

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11 December 2017

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), R Small, E Mitchell, F Platten, I Faulkner, M Walsh, P Lane; D/Cllrs A Sharp,

86/17 Public Question Time: A question was raised regarding the public footpath from Station Road to Drover Bridge and how it might be affected by any development. The Chairman gave reassurance that this route must remain as a footpath but could be on a pavement beside any new approach road into the site.

87/17 Apologies for absence: D/Cllr D Chaplin

88/17 Declarations of interest: none

89/17 Matters arising from the November meeting:

- **Plan for opening of new Cycleway:** A celebration will be held in Lode in late February or March, but the County Council may officially open it and allow its use before then.
- **Reassessment of safety of route between Lode and Bottisham Village Primary School:** Cllr Stevens agreed to follow up an earlier email to Cllr Every with a specific request for reassessment of the route. Cllr Small said that he had requested a copy of the 2011 Risk Assessment of the route which he will circulate to members
- **School transport:** The Clerk reported that he had sent a paragraph for the Bottisham Primary School newsletter inviting any parents living within the two mile limit where children become eligible for free transport to make contact. Cllr Stevens reported that a family in the High Street had successfully appealed to the County Council for their daughter to have free bus transport to Bottisham Primary School. Another family is also appealing.
- **Metal post on the pavement outside 1 Quay Road:** The Clerk has written to the developer asking if the posts could be removed.
- **Allotments:** Cllr Small and the Clerk will liaise to confirm what action has been taken by those allotment holders sent non-cultivation letters.
- **Facilities for teenagers:** Cllr Mitchell will confirm the position of the Lode and Longmeadow Village Trust in relation to contributing to the cost of new facilities and report to the next meeting.
- **Local Highway Improvement Fund:** The Clerk has emailed ECDC asking when the Highways Officer will be contacting the Council following its recent application to the Fund.
- **Lease of Roller Blade Area:** pending further action between the Clerk and the National Trust
- **Alteration of gate to Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens reported that Mr Hatley is planning to undertake the work by the end of January.
- **Appointment of new Webmaster:** Ian Middleton has met with someone who has expressed interest in the role, who is considering whether he can take it on.
- **Issues raised by residents in relation to the Shed:** D/Cllr Sharp understands that a meeting has taken place and he will ask the relevant officer for information about the outcome.
- **NT Land between cemetery and Fassage Recreation Ground ("Sunray Allotments"):** It was agreed that Cllr Small would write to Natasha Woollard, Assistant Director to outline the Council's views on this land

90/17 County Council Report: None

91/17 District Council Report: D/Cllr Sharp reported that discussion is taking place on whether Littleport should move into North East Suffolk as part of proposed boundary changes. He had attended the Shareholder Committee (which acts as the scrutiny body of the Trading Company). The

Council has purchased some new vehicles in anticipation of the waste disposal work reverting to the Trading Company from next April. The Joint Consultative Council (including Trades Unions) has met to discuss transfer arrangements including TUPE. Cllr Mitchell questioned how much this transfer in and the previous transfer out was costing.

Cllr Lane raised queries about plastic recycling; in response D/Cllr Sharp said that contrary to some recent reports, all rigid plastic could be recycled. ECDC are securing a supply of blue bins so that householders who wish to can purchase an additional bin from April 2018 for £25. Cllr Mitchell proposed that D/Cllr Sharp write an article for Lode Star to be published in March just prior to the Trading Company taking on the Waste Disposal contract. Cllr Stevens said that he is surveying the use of green bins between summer and winter as he is concerned that food waste recycling might not be happening to the same extent during the winter.

92/17 Parish Reports

- **NT Liaison:** the next meeting takes place on 15 January 2018.
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Martyn Lord reported that neighbourhood policing had been substantially reduced. There have been a number of incidents in Soham but in Lode the main reported incident was a break in to a shed belonging to Red to Green. He warned local residents to be wary of travelling tradespeople who don't operate from a known postal address and have only mobile numbers for contacting them.
- **Speedwatch:** Cllr Stevens described a speed measurement panel that can be secured in one location for a set period so that speed data can be collected to identify periods of the day when infringements are more numerous – this would enable better targeting of formal Speedwatch activity or police monitoring. The device is also able to be moved from one location to another. Given the concern recognised by the villages along the B1102 from Lode towards Burwell, he suggested exploring whether the separate Speedwatch Groups should combine to monitor speeding along the whole of this section of the road.
- **Lode and Longmeadow Village Trust:** Cllr Mitchell advised that a few applications for funding have been received by the Trust. Once these have been considered the outcome will be published in Lode Star.
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small (on behalf of Liz King, Tree Officer) reported that a successful application to the Woodlands Trust had resulted in the Council receiving a Community Tree Pack (comprising 30 hedging and 30 copse plants). Martyn Lord reported that small trees damaged by ivy were falling into the Lode and need to be cleared to prevent it becoming blocked as debris collects around them. Cllr Stevens suggested forming a volunteer group to meet monthly to undertake projects such as this and litter picking in the village.

93/17 Parish Council Reports:

- **Planning**
 - **17/02071/AGN – Agricultural Barn, Anglesey Farm:** Council members noted that no plans had been received for consultation in relation to this development. They also noted that the barn is large and close to the village; there may also be issues about increased traffic resulting from the development. The Clerk will seek clarification from the Planning Department on whether the Council will be invited to comment.
 - **17/02077/FUL – temporary change of use for installation of catering unit and outdoor picnic tables for three years, located on Paddock to rear of 51-57 Mill Road, Anglesey Abbey:** Members raised concerns about noise from the external mobile freezer unit and cooking fumes extractor, cooking smells, litter from disposable cups and plates etc getting into the river, visibility from upstairs windows in Mill Road, and cooking gas and fire safety. A site mid-way between the houses in Abbey Lane and Mill Road, and away from nearby public footpaths, would be a better location.
 - **17/01887/AGN – Agricultural Barn:** ECDC have declared that local planning authority determination is not required.

- **17/01998/FUL – New foul drainage from SW church wall and new manhole connecting to existing manhole at St James’ Church:** The Council made no comment
- **17/01998/TRE – T1 Quercus – crown lift to 2.5-3 m from ground level:** Agreed by ECDC
- **Broughton Hall** – Cllr Stevens reported that the appeals for dwellings on the land either side of the Broughton Hall have been dismissed by the Planning Inspector, so they remain not permitted.
- **ECDC Local Plan** – Cllr Stevens commented Lode and Longmeadow are referred to as both a single village in one and as two villages in another. He proposed this should read “one village” and “two settlements”. The Council noted that the land at Sunny Ridge Farm has been included as a potential site for up to twenty new dwellings.
- **Finance:** The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2018-19. The budget set indicative amounts for the continuing responsibilities borne by the Council as well as identifying special projects for which more detailed financial planning and fundraising may be required. The key decision required at this stage is the amount of the Precept request from the Parish Council to East Cambridgeshire District Council. Currently the amount levied is one of the lowest in the District Council area. The proposal was that this be increased by 3% being the amount by which the CPI index increased in the year to the end of October 2017. This would result in a Council Tax charge of £41.38 per band D property. The Chairman put this proposal to the vote and it was passed unanimously.

The Council will consider the budget further in January but concluded that the annual rent for allotments should increase to £10 per plot.

The Parish Council agreed the following payments:

J E Giles	Salary	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	147.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Ernest Doe & Sons	Cemetery	167.39	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Cambridgeshire ACRE	Subscription renewal	55.50	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	149.13+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Grass cutting	604.32+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

The following amounts were received:

Cllr F Platten	Special projects	25.00	Designated for tree planting
HMRC	PAYE	76.82	Refund for overpayment

- **Cemetery:** Cllr Mitchell proposed that further discussion of a plan to develop the cemetery garden take place at the February meeting

94/17 Correspondence:

- An email had been received from CAPALC setting out the emerging pictures of responsibilities for Councils in relation to the General Data Protection Regulations which are being implemented in 2018
- An email had been received from Amanda Forecast from the National Trust indicating that she hoped to be able to discuss the Trust’s position on the allotment land between the cemetery and the Fassage Recreation Ground by March 2018.

- An email was received from Burwell Parish Council inviting the Council to send a representative to a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner on Monday 12 February to discuss response to traveller encampments
- An email was received from a resident of Lode expressing concern at speeding through the 30 mph zone on the B1102

95/17 Items for January Agenda: Further consideration of Budget for 2018-19

Date of next meeting: Monday 8 January, 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Passage Hall