

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 14
June 2021

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Small (Chair), R Stevens, F Platten, C Purbrook, M Walsh;
C/Cllr A Sharp;

23/21 Items from the public: None

24/21 Apologies: Cllr T Crickmar, D/Cllr J Trapp, Ms Sarah Smith, National Trust

25/21 Declarations of interest: None

26/21 Minutes of meeting 10 May 2021: These were approved

27/21 Matters arising:

- **Trees replacing those felled on the A1303:** Highways Officer, Chris Foyle has confirmed that CCC will reimburse expenditure on trees up to £3,250.
- **Litter Bin in Cemetery Car Park:** This has now been installed. Cllr Platten will pass on the thanks of the Parish Council to Darren at ECDC and confirm that it will be included in future rubbish collections
- **Graffiti on Bus Shelters at Lode Crossroads and High Street:** The Clerk had reported this to ECDC who confirmed that it is not eligible for free removal. However, ECDC Street Scene will provide a quotation for removal and treatment with anti-graffiti paint (transparent for the Perspex in the shelter at the crossroads)

28/21 County Council Report: C/Cllr Sharp referred to the previous item and said that he had discussed the graffiti incidents with Mrs Rankine, Head of the Village College, in his role as Co-Chair of Governors. She indicated that there may be a possibility that the person responsible could be involved in the repair work as reparation for the damage caused.

C/Cllr Sharp said that Covid restrictions have only allowed for one meeting of the full Council to take place since the election. He raised concern that the ruling group had disbanded two committees. One of these, Health, will be combined with Adult Services. He was worried that its remit would be too wide to carry out effectively. He has been appointed to serve on four committees: Highways, Children and Young People, Accounts and Audit, and the Pension Fund. He is finding the briefing sessions that have been arranged for new and continuing Councillors to be helpful and informative

29/21: District Council Report: No report was received this month

30/21 Parish Reports:

- **National Trust Anglesey Abbey:** No issues were raised
- **Trees:** Regarding the replacement trees for the A1303, an order to the value of £2,012 is on the agenda to be approved at this meeting. Cllr Small is liaising with Tom Fradd, Anglesey Abbey Gardens Manager, about placing trees purchased with the remainder of the money on the Abbey estate. Cllrs Small and Stevens had met with Bob Rossiter from Highways at Swan Corner and advised him that the pollarding work agreed as part of the compensation package for the tree felled in Northfields had not been done. Mr Rossiter said that he was not qualified to comment as he had no expertise in tree surgery but would refer the issue to his manager, Steve Alexander. The Clerk confirmed that in his most recent correspondence with Steve Alexander, which led to the meeting with Mr Rossiter, he had asked for Highways Risk Assessment of the tree which had not been forthcoming. C/Cllr Sharp indicated that he would take up the issue with Mr Alexander

ACTION: The Clerk to provide information to C/Cllr Sharp on the discussions to date

- **Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Community Liaison Group:** Cllr Purbrook said that the second phase of consultation begins on 22 June. A document about this will be sent to all households in the village but he is collecting some additional copies to be available in the Passage Hall. Although Anglian Water is consulting on environmental

improvements that may be made as part of the development, including the possible opening of part of the old railway route to cyclists, there was concern that financial pressures might lead to these being withdrawn. The plan proposed surrounds the plant with a bund which should mean that the only visible part would be the digester towers

ACTION: Cllr Purbrook will write a note for Lode Star to alert people to the consultation

- **A to B1102 Group:** The Group is gathering information to support its representations to the Mayor about transport plans for this part of East Cambs. Cllr Platten said that the group will be given data from the speed indicators on the B1102 as it goes through the village. The group has asked for a contribution of £30 towards the cost of publicising the Cycling Survey it is launching on 1 July. This proposal was approved by the Council

ACTION: Cllr will ask the group to provide a receipt for the expenditure and pass to the Clerk for payment

31/21 Annual Governance Statement 2020-21: The Clerk advised that the systems used by the Parish Council had been examined by Lionel Johnson, the Internal Auditor. He had also sampled records through the year to check their accuracy and completeness. He has signed off the required statements on page 3 of the document. Cllr Small then went through the statements to be considered by the Parish Council. These were approved unanimously and signed by the Chair and Clerk

32/21 Accounts of the Fassage Hall and Recreation Ground Charity: These accounts had also been examined by Lionel Johnson. Although normal receipts for the year were down by around £7,000, to £3,425, the Emergency Covid-19 Grant had boosted this by £10,000. Given that expenditure was also down by over £4,000 there was a net surplus for the year of £7,919. The accounts were approved unanimously by the Council and signed by the Chair.

33/21 Accounting Statements 2020-21: The Clerk summarised the outturn for the year as a net surplus of £16,795 which meant that the reserve total for the year end stood at £42,456. He outlined the area where the major variances had occurred as required in a document to support the return. The biggest overall difference related to payments other than salaries. In 2019-20, expenditure had been £39,990, a figure which included unusual large payments relating to the purchase of a share of Fassage Green and the costs associated with renovating the Tennis Court. In 2020-21 by contrast, other expenditure only totalled £13,798. As the resulting reserve at the year end was higher than twice the precept, an explanation was required as to the purpose of those reserves. The Council resolved that the reserves were to be designated as follows:

Unforeseen repairs and maintenance	£ 5,000
Contribution to Fassage Green Project	£ 4,000
Due to CCC towards cost of Speed Indicator	£ 1,000
By-election reserve	£ 2,000
Hall & Rec Ground Development reserve	£10,500
General reserve	£20,000

The Council resolved to approve the accounting statements unanimously and they were signed by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer

34/21 Planning:

The application 21/00696/FUL in respect of 43 Mill Road was considered by the Council. It was noted that the only change to the main elevation was the insertion of a Velux type window in the roof. No concerns were noted with the application

35/21 Fassage Green Project: Cllr Small confirmed that the contract for the grant award from FCC had now been signed and the work could commence. He proposed a meeting of the Working Group to identify roles during the implementation of the Project. Now that the award has been confirmed, arrangements are being made with the Contractor, Fen Group Ltd for a meeting to finalise the timetable for the work with the aim that the ground work for the Zip wire is completed as soon as possible and the laying of the paths be commenced in early July. Cllr Small proposed that the next Fassage Green Volunteer day might be dedicated to staking out the line of the new paths

ACTION: Cllr Small to convene a meeting of the Working Group and the Clerk to progress arrangements for meeting with the Contractor

36/21 Other Parish Council Reports:

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

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£405.30	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£173.39	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
W Jaggard	Fuel	£6.37+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Morelock Signs	Additional bracket for Speed Indicator (already paid as per minutes 10 May 2021)	£68.00 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Zoom (pd by card)	Remote meeting software (DD)	£14.39	Local Govt Act 1972 s 111
Truelink	Grasscutting April	£397.60 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Community Action Suffolk	Fassage Hall Insurance (already paid to ensure cover by 1 June 2021)	£404.74	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Lionel Johnson	Internal Audit Fee	£120	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Barcham	Trees (to be reclaimed from CCC)	£2012+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Grasscutting May	£179.40+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Wave	Cemetery Water	£29.75	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

- **Allotments:** Cllr Small suggested that there is now opportunity to reconsider improving the water supply to the allotments which had previously been estimated to cost around £1,500. The annual review of Allotment rents would take place at the July meeting as the renewal of tenancies will be taking place on 1 October
- **Possible new Footpath:** Cllr Platten said that preliminary enquiries had concluded that this would not be feasible
- **Covid-19 Working Group:** Cllr Walsh said that the Food Bank had now been removed from the Church porch as it was too hot during the summer for food storage. There is some continuing demand which is most evident towards the end of each month. Cllr Walsh has put up a sign which enables those still needing food to contact her anonymously. She proposes continuing the service until the remaining money runs out by which time she hopes that either the need will have ceased or people will be connected with other services if they need longer term support

37/21 Correspondence:

- **Parking:** The issue of visitors using Mill Road when walking in the local area has been raised again. It was noted that the National Trust clearly indicate their car park as the start point for people wishing to walk in the local area. Cllr Stevens had spoken with a number of local residents without driveways who understand that it is not always possible to park outside their own house and that residents parking scheme are not practically possible outside urban areas. There was discussion about how to encourage parking away from Mill Road but there was recognition that this is not practically achievable. It was noted that it would be counter-productive to draw attention to the Cemetery/Fassage Car Park as this exists for the users of those facilities. Separately, it was noted that problems were arising, particularly for cyclists, arising from parking outside the Shed
- **Use of Fassage Car Park late at night:** Concerns had been reported by a local resident about cars using the Car Park late at night. Cllr Small had spoken with some visitors recently who had responded to his request to turn down music. In this instance, he felt that letting the

visitors know that they were in a quiet residential area and that people were aware of their presence was an appropriate response. There was information that the Police had visited the Car Park late one night when speeding vehicles had driven up the cemetery lane. It was agreed that any concerns about suspicious behaviour should be reported to the Police or Crimestoppers but where there was no evidence of suspicious behaviour a non-confrontational approach was most appropriate

- **20s Plenty in Cambridgeshire:** Discussion of this at the last meeting had led to the decision to create additional locations for the speed indicators but it was agreed that the Clerk would recirculate the email about the proposed wider initiative for discussion at the next meeting. He advised that he had been contacted by one resident who indicated support by herself and some other local people for the initiative to be adopted in the village
- **Facilities for running:** Cllr Small indicated that a group of young people had made an approach about the availability of such facilities in the village
- **Issues relating to Little Legs:** A request to replace the shed was agreed by the Council but it was resolved that further discussion was required about the replacement (which would need to be more robust than the model which had been suggested) and its location. Cllr Platten had obtained biodegradable bags for disposal of food waste and it was proposed that the agreement with Little Legs needed to include their responsibility for disposal of all waste arising from their activity. Cllr Platten will also remind them that the Fassage Hall must be left clean and free of all the group's equipment when other activities are booked in the Hall

37/21 Items for future meetings:

- Review of Allotment rents (July)
- Consideration of infrastructure improvements to Parish Council facilities (September)

38/21 Date of next meeting: Monday 12 July, 7.30 pm in the Fassage Hall

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm