

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 14**  
**December 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, C Purbrook, R Small; Mr D White for Items from the Public

**123/20 Items from the public:** Mr Daniel White addressed the Council on the matter of the application for an Order to divert Lode Footpath no. 7 on land which is owned by his family. He explained that separately the National Trust were applying for a diversion of Footpath 9 which is also on land owned by the family and it was proposed to him that both applications be considered together. He stated that, in the thirty years of their ownership, the actual path used has followed two sides of the rectangle on the other side of the drain. He said that a bridge across the drain would be necessary to access the wood and none had existed during their ownership. The application was therefore intended to regularise the route actually being used.

Cllr Stevens stated that the Sportsman's Pit, where the National Trust have applied for a diversion, was originally used for dredging clay for maintenance of the Lode and wondered whether this had been the purpose of the pond in Mr White's wood. Mr White said the origin and purpose of the pond was unclear. Cllr Stevens said that path crossing the wood diagonally was shown in OS maps of the 1960s – only a minor diversion would be required to avoid crossing the pond. He noted that secure fencing had been put up preventing public access. Mr White explained that this had been done to confine the rabbits which caused damage to their crops. Cllr Crickmar asked if there could be path through the wood protected by gates. Mr White responded that during their ownership they had only received a couple of complaints about not being able to access the footpath along its designated route and said that other footpaths on their land were maintained. Cllr Stevens pointed out that the path beyond Docking Droveaway is currently not accessible across a ploughed field necessitating a diversion for walkers around the field edge.

Cllr Purbrook asked whether the wood was being used for commercial purposes. Mr White replied that it was not but that a friend of his had been encouraging wildlife and stored food in a shed on the site. He said that there wouldn't be a problem with people walking through the wood but that there would need to be a diversion around the pond. The anomaly was explained by Cllr Small who showed that the pond did not exist on a 1920s OS map while the diagonal path was shown.

Cllr Stevens thanked Mr White for explaining the situation to the Council who would consider its view in the light of his presentation at the January meeting

**124/20 Apologies:** Cllr Walsh; Ms P Ingham-Watts (National Trust)

**125/20 Declarations of interest:** None

**126/20 Minutes of meeting 9 November 2020:** These were approved

#### **127/20 Matters arising:**

- **Parish Council Vacancy:** No further enquiries have been received. Councillors agreed to alert anyone who may be interested to the vacancy
- **Trees:** The Council offered its thanks to Liz King for her persistence in concluding arrangements for the replacement trees both for the felled Silver Maple and those removed from the A1303. Bob Rossiter from Highways has confirmed that an order for the work on the tree at Swan Corner has been placed with the County's Contractor
- **Apple tree on allotments:** Cllr Platten reported that Charlie Platten had assessed the tree and the diseased limb has been removed. The remainder of the tree appears healthy
- **Response to Greater Cambridge Partnership Consultation:** Cllr Platten had circulated documents from the A to B1102 Group and also drafted the key points which need to be covered in the consultation response from the Council. She will work with Cllr Purbrook to finalise a draft to be shared with Council members in time for it to be dispatched by the deadline of 31 December. Concern was expressed at the low level of involvement with the Partnership from East Cambridgeshire given the substantial impact the Eastern Access proposals will have on Lode and other local villages
- **CIL:** Cllr Stevens said that there is no allocation of central CIL for schemes associated with the Cycle Path from Lode to Quy. Improvements to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists crossing Lode Road on the Bottisham side of the crossroads could be the subject of a future bid to the Local Highways Improvement Fund. It was suggested that lowering the hedge on the corner of the B1102 where vehicles coming from Swaffham Bulbeck turn left would improve visibility and safety for people crossing to the shared path to Bottisham. The Clerk will write to the owner of the land

#### **128/20 County Council Report:** None

**129/20 District Council Report:** The written report from D/Cllrs Cane and Trapp had been circulated

**130/20 Parish Report – Anglesey Abbey:** Ms Ingham-Watts sent a brief report and indicated that the Abbey staff will look to do what they can with the muddy pathways in their care beyond the gardens. Cllr Platten said the annual litter pick for next year is proposed to take place over the week 31 January to 7 February 2021 to enable people to maintain social distance. She will set out the arrangements for collecting litter picking tools in Lode Star

#### **131/20 Parish Council Reports:**

- **Budget and Precept 2021-22:** The Council noted that the tax base as estimated by ECDC has decreased by 1.7%. This reflects the District Council's estimate of the number of households that might not be able to pay Council Tax in the current financial climate. In this context the Council resolved that the Precept should remain unchanged at £16,500. The Council approved the Budget for the Financial Year 2021-22. It was noted that this includes the contingency fund for unforeseen maintenance as well as the contribution of £4,000 towards the Passage Green and Recreation Ground Project

- **Payments:** 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 |
| Zoom (pd by card)    | Remote meeting software | £14.39      | Local Govt Act 1972 s 111      |
| Truelink             | Hedge cutting           | £571.00+VAT | Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10 |
| Cambridgeshire ACRE  | Subscription            | £57.00      | Local Govt Act 1972 s111       |
| Wave (Anglian Water) | Cemetery                | £23.00      | Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10 |

- **Planning:** No new planning applications were received during the month
- **Fassage Green and Recreation Ground Update:** Cllr Platten has liaised with the Chair of the Cricket Club as the owner of the roller left on the Green who has said that it has not been used for years. She will suggest that he deal directly with the parishioner who has offered to remove it. There was discussion about the removal of the Blackthorn on the edge of the Recreation Ground. It was concluded that this would be better left until the end of the winter as the ground is very wet at present.  
Cllr Small outlined the content of the application to the FCC which included the priority projects identified from the consultation with local people about how to develop the Green and Recreation Ground. If the application is not successful, he suggested that the priority would be the proposed new paths which will facilitate access to the area by disabled people and children in pushchairs etc. Cllr Small will circulate the application so that all Councillors can see the detail included
- **Covid-19 Working Group:** Cllr Crickmar reported that a gift bank for Christmas has been set up and is running successfully. The GoFundMe page continues to be well supported it is understood that there are sufficient funds for Cllr Walsh to maintain the Food Bank
- **Environment:** Cllr Platten said that her latest report to Highways about the pothole on the Fen Road near High Summers has met with a positive response that a repair will be undertaken. She had received a report that the Cross Trainer on the Fassage Recreation Ground is clunky. Cllr Small agreed to inspect it to identify what the problem is.  
Cllr Stevens has cut back a tree on Abbey Lane that might have got in the way of pedestrians. He reported that there is overgrowth of the pavement outside a house in Mill Lane. Cllr Platten agreed to contact the occupant of the property

**132/20 Item for next meeting:** Determination of the Council's view on the Order to Divert Footpath no.7

**133/20 Date of next meeting:** 11 January 2021 at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm