

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 13 March 2017

These minutes comprise 5 pages together with one addendum.

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), R Small, E Mitchell, F Platten and M Walsh
C/Cllr M Shuter, D/Cllrs D Chaplin and A Sharp, Mr M Lord (NHW) together
with Mr D Durrant and Ms Katie Thornburrow (Architect).
Mrs J Lince and Mr J Giles also attended the meeting to observe procedure as
they have are hopeful of being appointed to take up the post of Clerk.

Public Question Time

No public questions were submitted

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr P Lane.

Declaration of Interest

(a) Prejudicial – there were none

(b) Other – there were none

17/17 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 February 2017 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

18/17 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Clerk reported that the No Through Way sign at the end of Mill Road had been replaced but in exactly the same position as before. In discussion of this item C/Cllr Shuter reported that to relocate a road sign, not necessarily this type costs £1500. He agreed to raise the matter with the Highways' Department.

Cllr Stevens reported that the repair of the Fassage Hall gate and the need to ask ECDC to arrange for the collection of litter deposited along the B1102 items were in hand. In the case of the B1102 litter he intended carrying out a monthly sweep along the verges collecting it to build up evidence of the problem which could be submitted to ECDC.

19/17 C/Council Report

C/Cllr Shuter reported that:-

- Even though it had been necessary to make 2% funding available for Social Care it had not been necessary to increase the Council Tax. The Social Care budget element had been helped by a £8million grant from Central Government.
- Discussion on the County's cycle way system had taken place in the E&E meeting. Concern had been expressed that large sums of money were being spent on putting the network in place but that follow up maintenance was being neglected. He welcomed the report by Cllr Platten that Lode PC and Quy PC are to take responsibility for cutting back the grass. In answer to a question he identified that Mr Jason Tyrell would be the contact for advice on the best type of equipment for this process. It may also be possible to obtain a contribution towards costs from the County's budget.
- There had been a 94% take up of the super fast broadband in the County, the second highest in the country. The result of this will be a sizable refund from BT. The next step will be to bring the process to the remaining 6% which affects rural

areas. This not only has an effect on the development of businesses but, as the police and social workers are dependent upon web access, the presence of the former in rural areas is limited and in the latter access to case notes is not possible. It has been proposed that a short term measure would be to identify a building which could be given super fast access and this facility then made available to the community.

- As £20million was made available to Connecting Cambridge by the County any problems with the Openreach service can be channelled through them.

In answer to a question C/Cllr Shuter agreed that it was incomprehensible that the bus for Bottisham Primary School was taking children, who lived further than 2 miles away from the school for free when the parents of those living less than 2 miles were expected to pay. The result the bus travelled half empty whilst those expected to pay travelled by car adding to the traffic problems in Bottisham. He volunteered to investigate the matter but recommended the PC carry out an investigation into the terms agreed when the Lode school was closed as the children of residents in Brinkley had been given free travel in perpetuity.

20/17 District Council Report

D/Cllr Sharpe reported that the Waste Collection contract had been signed. He hoped to be in a position to explain more at the April meeting.

21/17 Parish Reports

NT Liaison

Cllr Platten reported that the Liaison Meeting was to be held the following day. In the light of the lack of monthly reports on the activity within the Abbey she was asked to suggest that a monthly report be provided to the regular meetings of the PC.

Cycle Way

Cllr Platten tabled a plan which identified the new signage which would be necessary to control cars using the B1102. Concern was expressed that the new signs would have little impact upon those motorists who regularly break the speed limit. Mr Lord reported that it would not be possible to carry out a speed watch exercise as due to a change 3 operatives were now required and only two were trained. It was suggested that interactive speed signs may make a suitable contribution to safety.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Lord reported that:-

- The itinerant door to door salesmen who visit the village on a Monday mornings are dropped from their transport at the crossroads. He said it would be helpful if the registration number of the vehicle could be obtained and reported to the police.
- Due to a reduction in numbers and a change to the role of the PCSO officers it is proving impossible to provide a fully visible police presence in the district.

Sports' Club

The Clerk reported that the rent free holiday enjoyed by the cricket club had expired. This had been introduced to compensate them for their fund raising efforts, the funds raised being used to help fund the construction of Fassage Hall. It was expected that a contribution towards the use of the facilities including the changing rooms should now be applied. After discussion it was agreed that this should be handled by the FHMC.

22/17 Parish Council Reports

Finance

Invoices

The Council agreed that the following payments could be made.

Clerk	Salary	296.48	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	PAYE	74.12	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	Toner Cartridge	70.49	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	McaFee Anti Virus	86.40	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	211.26	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery	144.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Lode Star	Donation	200.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

Last month's payments were checked and signed off.

Consideration then turned to a report produced by Cllr Walsh in which she proposed ways in which the equipment provided in the Play Area could be made more attractive. (A copy of her report is appended below). After discussion it was agreed that:-

- the work should be carried out as and when funding became available.
- Available funding at present included the ring fenced fund generated by the efforts of Cllr Platten and her willing band of helpers, the balance of the Rural Areas grant provided through ECDC and any balance remaining in the S106 fund held by ECDC.
- Other sources of funding may be available from Cambridge Community fund, Tesco, Marshalls etc.

Planning The following applications were noted:-

Richard Peters The Shed	17/00018/ADI Re-design and re-painting of advertising sign	ECDC Approved
Mr C Purbrook Lug Fen Drove	16/01415/FUL Temporary modular wooden building for residential use in conjunction with established equine and agricultural business	ECDC Approved for 5 years to allow term sustainability.
Mr&Mrs S Jenkins 30 Northfields	16/01599/FUL Single storey side extension	ECDC Approved
Mrs F Smith 25 Northfields	17/00009/FUL Retention of single storey extension.	ECDC Approved
Mr R Branco 59 Lode Road	17/00179/FUL Convert garage into living room. Convert front of house/current driveway into 2 parking spaces using porous materials.	ECDC Approved

Ms Katie Thornburrow then described her amended proposal for the development of the Broughton Hall site. She reported that:-

- She had held discussions with both the ECDC Planners and the CCC Highways Department to find a resolution to the reasons for rejecting the earlier applications.
- Having taken on board comments made by the PC she will submit two applications, one for the North end and the other for the South which can be considered jointly or if necessary separately.

- It is now proposed that 4 x 4 bedroom houses (2 double and 2 single rooms in each) will be built. They will be of a generous size (260 sq m) with thicker walls than those proposed for the North side.
- Having considered the reasons for rejection of the North development it had been decided to reduce the number of dwellings from 7 to 6. These would consist of 1 x 2, 3 x 3 and 2 x 4 bedroom dwellings.
- Following concerns by local residents about the level of parking, extensive discussions had been held with the Highways' Department to identify an acceptable resolution. A wider access to the site is proposed with each dwelling having its own visitor parking.
- Internal roads will be of a permeable nature not tarmacadam.
- The Fairhaven Estates are to retain control of a strip of land bordering the grass verge which will ensure that the mature trees are protected.
- A criticism has been made about the use of boards as an external feature but as there are other examples in the village this should create no problem.

In conclusion she thanked the Councillors for their contributions to what has been a lengthy operation.

Allotments

The Clerk reported that:-

- He had written to all rentees to advise them of the fact that Cllr Small was now responsible for the administration of the allotments. It was pleasing to note that 14 persons had paid their rent, 2 had expressed an interest in carrying on renting and one plot had been returned.
- It is disappointing to report that other than I who has expressed an interest in continuing to rent those failing to respond were those who took up the plots last year.

Cemetery

The Clerk reported that Mr Jaggard could carry out the work tidying up the cemetery paths at a cost of £80 for his labour. Consumables will cost extra. The Clerk was instructed to ask Mr Jaggard to carry out the work.

It was noted that when the sun dial was vandalised a cherub figurine was stolen from one of the headstones.

Fassage Hall

It was noted that external power sockets intended for use during outside activities had been installed. It was suggested by Cllr Small that the rain water could be harvested from the roof and used on the allotments.

Footpaths

Cllr Stevens reported that he had carried out work on a number of damaged grass verges.

22/17 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.05 pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 10 April 2017.

..... **Signed by the Chairman Cllr R Stevens**

At this point it was thought that the two applicants could be interviewed to identify their suitability for the vacant post of Parish Clerk. As the meeting had been rather lengthy and as Councillors did not feel they were fully prepared for the task in hand it was agreed that the meeting should be held over until Monday 20 March 2017 commencing at 7pm with 45 minutes being set aside to deal with each applicant.

These minutes comprise 5 pages

Play Area Report produced by Cllr Walsh

Findings after inspecting the Play Area in order of priority;

1. Steps to the slide; the wooden sleepers used to form these are rotten and in my opinion dangerous. The wood is missing in areas making the steps uneven, the wood is slippery when wet and the metal brackets fixing the sleepers in place are exposed in area which could present a major problem if a child was to fall down the steps.

I have sought a quote to replace the steps with ones made from concrete. The steps would be wider to allow an adult and a child to climb safely up and down to the slide. I have also asked for a concrete pad to be extended across the underside of the slide near to the top to prevent the children further digging away at the soil to prevent the undermining of the concrete support pad.

I am still awaiting the quote for the work.

It would also be beneficial to have the base area of the slide properly covered with a fall material, currently there are only a few poorly laid and very old rubber tiles to one side.

Quote to cover the area with Tumble Safe

Wicksteed £1218.00 plus VAT (plus hire of Herras fencing £300)

FLP still awaiting price

2. Swings; both sets of swings require new chains, shackles, bolts and pins plus seats.

Wicksteed have quoted for the toddlers swings £398.41 plus VAT

Older age group swings £318.41 plus VAT

I am also waiting on a price from FLP for the same items.

3. Picnic bench; this is rotten and rather unpleasant to sit on and I would suggest that it is replaced with a new bench made of recycled plastic. I would also suggest relocating the bench to the area in between the horse and the roundabout.

Wicksteed £757.00 plus VAT (plus hire of Herras fencing £300)

FLP £745.00 plus VAT

4. Sliding horse; this icon of the 1960's is in need of some repair work to the metal body where areas are rotting, it would also benefit from new running boards and a general paint.

I have asked FLP for a quote but I am still waiting on this.

Finally, in an ideal world with a bottomless reserve of money it would be great to remove the tired old pirate ship and replace it with a new pendulum swing and associated grass safety matting (I will bring along pictures). The pendulum swing would be an inclusive piece of park equipment where all ages and abilities would be able to benefit.

Wicksteed have quoted £9000 plus VAT (but we would need to remove the ship)

FLP have quoted £7530 plus VAT

I think it would benefit the children of both Lode and the surrounding villages if the park was updated, in turn this could boost sales in the post office (drinks/sweets). The nursery would also benefit given that they use the park everyday and I have already approached them about trying to fund raise a little to put some money towards the works. I also propose asking them to perhaps give the springers good clean!