

Coddenham Parish Council



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CODDENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 216 April 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr. Gregory (Chair, Coddenham Parish Council)
Cllr Mills (Vice-Chair, Coddenham Parish Council)
Cllr. Denning
District Cllr. J Whitehead (also Coddenham Parish Councillor)
District Cllr. David Penny
16 members of the public

In attendance: Maggie Burt, Clerk to the Parish of Coddenham

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. Gregory.

- 26/27/1** The Chair's Welcome
Cllr. Gregory welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 26/27/2** Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllrs Soanes and Burton.
- 26/27/3** To Confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 April 2025 and to Consider any Matters Arising
The minutes of the meeting had been published on the Parish Council website.
The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by Cllr. Gregory.
There were no matters arising.
- 26/27/4** The Chair's Report
The Chair's report had been received prior to the meeting and had been published on the Parish Council website. Cllr. Gregory thanked the County and District Councillors for their support over the past year and reported that The Coddenham Centre remaining on budget and thanked its trustees, management and volunteers for all their support
The Chair also reported that Coddenham would move from the Thredling Division to the Bosmere Division of Suffolk County Council effective 7 May 2026 and particular thanks were given to County Cllr. Hicks for all his help and support in the past.
Cllr. Gregory stated that the parish council had concentrated over the past year on maintaining and improving the village green spaces which took a good deal of volunteer time and effect. She announced that the churchyard wall needed extension repairs which

would come at considerable cost and that the funding of these costs was being looked into at present. The parish council are very aware that one of the key issues within the village is traffic and that this had been discussed in detail at most council meetings. While the parish council has no authority over such matters, it was exercising as much influence as it could bring to bear to improve the situation. To this end, the resurrection of the Lorry Watch scheme was being considered and further details will emerge on this topic. Unfortunately the call for volunteers to run such a scheme had resulted in just 1 parishioner putting their name forward but that this parishioner had agreed to be the Co-Ordinator if the scheme if it can be resurrected.

Cllr. Gregory further reported that the council was running within budget and there would be a small surplus which would be moved to the Reserves to set against future expenditure. There would be a small increase in the budget for 2026/27 in line with inflation. She further reported that the council planned to make early repayment of the 2 loans taken out from the Public Works Loan Board to build The Coddenham Centre.

26/27/5

To Receive the Report from the County Councillor

The annual report had been received from County Cllr. Hicks prior to the meeting and has been published on the Parish Council website.

26/27/6

To Receive the Report from the District Councillors

The Annual Report had been received from District Councillor Penny prior to the meeting and has been published on the Parish Council website. District Cllr. Penny stated that devolution occasioned by Local Government Reform (LRG) is likely too be subject to a Judicial Review, although it is felt that this unlikely to succeed. The 2027 elections would result in “shadow” authorities prior to full devolution in 228. He further reported that funding for Neighbourhood Plans had been withdrawn. The call for sites for potential housing development was ongoing and had received a lot of response. Within Coddenham parish boundary only 1 small site had been put forward on Old Norwich Road. MSDC would support solar panels on rooves, rather than on farm land. New bins for the new recycling scheme had been delivered to residents and more information on their use would be published following the local elections on 6 May 2026. The Skills Base at Gateway 14 was now up and running. The District Council budget would increase in 2026/27 by 2.99%. A new Nature Recovery Grant scheme has been devised to offer grants for new green space initiatives and some 6-8 applications had been made. In Coddenham, grants had been made to the football club, Country Club and the CCRG.

26/27/7

To Receive Reports from Representatives of Village Clubs and Groups

Reports from the following parishioner organisations were received prior to the meeting and have been uploaded to the Parish Council website.

- Gardemau Trusts
- History Club
- The Country Club
- The Coddenham Centre

In addition, short reports were presented at the meeting for the following organisations:

- The Parochial Parish Council
Church Warden, Mr Ian Galbraith, reported that no replacement rector had yet been appointed and the PCC were still advertising the position. He also reported that the funding for the renovation of the Church had reached £58,00 of the £60,000 required and that fund raising would continue.

- Coddenham Community Shop
Mr Stanley Bell reported that the shop had been a community resource for 6 years and, while retail is a difficult area particularly in a cost of living squeeze, the shop's sales and profits are both up, thanks to the efforts of the team of volunteers and the 2 employees.
- The Day Foundation
As a Trustee of the Day Foundation, Cllr. Rob Denning reported that there was full occupancy of Mary Day Close and that a new potting shed was proving a success with residents. New solar powered EV chargers were to be installed. He further stated that the Foundation would encourage applications for funding from parishioners. Currently a number of small grants were being made to cover such things as travel to and from school in Debenham, since this is not covered by the District or County Councils.

26/27/8

Items Raised by Parishioners to take Forward for Consideration by the Parish Council

The question of traffic speed and inappropriate HGV movements, particularly on the High Street, was discussed at length. A previous offer of improved signage funded by Sizewell C was mentioned which Suffolk County Council (SCC) were reported to have turned down. Cllr. Gregory agreed that SCC had not been very responsive to the various representations made to them by the parish council.

The subject of road closures, particularly those with at short notice, was raised and it was **AGREED** that the clerk would arrange for copies of such notices to be put on the shop notice boards. The possibility of a Freedom of Information Act request being made of SCC with regard the frequency of road closures was discussed.

The ANPR camera promised by the PCC last year was also raised and the clerk reported that this was still being actively chased.

Cllr. Gregory reported that the apparent trial of altering the HGV route from Barham Quarry had been strongly objected to by the parish council as breaching planning permission and this trial had now ceased.

Further, she reported that any application from Brett Aggregates regarding an extension to Barham Quarry would be objected to.

The proposed resurrection of the Lorry Watch scheme was discussed. This would entail any parishioner reporting HGVs transgressing the Designated Lorry Route (DLR) to the Co-Ordinator with time and details of the registration number and the Co-Ordinator would report all details to SCC Trading Standards. The scheme is for Trading Standards to identify the operator and write to them. This scheme has worked well in other villages and parishioners would be encouraged to participate.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:45

Chair: _____

Date: _____