

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of ordinary meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11 March 2019

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, I Faulkner, R Small, T Crickmar, T Fitzgerald; D/Cllr A Sharp; Mr C Platten (LLVT); Mr M Lord (Neighbourhood Watch); Ms P Ingham-Watts (National Trust)

24/19 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public

25/19 Apologies for absence: Cllr P Lane; D/Cllr D Chaplin

26/19 Declarations of interest (prejudicial/other): none

27/19 Minutes of February meeting: signed as a correct record

28/19 Matters arising from the February meeting:

- **Speed indicator:** Cllr Stevens updated the meeting. The posts have now been installed – the requirement is that the indicator is moved around at least once a month. In effect this takes two people: one to bear the weight and the other to position it accurately. A second battery has now been received and it is possible for this to be changed by one person. Although the indicator only shows the speed in the direction it is facing, it actually records speeds in both directions. Cllr Fitzgerald undertook to download the data it has collected so far. It will be reset to flash when approached at speeds of 35mph and above. Cllr Stevens proposed that the Council purchase two more brackets to facilitate easier movement between the posts. The cost of £160 was agreed by the Council and Cllr Stevens will purchase them
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Points:** Cllr Stevens advised that the grant scheme identified was only being promoted by Cambridgeshire County Council on an agency basis. It would require the Parish Council to take overall responsibility for planning and commissioning the scheme. He has suggested to C/Cllr Shuter that the County Council should take the lead in working with Parish Councils to deliver such schemes. It was agreed that the Parish Council would put this aspiration on hold at this stage. Ms Ingham-Watts said that Anglesey Abbey would pursue the National Trust scheme and she would liaise with the Parish Council about the possibility of the facility being available to residents of the village
- **Parish Survey:** Cllr Small suggested that this might be pursued around July
- **Abandoned vehicle in Mill Road:** D/Cllr Sharp reported that Richard Warren, the responsible officer from ECDC, will report the vehicle to DVLA, having previously written to the owner without achieving a result. The vehicle will then be clamped and subsequently removed if not taxed within a specified period
- **Letter to Lucy Frazer MP re initiatives to prevent littering:** The response from Ms Frazer thanked the Parish Council for its work on litter-picking. She is writing to the Under Secretary of State for the Environment to pass on the suggestion of focusing a campaign on young people and will write again when she has a response

29/19 County Council Report: None

30/19 District Council Report: D/Cllr Sharp reported that he had attended a meeting to discuss the County Transport Plan. This will be available for consultation in the summer and will include a section on local bus services. The main focus of his report was the decision of the District Council to withdraw its draft Local Plan in the light of changes required by the Inspector – if the changes had been accepted by ECDC it would in effect have ceased to be the plan proposed by the Council and become the Inspector's plan. Under the 2015 Local Plan there was agreement between the Councils across Cambridgeshire to redistribute to Peterborough 1500 of the 13,000 dwellings that were deemed to be required in East Cambridgeshire between 2011 and 2031. The Inspector struck out this agreement. She deleted all the local policies within the draft which were agreed with Parish Councils to maintain the particular character of villages. She deleted the higher disability access

standards which ECDC proposed to ensure that new houses can meet people's needs throughout their lives. She deleted the proposed Community Land Trusts (CLT) and required that the scheme planned for Haddenham be delivered by a commercial developer. The Inspector deleted a 500 home scheme in Kennett and required the resultant shortfall to be redistributed across other schemes in a way the Council believes is undeliverable. Overall, the Inspector has acted in ways outside the previous experience of the Council. The Council's options were to accept the revisions, reject them or withdraw the plan. In the event, the last option has been chosen by the Council. There is an immediate issue in that the Council cannot currently demonstrate a 5 year land supply for development of new housing. This situation will be rectified automatically in April 2020 when the position is reviewed: at that point the permissions granted by the Council but not yet developed will be counted within the land supply for the following five years. Cllr Stevens pointed out that there is a serious problem with developers securing permission to build and then not proceeding in a timely way to build the development. D/Cllr Sharp said that ECDC is considering whether it might be able to grant permission for 2 years rather than three to ameliorate this problem. In discussion it was noted that where a commercial builder develops a scheme rather than a CLT, there would still be a similar requirement for affordable housing. The difference would be the extent to which the community within which the development is situated would benefit from nominations for affordable housing – a CLT would be run by local people who would be seeking to ensure nominees were local rather than from the wider district

31/19 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** Ms Ingham-Watts said that the recent Snowdrop Season had gone well without major disruption. There were a couple of occasions when the good weather brought even more visitors than expected leading to some queuing on the main road. As there are designated people with responsibility for traffic management, it was possible to respond quickly. Cllr Stevens noted with approval that additional car parking space was opened prior to the normal areas becoming full so that delays were minimised. He suggested that the brown signs for the site on the main road need replacement – as these are the responsibility of the County Council, the best course might be to report the issue using the Highways fault reporting service on the CCC website
- **Cycleway:** Cllr Stevens reported that Quy PC have decided not to put a hedge on their section of the path as the cost is too high
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Lord reported that there had been fewer incidents recently but break-ins to vans are still occurring
- **Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust:** The focus of activity recently has been on the purchase of Fassage Green (see below). It was reported that the utility company had chopped off shrubs at head height in the vicinity of the poles on Fassage Green
- **Tree Officer:** Cllr Small reporting for Liz King said that 19 heritage apples, 3 gages and 1 fig tree had been planted at the recent planting day. The established part of the orchard has been pruned. Overall, about 20 people were involved in the event. Going forward it will be important to establish a watering rota for the summer
- **Wicken Fen Liaison:** the next meeting is 25 April and Cllr Faulkner is attending on behalf of the Parish Council

32/19 Parish Council Reports:

- **Purchase of Fassage Green with LLVT:** Charlie Platten and the Clerk updated the meeting on recent discussions with the solicitors. It has not been possible to establish with certainty the ownership of the short track from the cemetery to Fassage Green. On that basis the solicitors have obtained an insurance indemnity policy from the National Trust. Members of the Council had received a copy of the draft contract together with the report on title from the solicitors. The only issue raised was the lack of certainty about the exact position of the boundary on the north eastern edge of the site which borders land owned by Ely Diocese. Cllr Small suggested that while this was not an issue which should prevent the purchase

proceeding, opportunity should be taken to see whether greater certainty could be achieved before exchange of contracts. Charlie Platten confirmed that those involved in placing the posts marking where the boundary is understood to lie, have long standing knowledge of the area and know of no other body or individual who might have a claim to the land. The Clerk will ask the Solicitors to ascertain from the diocese if it agrees that the boundary lies in the position agreed by the purchasers with the National Trust

The following resolutions were proposed by Cllr Small and seconded by Cllr Crickmar, and unanimously approved by the Council:

1. Ashtons Legal be instructed to ascertain whether greater certainty can be achieved over the north eastern boundary of Fassage Green by checking with Ely Diocese whether its view of where the boundary lies is consistent with that of the National Trust prior to the exchange of contracts
2. Unless any adverse information is obtained (in which case an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council would be convened), the purchase should proceed as per the resolutions passed at the Parish Council meeting of 11 February 2019

- **Finance:** The following payments were approved by the Council:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£360.58	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
J E Giles	Mileage for election briefing Ely	£18.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£155.36	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	£160.54+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Scotsdales (F Platten)	Cemetery hedging	£47.47+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Table Tennis Tables (F Platten)	Table tennis bats and balls	£47.46+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

- **Parish Council Election - Nomination process:** The Clerk outlined the requirements for completion and return of the nomination forms by all wishing to stand in the election due to take place on 2 May. A notice inviting nominations has been posted on the website together with the forms. Nominations close at 4pm on 3 April. All forms have to be delivered by hand to the District Council office in Ely. The Clerk will undertake the delivery of all completed forms delivered to him by 31 March, although individuals are able to take them personally if they wish. Particular care needs to be taken that the proposer and seconder are registered electors within the parish. In addition the witness to the nominee's signature must be the same as the attessor to 1b Part 2 of the form if the nominee does not wish their home address to be made public. The Clerk will ask that the advert for nominees be placed in Lode Star
- **Planning:** No new planning applications were received this month. The following updates were received:

Mead Homes Ltd, 39 Longmeadow, CB25 9HA	18/01416/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of 4 semi detached dwellings and associated site works	Decision still awaited
Mr & Mrs R Peters, Anglesey Farm, Lode Fen CB25 9HD	18/01641/VAR To vary condition 7 (Date of Expiry of Condition of previously approved application 15/01159/FUL for the erection of a residential log cabin (retrospective)	Approved 8 March 2019 subject to conditions

- **Allotments:** The Clerk had advised the tenant of plot 5C that her application for a lean-to had been approved. Cllr Small and the Clerk will arrange a walk-round to monitor the current state of the allotments
- **Cemetery:** The Clerk advised that Mr Jaggard was clearing any dead wreaths from graves to ensure that none could cause problems for the mower. The Council agreed that he should get a price for a full service of the mower. It was noted that Mr Jaggard had offered to mow the grass paths on Fassage Green at the same time as he mows the Cemetery for an annual cost of £120. This was agreed by the Council. Cllr Platten advised that items had been left in the hedge by the landlord of a property in Fairhaven Close. She will write to him to ask that they be removed
- **Fassage Hall & Recreation Ground:** Cllr Stevens reported that the football field will only be let to Bottisham who use it once a month. He also advised that Little Legs have added Monday and Wednesday afternoons to their programme which will bring additional income to the Fassage Hall. Cllr Small confirmed that further work on thistle eradication would be undertaken in the spring
- **Cricket Club:** The net on the Recreation Ground is leaning over again. It was agreed that the Clerk will write requiring the Club to fix it more securely
- **Tennis Club:** Thanks were offered to the National Trust which has erected signs asking dog owners to keep their dogs under control on the paths near the tennis court
- **Village Report:** Cllr Stevens reported that he had received a letter complaining about parking near The Shed leading to problems for vehicles. He will respond directly to the writer

33/19 Correspondence: The Clerk drew attention to the notification from Truelink that their prices were to be increased by an average of 2%

34/19 The press and public were excluded from the meeting so that the Council could be briefed on a confidential matter

35/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 8 April at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm