



CODDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL PARISH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2020

CODDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL AND COVID-19

The Parish Council was fortunate to hold a scheduled meeting on Thursday 19th March which was able to take place with appropriate social distancing between councillors and the large number of parishioners that attended. This meant that the council was able to put in place arrangements to continue its function and help the community at a local level during the current emergency. The council can help co-ordinate initiatives by various community groups and individuals as well as making money available should any initiative require some finance.

The council has appointed councillor Neil Scoresby to act as its main liaison with community groups, including the community shop, club, community centre, local charities and individuals with initiatives. The first commitment made by the council was to fund a new web site to help with the co-ordination of village support which is now being developed by Neil and his team.

The parish council is only able to function according to the laws governing councils. One of these requires spending decisions to be made by the full council unless delegated. The council has now delegated spending decisions to the clerk, chair and vice chair for the duration of the emergency. This will enable the council to react quickly to circumstances which require an urgent decision.

In attendance at the meeting was parishioner and member of the clergy, Helen Norris, who spoke to remind us all of the need to keep in-touch with neighbours and support those who are required, or choose, to isolate themselves during this time, not only to ensure they are physically well but also mentally well. Many will find staying in isolation or working from their homes mentally challenging. At the time of writing people are still allowed to leave their houses and I would like to remind everyone that Coddenham is fortunate to have a wonderful network of footpaths and bridleways through the beautiful countryside in which we live. I would encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the countryside and I find that a nice walk always lifts my spirits. The parish council will continue to keep the paths open as seasonal growth tries to choke them as spring turns to summer. A map of the footpaths and bridleways in the parish can be found on line at <http://coddenham.onesuffolk.net/coddenham-parish-council/managed-footpaths/> or a hard copy can be found in the Info Box (Old telephone box). There is also a leaflet describing two circular walks in Coddenham available at <http://www.discoversuffolk.org.uk/map/coddenham-circular-walks/>. All the footpaths are clearly marked where they leave the roads and with yellow or blue coloured arrows to help you follow the route.

If you want to contact the parish council or Neil then please direct your communication through the parish clerk, Sue Frankis by email at clerk.coddenhampc@gmail.com or by phone on 07548 152181.

Donald Burton – Chair Coddenham Parish Council

CODDENHAM COVID-19 RESPONSE GROUP

The Parish Council is working with representatives from a number of community groups in our parish and has established a Response Group to help support parishioners during these unprecedented times.

It has never been more important that we support our community and look after our neighbours, and ourselves. The Response Group aims to support both the logistical challenges of self-isolation as well as wellbeing and loneliness issues. Latest information is available at www.coddenham-parish.uk and requests for support can be made by emailing support@coddenham-parish.uk or by calling 01449 760313.

The Group is made up of representatives from the Parish Council (Cllr Neil Scoresby), the Coddenham Centre (Andrew MacPherson), the Community Shop (Rod Stanley-Bell and David McDonnell), Haysel House and The Day Foundation (Tim Thomas), and St Marys Church and the PCC (Debbie McDonnell). In addition, there are many more volunteers who are helping provide services to support our local community.
Cllr Neil Scoresby

CODDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2020-21

The full budget approved by the council is at the end of this newsletter and is also available on the website. A precept of £37,810 has been requested by the parish council to support a total planned spend of £51,129. The precept will be collected through your council tax payments to MSDC.

This is about a 22% increase over last year. The precept for this year is being supported by the Day Foundation who are once again giving a grant of £13,152 to match the interest payable to the Public Works Loan Board on loans to build the Community Centre and purchase the freehold of the land on which it is situated.

There has been a substantial reduction in the number of budget heads for the coming year as the Community Centre has now been transferred to the Charity. The council is now making a lump sum grant to the charity for the coming year.

The council continues to maintain both earmarked and general reserves. The earmarked reserves are for specific likely expenditure, such as the cost of elections, or funds necessary to have a tree made safe if high winds cause damage. The general reserve should be at least equivalent to 3-months total expenditure by the council. The costs of transferring the community centre to a charity were higher than expected and a considerable amount of the council's reserves were transferred to the charity as an initial endowment. As a result, there will be a need to re-build reserves over the next year or two, though unexpected expenditure is likely to be less than when the council was operating the community centre itself.

Donald Burton – Chair Coddenham Parish Council

CHURCHYARD MANAGEMENT GROUP

The CMG continues its work to keep the churchyard at St Mary's in good condition. Villagers may know that our churchyard has one of the best ranges of wildlife in Suffolk and is protected as a County Wildlife Site. Its flora is particularly varied and, as the Spring arrives, we can look forward to hundreds of wildflowers of one species or another being in bloom for the next six months or so.

To maintain its variety, the churchyard needs continuing maintenance. If not cut back and removed, rank grasses, nettles etc. would swamp the wildflowers.

Care of the area takes a lot of work and, with the exception of one grass cut in late summer, this is done by volunteers, mostly members of the CMG but with invaluable help from others who have, for example, recently repaired the kissing gates.

The CMG includes representatives from the Parish and Parochial Church councils, and others interested in conserving the churchyard. Unfortunately, we have lost several members recently, as two have stood down after many years and another long-serving member, John Allen, sadly passed away a few weeks ago. We would like to pay great tribute to John for all his hard work and support.

If you are interested in conservation or would simply like to help preserve one of Coddenham's most beautiful areas, please contact me as below.

David McDonnell, Chairman, CMG, 01449 761793, deborah.mcdonnell3@btinternet.com

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S



I mentioned in a previous Newsletter that we were planning some changes to the church's heating system and am pleased to report that these were completed in time for the winter. We now have an extra radiator in the main body of the church and there are electric heaters for the choirstalls where we sit for most of our services. In the next few months we hope to carry out some internal masonry repairs, including work on the very fine Balthazar Gardemau monument to secure the 'books' that are shown in the photo. We also need to sort out a damp problem in the south aisle.

Whatever Coronavirus may throw at us we plan to keep the church open every day, offering a haven of peace and hope in difficult times. There will be no Services until further notice but members of the congregation are using a variety of online and printed resources for personal worship and details are available in the church for those who wish to join with us. Our prayers and practical involvement in the community aim to reflect the challenges of the present situation.

Ian Galbraith (Churchwarden)

HISTORY RECORDER



These steps at the Hemingstone end of the Broom Hill footpath are evidence of the need of regular maintenance just as we find in all our garden features and even our houses.

Each year a Broom Hill work party demonstrates the commitment of volunteers to maintaining a healthy environment on land jointly purchased by the community and Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The timber lying beside the steps is evidence of recent repairs not only to the landscape but also access to it.

Broom Hill is one of several community resources that came into use over the past century. The Country Club and the recreation ground are two of the earliest. The Coddenham Centre was built at the beginning of this century and managed by the Parish Council until its transfer, together with the rec., to a trust. The club continues to be run by volunteers.

A private commercial venture was Coddenham Stores, which is now in the hands of the Community Shop Committee to demonstrate that there are other aspects of local enterprise dependent on the goodwill and energy of volunteers. Those other shops – butcher, baker and confectioner – that used to exist in the village would not perhaps have survived as community shops, but it may be interesting to speculate on whether they could have; a similar question hangs over the Duke's Head.

John Pelling

CODDENHAM COMMUNITY SHOP – THANK YOU ALL FOR BOTH YOUR BUSINESS AND SUPPORT

We have definitely been on a roller coaster ride since we started the Coddenham Community Shop journey just over a year ago in February 2019.

The Business. We opened in September after a near 6 month closure and although it did include the Christmas period, it also included 4 months of fairly appalling autumn and winter weather, with extensive flooding, interminable local road closures and a much reduced passing trade and hence potential footfall.

Despite this, we actually delivered sales revenues for the first 4 months well in line with the original business plan. With some creative product purchasing, and helped by our volunteer suppliers and bakers, this all added up to us achieving very near break-even in our first few months trading – a pretty good start!

Our Customers. We have been delighted by the support, reactions, positive comments and feedback from customers old and new alike:

“Whenever I come into the shop now, I invariably find what I am looking for...”

“It’s a joy to shop here, I’m always finding new things to buy!”

“This is just what a village shop should be”

“The café is great”

“And you do this with volunteers??”

Our team. We are very lucky to have such a committed manager in Bliss Marshall working alongside our brilliant team of more than 50 volunteers regularly working both front of house and behind the scenes. Not of course forgetting the shop committee who have been doing and continue to do sterling work keeping all the balls in the air- and pointing forwards!

Onwards. We have started a review with our suppliers to add new products to expand the range, particularly in the fresh and frozen area. We will also be investing in developing the “café” and takeaway with new services, and an expanded menu.

Challenges. We have had a very good start– and our aim will be to maintain and accelerate this momentum. If I had written this a couple of months ago, I would have said the challenges we (think) we know about would include the ongoing local road closures expected well into 2020 and the disruption it brings to passing trade. In March 2020 however, the challenges posed by the spread of the Corona virus offer more than enough food for thought for all of us.

But - your Community Shop will continue to be there to support you, your families and the whole community through this difficult time.

Thank you again all for your support.

Rod Stanley-Bell

THE CODDENHAM CENTRE



This edition’s article, until three weeks ago, intended to focus wholly on the positive progress of The Coddenham Centre and an eagerly anticipated upward trajectory.

However, like the rest the world, we had not anticipated the brutal arrival of a new virus and all that it entails.

Nonetheless, I think it important that we first focus on what we’ve achieved since November last year, with the support of the community, volunteers, trustees and staff.

In only three months we found ourselves with a stabilised administration, newly engaged customers, a new brand and market presence, all supported by an automated booking system through which we have already grown our activity by 40%.

Be assured, we have been far from “counting our chickens”. We need to lay strong foundations for a sustainable future and minimise the need for external support after years of a less than satisfactory oversight and operation.

Above all, the Centre has seen a new series of events and increased activity that has brought the community and the surrounding areas together for fun, engagement, fitness and entertainment.

After a successful quiz night, theatre and Children’s Christmas party, we enjoyed a great Ceildh and more recently, 70+ people for an evening of ‘Mezze & Movie’.

We said goodbye to long-standing Booking Administrator Judith Challis and recently appointed a Centre Manager in Gail Springett plus earlier in the year, a new Trustee Stephanie Cooper- Lande who stepped in for Mitch Lock, part of the start-up Board.

Our activities took on a new lease of life with the addition of more yoga classes and a sell out Nordic Walking programme. Our kitchens hosted successful start ups and we engaged the support of new sponsors. Our thanks to our customers, Community Action Suffolk, Active Suffolk, Day Foundation, Paul Weston Architects, Castons, Larking-Gowan, the Six Village Band, Creative Arts East and of course, Coddendam Parish Council who supported and asked us to take this task on. We are indebted to individual volunteers, workers, sponsors of time, energy (and money) and of course, my fellow Trustees.

So what next? In the one week of finalising this report we have lost over £600 of revenue before we even look at the loss of postponing five events, including the village fete.

While we must of course first focus on the needs of the community and those most vulnerable in these challenging times, we must nonetheless be mindful of ensuring the security of this fantastic asset, the Coddendam Centre, for the future.

Trustees met within three days of the government’s announcement and have prepared a contingency plan which will focus on further reducing waste, accelerating our strategic changes for the future and preparing for a relaunch, once this terrible virus passes or is at least better controlled. We will look for external funding to try and bridge the gap of the weeks ahead.

We remain open for business, particularly our outside areas, subject to advice and the recommended precautions. We have also had an extensive sanitisation and cleaning regime in place for some weeks to minimise risk to all.

Our website www.thecoddendamcentre.co.uk continues to be updated and there is a dedicated area with our latest Coronavirus Bulletin on which to comment or ask questions.

We look forward to continuing to serve our community and surrounding areas both now and in the future.

Andrew MacPherson

Chair - The Coddendam Centre CIO

IPSWICH NORTHERN ROUTE WILL NOT PROCEED TO THE NEXT STAGE FOLLOWING VOTE

The Cabinet of Suffolk County Council has voted to accept a recommendation that the Ipswich Northern Route should not proceed to the next stage of development. The cabinet recommendation noted that the project had failed to attract the necessary widespread political support needed to proceed with projects of this size and financial scale. The cabinet paper also made it clear that local planning authorities were unable to agree to any of the additional housing growth, over the level already agreed in their local plans, which would be needed to help fund the local contribution before government funding could be requested.

Councillor Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council said:

"Housing growth is now a larger consideration for central government when considering funding requests for large road projects. Without clear support from local planning authorities to meet that additional growth,

over and above what they have already agreed to within their local plans, being successful in bidding into central government becomes impossible. Without widespread political support this project will not attract the funding needed to proceed to the next stage, let alone the £500 million necessary to complete it. “I hope that today's decision to not proceed with the Ipswich Northern Route will help those who felt directly impacted by any of the three proposed routes to find some closure and move on. But we must all recognise that the issues the INR was looking to solve still exist and we will need to look at other ways to try and solve them, the new task force will play a large part in helping us do that.”

The cabinet also agreed to the recommendation to create a task force to build on existing work to increase modal shift within Ipswich, reducing trips by car and increasing use of buses, walking and cycling, and improve capacity at key junctions.

Matthew Hicks

Leader of Suffolk County Council

County Councillor for the Thredling Division

Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824 474741

E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk

Twitter: @HicksCllr

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 23th April 2020, 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Council –followed by Parish Council Meeting. 14th 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)

PLEASE NOTE the above meetings may be subject to postponement or cancellation to comply with Government guidance on the Coronavirus outbreak.

CODDENHAM P C WELCOMES OUR NEW CLERK



Mrs. Susan Frankis has had her part time appointment as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer confirmed by the Council. Sue joins us after briefly being Locum Town Clerk at Hadleigh.

Previously Sue was Parish Clerk and RFO at Sproughton Parish Council holding the post for nearly 14 years.

Our Clerk holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) together with the section 7 certification, which is now known as the General Power of Competence. Both qualifications are obtained by examination.

Sue can be contacted on mobile 07548 152181, by email at clerk.coddenhampc@gmail.com or by post to 24 Church Crescent, Sproughton IP8 3BJ.

Councillors wish Sue a long and happy association with the Council.

Allan Fowler (Vice-Chair)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council is consulted on all planning applications and has a right to comment but has no power to take decisions. Two of the most contentious applications are outlined here:

DUKES HEAD in the HIGH STREET

An application has been submitted to Mid Suffolk planning for an eco-friendly private house on the garden area accessed via Mill Hill.

The case officer requested that views of parishioners be submitted before he submitted the papers to Committee for a decision.

To this effect the Parish Council met under difficult conditions to obtain parishioners views. Strict social distancing was observed.

Representatives of the Save the Pub group were present. They pointed out that the application included an extension of use to include a cafe and that their support was only for a Public House.

The Pub is currently listed as an Asset of Community Value which was granted in 2015 and expires in July this year.

At the meeting there was vigorous support for the Community Shop and the cafe therein. There was non favourable comment expressed on the case officers support for the current application.

The Council will be responding to MSDC planning pointing out:-

- 1). There was general opposition to any application for development that did not follow the findings of Appeal Inspector's decision in 2015. This included no more traffic on to the High Street from Mill Hill.
- 2). There would be support for the premises to be converted into private dwelling usage.

Allan Fowler (Vice-Chair)

Major development at Beacon Hill Service

At its February Planning meeting the Parish Council considered two separate proposals. One was for refurbishment of the existing service area which was supported by the council. The second was for an additional service station with a shopping complex, refueling bays and parking for over seventy vehicles.

This was opposed on the grounds that the proposed slip roads were substandard and that the additional traffic generated would be dangerous. In addition it was felt that safety of cyclists at the roundabout, already hazardous, would be made worse, especially on the slip roads.

Cllr Colin Hardy

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

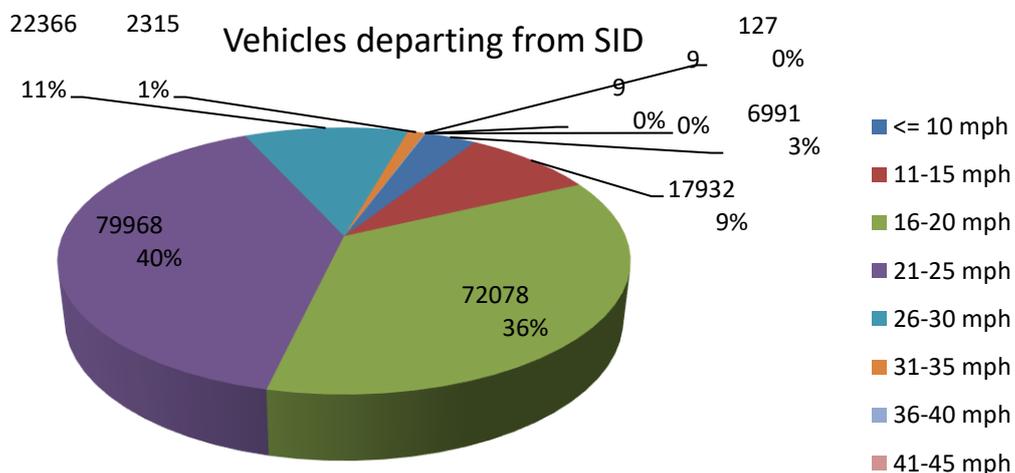
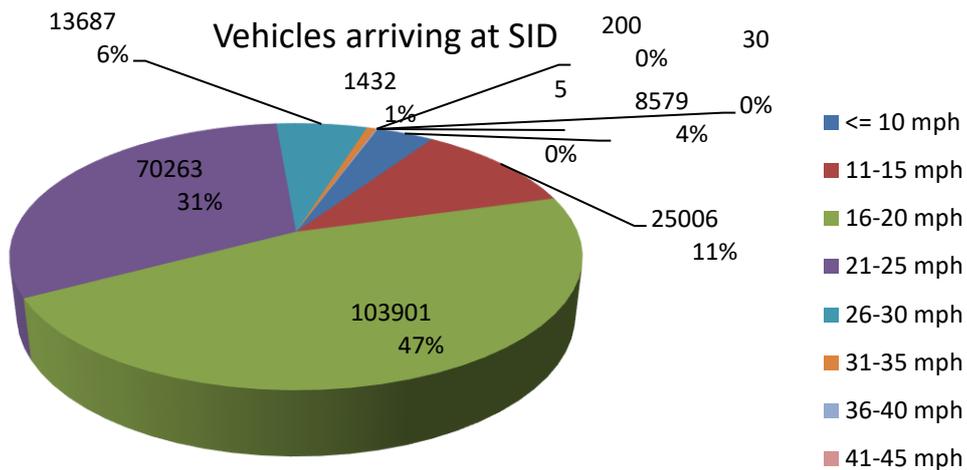
Mid Suffolk District Council are conducting a review of the boundaries of each Parish and the number of Councillors attached to each Parish as from 1st April. Coddtenham currently has 9 councillors and 2 vacancies. With the reduction of the workload following the transfer of assets to Charitable status do we need that many councillors? The boundaries of our Parish stretch from the Baylham Rare Breeds Centre up to part of Coddtenham Green. Many considerations will be evaluated but the review could incorporate Parishes being amalgamated. We have to consider that Coddtenham Parish still has a huge debt provision. If any residents have any views please advise one of your councillors.
Allan Fowler (Vice-Chair)

CODDENHAM HIGH STREET

The congestion on the High St continues to present problems. Regular breaches of the traffic regulations appear not to suffer enforcement. Council recently opened up lines of communications with the military bases at Wattisham and Woodbridge with positive moves. However the latest military vehicle apparently came up the High St from Cambridge.
Allan Fowler (Vice-Chair)

SPEED IN THE VILLAGE

DATA FROM SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) 04/12/2019 – 11/03/2020



The speed indicator device records vehicles approaching it and motorists will see a message displayed on the screen (Vehicles arriving at SID). It can also record vehicles approaching from behind where motorists would be unlikely to be aware the device was recording (Vehicles departing from SID). Not surprisingly the impact in terms of reducing speed is greater where motorists are aware of the device, with over sixty percent of motorists at or below 20mph and the vast majority below the 30mph speed.

A straw poll of a number of residents indicated that on the whole people felt that now the 'new' 20mph speed limit, along with the SID had embedded they had had a moderating effect on the speed of the majority of motorists passing through the village. This would seem to be confirmed by the second graph where motorists were not conscious of being recorded with over half those motorists still traveling at 20mph or less and again the vast majority below 30mph. This is NOT to say that a small number of motorists have been seen driving at very high speed through the village!

The combination of the SID and the 20mph limit is probably quite marginal perhaps only in terms of an average reduction of 5-6mph. This may seem a small gain but at impact speeds of less than 30 mph, the majority of pedestrians survive, at impact speeds above 35 mph, most of the pedestrians suffered fatal injuries. The parish Council is keen to hear suggestions of how further to increase road safety in the village and a particular problem mentioned at a recent meeting was safety of school children at 'Crown Corner' boarding and leaving buses during morning and evening.

Cllr Colin Hardy

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN CODDENHAM

The Neighbourhood Watch supports individuals and groups to create safer, stronger and active communities in order to ensure a good quality of life safe from crime.

If you are interested in getting involved or even setting up your own neighbourhood watch group, please see the Neighbour Hood Watch website (<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>) and help protect all areas of Coddendam. Currently, there are only systems set up in the High Street, Catherines Hill, and Mary Day Close.

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/get-involved/make-difference-your-community/be-part-neighbourhood-watch>

Cllr Lauren Mitchell

CODDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2020-21

Cost Centre Name		Projected 2020/21	
Code	Title	Receipts Budget	Payments Budget
Parish Finances			
1,000	Precept	37,810.00	-
1,001	General Reserve	-	2,386.00
1,002	Community Grant	-	-
1,003	Community Infrastructure Levy	-	-
1,004	Other Income	-	-
1,005	Bank Interest	15.00	-
1,006	Wayleave Fee	2.00	-
1,007	Donations etc.	-	-
1,008	Allotments	150.00	100.00
1,100	Professional Fees inc Audit Costs	-	550.00
1,101	Insurance Policies	-	500.00
1,102	Section 137	-	450.00
1,103	Bank Charges (Main)	-	40.00
1,200	Elections Reserve	-	-
6,000	PWLB Contingency Fund	-	7,000.00
			11,026.00
Clerk's Office			
2,000	Clerks Salary	-	5,000.00
2,001	Clerks NI	-	-
2,002	Clerks Mileage	-	100.00
2,003	Clerks Pension	-	200.00
2,100	Clerk's Office / Postage, Telecoms, etc	-	225.00
2,101	Clerk's Office / Subscriptions	-	450.00
2,102	Clerk's Office / Consumables	-	300.00
2,103	Clerk's Office / Software Licences	-	200.00
2,104	Clerk's Office / Training	-	500.00
2,105	Website Fees and Maintenance	-	450.00
2,106	PC Meetings	-	-
2,200	Newsletter and Advertising	-	500.00
2,300	Data Protection	-	40.00
		-	7,965.00
Estate Management			
3,000	Grounds Maintenance	-	300.00
3,001	Footpath Assistant	-	210.00
3,002	Churchyard Maintenance Reserve	-	-
3,005	Equipment Repair Maintenance	-	900.00
3,006	Waste Management and Recycling	-	150.00
3,007	Street Lighting	-	650.00
3,008	Tree Surgery	-	1,000.00
3,009	Info Box	-	340.00
3,011	Roads Pavements Footpaths	-	-
3,100	Broom Hill	-	50.00
3,101	Mill Hill	-	50.00
3,102	Three Cocked Hat	-	50.00
3,103	Village Sign/notice board	-	-
3,200	Water Courses	-	-
			3,700.00
Comm and Sports Hall			
4,000	PWLB (inc Grants)	13,152.00	13,152.00
4,002	Grant to CIO	-	15,286.00
		-	13,152.00
		13,152.00	28,438.00
NET TOTAL		51,129.00	51,129.00



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TOWN & VILLAGE

PROPERTIES



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