

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 10 February 2014

Present Cllrs P Dean (Chairman), E Mitchell, F Platten, C Rickard,
A Tomlinson and S Woolley.
D/Cllr R Stevens, Mr M Deas (Cambs ACRE)
and Ms U Maccariello (Hastoe Group)

Apologies Cllr P Lane and Mr M Lord.

08/14 Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 January 2014 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman. He also signed the minutes of the extra-ordinary planning meeting which had been approved at the January meeting.

Declaration of Interest

(a) **Prejudicial** There were none.
(b) **Other** There were none.

09/14 Matters The Clerk reported that:-

- Arising**
- a dog waste bin had been purchased and directly the correct fixing straps were received it would be installed at the junction of Harvey’s Drove with Fen Road.
 - the Lode Star report had identified the need to remove plastic flowers from the graves, however, he would need to clarify his statement as there was no objection to plastic flowers being placed in vases on the headstones of the graves.
 - information received from the Bottisham Clerk identified that the kerbside collection of electrical goods had gone well with an income of £178.64 being contributed to Parish funds. After discussion he was instructed to carry the investigation forward.

Cllr Woolley reported that as he had been incapacitated he had been unable to speak with the farmer about the re-opening of the footpath.

Cllr Platten reported that being unable to contact Mr Beardsmore about the crossroads’ daffodils she had left a message with his wife.

10/14 C/Council Report In the absence of C/Cllr Shuter there was nothing to report.

11/14 D/Council Report The report produced by D/Cllr Stevens is printed below.

In answer to a question:-

- he identified that over 100 Bottisham residents had attended the meeting called to discuss the lack of co-operation between the village college and residents.
- due to safety issues it was not possible to make the fields available for use for activities outside normal school hours.
- the meeting had tended to be inconclusive and the college staff had gone away to consider the comments which had been made,

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Finance The Clerk reported that:

- ECDC had been advised that a precept of £14000 would be required for the 2014/2015 financial year.
- as the cost of the banding straps had not been included on the invoice a further small payment to Glasdon would be necessary.

Invoices The Council agreed that the following payments could be made either electronically or by cheque. Last month’s payments were checked and signed off.

Clerk	Salary	277.17	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	PAYE	69.29	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
R Dean	Cemetery Maintenance	137.15	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	268.54	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
CPRE	Subscription	29.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Jaggard Builders	Fassage Hall Repairs	732.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Glasdon	Dog Waste Bin	295.62	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

Planning

The Chairman welcomed Mr Deas and Ms Maccariello to the meeting.

Mr Deas reported that:-

- in association with Cambs ACRE, the Hastoe Group has been commissioned to identify suitable sites for building development which will be used to satisfy the needs of younger family members who would normally have to leave the village as no suitable affordable housing is available.
- during an earlier tour of the village together with Cllrs Dean, Rickard and Platten, D/Cllr Stevens and the Clerk he had identified eleven building sites which may be suitable for development.
- during the meeting he hoped, by making use of the Councillors' local knowledge, to identify the most suitable sites.
- once these sites had been identified it would be possible for them to approach the landowners to see if the land would be made available for development.
- to enable the low cost housing to be built it would not be possible to pay the full commercial rate for the land. However, as the land cost price is low it is possible for the Housing Association to build to a higher specification yet still charge an economical rental.

After discussion it was agreed that investigation into three sites could go forward. These are Site A, a piece of land on Swaffham Road which is owned by the Green family, Site C along the Lode Road edge of the unbounded field owned by the Graves' family and Site I, the land surrounding the old station building owned by the Durrant family. The Clerk was instructed to supply contact details to Ms Maccariello who will then approach the family members.

The results of following applications were received:-

Anglesey Abbey Lode Mill	13/01059/FUL Replacement of bypass channel	ECDC Application approved
Drs Mockridge/Blumenfeld 6 Station Road	13/00924/FUL Partial ground and first floor side extension	Following discussions with the planners a new application has been received.
Mrs J Peters Anglesey Farm	13/00780/FUL Erection of residential log cabin (retrospective)	ECDC Application rejected as the proposed building is on the floodplain.
Mrs E Mitchell 3 Willow Grove	13/00903/FUL Extension to property	ECDC Application approved

Allotments

Cllr Tomlinson reported that there had been a tardy response to her request for the information she had sought from a number plot owners. These will be chased up.

Cemetery

Cllr Tomlinson reported that with the exception of one tin can which she had removed, a boot and a number of plastic wreathes piled by the side of the recycle bin the cemetery was in good order. Cllr Rickard reported that the matter of the rubbish was in hand and he was to arrange for its removal during the annual litter pick.

Fassage Hall

Cllr Rickard reported that:-

- as one would expect no volunteers had come forward in response to the Lode Star report.
- the lock on the gate had once again been malfunctioned. It will be replaced by a more robust lock.

F'paths/L'ting

Cllr Rickard reported that:-

- due to the inclement weather it had not been possible to carry out work on Harvey's Drove.

- Mr Todd of the NT had been asked to supply more bark chippings which would be used to build up the footpath running from the NT allotments to the mill.
- ECDC will make available some litter-grabbers, a number of high vis jackets and hoops to hold open the plastic bags for use in the litter pick operation.

Play Area

Cllr Platten reported that:-

- five pieces of adult exercise equipment had been identified. Of these one, the leg press, would probably be unsuitable
- as changes, to meet health and safety requirements, had been made to the equipment's construction the prices were slightly higher than those identified at an earlier meeting.

During discussion it was agreed that probable take up of the equipment within the village especially by younger members should be identified and that the Clerks of Histon and Haddenham be approached to obtain information on the usage of their equipment and also to identify any problems which may have manifested themselves.

Cllr Tomlinson asked that it be recorded that she considered the equipment to be far too expensive as the purchase and on costs would have an unreasonable impact upon the budget.

As the the existing play area equipment attracts a large number of Bottisham residents D/Cllr Stevens suggested that an application for funding from the Bottisham Section 106 fund may be in order if the new equipment is to be purchased.

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Anglesey Abbey

Cllr Platten reported that problems had been experienced with the issue of tickets for the Winter Lights event and that changes would need to be put into place for next year. Cllr Mitchell reported that distribution of free tickets to the village would be carried out through the NT community ambassadors.

The Clerk reported that over the weekend motorists attending the snowdrops event had once again created problems within the village by parking in an inconsiderate manner. It was noted that this was probably the result of a section of the car park being out of operation due to poor drainage.

N'hood Watch

It was noted that there had been an attempted burglary in Longmeadow and that no progress appears to have been made in the Willow Grove burglary.

Cycle Way

Cllr Platten reported that the investigation into the cycleway is on-going. The fact that planning application for the Marshalls' Wing Development has been submitted may help the project to go forward.

14/14 Corres'dence

Reebok Spartan

Race

In discussion of this item it was noted that not only did the suggested date coincide with that of the Lodestar Festival but the problem associated with providing suitable parking for 3000 cars, identified when the Festival had been first mooted, would be insurmountable. It was agreed that the request be rejected

Other Items noted.

Green Recycle Bins	It was noted that a second green bin would be made available for the payment of £48 per financial year. This charge will be reviewed annually.
Magpas	A request for a donation was received. The Clerk is to respond with the standard letter of regret.

15/14 Other Business.

John Salisbury Charity	It was noted that it would be necessary to appoint the Clerk as replacement Trustee to the Charity in place of Mrs Carole Faulkner, as this will enable the requirements of Barclays Bank, with whom he is attempting to reopen the Charity's bank account, to be met. This was carried nem con.
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16/14 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.00pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 10 March 2014

..... **Signed by the Chairman Cllr P Dean**

These Minutes consist of 4 Pages

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' NOTES

PROTECTION FROM FLOODING

The dreadful flooding in the south of England has prompted questions about how well this area is protected. Nearly all the land in the District which is less than 5 metres above mean sea level is under the protection of Drainage Boards, and land in the south comes under the Swaffham Internal Drainage Board. It has a pumping station at Upware and houses three electric pumps which regularly lift water into the River Cam from its drainage system. The income to pay for drainage, and for the maintenance of the drains, comes from landowners and the District Council. Landowners and Councillors serve on the Boards. The District pays levies to the Boards from Council Tax paid by households and businesses, since those within the drained areas and those on slightly higher ground benefit from drainage. 12% more was paid in levies last year to cover increasing costs. The Boards also have to abide by nature conservation regulations and are consulted on planning applications. There are limits on water run-off rates from new developments.

Land in the south of the District is prone to flooding from the River Cam, the Great Ouse and the Cambridgeshire Lodes should their banks overflow after heavy and prolonged rain over Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. These carry water from higher ground and are under the control of the Environment Agency. It also runs the pumping stations at the ends of the lodes which are used when their water cannot drain naturally by gravity into the rivers.

The Environment Agency has to endorse risk assessments if new buildings are proposed on Flood Zones 2 and 3 and also developments of more than 1 hectare on Zone 1. Flood zones, rapid inundation zones, flood alerts and flood warnings in England can be found on the Environment Agency's website, together with river levels, such as at Bottisham Lock and on Quy Water in Lode. Sea level rises, land subsidence, building in and around Cambridge, soil erosion and more extreme weather events make water management and flood protection increasingly difficult.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Seven planning applications were determined at the Planning Committee's meeting in February, following visits to the sites beforehand. The committee approved the Ely Southern Bypass, as consultees to the County Council's planning application. The bypass would enable the level crossing by the station to be removed and through traffic routed over a new river and railway bridge about a kilometre to the south. The underpass would remain for use by local car traffic, bicycles and pedestrians and have traffic lights.

In Kirtling, a new house next to the Red Lion pub for the owners was approved. It is hoped that this will make the pub more viable and offer visitor accommodation within it. Safeguarding the future of pubs in the District was discussed at a previous meeting of all District Councillors.

A solar farm was approved in Burwell parish, near the A14. This will occupy 62 hectares and have 108,000 solar panels. It would generate enough electricity over a year for over 6,000 homes consuming on average 10 kWh per day.

A "passive house" was approved in Wentworth which will not require fossil fuels (gas, oil or coal) to be used for heating etc. It will have exceptional insulation and ways of trapping energy through its windows, and large areas of solar hot water and photovoltaic panels. It is expected to generate more electricity for the grid than it uses over a year. The committee requires that the energy performance is published on a website for 5 years for everyone to follow.