

**Coddenham Community Response Group**  
**Notes of Meeting 5:00pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at**  
**The Coddenham Centre**

**Present:** Nick Mills (NM) – Coddenham PC (Chair), Rod Stanley-Bell (RSB) - Community Shop, David McDonnell (DaM) – Gardemau Trusts, Andrew MacPherson (AM) – Coddenham Centre, Debbie McDonnell (DeM) – Church, Tim Thomas (TT) – Day Foundation

**Apologies:** Simon Pott

**Notes of Previous Meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023. Agreed.

**Matters Arising/Actions:** None, other than substantive agenda items. All actions re Fete and Coronation celebrations completed.

NM updated that no PC election had been required as only 6 candidates for 11 posts. PC wants to encourage more 'doers' to stand for co-option.

**Events:**

(a) Coronation Brunch: Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May. About 150 attended including some not seen before or not usual attendees. Unfortunately, had had to compete with other events (eg football) and many people away. Weather not good for first 90 mins, but it, and thus attendance, had then improved. Morris Men had been good and popular, but had to be paid. 'Body and Soul' also good, but had been playing outside at time when weather poor and many people were inside. 'Shotley Wailers' needed more amplification. Other learning points: Overall loss of £240. More Prosecco and soft drinks needed, and less beer, so more flute glasses needed.

(b) Shop Centenary: RSB, DaM and AM supporting Roy and Ann Gudgin in organising. Next meeting 31/5. Posters done, article appearing in June 10VN. Would be on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> July. 'Village Tea Party', open to all (max c250 people) at TCC. In evening, private party at TCC for approx. 80 Shop volunteers and helpers. Throughout Sat, and possibly Sun, History Club staging exhibition about Shop and 'Businesses in Coddenham over last 100 years' in TCC foyer. (Sylvia Bickers and Sally Garrod leading). David Oliver kindly organising video on history of the Shop. Shop staff working on day may wear period dress. Media opportunity.

(c) Village Picnic: Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept, 12-6pm. Brass Band (cost c£240), Body and Soul, show on bees for little ones. Face painting another option if can find someone. Need something for older children **DeM to approach Rhianna for something contemporary**. Potential running order: 1400-1445 Brass band, 1445-1515 Bees, 1515-1600 Brass band again, 1600-1645 Bees again, 1645-1730 Brass band.

Cream Teas available, and sandwiches, but no hot food except sausage rolls. People can bring own food, picnic tables, chairs etc. TCC will run a pay bar. **DeM to co-ordinate entertainment. Dave Wythe and team to erect marquees. TCC to assist generally.** Publicity needed; posters etc – must include outlying areas of parish. **AM organising posters.** Insert to go in July/Aug PC newsletter. **(NM).**

#### (d) Main 2024 Events

Open Gardens and Scarecrows June 2024: – check date!

Fete 31 August 2024: Rachel Parrett has volunteered to help organise. Various work packages – need overall co-ordinator (NM or Rachel P?). Food offer: church will do teas, coffees, cakes etc. Wrights of BSE have café at Helmingham Hall and a mobile van – could be worth approaching. Games for children as in 2023. Entertainments TBA. Raffle – Jackie Pocock will run this. £1300 left from last Fete – could be used to help fund 2024, but some feeling it should go to a charitable cause/causes.

(e) Rolling 18-month Events Calendar: now up and running on website. Needs to be kept updated!

**Parish Plan:** To be presented at Annual Parish Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Need to add Shop contribution to Plan (on p17) asap (**DaM**). Discussion re the Powerpoint. Agreed to rephrase to 'Consider ways to support the preservation of St Mary's'. Key theme of Plan is building community engagement, so need to seek funds to put up notice boards in outlying areas of parish and find a 'local champion' to keep them updated.

**Warm Spaces:** Last meal (ploughman's) will be on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Initiative to be reviewed after end of scheme re optimal use of funding, and linked with focus group views on physical exercise at TCC. Will be discussed with MSDC, emphasising social benefits as well as physical. Suggestion that some sort of similar event could continue through summer? DaM said Gardemau would consider assisting with funding, but volunteer resources were very stretched at present.

**Environment and SWT Nature Audit Report:** Thermal Imaging Camera on loan to CPC in March had been used at 19 properties. Results being considered, delayed as two PC members who were dealing had stood down. Need MSDC to help interpret raw data. NM and AM had met with Community Energy, appointed by MSDC to support local environmental projects. Could possibly work in partnership with Debenham. Basic principle is to help communities generate own power, or co-ordinate approach to suppliers. TT noted Mary Day Close complex has a number of 20-year-old boilers which need replacement.

TCC solar panels now fitted and running and feeding back to Grid. Looking at feed-in tariffs. LED lighting being installed in June, a step towards Silver Carbon Charter.

Shop is improving ventilation and temperature control by installing solar film on windows and fitting louvre windows and extractors, rather than aircon.

#### **Organisation Updates:**

(i) TCC: see above and report for APM.

(ii) Church: Quinquennial Inspection had revealed approx. £30k repairs needed to fabric, most notably (and urgent) to West Window. DaM and TT meeting churchwarden Ian Galbraith for site visit in June to assess, prioritise and consider Gardemau assistance with funding. Other funding sources also needed.

(iii) Day Foundation: Councillor R Denning, new Trustee. Complex now opening up to visitors more post-Covid. Ukrainian refugee couple moving into one of Rosie's Cottages in High St once refurbishment completed.

(iv) Gardemau Trusts: Trust had now applied for outline planning permission for plot of land in School Red, behind old Lock Up. Response from MSDC still awaited. Meeting with Day Foundation planned, to explore more joint working. (also see under 'Church' above).

(v) Shop: see above under Centenary and Environment. Seeking more volunteers to aid with staff shortages and reviewing opening hours. Coffee Stop becoming increasingly important part of business, almost 'café with shop attached', but there would be numerous issues, not least social and planning, to progress this much further.

(vi) Parish Council: See above re election. Now six councillors. Donald Burton has re-joined. Meeting tonight to elect new Chair and Vice-Chair. A priority is to consider ways to reduce the Public Works Loan Board debt as much and as soon as practicable.

**Activity Table:** DaM reminded all that next update due in September. Requested appropriate submissions.

**Website Update:** AM gave brief stats. 1330 visits last month – good. Shop pages most visited, after landing page, then General News. Overall, a good spread of public interest. AM asked for content from all members, to avoid dominance by TCC.

**A.O.B.** DeM said identifying new arrivals (and departures) in outlying areas of Parish (eg Coddensham Green and Old Norwich Rd areas) difficult, so missing out on Welcome Packs. New notice boards could invite new residents to apply for one. In village, there were new arrivals in West View, Four Steps, Catherine's Hill (Cllr John Whitehead and family) and The Old Post Office.

**New Chair and Secretary:** DaM will be new Chair and DeM new Secretary.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 5:00pm, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July, TCC.