

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9 February 2015

These minutes comprise 6 pages, including the appended documents

Present Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Dean, E Mitchell (Arrived at (8.10pm), F Platten, A Tomlinson and S Woolley.
D/Cllr R Stevens, Mr M Bradshaw (NT), Mr T Cassidy (Internal Auditor), Mr C Platten (Tree Officer), Mr A Lamb and Mr I Middleton.

Apologies Cllr P Lane

9/15 Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 January 2015 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interest

(a) Prejudicial There were none.
(b) Other There were none.

10/15 Matters Arising The Clerk reported that:-

- he was still trying to discover if a bye-law stating that dogs should be restrained on the playing field could be brought into force.
- Truelink had been asked to cut the playing field when conditions were suitable. Mr Lamb reported that Mr Beardsmore had carried out a cut.
- Ms Tydeman (NT) had advised that the preparation of a lease for the use of the skateboard area had been put on hold.
- It had not been necessary for him to contact the parliamentary nominee as there was confusion about her position.
- he had been unable to get feedback about the recent electrical waste collection.

11/15 C/Council Report In the absence of C/Cllr Shuter there was nothing to report.

12/15 D/Council Report D/Cllr Stevens reported that:-

- the planning application submitted for the certificate of lawfulness of the Social Club had been rejected by ECDC (see Planning section below).
- a change by the Police Authority to the speedwatch procedure had upset a number of Parish Councils close to the Suffolk border. This had resulted in Bottisham PC being the recipient of two speedwatch sets, one of which had been handed onto the village.

13/15 Parish Council Reports

Finance

Invoices 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
Mr R Dean	Cemetery Maintenance	169.02	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	370.74	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Cllr Platten	Liaison meeting cakes	20.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
CPRE	Subscription	36.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

Planning Cllr Dean reported that the Anglesey Farm shop building may be an illegal structure. as in the 1980's an planning application had been submitted to ECDC to have the designation of an earlier structure changed from that of agricultural use to that of a carpenter's workshop. The Clerk was instructed to gain clarification of this from the ECDC Planners.

The following applications were noted:-

Mr and Mrs D Stackhouse 39 Mill Road	15/00014/FUL Single storey rear extension	No PC action required. Neighbours will have the opportunity to comment.
Mr C Stretton 45 Lode Road	14101307/CLE Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use as a Golf Lounge (use class D21	ECDC Refused See reasons below

ECDC Planners commented as follows:-The golf lounge was considered to be ancillary to the lawful use of the premises as a social club. The evidence submitted by the applicant states that the golf lounge began operating in March 2013. Even if this use is viewed as the primary use of the premises, it has not been in operation for a continuous period of 10 years or more and has not therefore become lawful through the passage of time. The existing use of the building is a social club, where members go to meet each other and enjoy leisure activities, rather than a place provided for people, groups, and organisations to meet. The former being a sui genesis use and the latter falling within the use class D2. Considering the information submitted and the evidence before the Local Planning Authority it is considered, on the balance of probability that the lawful use of the building does not fall within use class D2.

Cemetery

Cllr Tomlinson reported that during her inspection of the cemetery she had observed that a large number of plastic tributes had been disposed of in the recycle bin. Cllr Rickard will empty the bin. It was noted that plastic flowers have also been thrown away on the spoil heap at the end of the cemetery extension. These will be removed during the planned litter pick.

In answer to a question from the Clerk about the NT water charge Mr Bradshaw reported that he should obtain a purchase order number from Ms Spriggs (NT)

Fassage Hall

In the absence of Cllr Lane, Mr Lamb reported that:-

- he was proceeding with the purchase of both a defibrillator and a marquee.
- as there are now a large number of keys in use, as the result of 'illegal' copying it has become necessary to replace all the locks with a more robust type for which extra keys cannot be cut.
- the fluctuation of the lighting levels in the room was probably due to the fact that the dimmer element in the switches had been removed.

Cllr Rickard expressed concern about the excessive electricity charges which may be due to the extremely cold weather experienced in recent weeks.

Mr Lamb also identified that an inefficient water heater and the lack of a timer on the septic tank blower may have also exacerbated the problem. He intends to resolve these two matters. He also would find it of value to receive advance information about the electricity charges. The Clerk was instructed to supply him with monthly updates.

F'paths/L'ting

Cllr Tomlinson drew attention to the extremely muddy state of the footpath by the bus stop at the crossroads. The Clerk was instructed to contact the Highways Department to see if the problem could be resolved.

Cllr Rickard reported that the street lighting programme was progressing well.

Play Area

Cllr Woolley reported that he could obtain suitable trees of a reasonable size from a trade wholesaler as follows:-

Liquid amber. 8/10 cm £50.00. 12/14 cm £60.00. 14/16 cm £75.00

Silver birch. 10/12cm £40.00. 12/14cm £50.00 14/16cm £60.00.

Cllr Rickard instructed Cllr Platten to provide a costed proposal for the March meeting.

Playing Field

Cllr Woolley reported that he had spoken to the Swaffham Bulbeck grass cutting contractor and had been quoted £75 per cut. As Truelink's charge is extremely good they will continue to be used with the alternate held in reserve.

14/15 Parish Reports

Anglesey Abbey

Mr Bradshaw reported that:-

- there had been a slow start to the snowdrop season with only 3500 visitors taking advantage of the fine Sunday weather.
- the Abbey parking can cope with an attendance of up to 5000 visitors but after that it is necessary to use the overflow parking in the paddock. The planning permission to use this space expires this year so it will be necessary to apply for restricted use in future years.
- the Abbey staff will play their part in the planned litter pick.

N'hood Watch

Cllr Rickard reported that:-

- as Mr Lord had a spare NHW sign this would be placed on the lamp post located between numbers 1 and 7 High Street.
- due to the icy road conditions, a car had turned over at Shrub corner. Mr Middleton was thanked for his prompt reaction to the incident as his presence had prevented further accidents.
- even though it was believed that excessive speed had not been a factor in this accident concern was expressed that the speed limit is being exceeded at regular intervals through the village. It may be necessary to submit a request that the village speed limit be reduced to 20 mph.
- there is a need for more volunteers to come forward to take part in the speedwatch operation.

In discussion of this item it was noted that the slope on the exit from Fairhaven Close is exceedingly difficult to negotiate in icy conditions. It was felt that the provision of a grit box at this point could not be supported as it could lead to further legal complications.

Tree Officer

Mr Platten reported that there had been a very good turn out for the B1102 tree planting exercise. The NT had provided 500 plants to help fill in the gaps.

Cycle Way

Cllr Platten reported that the project is progressing, however, a problem with Garrow Estates has manifested itself. Cllrs Dean and Woolley offered to help to resolve the problem. Correspondence relating to funding options is appended below.

Shrub Corner

Cllr Rickard reported that the Veolia waste truck had once again run over the grass verge nearly taking out the temporary bollards. It was agreed that more permanent fixtures should be put into place. The Clerk was instructed to progress the matter through the Highway Department.

Web Site

The Clerk reported that the Shape Your Place web site will close down from 1 March.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that Cllr Mitchell assisted by Mr Middleton should set up a small sub committee to explore the possibility of setting up a suitable village web site.

15/15 Corres'dence

Election

The Clerk reported that:-

- the Parish Council elections will be held on 7 May 2015
- application for election must be submitted between Monday 30 March and Thursday 9 April.
- to assist all applicants, including sitting Councillors with their administrative tasks he will supply and deliver the nomination papers and prepare the acceptance of office, financial and pecuniary interest and expenses return forms.
- before the May meeting is held the expenses claims form will need to be completed and returned to ECDC by the morning of the meeting.

Cemetery Charges The Clerk reported that Mr and Mrs Day had asked to be given sympathetic consideration over the cost of the interment of their son's ashes. It was noted that the PC had agreed at an earlier meeting that the relatives of those who died after leaving the village should pay double the resident's fee. In the light of the fact, however, that their son had lived in Lode for over 40 years it was agreed that sympathetic consideration could be given. It was also agreed that any future application would be considered on its merits.

16/15 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.15pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 9 March 2015

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

These Minutes consist of 4 Pages

Cycle Way Correspondence

Cycle Way

I e mailed Patrick Joyce who is the cycling officer for CCC and this is the reply which I received today. It is helpful as we now know that we should keep pursuing money from East Cambs, and Charlie and I will continue to meet with the Garrow Estates and the Munro Estates so that we can get some sort of agreement with the landowners and be ready if the funds do come through.F fran

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joyce Patrick To: Frances Platten >

My colleague, Mike Davies, has included your path in a list of schemes submitted to central government for consideration. We're hopeful that the sum requested, together with your PCs contribution, will be sufficient to fund a path along the whole length and CIL funding will not be required. However, until we know the outcome of our bid in a couple of months I cannot answer your query as to whether extra or alternate funding will be necessary. Three cheers for the expression of interest though - if it's on the ECDC radar we may secure some money that way in the event that we draw a blank from DfT or need topping up. As you know, until funding is in place, I cannot progress the scheme beyond the desktop stage. As you've correctly indentified, for the basic scheme we will require a strip of land over a short length and will need to relocate a boundary ditch and replant a section of hedge. Your local efforts to secure the cooperation and agreement of the relevant landowners is greatly appreciated as this is often a real stumbling block. Much also depends on what we do at the ends of the scheme. A basic scheme would simply continue alongside the highway at either end - accepting minor pinch points. This may still be the best option as it is direct and impinges less upon non highway land. My recommendation would be to explore all options but be prepared to take a pragmatic approach in the interests of delivery.

From: Frances Platten **To: Joyce Patrick**

Subject: Lode to Quy cycle path

We want to know the process of what happens. When will we know if the money has been allocated for the cycle path?

We have sent an expression of interest to East Cambs for CIL money

Will the Government money cover the entire cost of the path?

Should we apply for other grants from other sources?

We hope to meet with the Garrow Estates who own the land near Quy where the road is narrowest and talk with them about aquisition of land in general terms

We are talking to Malcolm Watson from the Munro Estate who own Quy Court through which we would like the path to go rather than on the narrow path in Quy. He is ok with this plan but wants more detail which we hope to give him after Charlie Rickard has done some sketches on the TOPO survey

So, a few questions. Is it easier if we came to meet you one day, or is it easier for you to just e mail us. I am sorry if we seem to be nagging!

Let us know what is best for you, Thank you and regards fran

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