

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 8 June 2015**

**These minutes comprise 4 pages.**

**Present:** Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Dean, P Lane, E Mitchell and F Platten.  
Together with: Ms A Crack (NT), Mr T Cassidy (Audit), Mr A Lamb (Sport),  
Mr M Lord (NHW), Mr C Platten (Trees), Mr R Stephens and Mr T Ambrose.

**Apologies:** Cllrs McNeely and Rolland

**39/15 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 May 2015 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

In discussion of this item it was agreed that, in future, following the drafting of the minutes they would be circulated to Councillors for comment and if necessary correction. The agreed minutes would then be placed on the village website with the formal signing taking place at the following month's meeting. In this way, parishioners would not have to wait a month for publication of the minutes.

**Declaration of Interest**

**(a) Prejudicial** – there were none

**(b) Other** – there were none

**40/15 Matters Arising**

The Clerk reported that:-

- Due to a number of factors it had been necessary to postpone the spraying of the weeds on the recreation ground until the autumn.
- The Church Walk sign is being handled by ECDC and he was in conversation on the matter.
- He had obtained two quotations for the removal of the dead willow tree and the trimming back of the playing field trees. In discussion of this item Cllr Rickard reported that there is a tree surgeon based in the village and he had been asked to provide a quotation for cutting down the dead tree at Swan Corner. It was agreed that where possible any available work should be given to local businesses provided that quotes are competitive.

Mr Platten reported that permission had been given to remove the dead tree in the St James' graveyard and that a tree surgeon had been approached.

**41/15 C/Council Report**

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

Mr Stephens reported that at the Bottisham PC meeting the C/Councillor had said that:-

- Consideration is being given to the switching off of the County's lights at midnight as part of their cost saving measures.
- As Lode has only one access road it could possibly be included on the gritting programme during the winter months.

**42/15 District Council**

In the absence of both D/Cllrs Campbell and Chaplin there was nothing to report.

## 43/15 Parish Council Reports

### Finance

The Clerk reported that he had 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 then signed the document on behalf of the PC, the internal auditor having already signed it off.

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

Clerk	Salary	295.61	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	PAYE	73.90	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	191.80	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Grass Cutting	504.30	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
RoSPA	Inspection	145.20	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Communicorp	Clerks and Councils	12.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Zurich*	General Insurance	780.74	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Zurich*	Fassage Hall Insurance	404.91	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery (May)	144.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Fuel/Strimmer maintenance	51.06	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
R Dean	Cemetery (April)	169.02	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
R Dean	Mower Repair - Spares	TBA	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
CCC	CCAN Archive	100.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
ECDC	Election Expenses	100.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Swaffham DB	Cemetery Drainage Rate	27.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

### Accounts paid during April

Clerk	Salary	295.61	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	PAYE	73.90	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	Stationery	62.48	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	197.75	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Grass Cutting	405.90	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Lode Star	Grant	200.00	Section 137

**Planning** The following applications were discussed

Mr C Purbrook Gally's Farm	15/00169/FUL Change of use to mixed equine and agricultural use.	ECDC approved the change of use
Mr S Isaacson 67 Longmeadow	15/00560/FUL Side and rear extension	Cllr Dean reported the neighbours had no complaint. It was agreed that there was no reason for the PC to comment.

### Fassage Hall

Mr Lamb reported that he had attended a fund raising fair at which he had been able to ascertain that AmeyCespa is in a position to provide funding for the fitting of solar panels on the building. He intends to pursue this source of funding.

### Play Area

Cllr Platten reported that she had spoken to Wicksteed about a new backboard and ring for the basketball upright but considered the costs to be rather high. Mr Lamb reported

that he had a suitable ring which could be used and it was agreed that Cllr Platten should investigate the cost of a suitable backboard.

In an email Cllr McNeely had recommended that:-

- One of the replacement shade trees could be planted between the boat and the small swings on the Fassage Close boundary. After discussion it was agreed that this would not be suitable as it would impact upon the Fassage Close residents.
- There is a need to replace a couple of rotten fence posts. Cllr Dean agreed to take this matter forward.
- The second gate should be kept unlocked.

It was agreed that Cllr Platten should give guidance to Cllr McNeely in a hand over of responsibility.

### **Fassage Hall access road**

The Clerk reported that Mead Construction had provided three quotations for repairs to the Fassage Hall access road. Two of these involved major work and were very expensive; the third was for minor repairs at £900. After discussion it was agreed that:-

- Minor repairs should be carried out but could probably be done for a few hundred pounds.
- A large pot hole tends to form near the entrance to the cemetery, which is made worse by cars accelerating round the bend. Consideration should be given to placing bollards here so that the corner cannot be cut thereby slowing the speed of cars at this point.

Cllr Mitchell reported that Ms Marsh had asked if the footpath running across the front of her house be made wider to facilitate the passage of wheelchairs, prams and buggies. After discussion it was agreed that there did not appear to be a problem but that it may be necessary to cut back encroaching grass at the edge of the pavement.

## **44/15 Parish Reports**

### **Anglesey Abbey**

Ms Crack reported that:-

- Recently the mill had not been working as it is necessary to replace the millstones. Work on this is programmed for later in the month and will require the use of a crane to lift the stones. A mobile crane will be parked by the mill and for a short period of time it will be necessary to close off the footpath. Disruption to the residents of Mill Road and walkers will be kept to a minimum. She agreed to give the Clerk advance notice of when the work will commence.
- Work is to be carried out on the NT allotments, which, following the transfer of Ms Jephcott, have suffered from neglect. A replacement has been employed but he will not be used solely on the allotments as he will perform a variety of tasks.
- Concern had been expressed about the apparent fly tipping on the pile of debris formed as the result of the creation of the car parking area. Both she and Cllr Rickard will investigate this problem.

Cllr Platten raised the question of the fence along the cemetery access road, in particular the section on land that was thought to belong to the NT (although it is the garden of the nearby house).. Ms Crack could not confirm ownership but she will investigate further. The fences along the cemetery road tend to restrict access for grass maintenance equipment and possibly for emergency services. This is a long-standing issue with no easy solution.

**Sports Club**

Cllr Mitchell reported that she had been unable to progress the idea of a village cricket match. In discussion of this item Mr Lamb regretted that cricket club officials could not help this year because of pressure on their time. It was agreed that nothing further could be done this year but consideration be given to an event in 2016.

**Cycle Way**

Cllr Platten reported that consideration is being given to using permitted development rather than a planning application to carry the development forward more quickly. As Ms Crack is uncertain of the legal implications of this and their impact upon the NT she has undertaken to explore further.

Consideration then turned to the proposal that the project may result in a change to the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph along the B1102 in the vicinity of Anglesey Abbey, to improve the safety of the crossing that will be needed there. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Rickard would carry the matter forward.

**Neighbourhood Watch**

Mr Lord reported that:-

- the repair of a water pipe at Shrub Corner had created problems when a malfunction in the temporary traffic lights had led to both sets being permanently on red. It had been necessary to call out the police to resolve the problem.
- Residents have been reminded that with the warmer days and lighter nights they should keep doors and windows closed and locked whilst away from the property.

**Social Club**

Mr Platten reported that, following a cricket match, the Folk Club, will organise a picnic to which all residents will be invited.

**45/15** There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 8.45pm.

**Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 13 July 2015.**

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

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