

Coddenham Parish Council Newsletter

A warm welcome from your Parish Council. Working for You. July 2025

Welcome to our newsletter which aims to keep you in touch with the work of the parish council so that everyone in the community feels involved and connected. There are contact details at the foot of this newsletter. Please do get in touch.

St Mary's Churchyard

Coddenham's churchyard is maintained as a local green space to inspire contemplation and as a haven for nature. Much of it is only cut annually and the resultant hay removed to encourage wildflowers to multiply. During the past twelve months, surplus seed hay from the churchyard has been transferred to other green spaces in Coddenham, at the Coddenham Centre and at the burial ground, to aid biodiversity across the parish. The wildflower areas in the churchyard are framed thanks to the paths kindly being cut regularly by a parishioner.

The parish council has responsibility for the maintenance of the churchyard, but this is very much working with the churchwardens and the parochial church council and listening to residents. Recently parish councillors have applied to have the paths through the churchyard accepted as formal rights of way and had a professional survey undertaken of the trees in the churchyard, with limited work to take place in the autumn.

Important as they are, these items are small relative to the repairs required to the wall between the churchyard and the road. Bouts of heavy rain and increased traffic volumes have taken their toll. Having taken advice from Historic England, the wall has been inspected in detail and a suggested work specification produced. This has been shared with possible specialist contractors to both price for the work, including applying for all the necessary permissions, and to provide time schedules. The cost of the repairs is likely to be significant relative to the parish council's annual budget, so councillors will need to seek external funding. Updates will be provided to residents at regular intervals.

In closing, last month a bug hotel was erected by parish councillors and council volunteers in the churchyard. This was filled by members of the forest church arranged by St Mary's. Another biodiversity net gain.

Broom Hill

The somewhat elderly benches on Broom Hill have been replaced thanks to a locality grant from Mid Suffolk district council (MSDC).



Roads and Traffic

Police and Crime Commissioner Tim Passmore attended the parish council meeting in May 2025 and announced that it had been agreed that the first ever Suffolk trial of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera would be deployed in Coddenham to identify HGV vehicles ignoring the Designated Lorry Route (DLR) through Rectory Road in a westwards direction and to enable data supporting further action to be collected. The timing for this installation is yet

to be confirmed. The trial camera will be located by the bridge on the Needham Road as there is an existing power supply there. The trial will last for three months, following which a decision will be made as to whether to roll out such cameras in Suffolk on a permanent basis. If adopted as a road traffic management measure following the trial, sanctions against HGV owners and drivers not complying with the DLR regulations could include prosecutions up to and including the removal of operators' licences.

Working Together

"This a lovely village with so much happening...you are incredibly lucky."

A statement of a visitor calling for refreshments at the Community Shop.

Coddenham is a thriving community with amenities and activities that are the envy of other villages.

The "hub" that is a thriving community shop, The Coddenham Centre (TCC) with a packed calendar of sporting and social events, a recreation ground, a children's play area, an outdoor gym, St Mary's church, a 'County wildlife site', a plethora of green spaces with stunning flora and fauna, a welcoming Country Club for alcoholic refreshment, the football club, the toddler group, the history club, the Day Foundation community at Haysel House, the Gardemau charities..... and we should also mention the occasional events such as the Fete, Open Gardens ..etc...etc.

It is difficult to understand how a village of only 266 properties achieves so much. But, as we all know, it happens because of the voluntary time, care and enthusiasm of many individuals. However, Coddenham is not a thriving community because of volunteers merrily putting their time towards projects in isolation. Coddenham thrives because individuals and organisations work together. Parish councillors, trustees and group representatives meet regularly as the Coddenham Community Response Group. This forum is where ideas and skills are shared, new initiatives take shape, grant funding is sourced and a new amenity or activity is created.

The toddler group exists because it is managed under the umbrella of St Mary's Church, it receives funding from the Gardemau charities and has a welcome home at TCC.

The extremely popular winter monthly community lunches were spawned from an informal chat between residents, parish councillors and TCC trustees. They happen, not only because of the volunteers cooking and serving the food, but also because of grant funding sourced by TCC trustees.

A community working together for the good of all is also proven to be beneficial to the wellbeing of individuals. Volunteering in the community improves mental and physical health, reduces feelings of isolation and creates friendship opportunities. So giving your time and skills to volunteering in Coddenham contributes to making our village a stronger and more resilient community – and it helps you too!

Thank you to everyone from everyone who not only work together volunteering in the village but also benefit from us all working together for our community; and if you happen to have some spare seconds...how about running a stall at the fete, litter picking, doing a shift in the shop...or even becoming a parish councillor??

Parish Council Financial Outturn 2024/25

The parish council sets a budget each year to be financed from the council tax precept from parish residents. MSDC collect that precept on behalf of the parish council, along with the larger county, district and police elements, in one overall charge to residents. MSDC then pass on the collected parish element to the parish council in two instalments (April and September).

In 2024/25, the precept for the parish totalled £34,217. The council also received other income of £8,460 during the year which included such things as allotment rents, bank interest, grants received and Community Infrastructure Levy. Expenses incurred during the year totalled £41,566 for salaries, repayments on the Public

Works Loan Board loans incurred in relation to TCC and a variety of other expenses including tree works, grounds maintenance, and, in this year, for street lighting upgrades. Some items of income and expenditure relating to specific earmarked projects are kept separate from general expenditure and have their own specific reserves. These specific reserves reduced by £1,470 over the year. The general reserve increased by £2,581. The overall surplus of income over expenditure for the year was £1,111.

The council started the 2024/25 year with £40,812 in the bank account and ended the year with £41,923 in the bank account. Monthly financial monitoring reports, analysing income and expenditure, are produced by the clerk and circulated to parish councillors. These detailed reports are reviewed at parish council meetings as part of your councillors' stewardship of these public funds. All the financial reporting is uploaded to the parish council website and are then subject to internal and external audit and examination after the year-end.

2024/25 CODDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL	
FINANCIAL OUTTURN	£
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS	
Council tax precept	34,217
Other income & grants	8,460
Total Income	42,677
Salary costs	7,800
Loan repayments	13,152
Other expenses	20,614
Total Expenditure	41,566
Surplus for the year	1,111
RESERVE MOVEMENTS	
Allotments	(71)
Green Spaces	(180)
Street lighting upgrade	(2,909)
MSDC Grants	784
Community Infrastructure Levy	906
Total change - Specific Reserves	(1,470)
Increase in General Reserve	2,581
Overall increase in Reserves (= surplus in the year)	1,111
Reserves brought forward	40,812
Reserves carried forward	41,923

Devolution and Local Government Reform in Suffolk

The government is introducing local government reform (LGR) which will abolish the two-tier system of local government, such as we have in Suffolk with its separate county and district/borough councils, and will replace them with larger unitary councils. They also intend to extend the mayoral concept, which already exists in large conurbations such as London, Birmingham, Teesside and Manchester, to cover all of England's rural shires. Think of Sadiq Khan in London or Andy Burham in Manchester with their extensive budgets and staffing. This is termed as devolution. As the two-tiers of local councils merge into one, single tier, another tier of local government (the mayor) is being created.

For us here in Suffolk, a single Mayoral Authority would cover Norfolk and Suffolk with one elected mayor controlling strategic matters such as housing, transport and infrastructure as well as the two police forces and fire and rescue services. It is anticipated that the elections for the first Norfolk and Suffolk mayor will take place in May 2026.

Counties that wanted the devolution 'fast-track' were invited by the government to apply for that process. A large majority of Suffolk county councillors eagerly embraced this government initiative to create a mayor for our region and to abolish our district/borough councils. Senior officers and councillors in Suffolk councils are now heavily involved in pulling together the business case to recommend the new structure. Suffolk County Council (SCC) is very keen to create just one large unitary council to cover the whole of Suffolk (about 800,000 residents). The district/borough councils are expressing a strong preference for either three unitary councils in Suffolk of about 265,000 residents (Ipswich borough council (IBC) preference) or two unitary councils of about 400,000 residents (Babergh, West, East and Mid Suffolk district councils' preferences). It is, therefore, likely that the government will receive three different business cases.

Presently there are over 300 county and district/borough councillors in Suffolk representing the residents of their respective area. One unitary council for Suffolk would likely have about 140 councillors, the two/three unitary options would have around 70 councillors in each. The concern of the district councillors is that this reduction in numbers will lead to less accountability and is one of the prime drivers behind the borough/districts preferring more than one unitary for the whole of our county.

The various business cases submitted by SCC, IBC and the remaining districts council's combined submission, will be evaluated by central government in Autumn 2025 and be subject to public consultation in due course. County elections here were postponed in May 2025 to allow the process to begin. The mayoral election

should take place in May 2026 and election of councillors to the new unitary council(s) in May 2027. The new unitary council(s) will run as a 'shadow council' until the end of March 2028. At that point, the existing borough/district councils' functions and assets will either be merged with the County if there is a single unitary council for Suffolk, or the county council will be split over two or three geographic areas, merging as required with the relevant borough/district councils.

Allotments

Further water catchment has been installed at the allotments. Now, all we need is some rain!



How to contact us

Please contact the parish council through the clerk, Maggie Burt. Email: clerk.coddenhampc@gmail.com; Phone: 07548 152181. The parish council website address is: www.coddenhampc.org.uk