

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of ordinary meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14 January 2019

These minutes comprise 4 pages

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

1/19 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public

2/19 Apologies for absence: Cllr P Lane

3/19 Declarations of interest (prejudicial/other): none

4/19 Minutes of December meeting: signed as a correct record

5/19 Matters arising from the December meeting:

- **School transport:** The Clerk reported the response from Bottisham PC following the letter to them inviting joint action regarding this matter: "We discussed the problem with C/Cllr Mathew Shuter who made it very clear to us that this is a problem affecting the whole of the County. They had looked into it but there was no additional funding to be able to change their current policy which they will review again in 2 yrs time...it is clear that this is another problem resulting from the County Council having to make cutbacks. Is there any way we can support you as it is clear that the County Council will not be changing its policy at the present time?" It was noted that Lode PC had not received a response to its last letter from C/Cllr Shuter. It was agreed that this should be followed up with a request for information about what evidence would cause the County Council to take this issue seriously when it is reviewed. Cllr Crickmar pointed out that there are empty seats on the school bus. Cllr Stevens suggested that some parents living more than two miles away from the school do not take up their entitlement to free transport for their children. It was suggested that this may be because they need to leave for work early and use the before school club. It was agreed that the Clerk should write back to Bottisham PC asking that it continue to collect and share with Lode evidence of the problems caused in Bottisham so that joint representations can be made to the review when it happens. In the meantime, the Clerk will again ask Highways to restore the shared-use path between the two villages, highlighting the improvement that has been noted where such work has been undertaken on the path from Bottisham to Quy and onward towards Cambridge
- **Cemetery Charges:** Following circulation of information comparing the current charges in Lode with those in Bottisham, it was agreed that the review of Lode charges would be an item on the agenda for the February meeting
- **RoSPA Annual Equipment Safety Check:** RoSPA clarified that the requirement for separate inspection reports arises because different standards apply to the new equipment outside the Play Area. The Clerk has confirmed that the new items should be inspected on an annual basis at the same time as those in the Play Area
- **Speed Indicator:** Cllr Stevens advised that a second battery has been promised as it was not included when the indicator was supplied. The poles to which the indicator will be attached have still not been installed. It is not appropriate to use the existing lamp posts in Lode Road as they are too weak. As this road is narrow, there is a risk that the indicator may be hit by lorry wing mirrors. To prevent this, the pole for Lode Road needs to be located at the inner edge of the footpath. It was noted that the brackets for attaching the indicator cost £60 each and only one has been provided with the indicator. The Council will review whether more are needed once the poles have been installed
- **Unsafe trees at Swan Corner:** The Clerk has written to Cambridgeshire County Council which has agreed to pay the £340 quoted cost for making the area safe but states that the land is

not owned by the County. The work can now proceed and Cllr Stevens agreed to arrange to meet with the contractor to finalise details. It was suggested that contact be made with Liz King, Tree Officer, to see if she can be present.

- **CCC request for funding support for Bikeability:** The Clerk advised the Council that its power to support this scheme is limited to £7.86 per local resident benefitting from the scheme. CCC has estimated that there may be around 10 children from Lode who would benefit from the scheme this year. The Parish Council reaffirmed its position from last month that this is a funding responsibility of the County Council

6/19 County Council Report: None

7/19 District Council Report: D/Cllr Sharp reported that Environmental Health had recommended ways of mitigating the issues of noise and smell arising from the Shed but these have not been entirely successful; they are continuing to engage with the proprietor to achieve a solution. Cllr Stevens thanked him for the update and said that he believed the outstanding issues represent the concern of an individual resident and that the Parish Council does not need to be further involved. D/Cllr Sharp said that ECDC have decided to purchase the MoD site in Ely with a loan from the Combined Authority. The site includes 88 properties in relatively good condition which will, after conversion, provide 92 units of affordable housing. The site could be further developed, subject to planning permission. As well as improving the local housing supply, the plan provides for the District Council to make a surplus on the project which will ease the pressure on the Council's other plans

8/19 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** Ms Ingham-Watts reported work is now underway to develop the heritage orchard. There has been consultation with the residents of Abbey Lane and Mill Road which has given the opportunity to explain that the new trees are of much greater value than the silver birch trees which have been felled to allow for the orchard development. She highlighted the impending snowdrop season which is significant for the Abbey. The advertising has been targeted to encourage visiting at off-peak periods to minimise overcrowding rather than to increase overall visitor numbers. Referring to discussions about installing electric vehicle charging points in the Abbey Car Park, Ms Ingham-Watts said that the National Trust does not have a nationwide plan to install them, which allows for local initiatives to be developed. Cllr Crickmar advised that it appears Lode would not be eligible for grant-funding for a joint scheme between the Trust and the Council as had been hoped as the identified fund is targeted at areas where residents have no off street parking (see below). Cllr Stevens pointed out that the National Trust website lists 30 properties across England with EV Charging Points, including Fellbrigg and Sheringham Park in Norfolk. Cllr Platten will liaise with Ms Ingham-Watts regarding the dates when residents can have free entry into the Abbey – in previous years this has included one date during the snowdrop season
- **Cycleway:** Cllr Platten advised that she had spoken with Bill Watts from Quy Parish Council about cutting back the ash branches which are growing out across the path. He said that Quy PC is exploring planting a hedge between the path and the road, and will cut back the branches as part of the work. The contractor has advised that the feasibility of the plan to plant a hedge depends on the composition of the bund. If this is soil, it could be levelled and a hedge planted. If, however, it is made of rubble and waste from the construction of the path, this would have to be carted away and would be too expensive. Cllr Platten will monitor to ensure that the branches are removed if the hedge scheme does not proceed. Cllr Stevens noted that two trees had been felled by the National Trust near the beginning of the path in Lode. Ms Ingham-Watts said that the Trust only uses its felling licence to remove diseased trees or those that are too close together to thrive
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Lord reported that criminal activity in South Cambridgeshire appeared to have reduced following the recent police raid in Willingham though theft from cars remains an issue in Ely. He reported that the local PCSO has patrolled within the village

on two occasions recently. Their visibility is designed both to reassure residents and to deter criminals

- **Speedwatch:** Cllr Stevens reported that the new speed indicator can be used by Speedwatch teams; they record the registration numbers of cars passing with the speed recorded. Mr Lord said that members of the public can report speeding drivers using 101 Chat. Where an individual driver is the subject of multiple reports, these may be followed up by the Police
- **Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust (LLVT):** Cllr Platten reported that Charlie Platten is expecting that the contract documents for the purchase of the Fassage Green land should be available at the beginning of February a week before the Parish Council meeting when they would need to be approved by the Council. Completion should be able to proceed relatively quickly following the exchange of contracts. Cllr Crickmar asked whether the insurance cover for the picnic in August could be arranged through the Parish Council policy. The Clerk explained that the policy only covers events under the control of the Parish Council; the cover was arranged on this basis last year but the question arises whether it is more appropriate for LLVT, as the lead organiser, to have its own insurance if it is arranging events on a regular basis. This will be referred back to the LLVT Committee. Cllr Stevens said that there may be useful information on the Fields in Trust website
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small (for Liz King, Tree Officer) reported that the application to LLVT for funding for saplings for the orchard is being considered at the Trust's meeting tonight. If agreed, a planting day will be arranged. Cllr Stevens suggested it could be worth considering planting hazel as well as fruit trees
- **Wicken Fen Liaison:** no meeting has taken place in the last month
- **Electric vehicle charging scheme:** Cllr Crickmar apologised that the email which had spelt out why the scheme with the National Trust was not eligible for funding had not been circulated. On that basis she has explored other funding options. There is a possible opportunity to bid alongside around 15 other councils to install charging units in a car park owned by the Parish Council. The estimated cost would be £500 per charging unit with a further £500 infrastructure cost. The recommendation would be to have 3 units at a total cost of £3,000. The electricity cost would be charged to users on a 'pay as you go' basis. In order to support an application, evidence would be needed to demonstrate demand, and, in particular, the numbers of homes without off-street parking, and the availability of a public car park. The possible location in Lode would be the car park by the cemetery which will in future be partly in the ownership of the Council. Cllr Stevens pointed out that, although the use of this land for car parking has not been challenged, there is no formal permission for its use for this purpose. Formal planning permission has not been pursued because of the limited access, though it may now be possible to pursue an application on the basis that there have been no objections to its use for this purpose over more than 10 years. Cllr Crickmar agreed to collate information to establish whether an application for a grant would be feasible

9/19 Parish Council Reports:

- **Planning:** No new applications had been received since the last meeting but the Parish Council sought information from the District Councillors on the outcome of its submission regarding 39 Longmeadow 18/01416/FUL. D/Cllr Chaplin said that he looked at the property and recognised that it is an attractive house. Given that it is different from its neighbours, it cannot be said to represent the character of the local area so it would be difficult for the Planning Committee to refuse permission on that ground. He pointed out that it is not listed. If listing is to be pursued, English Heritage would need to be involved in what is likely to be a lengthy process. In process terms, if the matter were referred to the Planning Committee and permission granted, the Parish Council could appeal against the decision and in the meantime apply for listing. It was pointed out that the Parish Council's submission had highlighted the fact that the property is recorded in the Royal Commission on Historical

Monuments volume on NE Cambridgeshire. The Parish Council had also requested that advice be sought from a conservation officer before a decision is made which does appear to have been done. The Council decided that a further submission would be made reiterating the issues previously raised

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

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£360.58	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£155.36	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	£183.75+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Community Action Suffolk	Insurance of Speed Indicator (paid)	£10.90	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Truelink	Hedge trimming	£370.64+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Cambridgeshire ACRE	Membership	£57.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
CPRE	Membership	£36.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Wave	Cemetery water	£56.65	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Post Office	Stamps (paid by card)	£8.04	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

- **Cemetery:** It was agreed that the review of Cemetery charges would be an item on the February agenda
- **Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens reported that the heating pump had failed again. This time it is likely that the problem is inadequate pressure within the building
- **Recreation Ground:** It was noted that the small goal posts are in regular use by children and young people. Cllr Stevens said that there was currently only one once monthly booking for use of the playing field. He asked for suggestions about other sports activities on the ground but counselled against promoting lots of one off bookings as these are time-consuming to manage and generate problems when users are unfamiliar with the facilities. Users may be reluctant to pay if they have not used the ground because of adverse weather
- **Play Area:** Cllr Fitzgerald said that he will be pursuing quotations for the fencing to the Play Area
- **Footpaths/Highways:** Cllr Platten confirmed that the litter pick is taking place on Sunday 3 February from 2-4pm

10/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 11 February, 7.30 pm

11/19 Items for next agenda: Review of Cemetery Charges

12/19 Meeting dates for the remainder of 2019: 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 3 June (Please note 1st Monday), 8 July, 9 Sept, 14 Oct, 11 Nov, 9 Dec. Annual Parish Open Meeting: date tba