

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 14
September 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, M Walsh, C Purbrook, R Small; D/Cllr J Trapp, Ms P Ingham-Watts (National Trust)

90/20 Items from the public: None

91/20 Apologies: Cllr M Walsh, C/Cllr M Shuter

92/20 Declarations of interest: none

93/20 Minutes of meeting 13 July 2020: These were approved

94/20 Matters arising:

- **Parish Council Vacancy:** The advertisement has been reissued with a closing date of 30 September. No formal application has been received to date though Cllr Stevens has had a conversation with a local resident who may be interested in joining the Council at a future date
- **Cycle Way:** The first cut has been done by Truelink and an invoice submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council for a total of three cuts up to the end of March
- **Trees to replace those felled on A1303:** Cllr Small confirmed that the trees are on order for delivery in October. Highways asked for details of where they are being planted and it was confirmed that the only one on Highways land is at the entrance to the village. While Highways are doing the planting of the trees to replace the felled Silver Maple, planting the A1303 replacements falls to the Parish Council. Cllr Purbrook asked about the trees to be planted at Oily Hall and pointed out that they would need protection from cattle and deer. Cllr Small said that the locations had been agreed. As it is unlikely that Highways will provide the necessary protectors, it was agreed that these should be purchased by the Parish Council
- **Speed indicator:** The Clerk advised that Highways have confirmed that that the unit was ordered on 11 August and the cost is within the agreed budget. They will advise when the unit has arrived
- **Environment issues:** Cllr Platten has spoken with the residents of the two properties where the hedge was growing out over the pavement. With regard to the one on Station Road, members were concerned that, even though the hedge might have been neatened, it was still narrowing the pavement considerably and requires to be properly cut back. Cllr Platten will raise with the residents informally. A formal letter from the Clerk can be sent if required. Cllr Stevens asked Ms Ingham-Watts about an overgrown hedge to a property opposite the church. She responded that this would normally be the responsibility of the tenant but she will look into the matter.

The Clerk will pursue the repair to the dangerous wall in Station Road

95/20 County Council Report: none

96/20 District Council Report: D/Cllr Trapp said that generally it has been a quiet month with the main issue for the Council being debate about the proposed replacement of the Mepal Leisure complex with a crematorium. His primary concern with D/Cllr Cane for the next period is to make progress with the Bus and Cycle Review – the survey results are in but have not yet been collated. He had attended a meeting on the eastern access to Cambridge and expressed the view that the Quay

roundabout is the major bottleneck. This might be relieved if the Newmarket Road Park & Ride site were moved to this side of the Quay roundabout rather than across the road from its present location as currently proposed.

Cllr Small highlighted the serious risks encountered by children cycling from Lode to Bottisham (particularly to the Primary school); they face significant hazards crossing to the cycle path at the Lode crossroads, where there has been a serious accident recently, and then have to deal with heavy traffic, including coaches, as they pass Bottisham Village College. Cllr Platten highlighted the inadequacy of the cycle path between Swaffham Bulbeck and Bottisham as another risk to children cycling to school. D/Cllr Trapp asked that these matters be raised with him in writing by Cllrs Small and Platten so that they can be dealt with in the review. He raised the possibility of improvements being supported through CIL funding as little has been allocated to the south of the district. One other matter identified by D/Cllr Trapp was that the cats' eyes have not been replaced since the B1102 between Lode and Quay was resurfaced. In this context, Cllr Stevens suggested that it may be appropriate to seek a meeting with Bob Rossitter, the CCC Highways officer for this area (see below in respect of Highways issues within the village boundary)

97/20 Parish Report: Anglesey Abbey: Ms Ingham-Watts reported that visitor numbers have dropped back slightly following the initial flurry once the site was re-opened for booked visits. Staff members have received positive feedback about the measures taken to keep the site Covid safe. She advised that the restaurant is now behind the payment point at the entrance to the site. Nevertheless, the restaurant is still open to local residents subject to there being capacity, without having to pay the admission charge. It was suggested that this could be publicised through the Parish magazines for the surrounding villages.

Currently, work is going on to explore the feasibility of having a Winter Lights event this year at two thirds of the capacity of previous years. This is subject to approval from NT's Head Office.

Ms Ingham-Watts said that it has not been possible to progress work on permanent additional toilet facilities due to the lockdown which means that the Abbey will need to apply for planning permission to retain the temporary toilets for a further period from November. Their location outside the main building means that people waiting are outside which is safer than inside during the pandemic. D/Cllr Trapp indicated that the ECDC Covid-19 working group would be supportive of this application in the circumstances.

The National Trust is having to make significant staff cuts as a result of the fall in income. 65% of staff posts are affected by the current consultation though the number of posts vacant means that the impact of the cut affects about 13% of staff locally. Similar action is being taken at the other two local sites, Wicken Fen and Wimpole. Nationally 1200 posts will be made redundant of which 800 will be able to be managed voluntarily

98/20 Parish Council Reports:

- **Finance:** At its meeting on 13 July 2020, the Parish Council authorised the following routine payments to be made as they fell due in August and required that they be reported at the September meeting

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	£5.39+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	£345+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
UK2	Website domain registration – pd by card	£17.56+VAT	Local Govt Act 1972 s111

The following payments were approved:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£405.30	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
J E Giles	Backdating of pay settlement to 1.4.20	£36.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£173.39	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
BP Express Fuel	Cemetery	£5.55+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	£377+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Cyan (already paid from donation)	Cemetery Seat	£295.83+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Wave	Cemetery Water	£41.84	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

- Receipts:** The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had been invited to apply for a Covid-19 grant in August when central government determined that Parish Councils were eligible to apply and £10,000 had been awarded. Cllr Small suggested that as this grant has been awarded in the context of the pandemic, it would be appropriate that at least some of the amount be dedicated to improving the health and well-being facilities locally. The Fassage Green plan had already identified possible projects and it was agreed that, following conversations with interested parties, Cllr Small would bring a proposal to the October meeting which might include seeking match funding from the Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust
- Planning:** There were no applications to be considered. Cllr Stevens pointed out that the advertisement for the land in Longmeadow offered for sale by Cambridgeshire County Council appeared to include the ditch and verge where the old telephone box and Parish Council noticeboard is located
- Highways:** Two main issues were identified in relation to the fen roads within the parish. Firstly complaints have been made about speeding and secondly there are concerns about the poor and declining state of the roads: Cllr Platten said that that if the road were improved the problem with speeding might become worse while Cllr Stevens highlighted that near Bull's Farm the road is splitting and subsiding towards the lode. Cllr Purbrook commented that the road could decline to a point where it becomes impassable for local residents and farm traffic. Regarding speed limits there was discussion about whether the 30 mph limit might be extended to Station Court or even to cover the whole area. Cllr Stevens felt that the County Council are unlikely to grant such a request. He also mentioned that two large branches were broken off the willow at Swan Corner in the recent high winds Given these questions come in addition to other highways issues it was proposed by Cllr Stevens that a list be drawn up and a meeting arranged with Bob Rossitter, the County Council Highways Officer. He indicated that C/Cllr Mathew Shuter should be involved as well
- Trees:** Cllr Small said he would complete a tree assessment form in relation to the apple tree on the allotments close to his house as it appears to be dangerous
- Fassage Hall & Recreation Ground:** Cllr Stevens said that the Cricket Club had used the ground 2 or 3 times during the summer but there is currently little interest for the football season. The Fassage Hall Management Committee has arranged for the roof valleys to be repaired which was completed in August
Referring to the concern raised by Cllr Walsh, Cllr Crickmar advised that despite the new contract with the pre-school being signed, it appears that little has been done to keep the premises tidy and ensure they can be used by other hirers. Cllr Stevens said that although the recycling bin was available it had not been used. He had also found a black bag of rubbish from the pre-school in the green bin under a pile of leaves. Cllr Crickmar understands that Julie Sale is meeting with the manager to ensure that pre-school clears its

equipment each week (and as required when other events are taking place) to ensure that the premises can be cleaned properly. She suggested that if this is not done, the pre-school would need to be charged for the work required to clear up. It was agreed that the toilet facilities within the main hall would be booked for the Fassage Green Working Party on 19 September by Cllr Platten, which would necessitate the hall being cleared the previous day

- **Fassage Green:** see Receipts, above
- **Allotments:** The Clerk will be sending out the rental demands for the year commencing 1 October shortly. It was agreed that he should ask the tenants if they would value a water trough being made available to make watering plots easier. Cllr Platten pointed out that any risks to children would need to be identified and mitigated
- **Mapping software:** It was agreed that Cllr Small should initiate the trial subscription and that the Council would pick up the ongoing cost if it proved effective and useful
- **Covid-19 Working Group:** Cllr Crickmar said that a new private online group, exclusively available to local residents, had been set up following problems with the previous one. Cllr Walsh is still overseeing the foodbank and there were no reports of any issues

99/20 Correspondence:

- **Local Roads for Local People – B1102:** Cllr Platten is attending a Zoom meeting of the group at the end of September and will report back to the October meeting
- **Cambridgeshire County Council - Sustainable management of verges:** There was interest in this initiative from the Council and it was agreed that Cllr Small would contact the officer to indicate an interest in learning more. Cllr Stevens pointed out that the Parish Council only controls the verges within the village. Farmers often cut verges outside their properties but it remains the County Council's responsibility to do so if it is Highways Land, unless they have been contracted to do it.
- **Parking on the High Street and Lode Road:** Referring to correspondence regarding the difficulty for farm vehicles passing through the village, Cllr Stevens stated that the requirement for emergency vehicles was a clear passage 3.1.mtrs wide. He believes that where a farmer is permitted to bring vehicles up to 4 mtrs wide onto the public highway that is different from have a right to do so. It was agreed that this will be a substantive item on the October agenda
- **Public footpath 9:** Following receipt of the Notice of Making an Order to change the route of the path, the Clerk was directed to object in the same terms as the response made to the earlier consultation

100/20 Date of next meeting: Monday 12 October, 7.30 pm, on Zoom