
Licenced Bars



Contact Janette Gibbons: 07867 548634

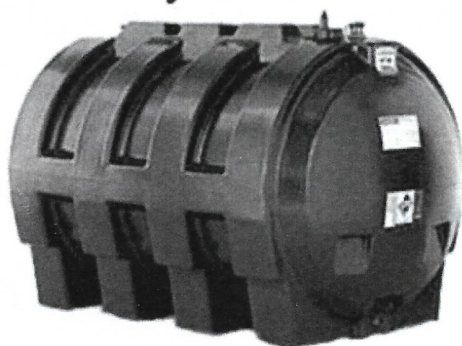
info@bakesofsuffolk.com

MPD TANKS

For all your oil tank needs

Steel and Plastic Tanks
available

Free Estimates
Fully Insured



07708 395889
01449 767820

We are grateful to the sponsors who help to offset the costs of publishing this newsletter:

ENQUIRIES REGARDING THIS AND FUTURE NEWSLETTERS should be made to the clerk to the Parish at:
parishclerk.coddenham@gmail.com

of fenside