

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14 September 2015

These minutes comprise 4 pages.

Present: Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Dean, P Lane, J McNeely, E Mitchell, F Platten and A Rolland.
Mr M Lord (Neighbourhood Watch), Mr I Middleton (Web Site),
Mr J Kempster (Tennis Club) and Mr M Sale.

Apologies: Ms A Crack

54/15 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 July 2015 were accepted as a true record and the Chairman was given permission to sign them outside the meeting.

Declaration of Interest

- (a) **Prejudicial** – there were none
- (b) **Other** – there were none

55/15 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that:-

Church Walk – He had been advised by an ECDC official that a works order had been placed weeks ago and that he could not understand why it had not been carried out. He will chase up the matter.

Fairhaven Close – In a walk around the village he had noted that the security lighting on the Hereward Housing garages had not been installed. In the absence of the Housing Officer this had been noted by her assistant. He will continue to chase.

Trees – The work has been carried out. Initially there was a little confusion as only the playing field side of the coppice had been trimmed. The tree surgeon explained that he had only trimmed the field side and had left the overhanging branches on the footpath side.

56/15 C/Council Report

In the absence of C/Cllr Shuter there was nothing to report.

57/15 District Council

In the absence of D/Cllrs Campbell and Chaplin there was nothing to report.

It was agreed the Clerk should write to them asking for a monthly report by email on what had taken place in ECDC during the month. Cllr Mitchell also reported that she is to approach the District Cllrs for a Lode Star report as one is given to the Bottisham Cresset

58/15 Parish Council Reports

Finance

Invoices - The Council agreed that the following payments could be made.
July and August payments were checked and signed off.

Clerk	Salary	295.61	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	PAYE	73.90	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	120.95	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Grass Cutting	455.10	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery (May)	144.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Knapsack sprayer/Roundup	60.45	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

I Middleton	Upgrade web hosting	44.94	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Anglian Water	Cemetery Water Rate	22.10	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

Planning The following applications were discussed

Mr S Isaacson 67 Longmeadow	15/00889/CLP Rear extension. An application for a Certificate of Lawful use	No action was required by the PC as this is not a planning issue. Cllrs were advised as a matter of courtesy.
Mr&Mrs Moulding 69 Longmeadow	15/00693FUL Single storey extension	ECDC approved
Mr C Attle Red Tile Farm Stretham	14/01007 Erection of 2 wind turbines amended	Revised Environmental Statement
R Sawalmeh 43 Fairhaven Close	15/00960/FUL Alterations and extension to dwelling	No comment from the PC

Anglesey Farm - The Clerk reported that, at the request of Cllr Dean he had written to the planning Enforcement Officer to ask what progress had been made on this application. Mr Harrison (ECDC) had replied that there had been no appeal and that there was no need for any enforcement action as a fresh application has been invited and is expected shortly.

Allotments – The Clerk reported that:-

- Due to the erratic weather patterns and the late rains which had coincided with the holiday period infestation of weeds had become a problem.
- Due to the pressure of work it had been necessary for one rentee to return his plot.
- He was also aware that due to ill health another plot will be surrendered next year.
- Fortunately a new arrival in the village has requested a plot. In discussion of this item it was agreed that the Clerk should advertise the availability of plots not only in the Lode Star but also in the Bottisham Cresset.

Cemetery – Cllr Platten reported that she had received a number of comments praising the way in which the appearance of the cemetery has improved.

Fassage Hall – Cllr Rickard reported that both the cleaner and maintenance man had resigned. An advertisement has been placed to find a replacement for the former. Mr Will Jaggard has taken responsibility for the latter role.

Footpaths – It was noted that Mr Lamb had drawn attention to the ivy which is overhanging the old vicarage wall and also the encroaching vegetation from 8 Fassage Close, both of which are impeding progress along the footpath. The Clerk was instructed to write to the residents.

Seats – It was noted that the bench opposite the Church was still in a state of disrepair. The Clerk was instructed to ensure this work is carried out.

Play Area – Cllr Platten reported that a number of turfs had been donated and these would be used to level the hole at the top of the slide. It was noted that due to pressure of work it had not been possible to repair the gate post. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Platten should investigate the cost of carrying out this work by a local contractor.

Web Site – Mr Middleton reported that the site had proven to be so successful that it has become necessary to increase the band width. This had necessitated an increased annual subscription giving the site unlimited access.

Cllr Rickard noted that only a few copies of the Lode Walks Guide were left after strong sales from Anglesey Abbey. It was decided that a further print run was not necessary as the guide could be uploaded to the website. It was agreed that the guide should be updated first.

Tennis Club – Cllr Rickard opened this section by introducing Mr Kempster to the meeting. Mr Kempster reported that the tennis court surfacing was due for replacing. The original plan was to replace like with like but a more suitable product had been identified – an artificial grass called Savanna. This surface would not only reduce the cost of regular maintenance, but could also be used for other ball games. The new surface is more costly than the like-for-like replacement and Mr Kempster requested an interest-free loan from the PC to cover the increase. Mr Kempster confirmed he is pursuing other potential funding sources but the outcome of these is not known at present. The work needs to be carried out soon to take advantage of the deal on offer from the installer. After discussion it was agreed that, as the tennis court is a village asset, the PC should investigate the best way to assist the Tennis Club with this project.

59/15 Parish Reports

Anglesey Abbey: In an email submission Ms Crack reported that:-

- As at present the NT stands in breach of the planning permission it was granted when the building of the new car park was approved. It is her intention to apply to have the condition lifted that prevents use of the overflow car park in the village. In 2013 the planning enforcement officer suggested that any application would be considered favourably. At the time, however, it was agreed to wait and see how the new parking area operated before taking any action. The NT will probably only need the overflow parking on 2 or 3 days during the snowdrop season. If the condition is lifted it is expected that the NT will be allowed to use it for 28 days pa with the balance being made available to the village. She has spoken to the Abbey Lane residents and Mrs Hodgson who may be affected and to date there have been no objections.
- Dog-friendly banks have been installed along the lode running at the rear of Anglesey Abbey. The installation of these is part of the ongoing work to protect the river banks from erosion. A contractor has raised the bank by around a foot almost to the end of the NT boundary and a number of dangerous trees removed. It is hoped that dog walkers will take the opportunity to use these new banks to safeguard other sections as they provide a safe means of entry and exit for their dogs. Almost 400 tonnes of soil and other material, which came from the sluice project, was used for the work.. The work has cost the Trust around £30k, as well as a large amount of time for the gardening team. The Environment Agency has also now agreed it will dredge the lode further onto the Trust land.
- Janet Jephcott left the Trust back in May. Her successor, who has worked for the Trust at Wicken and Anglesey for several years, and who will be looking after community and volunteering mainly at Anglesey but also Wicken, is Jack Watson. Lois Baker has moved from Wicken to Attingham Park in Shropshire. She will be replaced by a ranger. Community delivery at Wicken is being reviewed as part of the wider Vision project.
- The millstones have now been replaced and the mill is back up and running, except at this time as the river is exceptionally low. The Millstones, which came from a disused mill in Portugal, are French burr. The old stones have been placed in the ground by the mill information board for visitors to see and interact with. The ground floor space in the mill has been opened up to try and improve the experience for visitors and to retell the story inside the mill. This project will continue into next year.
- Tickets for the Winter Lights Experience went on sale on August 3 and already one third. have been sold The event will be run on 27-29 November, 4-6 December and 11-13 December on the same basis as last year with timed tickets running from 5.30pm.

Neighbourhood Watch – Mr Lord reported that:-

- The 101 system had failed when a resident attempted to report suspicious activity in the village on the night three cars were broken into. He is to raise this matter with the Police authority.
- He continues to be concerned about the level of speeding along Fen Road especially where an overgrown tree blocks the sight line on a bend. After discussion Mr Lord was asked to report this problem via the Highways Department on-line reporting system.
- Attention was then drawn to the overhanging trees along the B1102. As the Clerk had already reported this matter he was instructed to contact Highways again.

Cycle Way – Cllr Rickard reported that:-

- A progress meeting had been held with officers from the County Council and Sustrans. Negotiations with the four landowners are ongoing.
- Items yet to be agreed include fencing and hedging.
- The cost estimate for construction exceeds the current funding commitment but the CC has identified an alternative source of funding to make up the shortfall.
- Once the way is finished the PC may have to become involved with ongoing maintenance, in particular hedge trimming.
- Report will be included in the next issue of the Lode Star.

60/15 Correspondence

Lode Chapel – An invitation to Councillors to attend the Induction Service of the new minister, Rev Alan Brand, was received from Mr Peter Wells. The event will be held on Saturday 5 October 2015 commencing at 2pm in Bottisham Primary School.

Northfields – It was noted that Mrs Marsh had written to the ECDC Tree Officer expressing her concern about a perceived problem with the maple tree outside her property.

Footpaths – It was noted that Mr Le Ggatt has approached the County Footpaths Officer to report that a parcel of land at High Summer Lode Fen includes a section of the river front through which a footpath runs. As he wishes to use the land for grazing he wanted to know if a stile or gate could be placed on the path.

61/15 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 12 October 2015.

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

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