

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9 June 2014

- Present** Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Dean, P Lane, E Mitchell,
A Tomlinson and S Woolley.
D/Cllrs K Ellis and R Stevens, Mr M Lord (NHW), Mr T Cassidy
(Internal Auditor, Ms J Jephcott (NT) and Mr C Platten (Social Club).
- Apologies** Cllr F Platten
- 43/14 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 May 2014 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- Declaration of Interest**
- (a) Prejudicial** There were none.
- (b) Other** There were none.
- 44/14 Matters Arising** The Clerk reported that:-
- a revised version of the rules governing chairmanship had been prepared. The revision requires a chairman to stand down after a maximum of four years, extendable by one year in exceptional circumstances. It was agreed that this should be placed in the Standing Orders procedure document.
 - Councillors would need to consider whether or not it would be necessary to have the lamp posts in the conservation area painted black. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should approach C/Cllr Shuter for more information.
- Cllr Woolley reported that the village sign had been found to be in a poor state of repair. It was agreed that Mr Hatley should be asked to advise if it was possible to repair the damage.
- Cllr Mitchell reported that the next meeting of the camera club will be held in September and at that time she would speak to the organising secretary about the High Street parking problem.
- 45/14 C/Council Report** In the absence of C/Cllr Shuter there was nothing to report.
- 46/14 D/Council Report** Cllr Ellis reported that a consultation document concerning services offered to the elderly had been distributed by ECDC. The document proposed that an alternative way be sought to find how best to use the available funding. As this may lead to a reduction in the services being provided Councillors were asked to read the document and make comment directly to ECDC.
- D/Cllr Stevens reported that:-
- a change to the way in which registration for inclusion on the electoral roll was to be introduced. This will not affect those already registered unless they change their place of abode. New applicants will be notified of the changes.
 - concern has been expressed about the collection of old clothes etc through the distribution of bags around the

District. It is not clear whether the distributors represent charitable causes or what proportion of the funds raised goes to worthy causes. It was suggested that, if in doubt, residents should ignore these bags and donate articles via authorised collection points or charity shops.

47/14 Parish Council Reports

Finance The Council agreed that the following payments could be made electronically.
Last month's payments were checked and signed off.

Clerk	Salary	289.25	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	PAYE	72.31	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
R Dean	Cemetery Maintenance	140.85	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	135.23	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
F Platten	Timber	31.06	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink 03/04	Field, Verges, Play Area	1040.69	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink 05	Field, Verges, Play Area	467.40	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
RoSPA	Inspection	103.20	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
CCC	CCAN Archive	100.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

Planning The results of following applications were received:-

Mr&Mrs Johnson 49 Lode Road	14/00395/FUL Additional windows in side and end elevation Application No 4	ECDC Approved
Mr J Shrubbs Lode Farm	14/00011/FUL New construction to replace old	ECDC Approved With conditions
Fairhaven Trustees Broughton Hall Lode Road	14/00373/FUL Re-position rear lobby door 4m to the north on western elevation. Install new door on the eastern elevation.	Minor change. No action required

Anglesey Farm

A subsequent planning application has been submitted and is currently awaiting validation. This application addresses some of those shortcomings highlighted in the original refusal. Once validated, Councillors will have the opportunity to comment on any new application.

From an enforcement perspective it is best practice to allow attempts to resolve the matter informally before formal enforcement action is considered. Should this application be refused or not pursued, enforcement action will be considered.

Cllr Stevens has been made aware of developments.

Allotments

Cllr Tomlinson reported that concern had been expressed by plot holders about the overgrown state of the NT allotments.

Ms Jephcott reported that she had the matter in hand and would resolve the problem as a matter of urgency.

Cemetery

Cllr Dean reported that the mower which had been out of operation had been repaired and the cemetery, all but the extension, had been mown.

Cllr Tomlinson reported that the first memorial slab had been placed in the cremated ashes area. As it needed to be lowered to prevent damage to the slab or the mower the Clerk was instructed to

investigate.

Fassage Hall

Cllr Rickard reported that:-

- the Hall continues to be financially viable.
- making the Hall available for hire by parishioners requires a certain level of commitment from volunteers. If this is no longer forthcoming it will be difficult to continue to make the Hall available for private hire.

F'paths/L'ting

Cllr Tomlinson reported that a number of parishioners had expressed concern about several overhanging trees obstructing the Lode/Longmeadow tarmac footpath. Cllr Tomlinson had therefore cut back the overgrowth.

Cllr Lane reported that weeds were becoming established in the path. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should email the Highways' Department to establish whether or not the problem weeds could be sprayed off.

With respect to the footpath off the lode bank, Cllr Woolley reported that the protective fence installed at the entrance to the footpath had once again been vandalised. The farmer will replace it on this occasion but any re-occurrence will lead to the path being closed off permanently. It was agreed that an article should be placed in the Lode Star and sent to surrounding villages deploring this vandalism and warning walkers that this is a Permissive Path and the farmer has the right to close it forever.

Phone Box

Cllr Mitchell reported that the box is in a poor state of repair. Her offer to contact BT was supported.

48/14 Parish Reports

Anglesey Abbey

Ms Jephcott reported that:-

- she had received a number of adverse comments about the steep slope which had been introduced into the bank following the replacement of the sluice. It had been agreed that the area should not be fenced as the vegetation on the bank would soon be re-established.
- the footpath by the side of the sluice is to be levelled with a bark chipping surface being put in place.
- work on the purchase of a dog waste bin is ongoing.
- the Environment Agency is carrying out work on the banks of the lode.
- she would investigate who had responsibility for the maintenance of the footpath which runs alongside the lode.
- external redecoration to the mill and Abbey is to be carried out. This will require some temporary scaffolding at the Mill.
- there will be a 60s-themed fete on 28th June to celebrate opening of the domestic wing. Residents will be allowed free entry (proof of residence required).

N'hood Watch

Mr Lord reported that there had been a burglary in Lode Road. As this may be related to the many vans which trawl the village and the distribution of clothing bags he asked that the parishioners be made aware of the problem with a request that any incident however minor should be reported to a member of the Watch

Social Club

Mr Platten reported that:-

- at the recent AGM members, through a show of hands, had agreed (1) that the building should be sold and (2) to sell to a local resident who wished to convert it into a public house/restaurant.
- the vote (2) had been declared void as the voting procedure had not met company regulations and standards.
- concerns had been expressed that the offer of £130,000 was considerably less than that which could be obtained on the open market, and that such an enterprise may exacerbate the village parking problem and generate more noise
- he had been elected to chair the club committee which is to carry the sale forward and to consider how the income from the sale can best be used to meet the objects of the club.
- the committee wishes to have a re-vote on vote (2), but this has not proved acceptable to the promoters meaning that there is presently an impasse as to how to proceed.
- once the funds are available a body of trustees will be set up to decide how best the funds can be utilised to meet the objects of a newly formed Trust.

After discussion it was agreed that the matter be best left in the hands of the Committee who will represent the wishes of the members, however, the Council should make itself available to give any help and advice which may be sought.

49/14 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 8.35 pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 14 July 2014

..... **Signed by the Chairman Cllr C Rickard**