

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12 May 2014

- Present** Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Dean, P Lane, E Mitchell, F Platten, A Tomlinson and S Woolley.
D/Cllr R Stevens and Mrs J Stevens, Mr M Lord (NHW), Mr T Cassidy (Internal Auditor) and Mr M Sale.
- Apologies** D/Cllr K Ellis and Ms J Jephcott
- 34/14 Office Bearers** It was noted that:-
- both the Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected into office for one year and a new election is required at the Annual Parish Meeting.
 - a number of years ago Councillors had agreed that a Chairman should not serve for a term of more than four years. The latest edition of the Standing Orders document omits this decision
- It was agreed that the “four year rule” should be discussed at the June meeting
The election of office bearers then took place with:-
Cllr Rickard being proposed by Cllr Tomlinson seconded Cllr Platten was appointed as Chairman and Cllr Dean being proposed by Cllr Platten seconded Cllr Mitchell was appointed Vice Chairman. The names of Councillors responsible for the various portfolios of responsibility are recorded below.
- 35/14 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 April 2014 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- Declaration of Interest**
- (a) Prejudicial** There were none.
(b) Other There were none.
- 36/14 Matters Arising** The Clerk reported that:-
- all allotment rents had been paid.
 - the playing field weeds had been sprayed on Tuesday 28 April.
 - he had written to Mr Bradshaw NT about the dog fouling and had been advised that the matter was in hand.
 - Mr Duggan of Wiser Recycling advised that the posters advertising the kerbside collection would be placed around the village on the weekend 23 June and removed on the day of collection.
- 37/14 C/Council Report** In the absence of C/Cllr Shuter there was nothing to report.
- 38/14 D/Council Report** The Report produced by D/Cllr Stevens is printed below.
- 39/14 Parish Council Reports**
- Finance**
- Annual Return** The Clerk reported that has completed the Annual Return as required by the External Auditor. He then requested that the Councillors respond to the

Annual Governance statements. With the exception of item 9 all were answered in the affirmative. As the Council is not the sole trustee of any charitable funds item 9 was answered 'not applicable'. Cllr Rickard will sign the document once he has made himself familiar with it. The internal auditor has already signed it.

Invoices The Council agreed that the following payments could be made.
Last month's payments were checked and signed off.

Clerk	Salary	289.25	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	PAYE	72.31	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
R Dean	Cemetery Maintenance	140.85	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	180.91	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
FHMC	Room Hire both 2013 and 2014	300.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Communicorp	Clerks & Councils	12.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
e-on	Street Lighting	24.51	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Suffolk ACRE	Fassage Hall Insurance	391.28	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Suffolk ACRE	General Insurance	780.74	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

Planning The results of following applications were received:-

Mr L LeGgatt High Summers	14/00451/AGN Construction of a hay barn	ECDC rejected. Not located on an agricultural unit., therefore a full planning application will be required.
Mr&Mrs Woolley 5 Longmeadow	14/00157/FUL Sun room to rear of existing dwelling.	ECDC Approved
Mr & Mrs Johnson 49 Lode Road	14/00395/FUL First floor extension.	See comment below

Cllr Rickard reported that this was the third attempt to produce an acceptable application. In discussion of this item it was agreed that other than a change to the roof line little had been proposed to satisfy earlier comments made by Councillors. The Clerk was instructed to convey this information to the planners.

In answer to a question from the floor it was noted that little action appeared to have been taken over the matter of the occupancy of a 'log cabin' on Anglesey Farm. The Clerk was instructed to write yet again on this matter to the ECDC planners.

Allotments Cllr Woolley reported problems caused by old carpet used as weed control on an allotment. Over time this had become colonised by weeds making rotovating very difficult. It was agreed that allotment holders should be prohibited from using carpet in future

Cemetery Cllr Tomlinson reported that there had been an invasion of cow parsley and similar tall growing weeds in the extension. Cllr Dean said that the weeds had been sprayed off but that he would investigate further.

F'paths/L'ting The Clerk reported that the farmer had provided a rudimentary stile at the entrance to the closed footpath

Cllr Woolley reported that:-

- his discussions with the farmer are ongoing and that he hoped there would be no further vandalism in the area.
- he will cut back the ivy which is growing on the former vicarage wall. In answer to a question it was noted that:-

(i) the replacement of the street lights is programmed to take place in 2015.

(ii) lamp posts in a conservation area should be painted black. D/Cllr Stephens thought that the PC would be required to make a contribution to the cost of such paint.

Signs and Bins

Cllr Woolley reported that, as Mr Hatley now has time to repair the village sign, he will take it down and deliver it to Mr Hatley's workshop. It was agreed that sign should be repainted after repair..

Shelters and Seats

Cllr Woolley reported that he had once again cleared the weeds which were encroaching into the crossroads' bus shelter.

Play Area

The Clerk reported that:-

- he had received the RoSPA inspection report and passed it to Cllrs Rickard and Platten for their action.
- Cllr Platten had received a quotation of £300 for the repair of the Play Area fence.

In discussion of this item it was considered that £300 was too high a price to pay for what should be a relatively simple task. Cllr Woolley agreed to carry out the work as a matter of urgency. Cllr Platten will convey this decision to the person providing the quote.

Cllr Platten reported that:-

- one of the shade trees planted in the Play Area had died and a second was barely surviving. . She has removed the dead one.
- she had received only one letter of support for the installation of the adult equipment.

Cllr Woolley noted that similar equipment at Histon was little-used.

. It was agreed that:-

- Cllr Mitchell explore potential interest at the village fete.
- Cllr Platten should investigate the cost of installing an aluminium table-tennis table which Cllr Woolley said was well used at Swaffham Bulbeck.

40/14 Parish Reports

Anglesey Abbey

Ms Jephcott reported that:-

- she is still pursuing the question of installing a dog bin for the area along the footpath and is in discussion with Veolia about the best location for ease of collection.
- work on the sluice is going well, the temporary discharge pipe is out and the bank re-filled with rocks and earth. The sluice base has been completed and is working well. The contractors are just finishing up the bank building with the gabion baskets and the bridge is almost completed but will not be open until all the works are finished as they do not want walkers crossing the path with machinery on the other side. The footpath running over the sluice is open again (there was a short temporary closure last week) NT staff milled over weekend.
- the following piece will appear in the next edition of the Lode

Star. This together with posters and word of mouth via community ambassadors will advertise the Domestic Wing Project Launch Fete. 'To celebrate the opening of the newly refurbished domestic wing and the links it has with local people residents of Lode & Longmeadow, Bottisham or Quy are invited to attend the 1960's themed fete June between 11am and 3pm on Saturday 28th. To ensure entry a utility bill as proof of address is required.' This is in addition to the previously advertised Lode free weekends.

- at the invitation of some Abbey Lane residents Mark Bradshaw (new General Manager at Anglesey Abbey) she attended an informal meeting so residents could make them aware of their concerns regarding parking during the temporary absence of Amanda Crack.

Social Club

Cllr Rickard read out the following statement produced by the recently appointed committee:-

'Current Status as at 12 May 2014

At the recent AGM the membership voted to sell the club's primary asset (the building and land) because, despite noteworthy efforts on behalf of the management, it had proven impossible to operate the club in a financially sustainable manner.

The two directors of the club have tendered their resignations although Michael Voice has agreed to continue to assist in the disposal of the club's assets. All members of the existing committee made it clear that they did not wish to continue although Jean Howard agreed to stay on as secretary.

The social club as an entity still exists, with membership continuing (without subscription) based on the paid-up membership for 2013-14.

The new committee is:

Charlie Platten (Chairman), Pauline Holmes, Edward Shrubbs, Simon Isaacson (Treasurer), Jean Howard, Barry Hall, Coral Hatley.

At the AGM the members voted to sell the club to Richard Peters on the understanding that the premises would be redeveloped as a pub/restaurant. However, the validity of the voting procedure has been challenged and is currently under investigation'.

Wicken Fen

.Cllr Mitchell reported that:-

- she attends the twice yearly meetings of the Wicken Fen Liaison Forum on behalf of the Council.
- those attending include not only Parish Councillors from Wicken, Burwell, Reach and the Swaffhams, but also representatives from groups who use the Fen. These include walkers, cyclists, horse riders and bird watchers.
- discussion at the meetings usually relates to operational issues at the Fen including hide construction, disabled access, parking issues (including in Wicken village) and

more recently how to enforce agreements for Traveller Groups to move from the site. At the April meeting the final versions of the downloadable maps were presented.

- although there is little of direct interest to Lode on the agenda attendance is of value, especially as the Lodes Way becomes more popular. It is also helpful to develop networks with other local councillors and interest groups.
- at the meeting in April I mentioned the the Lode-Quy cycle campaign. There was interest and support and the Forum have asked for it to be put on the agenda of the September/October meeting for a full discussion in the context of other cycling initiatives and experience.

41/14 Corres'dence

Parking

It was noted that parking in the High Street continues to give cause for concern with the problem being exacerbated on Thursday evenings when the camera and photographic club holds its meetings in the Chapel.

After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Mitchell should have a word with the organising secretary of the club

Health Watch

The next Cambs Board Meeting will be held on Thursday 15th May from 7-9pm at The Maple Centre, 6 Oak Drive, Huntingdon PE29 7HN. This is open to all.

Velo Festival

This is to be held to celebrate the forthcoming Tour de France. Events include charity cycle rides, food events, art exhibitions, music, community fetes, cycle try-out shows and cycle maintenance.

Other Items noted.

ECDC	Local Plan update
Communicorp	Clerks and Councils Direct

42/14 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 8.50pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 9 June 2014

..... **Signed by the Chairman Cllr C Rickard**

These Minutes consist of 6 Pages

Portfolios
Attached ECDC Report

Portfolios

Finance	Cllr Rickard Cllr Dean Cllr Lane
Planning	Cllr Rickard Cllr Dean Cllr Lane Cllr Platten
Allotments	Cllr Tomlinson
Cemetery	Cllr Tomlinson
Passage Hall	Cllr Lane
Footpaths	Cllr Rickard
Lighting	Cllr Rickard
Seats	Cllr Woolley
Shelters	Cllr Woolley
Signs	Cllr Mitchell
Bins	Cllr Mitchell
Play Area	Cllr Platten Cllr Mitchell
Lode Star	Cllr Mitchell
NT Liaison	Cllr Platten Cllr Mitchell
Neighbourhood Watch	M Lord
Lode Local Charity	Cllr Dean Clerk
John Salisbury Charity	Cllr Dean Cllr Lane Clerk
Internal Audit	T Cassidy

ECDC Report

DOG FOULING

There have been reports once more of dog mess being left on the ground or discarded in bags. If you see persons doing this and you know for sure where they live or their car registrations, please report this to the District Council. They will receive a visit from the Environmental Enforcement Officer. It is an offence to leave mess on the ground or discarded in bags, which includes footpaths and pavements and all places where the public are entitled to be. Leaving it in bags is also an offence. It is not an excuse not knowing where a dog has been, for instance if it has been let off a lead, or not carrying a bag to put the mess in.

PLANNING

The Committee has approved the Environment Statement stage in the planning applications for two large housing schemes either side of Lynn Road, between Ely and Chettisham. These would allow up to 2,000 homes, together with open space, play areas and parks, ponds and lakes, cycle paths, playing fields, allotments, schools, a care home and retail and business units. The Committee was assured that drainage issues have been addressed to protect the sites and nearby land.

The Planning Inspector has considered that the Crystal Structures Site, off Tunbridge Lane in Bottisham, should not be in the new Local Plan, since it is already an employment site within the Development Envelope and other policies in the Plan cover such sites. The District Council continues to envisage the site, as in the Bottisham Village Vision, being developed for a mixed-

use scheme delivering 15 dwellings and employment for 64 persons. A planning application has since been received for a purely residential development for this site for 24 dwellings. The application and replies from consultees may be seen on the ECDC website under 14/00359/FUL. The application will be considered by the Planning Committee at a public meeting in Ely, usually held on the first Wednesday of the month, possibly in June or during a later month.

HOUSING GRANTS

Officers have recently discussed with Councillors the problems faced by reduced Government funding to provide adaptations to improve access to and within homes for disabled residents. These should be provided, regardless of tenure, up to a cost of £30,000, but do depend on the financial situation of residents. There are also discretionary grants and loans to improve habitation for vulnerable residents and grants for smaller work up to a cost of £2,000. There is increasing demand because residents, old and young, are fortunately living longer, but often with a disability. Recently, Sanctuary Hereward have agreed to provide 40% of the cost of disabled facilities in homes they own, with the remainder coming from ECDC. The District Council should be contacted for help in all cases.

RETAINING COMMUNITY FACILITIES

There may be planning implications if owners of buildings or land used by the local community require a change of use, or development work to be carried out. Planning decisions are made in accordance to the Local Plan. If there is a loss, or partial loss, of community facilities, replacement or upgraded facilities may need to be provided elsewhere from funds arising from proceeds. Assets of Community Value may be officially registered under the Localism Act.