

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of annual meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 13 May**  
**2019**

These minutes comprise 5 pages

**Present:** Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, R Small; D/Cllrs A Sharp, J Trapp, C/Cllr M Shuter from 8.15 pm

**48/19 Election of Chair:** Cllr Stevens was proposed by Cllr Platten and seconded by Cllr Small and then elected unanimously. He signed the Acceptance of Office and indicated that he would serve for this year but would have to stand down after one year as he would have completed four years as Chair

**49/19 Questions from the public:** There were no questions from the public

**50/19 Apologies:** Cllrs I Faulkner, T Crickmar, T Fitzgerald; P Ingham-Watts (National Trust)

**51/19 Declarations of interest (prejudicial/other):** none

**52/19 Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:** Proposed by Cllr Small, seconded by Cllr Platten; carried unanimously

**53/19 Matters arising:**

- **Removal of items from the Cemetery hedge:** Given that the items have still not been removed despite assurances the Clerk was instructed to write to the property owner and advise that the Council would remove the items if he has not done so within three weeks of the letter being sent
- **Speed indicator:** Cllrs Stevens and Fitzgerald have downloaded data regarding speeds logged by the indicator. At the extreme, speeds of up to 73mph were recorded. Further analysis is pending. Cllr Small advised that since the Indicator had been moved away from the location by Anglesey Abbey some motorists were continuing to drive too fast. Cllr Stevens said that its next location would be the pole on the B1102 in the direction of Swaffham Bulbeck
- **Eradication of thistles on Recreation Ground:** Cllr Small said that he intends to resume work on this during the weekend of 18/19 May
- **Leaning cricket net on Recreation Ground:** The Clerk advised that he had contacted the Club through their website enquiry address and received a reply from Alan Lamb. Mr Lamb indicated that he is no longer involved with the Club and has copied the email to Martin Wilson and William Allen who are now the responsible officers. He advised that additional braces for the net frame were purchased a while ago and these are cable tied onto the base rail waiting to be installed

**54/19 County Council Report:** Deferred until later in the meeting

**55/19 District Council Report:** As the Cllr who had been elected to cover Lode in the previous Council, D/Cllr Sharp gave his closing report. Now that there are 28 rather than 39 seats on the District Council, he has been elected to cover Woodditton ward which does not cover Lode. Reflecting on the period of the last Council he noted that Waste Management has been taken back in-house since 1 April 2018 and that this had given greater flexibility over the deployment of resources most notably in response to fly-tipping. He highlighted the creation of the two Community Land Trusts at Ely and Soham. The biggest disappointment was the need to withdraw the draft Local Plan and revert to the 2015 Plan. He pointed out that the Council Tax from the District Council has

been frozen for six years in a row. In his new seat he will continue to press for more focus on community facilities in the southern part of the Council area which he feels has had less attention than the area surrounding Ely. He indicated that he will liaise with D/Cllr Trapp, newly elected to this Ward, over two planning applications in Lode which are yet to be determined, namely those for 39 Longmeadow and 15a Fairhaven Close. D/Cllr Trapp said that either he or D/Cllr Cane plan to attend Parish Council meetings in future as well as providing a monthly report to Lode Star. They also plan to hold consultations in each village on a six-monthly basis. Cllr Platten reminded the meeting of the suggestion that the villages in the locality get together to lobby for details of the route to be followed by the Mildenhall spur of the proposed Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro to ensure that it will be accessible to their communities

#### **56/19 Parish Council Reports:**

- **Purchase of Fassage Green with Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust:** The outstanding item is a response from the Diocese of Ely about the exact location of the boundary of Fassage Green with land held by the Diocese. Charlie Platten has been in contact with the Diocese and their appointed surveyor to establish the likely timescale for receiving a response. In the meantime, the Council reaffirmed its agreement over the delegation to the Chair and Clerk to authorise exchange of contracts once confirmation has been received and assuming there are no material changes
- **Internal Audit Report:** Lionel Johnson's report had been circulated to the Council members along with the statement of the Internal Control Objectives signed off on p.3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Acceptance of the internal audit report was proposed by Cllr Platten and seconded by Cllr Small, then carried unanimously
- **Annual Governance Statement:** Cllr Stevens went through each item of the return (p.4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return). The Council unanimously agreed that each requirement had been met; the statement was then signed by Cllr Stevens as Chair and the Clerk
- **Lode Parish Council Accounting Statements 2018/19:** The statements were presented to the Council by the Responsible Financial Officer and explanations given regarding the major variances between the year 2018/19 and the previous financial year. The accounts were approved by the Council and signed by the RFO and Chair
- **Audit & Risk Review:** The Clerk introduced the annual risk review which has been scrutinised by the Internal Auditor. The Council confirmed that it fairly reflected the key risks faced by the Council. The Clerk explained that it would be forwarded to the External Auditor with the Governance and Accounting statements, as this is a requirement of those councils randomly selected for an intermediate review
- **Fassage Hall & Recreation Ground Charity Accounts:** Approval of these accounts (previously signed off by the internal auditor) by the Council as Managing Trustee was proposed by Cllr Small, seconded by Cllr Platten and agreed unanimously. Cllr Stevens noted that the pitch marking was a significant expense and on occasion hire fees did not cover the costs incurred particularly when hirers did not pay for bookings when matches were called off because of bad weather
- **Donation to Lode Star:** Provision was made in the budget for this and the Council confirmed that the payment should now be made

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

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£393.33	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Admin	Printer ink and paper (pd on Debit Card)	£31.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£179.16	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
W Jaggard	Fuel for Mower	£6.20+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Octopus Energy	Fassage Hall	£125.77+VAT	Local Gov't Act 1972 s 133
Wave	Cemetery Water (Refund applied for)	£-228.50	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Zurich	Fassage Hall Insurance	£497.42	Local Gov't Act 1972 s 133
RoSPA	Annual Play Area Insp	£161.50+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Peasgood & Skeates	Refund of overpaid fees	£50.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
CCC	Cambs Archive Network fee	£100.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

**57/19 County Council Report:** C/Cllr Shuter reported that progress had been made in the pothole repair programme: last month 915 potholes repaired and the total currently outstanding is 894. The process involves photographing the potholes before and after repair so that the durability can be audited. The County Council have authorised additional cutting of verges where visibility is compromised. The decision about which of the shortlisted bids for the current Shire Hall is being made this week. The new Shire Hall is to be located in Alconbury on the basis that this will be cheaper than the other proposed site in North Stow. As there may be further local government reorganisation within the next ten years, the configuration of the new offices is such that they could be easily relet if they are no longer needed by the County Council

**58/19 Further Parish Council Reports:**

- **Planning**

Mrs S Bramley 64 Lode Rd, CB25 9ET	19/00477/FUL Conv of garage to bedroom, rebuild current gdn room and one storey rear extension	The Council made no comment on this application
Ms L Rice 3 Mill Rd, Lode CB25 9EN	19/00545/VAR (prev.18/00976/FUL) Amendment involving removal of condition requiring obscured glass in proposed sash window to east elevation	The Council made no comment on this application
Mr C Goldsmith, RLW Estates Ltd, Land adj Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield site	S/2075/18/OL Outline planning permission for development of 4500 dwellings, business, retail, community, leisure and sports uses; new primary and	Cllr Small will examine the new documents and report if any

	secondary schools & 6 <sup>th</sup> form centre; public open spaces inc parks and ecological areas; points of access, associated drainage and other infrastructure, groundworks, landscaping and highways works	significant new issues are identified, particularly with reference to flood risk
Mead Homes Ltd 39 Longmeadow CB25 9HA	18/01416/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of 4 semi-detached dwellings and associated site works. Additional document received: "Historic Building Recording and Analysis of the Cottages"	The Council noted this document and awaits the response to it from the Conservation Officer

- **Allotments:** Cllr Small and the Clerk will arrange a walk-round to check that allotments are being cultivated. Cllr Stevens noted the overgrown state of the area near the cemetery. Cllr Small said that this was the area it had been agreed not to let as an allotment but keep as an area with some small trees. Cllr Platten advised consulting with the owner of the neighbouring property. It was agreed that the area should be mown with the scythe mower and that one or two small fruit trees should be planted on the plot
- **Cemetery:** Cllr Platten has weeded around the new hedge plants. There is still a gap awaiting planting but this needs to be left until the discarded items in the hedge have been removed
- **Footpaths:** Cllr Stevens has walked the paths surrounding the village and replaced some markers where necessary
- **Play Area:** Cllrs Fitzgerald and Stevens will review the RoSPA Report and decide what action may be needed. It was noted that no major items were reported in the Inspection
- **Grass cutting:** Cllr Stevens reported that Truelink had omitted to cut three verges last time they came. When he mentioned it to them, they commented that these were usually cut by the residents themselves. There was concern about the interval between cuts which has been as much as six weeks during the growing season. The Clerk confirmed there was adequate budget for more cuts and Cllr Stevens will alert them if he finds more are required
- **Friends against scams:** At a previous meeting, Cllr Crickmar had recommended that the link to this scheme be added to the website. This was agreed by the Council

#### 59/19 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** Cllr Platten advised that when she visited the old railway track bed she found that one side had been harrowed right up to the track edge. Having been concerned that it was being cultivated, she was reassured to be told that it was to enable it to be sown with wild flowers. She will liaise with the National Trust to confirm
- **Cycleway:** Cllr Platten confirmed that she had cleaned the solar powered lights on the track and also removed some of the weeds getting established on the tarmac
- **Speedwatch:** no report
- **Tree Officer:** Cllr Small reported that the Orchard clearance day had been well supported. Cllr Stevens said that he had obtained some soil improver from Amey Cespa at Waterbeach to mulch around the trees
- **Wicken Fen:** The minutes have not yet been received but the Council noted the replies obtained by Cllr Faulkner to the questions raised by Cllr Stevens

**60/19 Correspondence:**

- **Cambridgeshire County Council:** The request from the Parish Council for the cycleway verges to be cut three times rather than twice, made in August 2018, received a positive response indicating that a trial third cut is to be done
- **Letter from Lucy Frazer regarding the Strategic Bus Review:** Cllr Stevens said he felt that ECDC don't engage with discussions about bus services affecting communities in the southern part of the district who need to travel into Cambridge. It was agreed that he and Cllr Small would liaise over a response to the letter requesting views about the Review

**61/19 Date of next meeting:** Monday 3 June 2019 at 7.30 pm

**Annual Parish Open Meeting:** Tuesday 21 May at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.35pm