

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 7 December 2015

These minutes comprise 4 pages.

Present: Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Dean, P Lane, and F Platten,
together with Mr M Lord (NHW), Mr C Platten (Tree Officer), Mr B Stephens
and Mr R Small.

Apologies: Cllr E Mitchell and Mrs A Forecast

76/15 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 November 2015 were accepted as a true record and the Chairman was given permission to sign them outside the meeting.

Declaration of Interest

- (a) Prejudicial** – there were none
- (b) Other** – there were none

77/15 Matters Arising

The Clerk reported that:-

Since he had set in motion the process of replacing Cllr McNeely he had been advised that Cllr Rolland had also tendered her resignation. Both vacancies have been advertised.

The Hereward Housing electrician had attended the village and having inspected the site had advised, as there was no supply to the garages, that it will be difficult if not impossible to provide security lighting to the site.

ECDC had been advised that a precept of £14,000 would be required to meet the requirements of the 2016/2017 financial year.

The problem of the misaligned traffic light at Lode crossroads was in hand.

78/15 C/Council Report

In the absence of C/Cllr Shuter there was nothing to report.

79/15 District Council

Mr Stevens reported that one of our two District Councillors had resigned. He also reported that the District Council was again having to use the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) rather than its Local Plan, which was approved in April. A Government Inspector, who has recently judged an appeal for a large development in Witchford, considered that the District will not have enough land coming forward within the next five years to deliver the necessary number of new homes. This means that Development Envelopes do not apply and that decisions should be made according to the NPPF, which is based on the principle of Sustainable Development.

The Clerk reported that, for security reasons, it would be necessary for him to drive to Ely to collect the Lode copy of the electoral roll.

80/15 Parish Council Reports

Finance

The Council agreed that the following payments could be made.

Clerk	Salary	221.71*	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	PAYE	73.90	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	232.04	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery (May)	144.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Petrol	16.99	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

- To correct an over-payment in November.

Last month's payments were checked and signed off.

Planning

The following applications were discussed

Mr A Brand 4 Mill Road	15/01208/FUL Conversion of garage into a study	PC had no comments
Mrs V Wallis 60 Lode Road	15/01229/HEN Rear extension	Permission not required. Does not exceed parameters.
Mr B Chapman 3 Northfields	15/01162/FUL Ground floor bedroom and en suite	ECDC Approved
Mr J MacSwinney Saddleduck Farm	15/00681/FUM Erection of an equestrian facility	ECDC Approved with 15 conditions imposed
The Paddock Anglesey Abbey	15/01302/VAR Variation of condition 6 (Parking)	PC has expressed its support for this change
Mr C Purbrook Gally's Farm	15/01247/AGN Construction of a barn.	ECDC approval not required, however, the PC drew attention to its concerns about the proposed site.

Allotments

The Clerk reported that following an advert in the Bottisham Cresset he had received 3 applications for the vacant plots.

Cemetery

An article in the Clerks' and Councils' publication which identified the Council's obligations with respect to cemeteries and closed Churchyards was noted.

Fassage Hall

In view of the recent concerns about high energy costs for the Hall, Cllr Rickard initiated a discussion on the division of responsibilities between the Council, as Management Trustees, and the Management Committee (FHMC). After discussion it was agreed that the FHMC should be responsible for the day to day running, management and refurbishment of the Hall. Only when expensive repairs or significant improvements are required should the FHMC refer back to the PC. The question of the large electricity bills should be tackled in two ways; the first is to investigate alternative suppliers, and the second to employ the services of an electrical engineer to survey the present installation and to recommend improvements. Cllr Rickard will convey this to the FHMC.

In an email Mr Lamb has reported that discretionary rate relief has been given for the Hall until 2017 at which time a fresh application will be required.

Footpaths

The matter of the over growing trees in the paddock was revisited. Mr Platten is to raise the matter with Mrs Forecast early in the New Year.

Bins

In discussion of this item it was noted that the missing crossroads bin could not be located. It was agreed that, at present, no further action should be taken.

Village Sign

Cllr Rickard reported that restoration work on the sign was complete and that he was putting in place a work party to re-erect it. Thanks must go to both Mr Hatley and Mr Swannell for restoring it to its former glory.

81/15 Parish Reports

Anglesey Abbey

Mrs Forecast in an email reported that the Winter Lights programme had gone really well with no incidents to report. It was feared that due to the exceedingly high winds it would be necessary to cancel on a couple of nights but in the end this step had not been necessary.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Lord reported that he is receiving little feed back from the Police about happenings in Lode. This included a disturbing event at the mill when a group of men were seen hanging around the area after midnight.

Social Club

Mr Platten reported that a well attended and successful social evening had been held in the Fassage Hall. A programme of events is planned for the coming months including the putting up of Christmas trees.

In answer to a question he advised that the draft constitution for the proposed charity will be put to the vote at the forthcoming AGM.

Cycle Way

In her email Mrs Forecast reported she is waiting for a quote for the removal of the trees in the copse opposite the Abbey entrance to make room for the cycle way and is confident the work will be carried out in January. It was also noted that the County Council is planning to cut down the row of ash trees on the cycle path route to ensure that these do not obstruct the path in the future.

Cllr Platten reported that the Quy PC wants the gaps in the hedge alongside the proposed path in its parish to be in-filled. The CC has agreed to this but maintenance of all the hedge in Quy parish will remain a Quy responsibility. Lode PC would help to maintain the hedge in their parish in conjunction with the National Trust.

At present the programme for delivery of the cycle path is envisaged as follows:

- the planning application will be submitted in January
- work will commence in April with a completion anticipated in August 2016.

Post Office – Disabled Access

This item was based upon a further written representation by Mrs Arnold. In her submission she reported that the Post Office Limited have agreed to pay for 50% of the work. This leaves a shortfall for which she is seeking help. In the discussion possible sources of funding were identified. Cllr Platten agreed to investigate. It was agreed following a vote (three in favour, one abstention) that a grant of £500 be given to assist with the work on the pavement. This represents 50% of the cost of the ramp. This would be awarded on the condition that written approval for the scheme is provided by the Highway Authority.

Correspondence

Skate Park

In a written request 3 youngsters, who found skate boarding on the pavement boring, asked for a dedicated area close to the Hall. As this question had been adequately covered in earlier meetings the Clerk was instructed to inform them that, with regret, the application has to be rejected.

CPRE

A Community Facilities Audit has been carried out by ACRE. It is pleasing to report that the existence of Passage Hall resulted in Lode scoring highly in the audit.

Community Led Development

Following consideration of the paper Cllr Rickard reported the proposal requires a dedicated group of people and adequate land to develop plans for housing, especially affordable. In Lode the question of land availability is likely to be an issue.

2016 Meetings

The following meeting dates were noted:-

11 January, 8 February, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November and 5 December. Open Meeting 23 May.

82/15 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 8.35 pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 11 January 2016

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