

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 12
October 2020

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Note: This meeting was held remotely under the provisions of **THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020**

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, T Crickmar, C Purbrook, R Small, M Walsh; D/Cllr C Cane, C/Cllr M Shuter; Ms P Ingham-Watts (National Trust)

101/20 Items from the public: None

102/20 Apologies: D/Cllr J Trapp

103/20 Declarations of interest: Cllr Purbrook declared an interest in the planning item 20/01062/FUL and did not participate in discussion of this item

104/20 Minutes of meeting 12 September 2020: These were approved

105/20 Matters arising:

- **Parish Council Vacancy:** The advertisement was reissued with a closing date of 30 September. No formal application has been received to date. Cllr Stevens asked all councillors to consider whether they knew of residents who could be encouraged to apply
- **Replacement Trees:** Cllr Small reported that Liz King had had a response from Chris Foyle regarding the trees offered by CCC to replace those felled on the A1303. The locations have been identified and they are to be delivered towards the end of the month. Nothing further has been heard in respect of the replacements and work to be undertaken for the Silver Maple felled in Northfields. The Clerk will pursue and copy to Liz King and C/Cllr Shuter
- **Speed indicator:** This has now arrived at the depot in Huntingdon and the Clerk will arrange for it to be delivered to his address. Tomas Fitzgerald has kindly offered to set this up in the same way as the other indicator
- **Allotments Apple tree:** Cllr Small believes that a dead branch may need to be removed but hopes that the rest of the tree can be saved for the time being. Cllr Platten will ask Charlie Platten to look at it and remove the branch if required
- **Environment issues:** The issues identified at the September meeting had been resolved by Cllrs Stevens and Platten with the exception of the overgrown hedge on Station Road. The Council asked the Clerk to write to the owner pointing out that the County Council could take enforcement action unless the hedge is cut back so that it does not obstruct the pavement. Other concerns identified were an overgrown hedge opposite the church (this is a National Trust property and Ms Ingham-Watts will ask the Estate Manager to investigate) and trees overhanging the highway in Abbey Lane about which Cllr Platten will speak with the householder

106/20 County Council Report: C/Cllr Shuter advised that the County is expecting to have a greater role to support the national track and trace initiative as, though this area is seen as medium risk, the number of infections is increasing. Fifteen schools have had positive tests but the instances appear to be isolated with no significant clusters as yet. Cllr Walsh said that a school in Cherry Hinton had closed one year "bubble" today.

The Milton Recycling Centre is continuing to operate on an appointment system with a two week waiting time currently. The planning permission for the site comes up for review in 2021 and it is expected that the facility will continue to operate from the current site. One of the options being considered is level access to the skips so that users don't have to climb steps to dispose of their waste.

C/Cllr Shuter has had contact from a local resident who is disabled about the difficulty he is experiencing because of a neighbour's parking. He confirmed that the parking is not illegal. Cllr Platten agreed to visit the car's owner to try and resolve the issue.

Cllr Stevens listed some long standing Highways issues and suggested that a meeting be set up with the Highways Officer for this area. In particular he said that some sections of the Fen Road are in danger of collapse which would cut off any residents living beyond. C/Cllr Shuter responded that much of this type of road across the County is in a similar state. The County has no further funds for unclassified roads and cited the example of a 400 yd stretch of road which cost £4m to repair. He explained that any reported fault would be assessed for priority and, if accepted put on the 3 year programme. If it is already on the programme, anyone making a further report would be advised of this. He concluded by saying that patch repairs will be undertaken but no wider solution is envisaged unless funds are made available by central government

107/20 District Council Report: D/Cllr Cane had circulated a report (attached to these minutes) but drew particular attention to the Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy 2020-23 where both Parish Councils and individuals are invited to respond to consultation. She commented that she will add the suggestion from Cllr Platten of an improved cycle path from Swaffham Bulbeck to Bottisham to the list of proposed improvements noting that so far, very few nominations from ECDC have made it onto the County list. It is worth pursuing in case further central government grants become available. Cllr Small highlighted that there are danger points for cyclists at both ends of the Lode Quy cycle path and queried where these concerns should be raised as the Greenways project has an interest as well as the County and District Councils, not to mention the parish councils' concerns for the safety of their residents. C/Cllr Shuter commented that in his experience that those who persist in raising their issues in every available forum tend to be those who secure results.

Cllr Stevens commented that ECDC had earmarked some central CIL for the Lode Quy cycle path which was eventually funded by central government. If that allocation still exists it could be applied to resolving the issues at both ends of the path. D/Cllr Cane agreed to investigate whether the allocation is still in place.

In response to a question from Cllr Small about the relevant contacts on cycle paths in the County Council, C/Cllr Shuter agreed to advise

108/20 Parish Report – Anglesey Abbey: Ms Ingham-Watts advised that local staff are now fully briefed on the plans to reduce staffing levels by 12.5% and phase 3 of the consultation is currently underway. She advised that on Friday 17 October the Abbey will be announcing that the Winter Lights programme has been given the go-ahead for this year. All the safety arrangements have been approved and will entail numbers being reduced by one third from last year and time slots allocated to prevent congestion. Free tickets will be available for residents of Abbey Lane and Mill Road though they should be less affected than previously as it is unlikely that the orchard area will be used this year. Ms Ingham-Watts said that some work to remove tree growth into power lines was now underway, having been delayed as a result of the pandemic.

Cllr Small asked what documentation would be available to anyone wanting to know the detailed arrangements for the Winter Lights event and Ms Ingham-Watts said that comprehensive Q&As would be available on the website

109/20 Parish Council Reports

- **Finance:** The following payments were approved:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£405.30	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£173.39	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
BP Express Fuel	Cemetery	£5.29+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Zoom (pd by card)	Remote meeting software	£14.39	Local Govt Act 1972 s 111
PKF	Audit Fee	£200.00+VAT	Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 ss 20(2) & 25
Covid-19 Working Group	Donation from Special Projects Fund	£105.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s137

- **Covid-19 Working Group:** The Parish Council agreed that the amount of £105 should be made available from the Special Projects fund to support the continuing work of the group with particular regard to the Food Bank. There was discussion about how the initiative would be funded in future as it appears that the need may continue for a considerable period into the future, and whether it was appropriate that it be a project “owned” by the Parish Council or one that it supports. The latter approach was agreed and the Cllrs Walsh and Crickmar are going to explore how the initiative might benefit from schemes such as GoFundMe where local residents might make small monthly donations enabling necessary items to be purchased for the Food Bank. Cllr Crickmar advised that £30 remains of the amount originally allocated by the Parish Council at the beginning of the pandemic. Cllr Small pursued his earlier suggestion that the Covid-19 Grant awarded to the Council should be focused on health and well-being projects. He proposed that projects be selected by reference to the survey undertaken last year. Once these are identified he suggested that £5,000 should be earmarked from Parish Council funds and a bid for £10,000 made to the Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust allowing for a total investment of £15,000. He will set up a Google Project sheet accessible to all Council members enabling suggestions to be logged in one place. Cllr Platten will explore options for installing a Zip wire as one project
- **Planning:**

20/01062/FUL High Summers, Lug Fen Droveaway

Proposal: Carport with a home office above – Retrospective

The Parish Council commented as follows: The Parish Council disapproves of retrospective planning applications and noted that this is the second retrospective application from this applicant

110/20 Correspondence: The items listed were noted. Cllr Platten drew particular attention to the B1102 Local Transport Group. She said that valuable information had been shared by Emma Fletcher about the possible impact on the outlying areas from the plans to develop the eastern side of Cambridge. She highlighted that there was a clear benefit for the villages along the B1102 in working together and advised that Bottisham Parish Council might wish to be involved; she will write and invite them to join the group. Cllr Small said that the concept of Neighbourhood planning was relevant in this context but perhaps with a group of villages rather than a single one

111/20 Date of next meeting: 9 November 2020 at 7.30 pm

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

October Report to Parish Councils

from Charlotte Cane and John Trapp

At the last meeting, which lasted all of six hours and both of us were present, of the Finance & Assets Committee:

1. The Custom and Self-Build Housing Supplementary Planning Document was adopted
2. The Natural Environment Supplementary Planning Document was adopted.
3. A Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been composed, and will be sent out for consultation to residents and organisations (including Parish Councils) in the District; because SPDs cannot create new policy which is not in the Local Plan, these policies are guidance rather than mandatory. Please consider a response to this consultation.
4. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy 2020 – 2023 proposal was presented, and will be sent round for consultation in the District. Please also consider a response to this consultation.
5. The East Cambs Trading Company accounts were noted despite some misgivings.
6. The East Cambs Trading Company Business Plan was accepted, again with some misgivings.
7. The Medium Term Financial Strategy report showed a need for substantial savings to be made in two years' time – rising to a shortfall of £4.4m in 2023/24, and the shortfall won't be covered by a rise in Council Tax. Services may be affected, and we pressed for consultation with residents and organisations in the District.

At the last meeting of the Operational Services Committee:

1. Resolved to ask local MPs for more information on the Local Electricity Bill before deciding whether or not to support it.
2. Received an update from the Housing & Community Team on the impact of Covid-19
3. Received an update on the Climate Change Strategy and Action plan.
4. Noted a small forecast underspend on the Operational Services revenue budget and a small forecast overspend on the capital budget.