

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 13 November 2017

These minutes comprise 5 pages

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

75/17 Public Question Time: Mr D Durrant queried whether traffic calming measures were being introduced at the end of the new cycle path opposite Anglesey Abbey. He commented that measures such as those in Quy Village, where there are three points where traffic has to give way to that from the opposite direction, are inherently dangerous as both streams are forced onto one side of the road and increase pollution because of the amount of stopping and starting. Cllr Stevens responded that the matter would come up in reporting back on the site meeting with Jason Tyrrell from Cambridgeshire County Council

76/17 Apologies: Cllrs F Platten, P Lane

77/17 Declarations of interest: Cllrs R Small and M Walsh declared a personal interest in the matter of transport for children from Lode attending Bottisham Village Primary School

78/17 Minutes of meeting 9 October 2017: Signed by the Chair as a correct record

79/17 Matters arising from the October meeting:

- **Interactive sign/Local Highways Improvement Fund:** Cllr Stevens reported that a site meeting took place on 12 October to look at road safety measures in connection with the new Cycle Way. It was concluded that an interactive sign would be most effective after the Lode crossroads on the approach to the new crossing at the end of the Cycleway in the direction from Swaffham Bulbeck towards Quy. It would be difficult to find an appropriate site for one covering the traffic in the opposite direction as there is a 40mph zone on the approach to Anglesey Abbey reducing to 30mph – this could mean that the sign picks up traffic legitimately travelling at 40mph before it reaches the 30 mph zone. As the closing date for applications to the Local Highways Improvement Fund was 15 October, an application has been submitted for the installation of the interactive sign in the direction of Quy. At this stage in the process the application is, in effect, an expression of interest which would lead to a meeting with an officer from Highways to assess the site in more detail so that a reworked application could be submitted for decision by members in the early part of 2018
- **Cemetery:** The new sundial has been installed.
- **Allotments:** Cllr Small advised that he had incorporated comments on the draft of new rules for the allotments. He has now separated the rules from the guide to new tenants. The rules include requirements regarding parking. He will designate one space nearest to the allotments as disabled parking. He will also confirm to the Clerk whether the two tenants sent letters regarding cultivation of their plots have taken any action to improve them.
- **Equipment for Teenagers on the Roller Blade Area:** Cllr Mitchell will seek advice at the impending meeting of the Lode and Longmeadow Village Trust as to whether the Trust would be willing to provide some funding towards the provision of equipment. Cllr Stevens pointed out that any equipment should not impede access to the field and turning by emergency vehicles

- **Alteration to gate leading to Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens said that Mike Hatley is planning to do the work during November
- **Webmaster:** Cllr Mitchell said that she had received no expressions of interest in taking on the role and would check with Ian Middleton whether anyone has expressed interest directly to him

80/17 County Council Report: none

81/17 District Council Report: Cllr Sharp referred to the submission draft of the Local Plan which is out for consultation up until 19 December. He will send an article for Lode Star by Friday 17 November.

He advised that a local resident has raised concerns about The Shed, namely: noise levels from the kitchen extractor and noise from the cooling system (which is still in use despite refusal of retrospective planning permission by ECDC). Concern had also been raised regarding smells from the kitchen as well as people swearing and smoking outside the premises. Cllr Sharp said that he pursuing these issues with the Enforcement Section of ECDC.

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- **Anglesey Abbey/National Trust Liaison:** Amanda Forecast advised that the Abbey's Head Gardener has left with immediate effect and consequently it would be difficult for the Trust to respond to requests for help from the village. Cllr Stevens indicated that he was not aware of any such requests emanating from the Parish Council in respect of land not in the Trust's ownership. Members did note that the trees in the churchyard surrounding the war memorial had been pruned in time for Remembrance Day.

Cllr Stevens said that he had pointed out the need for waymarking of a path running through and beyond woodland owned by the National Trust north of the abbey, as it is part of the Harcamlow Way.

Regarding the land owned by the NT between the cemetery and the Fassage Recreation Ground, Cllr Stevens said the Parish Council had been informed early in the year that this land was not inalienable and could be sold. As a result the Parish Council had written to the Trust indicating an interest in purchasing it to which no reply has been received. Then, during the summer, indication from the Trust that the land *should* be sold was followed by contact from Hastoe Housing about developing the site. The Council reaffirmed its view that this land, which is explicitly part of the Wicken Vision, is an asset of community value.

Concern was expressed that it is not being maintained. The Council agreed that a letter should be written to the National Trust confirming its position with regard to this land. At the same time, a letter should be sent to Hastoe Housing confirming that the Council is wanting to secure affordable housing within the village; this would need to be on another site and Cllr Stevens said that consideration should given to land to the South of Honey Court on the road towards Bottisham

- **Cycle Way:** A meeting had taken place to discuss plans for the opening. A date in March is now being explored. The proposal is that the path be opened at the Quay end with people able to cycle the route and gather for a celebration in Lode, possibly at Anglesey Abbey. Cllr Walsh suggested that children could be invited to enter a competition to design a logo for the path.

Concern was raised about the safety of children cycling from Quay to Bottisham Village College who would be expected to cross the road four times. Cllr Stevens said that a possible solution would be for the footpath connecting the end of the cycleway with the path

towards the College on the Bottisham road to be designated for “shared use” under the Highways Act 1980. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to C/Cllr Shuter asking for a resolution on this to be put to the relevant Committee of the County Council. At the same time, the County Council could be advised that the part of the path passing the area designated as the new cemetery for Bottisham should be widened to allow cycles and pedestrians to use it safely together.

There are metal posts outside the property at the edge of the Honey Court development (1 Quy Road), which it is believed were installed by the previous owner. The Council decided that a letter should be sent to the developer of the site asking if they could be removed as this would make more space for cyclists and pedestrians to use this part of the path safely.

- **Neighbourhood Watch:** No report
- **Speedwatch:** Cllr Stevens has undertaken some measurement of speed on drivers passing through the Village on the B1102 but official testing can only be undertaken by a team of three people all of whom need to have been trained and signed the necessary indemnity. The Clerk had ascertained that it is not possible to insure Speedwatch equipment which is not directly owned by the Council
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small reported that the Orchard Day had been a very successful event. He indicated that application had been made to Sainsbury’s for a hedging pack which could be planted on the boundary of the orchard area.

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- **Finance:** The following items were approved for payment:

J E Giles	Salary	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	147.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery	8.55+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
CPRE	Planning Workshop	25.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	55.72+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Grass cutting	84.02+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Jason Coles – Gravedigger	Cemetery	50.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

In the light of the impending preparation of the Council’s precept request to ECDC, Cllr Small proposed that members identify projects which might be included in the budget for 2018-19

- **Planning:** The following items had been received during the month. As the Clerk does not receive notifications of planning applications in respect of trees, he will notify the Tree Warden when any such application appears on the weekly list of applications received by ECDC. The Council decided not to submit comments on the application from the National Trust

Mr Barnes, 20 Mill Rd, CB25 9EN	17/01637/TRE – Purple Prunus Tree: reduce height to level of adjacent Birch tree and shorten lateral	Agreed by ECDC
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	branches	
Mr R Haynes, 1 Longmeadow, CB25 9HA	17/01163/OUT – Erection of 5 dwellings including demolition of 1 dwelling	Planning permission refused
Mr Robinson, 14 Mill Road, CB25 9EN	17/01819/TRE – Fell two confer trees	Agreed by ECDC
National Trust, Anglesey Abbey	17/01931/FUL – installation of temporary toilet adjacent to visitor centre	Comments required by 27 November 2017

- **Footpaths:** Cllr Stevens noted the dates on which Truelink had cut the verges and asked for information about the agreement for the number of cuts per year. He suggested that residents of the village would find it useful to know the planned timetable as some people cut the verges outside their own properties if they felt the grass had got too long
- **Cemetery:** Cllrs Mitchell and Walsh will develop their proposals for improving this area of the cemetery as one of the projects to be part of the budget for 2018-19
- **School Transport:** On account of their declared interest in this matter, Cllrs Small and Walsh moved to the public area for this item.

Cllr Stevens stated that when the Lode village school closed, all village children got free transport to Bottisham Village Primary School. About 5 years ago, Cambridgeshire County Council imposed a two mile limit on eligibility for free transport – all those living closer were required to pay. Currently, CCC charge £210 per child per term for the transport despite the marginal cost to the Council of filling the empty spaces on the bus being much lower.

Cllr Small then read out the letter that he, Cllr Walsh and 3 other parents had sent to the Parish Council. The letter raised concerns about the length of the route and walking times to and from the school for children and their parents, the safety of the route and the requirement on councils to promote the use of sustainable transport for school age children. In the discussion of the issue by the remaining Council Members it was noted that children in Brinkley living closer than two miles to their school get free transport because the route has been assessed as unsuitable. There was a view that the Council are using transport as a revenue raising mechanism. It was particularly socially divisive in Lode because of the relatively small number of children who were excluded. It was noted that the County Council do have discretionary powers over this issue. Cllr Mitchell pointed out that in minutes from a Parish Council meeting in 1988 there was reference to a forthcoming meeting of the County Council at which the matter of school transport for children would be discussed. She proposed researching the meeting concerned in the archives to ascertain what was resolved. Members resolved to respond to the letter from parents, stating that the Parish Council would pursue the matter with County Council. D/Cllrs Sharp and Chaplin confirmed that they would be supportive of such an approach. On the basis that the risks associated with the route assumed by the County Council had changed substantially since they were last assessed, it was agreed that the County Council should be asked to undertake a new

assessment. It was proposed that a meeting be set up with C/Cllrs Mathew Shuter and Lis Every (the recently appointed Area Champion) to seek their support over this issue.

- **Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens reported that the issue of Hall users parking on the field had now been resolved but that now excessive use was being made of the Roller Blade Area. Three places have now been designated for the use of disabled or infirm users – other people are expected to park in the car park provided by the cemetery.
- **Footpaths:** Cllr Stevens reported that motorbikes had been ridden on the disused railway path near Harvey's Drove and he had pointed that this was illegal to one rider.

84/17 Correspondence:

- Notification of the CAPALC AGM had been received for 7 December 2017. Cllr Mitchell will see if she is able to attend
- Rural Services Network: A request has been received to complete the "Growing a Rural Community for East Cambridgeshire". Members agreed that the Clerk should complete the survey

85/17 Items for December Agenda: Review of Final Submission draft of the ECDC Local Plan

Date of next meeting: 11 December at 7.30 pm in the Fassage Hall (Please note change of date.)