

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 13
July 2020

These minutes comprise 3 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, M Walsh, C Purbrook, R Small; D/Cllr J Trapp

81/20 Items from the public: None

82/20 Apologies: C/Cllr M Shuter, Ms P Ingham-Watts

83/20 Declarations of interest: none

84/20 Minutes of meeting 15 June 2020: These were approved

85/20 Matters arising:

- **Parish Council Vacancy:** The Clerk reported that there have no expressions of interest to date. It was agreed that the advertisement would be reissued with a closing date towards the end of August
- **Topsoil to repair subsidence in the Cemetery:** It was noted that Will Jaggard has now sown grass seed over the areas he has repaired
- **Cycle Way:** Highways (Dennis Vacher) has confirmed agreement to the price quoted by Truelink for cutting the Cycleway three times per year. The Clerk will invoice CCC and advise Truelink to add this to their schedule three times per year
- **Lode & Bottisham Cricket Club:** Cllrs Stevens and Crickmar attended the Fassage Hall Management Committee meeting together with Messrs Lamb and Allen representing the Cricket Club. It was resolved that any fixtures for the remainder of this year will be free. A fee of £50 per match will apply in future years. A similar fee will apply for football fixtures; although shorter in duration they tend to require more cleaning up afterwards. The Cricket Club may have a match in August. If so, it will be responsible for carrying out a risk assessment and policing the event on the day. There will be no showering or changing on site and use of the toilets will be kept to a minimum.
Cllr Stevens has drafted a new agreement for the Cricket and Football Clubs. He raised a question at the meeting about the number of the Cricket club members who live in the village but did not receive a definitive answer
- **Trees to replace those felled on the A1303 and the Maple in Northfields:** Cllrs Small and Platten had met with Liz King, Tree Officer, and proposed locations and tree types. These were welcomed by the Council. Specific recommendations noted were for the planting of a black poplar on the Recreation Ground on its border with Fassage Green following the removal of the blackthorn saplings which have caused problems for footballers. A whitebeam is proposed for the entrance to Northfields (replacing the silver maple) and a golden false acacia at the entrance to the village. This will require discussion with Highways who need to agree any planting close to the highway. Cllr Purbrook suggested that if more trees were available, they could be planted on Lug Fen Drove, close to Oily Hall. This

would require consultation with the National Trust at Wicken Fen which he agreed to undertake. D/Cllr Trapp enquired whether any trees were planned for Longmeadow and it was agreed that Cllr Platten would consult with residents about the possible replacement of a dead tree on the verge opposite the houses near to the entrance to Longmeadow. Once these enquiries are complete Liz King will be able to submit the list to the County Council for delivery in October

- **Speed Indicator:** Nothing further has been heard from Highways so the Clerk will pursue
- **Road markings at Shrub Corner:** Cllr Stevens has pointed out to C/Cllr Shuter that he had previously advised that the work was scheduled for this year and that the recent response from Highways did not acknowledge this previous commitment

86/20 County Council Report: None

87/20 District Council Report: D/Cllr Trapp asked for feedback on the reports he and D/Cllr Cane submit each month. Council members responded that they are very helpful, bringing out key issues in a concise way. D/Cllr Trapp referred to the work being undertaken by the District Council in respect of homeless people. There has been a decision that “Bed & Breakfast” accommodation is not a suitable response. Consequently, hostel accommodation is provided as necessary and let to other tenants when it is not required for homeless people. The District Council’s Covid-19 Working Party is looking ahead to future challenges arising from the pandemic: it anticipates that a number of businesses will downsize as more people work from home.

He advised that Sanctuary Housing have removed a problematic conifer from Northfields.

D/Cllr Trapp then left the meeting

88/20 Parish Council Reports: The following payments were approved

- **Finance approvals:**

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£393.33	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£173.39	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
BP Express Fuel	Cemetery	£5.44+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Homebase	Cemetery grass seed	£4.00+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Zoom (pd by card)	Remote meeting software	£14.39	Local Govt Act 1972 s 111
Truelink	Grass cutting	£240+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Lloyds Gardens	Play area – replacing posts	£386.42	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Ridgeons (via Lloyds)	Posts for Play Area	£177.99+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Caloo	Bushes for Cantilever swing	£29.00+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
UK2	Website domain registration – pd by card	£17.56+VAT	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Lionel Johnson	Internal Audit	£120.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Swaffham Drainage Board	Internal Drainage rate	£28.52	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

The Parish Council authorised routine payments (including Clerk’s Salary, Cemetery and grounds maintenance, utilities) to be made when they fall due in August. These are to be reported at the September meeting

- **Play Area:** Cllr Platten reported that Charlie Rickard has repaired the rocking horse and will

complete the work on the cantilever swing now that the parts have arrived. Cllr Stevens reported that he had replaced the rubber safety tiles he had hoped to remove having discovered that they were laid on concrete. He has placed a notice asking parents to bring and use hand sanitiser before entering and after leaving the play area. Only one child is to use any piece of equipment at once (unless from the same family) and adults are asked to maintain a 2m social distance. The Council confirmed that this was a proportionate approach to maintaining safety in the Play Area

- **Fassage Hall and Recreation Ground:** At this stage, the Pre-School is the only user of the Fassage Hall but Cllr Stevens stressed that it is important for its management to understand that there will be other groups using the facility. This means that one of the notice boards must be kept for use by the Fassage Hall Management Committee (FHMC). Currently there is office equipment in the foyer and this will not be able to be left out. Toys will need to be put away in the storage cupboard on any day when another organisation is using the facility. Cllr Walsh pointed out that term will be ending shortly and all items will need to be stored properly before the beginning of the holidays. Cllr Stevens advised that the requirement to remove all refuse at the end of each session is clearly set out in the terms of hire. He has obtained Blue and Green bins from ECDC but it remains the case that any non-recyclable rubbish will need to be removed daily by those hiring the hall. It was suggested that the pre-school should be asked for a copy of their plan for dealing with waste (including nappies) which they would need to have to satisfy their registration requirements. Now that Cllr Crickmar is the Parish Council member on the Management Committee, she will ask to be included in any meetings taking place with the Pre-School Leaders. Cllr Platten undertook to explain the Council's issues to the FHMC
- **Covid-19 Working Group:** Cllr Walsh said that the use of the foodbank was slowing but she anticipates that it may increase again towards the end of the month. She is monitoring it regularly so that items remain fresh and those used are replaced. About £80 remains of the funds originally raised: Cllrs Walsh and Crickmar are confident that more would be donated from supportive villagers if the need arises
- **Environment:** Overgrown hedges are obstructing the pavement in two locations on High Street and Northfields. Cllr Platten will make informal contact with the residents of those properties. A dangerous wall has been identified in Station Road. The Clerk will write to the landlord to ask that it be made safe

89/20 Date of next meeting: The next regular meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Monday 14 September

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm