

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14 July 2014**

- Present** Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Lane, E Mitchell, F Platten and ATomlinson.  
D/Cllr R Stevens, Mr M Lord (NHW), Mr T Cassidy (Internal Auditor), Mr C Platten (Social Club/Tree Officer) and Mr T Ambrose.
- Apologies** Cllrs P Dean and S Woolley and Ms J Jephcott.
- 50/14 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 June 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.

**51/14 Matters Arising** The Clerk reported that the reference to the length of the Chairman's term of office had been changed in the Standing Orders document. In future, unless there is a need to extend the term by one year, the Chairman will serve a period of no more than four years. Any change must be sanctioned by the Parish Council.  
Cllr Mitchell reported that BT had been made aware of the state of the High Street phone box and had been advised that the work had been included in the maintenance programme. Mr Platten drew attention to a broken manhole cover at the corner of White Fen Drove. Cllr Mitchell volunteered to pursue the matter with BT.

**52/14 C/Council Report** In his absence C/Cllr Shuter reported that the general consensus amongst County officials is that there is no requirement, within a conservation area, for lamp posts to be painted black. If the village wants them to be black they would need to find the funds to paint them and of course pay for their upkeep.  
In the discussion of this item it was agreed that as the black painted requirement was not one made by an earlier Parish Council this should now fall away and silver lamp posts installed as part of the Countywide replacement project.

**53/14 D/Council Report** Cllr Stevens reported that a planning application for the development of the Crystal site in Bottisham had been submitted to the planners. The extent of the application had been such that it had involved the full ECDC Planning Committee. After discussion and a site visit the application had been unanimously rejected.

**54/14 Parish Council Reports**

**Finance**

**Invoices** The Council agreed that the following July and August payments could be made by electronic transfer. The June payments were checked and signed off.

**Accounts for Payment - July**

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	181.34	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Field, Verges, Play Area	TBA	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink 05	Field, Verges, Play Area	TBA	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

**Accounts for Payment - August**

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**Planning** The results of following applications were received:-

The Clerk reported that Ms Penny Mills (ECDC Planners) had commented upon the PC's comments on the Anglesey Farm application (14/00448/FUL) as follows:-

'I am currently waiting for a consultation response from the agricultural consultant regarding the business plan, therefore it is likely that the application may be extended by a few weeks.

If we receive any amended plans or information the parish will be re-consulted'.

Broughton Hall	14/00373/FUL Reposition doors	ECDC Approved
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**Allotments**

Cllr Tomlinson reported that the boundary of the Parish allotments was overgrown and untidy and as the NT was making an effort to tidy up its site a suitable clearance was needed.

It was agreed that clearing encroaching vegetation was the responsibility of the Council's plot holders. The Clerk was instructed to deal with the problem.

**Cemetery**

Cllr Tomlinson reported that:-

- as the result of the caretaker being away on holiday and several days of persistent rain only one half of the cemetery had been cut.
- she had asked Cllr Dean if he could ask the caretaker to tackle the outgrowth of elder and weeds which were growing through the hedges.

Cllr Rickard reported that the compost bin had been emptied but the problem of non-recyclable material being discarded continues.

**Fassage Hall**

Cllr Rickard reported that he had received a complaint that following a function the generated rubbish had not been cleared away by the Cricket Club. It was agreed that he should speak to Mr Lamb on the matter.

**F'paths/L'ting**

The Clerk reported that:-

- he had contacted Highways' about the weed problem along the Lode/Longmeadow footpath.
- he had been advised by Mr J Tyrrell that Highways does weed spray however, as this footpath is a right of way, it is not a certainty that it would be included on the programme.
- the Officer responsible for the weed spraying programme has been made aware of the problem.

The Clerk was instructed to continue to monitor the matter.

- Cllr Rickard reported that as the crop of oilseed rape had encroached onto the crossfield Lode/Longmeadow footpath (Path No 28) it had been necessary for him to speak of the CC Rights of Way team who contacted the farmer. ..
- Signs and Bins** Cllr Woolley reported that Mr Michael Hatley had repaired the village sign and that it now needed to be re-painted. He would be prepared to carry out the work but is extremely busy at the moment and asked if someone else could carry out the work. After discussion in which a number of suggestions, including the need for a protective layer on both sides of the sign had been aired, it was agreed that Cllr Platten investigate options for getting the sign painted.
- Shelters and Seats** Cllr Woolley reported that Mr John Lawrence had sprayed the weeds at the bus shelter and cut back the hedge at Lode crossroads.
- Play Area** Cllr Woolley reported that the fence had been repaired. It had been necessary to replace five posts which had rotted away. Cllr Platten reported that she would arrange for the storage of the posts purchased earlier. Mr Platten reported that the two shade trees planted in the Play Area had failed to thrive and had been removed.. After discussion it was agreed that:-
- if they were to be replaced, more mature specimens would be required.
  - Cllr Platten should liaise with Cllr Woolley to explore the options and likely costs.
- Social Club** Mr Platten reported that:-
- following a vote of the membership it had been agreed to sell the building to Mr and Mrs Peters at an economic price on condition that it be developed as a pub/restaurant with provision for use for community events.
  - to this end the committee had instructed a solicitor to carry the sale forward.
- A number of concerns have been expressed by local residents, including issues associated with parking, noise and cooking smells. Mr Platten noted that these will no doubt be considered by ECDC when the planning/change of use application is submitted.
- 55/14 Parish Reports**
- Anglesey Abbey** Ms Jephcott reported that:-
- **Free Access** - over the open weekend 32 Lode residents had taken advantage of the offer of free entry to the property. The uptake for free access at the 60's fete was better.
  - **Allotments** –plot holders were being chased to ensure that plots were well maintained, however, several had vacated their plots without giving notice. This combined with a broken mower had exacerbated the problem. Vacant plots and surrounds are now being trimmed with the Wicken Fen team including the area in

their regular mowing rota.

- **Lode Mill works** – The Mill sluice is slowly greening up. The Trust may add wild flower seed at a later date, however, there is a need for the grass roots to be allowed to take hold first as they are integral to the bank's structure. Lode Mill is to be re-painted at a cost of £14K. This will require scaffolding in part for a temporary period. Works are due to be completed by October.

Mr Lord reported that due to the problem of dog walkers parking, throughout the day, at the top end of Mill Road the painters' vans may exacerbate the problem. The Clerk was instructed to make Ms Jephcott aware of the concern.

- **House conservation work** – The House is also being repainted at a cost of £16K this summer. The success of the snowdrops season and winter lights has provided the funds for this work.
- **Riverbank repairs** - towards Quy continue on the Abbey side of the lode. This work will continue for approximately another week and, as a result, from time to time the water levels will need to be lowered for the work to be carried out.
- **Dog bins** - 2 locations have been approved by Veolia for weekly Friday collections, one in the overflow paddock by the gate separating the paddock and kitchen garden/ tunnel and one at the bottom of the footpath in the staff car park. Quotations for supply of them have been received. Ms Laura Booty will be in touch with the PC to discuss whether the parish council would be able to fund one of these bins.

In discussion of this final item it was agreed that funding for the bins should be provided by the National Trust... The Clerk was instructed to convey this to Ms Jephcott.

#### **N'hood Watch**

Mr Lord reported that there is a need for householders to be vigilant as items are being stolen from garden sheds and garages for onward sale at car boot sales.

#### **Tree Officer**

Mr Platten reported that:-

- his earlier proposal to plant trees along B1102 and Lode - Longmeadow footpath had moved forward.
- he had heard that Cambs Farms are willing for some planting to take place and the NT may be able to supply plants for an autumn planting.
- the Ely Diocesan Board of Finance would be prepared to consider a plan for landscaping the area but would want to have control over what was planted and where in order to protect their long term position as freehold owners of the land.
- there was a need for the leylandii planted alongside Swaffham Road to be trimmed back. . The Clerk agreed to approach the landowner about this.

Concern was expressed that any tree planted along the Lode/Longmeadow footpath should be placed in such a position that the overgrowth does not lead to further complaint from

walkers, joggers etc. It was agreed that Mr Platten, with the support of the Parish Council, should carry the project forward.

**Cycle Way**

Cllr Platten reported that it is proving difficult to identify any significant source of funding. She is, however, pursuing a number of leads.

**56/14 Corres'dence  
Cycling**

The Clerk reported that he had been approached by Mr David Peck, President of the Newmarket Cycling and Triathlon Club, with the following request:-

'Following the success of the cycle rollers at the Lode Fete I would like to put into place a dream I have had for a number of years. The recent success of cycling at the London Olympics and the enthusiasm shown on the visit of the Tour de France gives me added impetus. Many of our cycling stars, including Victoria Pendleton, started their racing careers on a grass track. I am seeking permission from the Parish Council to set out a quarter mile grass track around the edge of the Passage which will give an indication of possible take up for an event which, together with the Fete and Half Marathon, will help to put Lode on the map. Marshalling etc will be carried out by the Newmarket club'.

After discussion it was agreed in principle that the project was a good idea, however, the Clerk would need to obtain more information from Mr Peck before it could be approved, and in particular how it might impact on other uses of the recreation ground.

**57/14** There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 8.50 pm.

**Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 8 September 2014**

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