

# Coddenham

## Parish Council



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### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015

Present: Cllr Burton (Chairman), 8 members of the public, SCC Cllr Hicks, MSDC Cllr Passmore, PCSO Tucker and 6 members of the Parish Council

1. To **RECEIVE** apologies for absence

Mr Hall, Mr McDonnell, Mrs Budden, Cllrs Budden, Keeble and Fawdry, PC Gardiner & PCSO Wright

2. To **CONFIRM** and **SIGN** the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on April 17th 2014 – Subject to the correction of Mrs McDonnell's surname (Item 9), **AGREED** by all and signed by Cllr Burton

3. To **RAISE** any matters arising from the APM minutes of April 17th 2014 - None

4. To **RECEIVE** the Chairman's Report

**Cllr Burton** spoke about the Parish Council's achievements over the past year, as well as the construction of affordable housing in the village to benefit younger residents. He recorded his appreciation of Colin Hardy and Ian Jeffries for their leadership in maintaining Mill Hill and Broom Hill. He thanked Debbie McDonnell and the Hall Committee members for all their hard work throughout the year, noting Richard Budden's efforts with the heating system. The Chairman recalled the recent sad loss of Dave Bickers, but whose name is remembered for posterity in the road name of the new housing development, Bickers Hill. He then mentioned that some of the footpaths are maintained on behalf of SCC and advertised the requirement for someone to undertake the cutting this year. Finally, he thanked retiring Cllr Jan Ingle for her service to the Parish Council, wishing her well for the future, and advertised the resultant vacancy to be filled by co-option

5. To **RECEIVE** a report from the Responsible Financial Officer of the Parish Council.

**The Clerk and RFO** presented a report showing income and expenditure for the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, highlighting variations over and under budget. He spoke about the increase in the Precept and reiterated the reasons behind it, before illustrating the end-of-year balances and the still dangerously low level of general reserves which fell well below the nationally recommended buffer of 3 – 12 months of annual turnover.

6. To **RECEIVE** any reports from and ask questions of elected representatives of the Village

A question was raised about the increase in the Precept and the necessity for the considerable expenditure for resurfacing the Hall car park. The Clerk responded, highlighting the substantial assets owned by the Council, set against the very low level of reserves to act (amongst other things) as a contingency for future maintenance. The Chairman gave the technical background to the car park resurfacing project.

**SCC Cllr Hicks** then spoke to his report, about the Great Blakenham waste disposal site, the B1078 Action Group, the survey on rectory Lane and the consultation on the village-wide 20 mph limit.

**SCDC Cllr Passmore** outlined speeding and heavy lorry enforcement measures, as well as a proposal to reduce the 60mph rural road limit to 50mph. A consultation was taking place on changes to MSDC planning policies, but the impact was very limited on Coddenham. MSDC was looking to build public

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6. (cont)

housing for the first time in 30 years and its recycling scope was to be widened. Cllr Passmore spoke about ongoing problems with litter and fly-tipping, then the dilemma of council cost reductions versus the impact on service standards. He then answered questions on one or two of the above topics.

7. To **RECEIVE** a report from Suffolk Police – **PCSO Mark Tucker** gave apologies for absence from Jayne Gardiner and Ed Wright. Hare-coursing was a rural policing issue, one of many to be considered at an upcoming Priority Setting meeting. Crime in Coddenham had increased to 15 (from 12) in the past year. He advised that a free survey was available to help house-holders prevent crime and appealed for information about speeding vehicles.

8. To **RECEIVE** reports from and ask questions of representatives of community groups and organisations in the Village – **Debbie McDonnell** gave a report on the Village Hall, mentioning the reorganisation of storage. She thanked the working parties for their recent efforts in tidying up and repairing, both inside and outside the Hall

A report was received from **Sarah Skinner**, Head Teacher at Claydon High School – noted with thanks

**Mr Pelling** introduced himself as the local History Recorder and spoke about the notable local events in the past year, emphasising the task was about recording the present for future generations.

9. An information video about the use of the newly-installed Defibrillator at Haysel House was played. The football club would be advised about the installation

10 To **CONSIDER** any matters raised by parishioners

The following matters were raised, with brief responses where appropriate, to be discussed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.

- a) The withdrawal of permissive paths around Coddenham House – the Chairman gave a briefing on the history of the paths and the Council's past (financial) involvement
- b) The Telephone Box – work was imminent to refurbish and equip the box
- c) The dilapidation of the former Duke's Head Inn – the planning authority had been asked to investigate and would be reminded once more

The Meeting was closed at 8.25pm