

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

Present Cllrs P Dean (Chairman), P Lane, E Mitchell, F Platten, C Rickard and S Woolley.
D/Cllr R Stevens, Mr M Lord (NHW), Mr T Cassidy (Internal Auditor)
Together with Ms A Crack and Ms J Jephcott (National Trust)

Apologies Cllr A Tomlinson

17/14 Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 February 2014 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interest

(a) Prejudicial There were none.

(b) Other Cllr Woolley reported that he had submitted a planning application which would be discussed during the meeting.

18/14 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that:-

- the dog waste bin had been put in place at the end of Harveys' Drove and ECDC advised that it is now operative.
- Ms Maccariello of the Hastoe Group had been given the contact details of the 3 plots which may be used for affordable housing.

Cllr Rickard reported that:-

- there had been no action on the Harveys' Drove weeds but as they were not a problem at present he would not chase up the matter until warmer weather arrived.
- Mr Lamb had replaced the lock on the Fassage Hall gate with one of more robust manufacture.

19/14 C/Council Report In the absence of C/Cllr Shuter there was nothing to report.

20/14 D/Council Report D/Cllr Stevens reported that:-

- more information about the provision of an extra green bin has been issued by ECDC.
- there will be no increase in the ECDC element of the Council Tax. As the Precept request had also shown no increase any change would be generated by the County Council and the emergency services.
- there had been a report that a group of travellers had set up camp in a village hall car park. As this is considered private land the police and ECDC, other than to make sure rubbish from the site is collected, are powerless. It had cost the PC £500, through the civil courts, to move them on.

Cllr Woolley reported that he knew of one property owner who on 3 occasions had called in the police to resolve a similar problem as the law states that where more than 4 vehicles are parked on private land the police must act.

21/14 Parish Council Reports

Finance

Invoices The Council agreed that the following payments could be made electronically.

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
Glasdon	Fixing Strap	16.32	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Play Area Grass Cut	36.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Anglian Water	Cemetery Water	28.89	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

Planning The following applications were received:-

Mr J Shrubbs Lode Farm	14/00011/FUL Demolish existing. Construct 4 bedroom dwelling to replace.	PC agreed to leave the decision in the hands of the planners.
Mr and Mrs S Woolley 5 Longmeadow	14/00157/FUL Sun room to rear of existing dwelling.	PC had no objection to the application.
Mrs V Wallis 60 Lode Road	14/00106 CLP (Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Use or Development) Rear Dormer Loft Extension	ECDC Approved.

Allotments The Clerk reported that with the exception of one plot the remainder would be cultivated. A probable replacement rentee had been identified for the remaining plot.

Cemetery Cllr Tomlinson reported through the Clerk that:-

- it would be necessary for the grass to be cut.
- the fencing panels which had blown down onto the cemetery extension had not been removed. It was agreed that the householders be advised of the need to either remove or relocate them.

Passage Hall It was noted that 3 parishioners had shown an interest in joining the management committee. Cllr Rickard asked that they be approached to put their names forward officially.

Closed Footpath Cllr Woolley reported that he had spoken to the farmer

- he intended to carry out certain remedial work at the entrance to the footpath to replace the existing broken gate with one of much more robust construction and also to install a low level electric fence.
- this work was necessary as the area was infested with rabbits which devastate his crop (on average 100 rabbits are trapped each night).
- he will assist the farmer in the creation of the most suitable solution.

Adult Exercise Equipment Cllr Platten reported that she had not contacted the Clerks of Histon and Haddenham to discuss the equipment installed in those villages. The Clerk volunteered to carry out this task. Cllr Rickard recommended that the following points be raised:-

- what usage of the equipment has been noted?
- what safety and maintenance issues have been identified?
- have there been any reported incidents of vandalism?

Playing Field The Clerk reported that as it had not been possible to spray the weeds off last year he was attempting to identify the most suitable period this year. Mr Lamb had supplied the following information, 'cricket starts 3 May and the last football game at Lode appears to be 8 March. We plan to do some work on the ground on 5/6 April so straight after that would be good or mid March if possible'. This has been sent on to Truelink for their input.

22/14 Parish Reports

Anglesey Abbey Ms Crack reported that:-

- the snowdrop season had been extremely successful with some 53000 visitors attending. This had created problems within the village due to inconsiderate parking. She advised that it would be helpful if in future a list of properties affected could be provided as all she had was anecdotal evidence.
- the Trust intended to approach the authorities to obtain permission to install information signs along the roads leading to the Abbey and to have the Paddock re-opened for overflow parking during the snowdrop season. In

these quests the PC advised they would be supportive of its efforts.

- the March meeting was to be the last she would attend before going on maternity leave but that liaison with the PC would continue in the capable hands of Ms Jephcott who would attend meetings when required.

N'hood Watch

Mr Lord reported that even though a burglar had been apprehended there was no news on the Willow Grove incident.

It was noted that the vans were once again being parked in front of the Church. Mr Lord volunteered to investigate.

Cycle Way

Cllr Platten reported that:-

- the sub committee, charged with the task of progressing the project, had held a meeting to discuss the suitability of the various routes proposed in the feasibility study.
- with the permission, of the PC she will put an advertisement in various village publications, including the Lode Star, the Cresset etc. to encourage people to donate funds online towards the project.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that:-

- 4 of the routes should be discounted and the suitability of the 2 southern routes investigated more fully.
- any request for contributions towards the cost of the cycle path should make it clear that, in the event of the project being abandoned, any funds donated would be used on other Sustrans' projects.

23/14 Items for Decision

Grass Cutting	After discussion it was agreed, as it would be more costly to carry out the regular verge grass cutting, that the first cut should be delayed until the daffodil foliage had died back.
Buildings of Interest	It was agreed that individual lists of suitable properties etc should be prepared for the April meeting. It would be helpful if these could be sent to the Clerk in advance of the meeting.
Fen Road Speed Limit	It was agreed that the proposal to relocate the 30mph sign from the end of Station Road to White Fen Drove would prove to be extremely complex and that it was up to the cyclists exiting the Drove to be aware of their responsibilities as road users. It was agreed that providing more warning signs was not the answer.
Kerbside Collections	After discussion it was agreed to take up his offer and to invite Mr Duggan to attend the April meeting.
Longmeadow Weathervane	The Clerk reported that Mrs Shepherd had been agitating for close on a year that the weathervane be put back into place, hopefully, before the cricket season commenced. Cllr Woolley volunteered to liaise with Mr Hatley on this matter.

24/14 Other Items noted.

Open Parish Meeting	This will be held on Monday 19 May 2014.
Clerks and Councils Direct	As the cost of this publication had increased from £12 to £75 per annum it was agreed that the subscription should not be renewed.
Swan Corner	Mr Robbie Dean had carried out certain maintenance work in the area to clear away encroaching vegetation.

24/14 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.10pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 14 April 2014

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

These Minutes consist of 4 Pages

ECDC Report attached

PLANNING CONDITIONS

Conditions are often applied when planning permissions are granted. Comments from Parish Councils and residents during the consultation period can be helpful in deciding upon these. Sometimes these conditions have to be met before any development work can proceed. In other cases, they have to be met during building work or after completion and during use. There are sometimes separate consultations on proposals that developers make in order to comply with the conditions after permission has been given. Details of permissions and conditions over the past four years may be found on the Council's website. Anyone may contact the Council's Planning Enforcement Team if they consider that conditions are not being met.

EXTRA BIN FOR GARDEN WASTE

The Council will be issuing licences at an annual fee of £ 48 to provide and collect extra garden waste from an additional wheeled bin. This will have a brown lid and licence sticker. If you would like one, please contact the Council on 01353 665555 or email customerservices@eastcambs.gov.uk.

Initially, 500 bins will be available, but more may be available later according to demand.

BUILDINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST

The Council is compiling a register of buildings of local interest which anyone may nominate. The District has many distinctive buildings, but they may not have sufficient planning protection. They may also include features such as signs, ponds, greens, bridges, memorials and pumps. A team of independent experts will assess those proposed and owners will be consulted beforehand. Contact Lorraine Brown on 01353 665555 or email conservation@eastcambs.gov.uk by May 2nd.

THE BOTTISHAM DRAIN

Further to enquiries arising from last month's report, Bottisham Drain is a ditch that runs from land south of the High Street, around the Moat, along Ox Meadow, and then near the parish boundary with Quy. It runs under the B1102 and Quy Water and then through Lode parish. The Drain is the responsibility of the Swaffham Internal Drainage Board, except for the section upstream of a point about 250 metres east of Bell Road, which is an Award Ditch. The District Council is responsible for ditches in parishes that arise from the 19th century Enclosure Acts. Maintenance work includes clearing obstructions, flailing the banks and hedges and de-silting.

COUNCIL TAX

The District Council will not be increasing its share of the Council Tax which households pay over the next tax year. Any increases will be down to the other authorities such as the County and Parish Councils, the Police and the Fire services. About 90% of Council Tax paid goes to these other authorities. Full details may be found in the literature sent to all households.

BRINKLEY'S BEECHCROFT

The Council has regrettably had to remove the beech tree that is close to the play area. It was infected with Giant Polypore fungus. This indicated significant root and stem base decay and crown dieback with dead wood.

TRAVELLERS ON PRIVATE LAND

If travellers set up camp on private land, the District Council has a duty to ensure environmental protection and arranges for waste disposal. The Council cannot order them to leave from land it does not own, but a landowner would eventually require planning permission. It cannot suggest moving to another unauthorised location, such as a public highway or byway where the County Council would take action. The Council tries to establish legal sites at suitable locations in the District through its Local Plan and Planning Applications.