

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 13 October 2014

Present Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Lane, E Mitchell (who left the meeting at 8.40pm), F Platten and A Tomlinson.
D/Cllr R Stevens, Mr M Lord (NHW), Mr M Bradshaw (NT), Mr C Platten (Tree Officer), Mr A Lamb (Fassage Hall).and 6 members of the public (names listed below).

Apologies Cllrs P Dean and S Woolley

66/14 Minutes The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 September 2014 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
In response to a question from the floor the Clerk reported that the minutes are published in the web site 'Shape Your Place' and not on the Parish web site.

Declaration of Interest

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

67/14 Matters Arising The Clerk reported that:-

- he had been advised that, as the Parish Council was responsible for the cutting of the verges along the Lode/Longmeadow footpath, it was not included in the County's weed spraying programme. In discussion it was agreed that alternative ways of tackling the problem would be considered at the November meeting.
- due to planning constraints it was necessary for the closure of the Milton Road tip but that an alternative site was being investigated. Mr Lamb identified that the closure may impact upon the supply of grants from WREN and Amey Cespa – he is to investigate this.
- confirmation has been given that a second electrical goods recycling visit can take place in January.

Cllr Platten reported that:-

- the village sign was ready for painting but that Mr Hatley could not commence this work until December. It was noted that this would create a problem for members of the WI as they wished, as part of the WI centenary celebration, to be photographed in front of the sign which an earlier group had purchased.
- the planting of shade trees in the play area is still under review.

68/14 C/Council Report In the absence of C/Cllr Shuter there was nothing to report.

69/14 D/Council Report Cllr Stevens had nothing to report.

70/14 Parish Council Reports

Finance The Clerk reported that:-

- Barclays had changed its method of accepting deposits which had resulted in a change in the method of reporting.
- he had transferred £6000 from the current account into the savings' account.

It was noted that the sub-committee would meet on Monday 27 October to discuss the 2015/2016 budget request

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

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	281.70	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	175.17	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Field, Play Area	233.70	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	120.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

Planning

Mr Craig Stretton Commercial End Swaffham Bulbeck	Alterations and Extensions to Lode Social Club Building
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There was a lengthy discussion on this item with several contributions from the floor. The following points were made:-

- the application shows changes, improvements and extensions to the club building but without any reference to future use.
- the Parish Council understands that the building is no longer being used for social club activities and the current directors of the Lode Social Club are in the process of selling the property.
- the sale is currently being negotiated with Mr and Mrs Richard Peters of Anglesey Farm on the understanding that the property is converted to a pub/restaurant and is operated as such for a period of at least ten years. The objective is to ensure that there would continue to be a community facility in the village.
- the application refers to eight existing parking spaces with no change in the future. Parking in the vicinity of the club has caused some problems in the past and, if the building is operated as a pub/restaurant in the future, it is likely that there will be an increase in customers arriving by car. A further consideration is that the hard-standing area to the rear of the club building is apparently not a designated parking area, although it has been used as such in the past as parking has sometimes extended into the access way at the rear – this has the potential to obstruct access by emergency vehicles.
- the applicant states that there will be three full-time staff (FTE) and five part-time (5.5 FTEs). When operated as a social club there was one full-time employee with intermittent part time help. This is good news for employment prospects in the village but it is clear that the applicant has plans for the future use of the building that are not made clear in the application and which would involve a significant impact on the adjacent properties.
- it is disingenuous of the applicant to claim that the hours of opening are “not known” when he clearly has plans for future use that would necessarily involve increased opening hours.
- the applicant states (Section 14) that the site is not vacant whereas, in fact, it is no longer in use. The former use was as a social club, latterly incorporating the Golf Lounge (virtual golf), but both enterprises no longer operate.
- the Parish Council has had representations from local residents expressing concern about, amongst other things, parking, traffic, noise, waste storage and disposal, fumes from cooking and potentially smokers outside, and being overlooked.
- the PC is in favour of any legitimate future use of this site, but any such application must be transparent about the nature and extent of changes that would be required and any impacts they might have. The present plans lack detail and fail to describe the intended future use for the site.

It was agreed that a more detailed application would be required before the Parish Council can give a more meaningful comment.

Allotments Cllr Tomlinson reported that the vegetation outgrowth onto the track had been cleared by the NT. Mr Bradshaw was thanked for arranging this work.

Cemetery Cllr Tomlinson reported that the hedge and grass was in need of cutting. It was noted that an order for the cutting of the hedge had been placed with Truelink.

Fassage Hall

Mr Lamb reported that:-

- two persons had been employed one to carry out maintenance and the other cleaning duties.
- following the death of Mr G Brown on the playing field it has been agreed to purchase a defibrillator which will be available for general use.
- the purchase of a marquee which can be erected on the paved area is being investigated. It could be used for such things as the fete, the half marathon and jumble sales.

It was noted that there had been a request that more external lights be provided. This need is being investigated. It was suggested that a lamp post be installed at the end of the Fassage Close footpath, but this needs further consideration in terms of its effectiveness and the impact on houses at the end of Fassage Close.

**F'paths/L'ting
S106 Grants**

Cllr Platten reported that the hedge in Fairhaven Close had been trimmed back.

In discussion of this item it was agreed that two applications, assistance with the resurfacing of the tennis court and the installation of bollards on Shrub Corner, be supported. The Clerk was instructed to convey the former decision to the tennis club and Cllr Rickard agreed to investigate the latter. D/Cllr Stevens reported that other grants may be available to help with the re-surfacing of the court.

Cemetery Road

The Clerk reported that complaint had been made about the narrowing of the road as the result of trees growing in the garden of 46 High Street pressing against the fence. As this could affect the passage of an ambulance or an appliance attending a fire in Fassage Hall he was instructed to contact Mr Wells to express this concern.

71/14 Parish Reports**Anglesey Abbey**

Mr Bradshaw introduced himself to Councillors identifying that he had been appointed to replace Ms Amanda Crack during her absence on maternity leave. Many of the comments he made appear in the minutes of the Lode/NT Liaison meeting, which include comments on the Cycle Way, held on 6 October 2014.

He further reported that:-

- visitor numbers had remained high with an estimated total of 300 000 for the full year.
- a volunteer member of staff had been subjected to an attempted abduction when cycling on the B1102. The police have been informed..
- it will be necessary to use the paddock during the Snowdrop Season as an overflow car park. The Abbey will be closed and motorists turned away if the parking facilities are full. Concern was expressed that this could lead to excessive parking in Lode village..
- use of the Village College car park supplemented by a mini bus had been considered but discounted due to a number of logistical reasons.

The question of alternative routes for the cycle path was discussed. Cllr Mitchell asked if the NT could carry out a survey of potential users and seek their views on route options. Mr Bradshaw agreed to look into this, but any such survey could only be targeted at NT members.

**N'hood Watch
Tree Officer**

Mr Lord reported that a number of arrests for burglary and fuel theft had taken place.

Mr Platten reported that he had attended the Tree Wardens' Conference at which the need to monitor Ash Tree Dieback had been discussed. He hopes to recruit two volunteers in order to help him monitor the incidence in Lode.

72/14 Corres'dence**Rollerblade Area.**

The Clerk reported that he had received a communication from Ms E Tydeman (NT) seeking information about any agreement for the use of the area by the village. He

was instructed to respond to her communication.

Playing Field

The Clerk reported that Mr Ian Middleton had expressed concern about the amount of dog faeces left behind by inconsiderate dog owners and he had suggested that a way to control the problem would be to insist that dogs be kept on leads when being walked on the field. As this may carry legal implications the Clerk was instructed to contact the District Dog Warden for advice.

White Fen Drove

Mr Sale reported that the hedges bordering the lower end of the Drove were encroaching onto it making it extremely difficult for cyclists to pass his tractor when they met. It was agreed that this was a matter for the land owner to address.

73/14 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.35 pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 10 November 2014

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

These Minutes consist of 4Pages

Attached NT documentation

Those attending to hear the planning application discussions:-

Mr T Ambrose, Mr P Jenkins, Mr S Jenkins, Mr B MacDonald Mr R Poynton and Mr M Sale.

Minutes of the meeting of National Trust/Lode Liaison committee on October 6th 2014

Present Charlie Platten, Charlie Rickard, Lois Baker, Brian Camps, Joy Edwards, Mark Bradshaw, Alan Lamb

Apologies Peter Wells and Maggie Camps

1. Matters arising

- The Mill sluice is now complete and looking good apart from some rather unruly growth on the banks. MB said he would investigate the weed problem. The painting of the Mill is almost complete.
- The land beside the Passage that we requested for outdoor gym equipment is not needed at present because the desire for this equipment seems to be muted.
- The NT stall at the fete seems to have been well visited.
- The allotments. There were quite a few untended plots and there were a few issues of mowing because the mower broke down. In the end LB plus her colleagues did some of the work, and JJ will be looking into the problem when she returns from Head Office.
- Parking in the Paddocks. The NT would benefit from the 28 day rule, and although it has not been used this year, it could well be during the snowdrop season next spring. The PC has discussed this at recent meetings and supports this rather than chaotic parking throughout the village. There have been changes to the proper management of the car parking with a dedicated team and a separate duty manager.

2. Cycle path between Lode and Quy [see separate section below]

3. Wicken Vision LB spoke

- White Fen Woodland The new trees are coming on well and each volunteer had their own patch of trees which they keep an eye on. It has recently been mown and is looking good
- Burwell Fen. This is a conservation area which has a lot of migrant birds and they are introducing the Konig ponies and Highland cattle to keep the vegetation down.
- Gutterbridge plantation in Swaffham Bulbeck. The lease has now been agreed with the PC and a new bridge has been built over the stream and paths opened up by teams of volunteers.

4. Community MB spoke.

Excellent year with record numbers of visitors especially the Dahlia Festival.

- Winter Lights. This event will be the last weekend of November and the first two weekends of December, so 9 evenings in total. A letter has been sent to all the residents of Abbey Lane who are most affected, detailing times of music etc. The lighting in the car park is going to be downlighting, so it is less intrusive. Also they will be given free tickets to the event. There will also be 10 free tickets for each weekend for residents of Lode and Longmeadow, which are available from the community ambassadors.
- Emily Tydeman is the new NT Rural Surveyor. She was asking about the triangle of land that belongs to the NT and used to be rented by Gerald Aves. We thought it might have been taken on by Richard Peters, so MB requested his e-mail which I supplied. Also that morning, Emily had e-mailed me about the roller blading tarmac beside the Passage. AL said that the PC paid £40 per annum to rent it from the NT. None of us knew anything about this. He also said that the NT map of the area was not correct when he was planning construction of the Passage Hall, and he had had a meeting with the Rural Surveyor.
- NT properties in Lode. There were quite a few changes as people had left. Meanwhile they were taking the opportunity to renovate them with new bathrooms etc.

5. AOB

FP to give MB the details of the Japanese Knotweed problem on land beside the old railway line and who is dealing with it.

Cycle Path discussion at NT/Lode Liaison meeting on October 6th 2014

General information. Lode PC had decided to pursue route 5 which is the south side of the B1102

The main reasons are

It is the most direct route

We have in essence permission from the three landowners

It would be a good cycle route for commuters.

The main problem with it is the cost which will be about £300,000, and there is no money available. This has been confirmed by Jonathan Barker and Emma Fletcher from Marshalls. MB had a meeting with Bob Menzies from CCC who said that section 106 and CIL pots had huge demands on them. FP was informed by Patrick Joyce from CCC that we were not eligible for money from the City Deal. Finally, Sustrans has no money, but its job is to source funding and help routes to be opened.

So that leaves us with the Old Railway Line [route 1] which might be achievable. MB has walked the route with JB from Marshalls and he says that the route has an elevated camber with good drainage. However they did not walk the route right through to Honey Hill which is where the route needs to go to connect with the possible new WING development. The route is pleasant and well away from traffic and would make an excellent leisure route. However it is lonely and women might not use it on their own and many people would not use it in the dark so it would not be a good commuter route. Also permission has always been refused by the landowners, the Quy Estate [QE] to use this route.

Thus it has been suggested that if we have a joined up response from the PC's and the NT, we might be able to get permission and funding for this route more easily than the road route.

Discussion MB explained that the NT section of the railway line was used by walkers and horse riders, but the latter had problems with the gates that have an anti motorcycle bar which has caused injuries to horses, and they are negotiating with the QE to remove the bars. The QE is happy to allow horses along their section of the Old Railway Line [ORL] If horses can use it so can cyclists.

CP is very concerned that the QE may not allow access beyond the railway sidings so that the route would have to follow the road down into Quy. This would make the route less direct for commuters thereby reducing its value. Also the road in Quy is not very easy for cyclists to negotiate. CR said one problem for the Abbey was that the route would come to the back of the Abbey, so visitors would have to come right round to the front. CP agreed and pointed out that many visitors would just come along the B1102 from Quy, which would be much quicker.

All of us agree that if the ORL was chosen then the chances of getting the route along the road would be very much reduced. AL pointed out that there are other sources of funding including WREN and Amey Cespa and it would be better if the PC applied for the 90% and the NT for the 10% to access this money. MB agreed and said that Sport England do have resources from the Olympics, which has been used in a number of projects.

AL says that Bottisham would not be very willing participants, because they can use the path that goes from Bottisham to Quy along the B1303, which is wide and safe. There is also a path from SB to Bottisham which the children use to get to school.

AL then asked MB if there was NT funding for big projects such as this and MB said that the path would meet their objectives. The number of visitors was increasing and 1:4 people living in the CB25 area were members of the NT with young families being the fastest growing group.

AL said that if Marshalls supported the route it would probably be do-able.

FP said she had asked Rohan Wilson from Sustrans if they would get the planning permission for route 5 for the PC using the money we have raised, which amounts to £2,500 and which is in a dedicated account with Sustrans. He has replied that both he and Nigel Brigham thought it would be a good idea, because it would raise the profile of this route.

AL thought there would be no point as you have to renew it every 3 years. LB says you have to discharge all the conditions eg archaeological surveys within that time. She also said it costs £100/m to create a path. Many people in Lode have supported the idea of the cycle path but along the road. However, there is quite a lot of interest in the ORL, but we would have to find out the view of the village of both Lode and Quy.

In conclusion, LB suggested we form a Steering group of the NT, the Parish councils, Sustrans, Marshalls and Patrick Joyce the county cycling officer from the CC and we try to find a route which is achievable. We also agreed that MB continues his discussions with the QE.

In conclusion the pros and cons of route 5

- It will be expensive
- Difficult getting on and off at Lode and Quy
- **It is straight and direct and would be used by commuters**
- **The permission of the 3 landowners is more or less agreed**
- **It would be used by lone cyclists as it is less lonely**

The pros and cons of the ORL

- Landowner not in agreement
- Not particularly direct

- Lonely and difficult at night, more of a leisure route
- **A lot of it is already in place**
- **It is a more attractive route**
- **Considerably cheaper to get a working cycle route**