

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12 January 2015**

**These minutes comprise 6 pages, including the appended documents**

**Present** Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Dean, E Mitchell, F Platten and A Tomlinson.  
D/Cllr R Stevens, Mr M Lord (NHW), Mr T Cassidy (Internal Auditor), Mr C Platten (Tree Officer/Social Club) and 6 members of the public

**Apologies** Cllrs Lane and Woolley

**1/15 Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 December 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.

**2/15 Matters Arising** The Clerk reported that he had received no communication from ECDC about the control of dogs on the playing field. He will continue to chase the officials concerned.

**3/15 C/Council Report** In the absence of C/Cllr Shuter there was nothing to report.

**4/15 D/Council Report** D/Cllr Stevens reported that the ECDC planning committee had approved the construction of 26 houses on the old Crystal Structures site. There will be 9 affordable homes and 600 sq metres will be provided for commercial development (e.g. a dentist practice).

**5/15 Parish Council Reports**

**Finance** The Clerk reported that as there had been no changes to the proposed budget (other than a 2.5% increase in his salary) it was agreed that he should instruct ECDC that a precept of £14000 would be required to cover the costs of the 2015/2016 financial year.

**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         |
| Green Energy  | Fassage Hall Electricity | 274.84 | Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10 |
| Anglian Water | Cemetery Water Rate      | 21.36  | Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10 |

It was noted that £13.15 had been received from Eastern Power Networks, a payment made every five years for equipment currently located within the Lode boundary.

**Planning** The results of following applications were received:-

|                                      |   |                |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Mr and Mrs R Peters<br>Anglesey Farm | 14/00448/FUL Erection of residential<br>log cabin (retrospective) | ECDC Rejected. |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------|

The Clerk was instructed to contact ECDC to ascertain what will happen next with the rejected application.

**Cemetery**

Cllr Tomlinson reported that:-

- there were a large number of weeds growing in the cemetery paths.
- A request that the Christmas plastic floral tributes be taken away should be included in the Lode Star report.

Cllr Platten felt that the first commemorative slab had been placed too close to the hedge and this would make it difficult for those in wheelchairs to read the inscription.

It was agreed that her father's ashes could be placed in the second row with a clear separation of one yard from the first. It was noted that slabs should be two feet square with a separation of two feet between slabs in each row.

**Fassage Hall**

Mr Lamb reported that:-

- Bookings were up (including many repeat bookings) and the nursery school had returned to a five day week. It was pleasing to note that the Gurkha squad had been so impressed by the facilities that they intended returning at a future date.
- A cleaner and maintenance man had been employed. The former cleans the public areas monthly and the latter has already carried out a number of small repairs.
- The management committee had approved the purchase of a defibrillator at a cost of £1000. It will be placed in a box outside the building so that it is fully accessible. The key to the box will be secured in a second box with a break glass cover. An audible alarm will give protection. It is battery operated with a 5 year lifespan.
- He will attend a training session at which he will gain information from those who already have installed a defibrillator. If the feedback is positive he will arrange purchase of the defibrillator through the PC.
- He had applied for grants from both the Mick George charity and the ECDC Section 106 fund to be used for the purchase of a marquee.

**F'paths/L'ting**

Cllr Rickard reported that the trees and shrubs at the entrance to and along the Lode/Longmeadow surfaced footpath had been cut back by Mr Platten.

**Shelters and Seats**

Cllr Rickard reported that the seat located by Cemetery Road is serviceable but one broken slat will need to be repaired.

**Playing Field**

Mr Lamb reported that the grass on the field needed to be cut as its length was affecting the quality of the football. The Clerk was instructed to contact Truelink.

As the Truelink charge for cutting the grass is most competitive it was agreed that the company should continue to be employed with the fence damage along the access road being monitored.

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| <b>Play Area</b>           | <p>Consideration will be given to the alternative route up Millards Lane should damage to the fence prove unavoidable.</p> <p>Cllr Platten reported that she was awaiting tree prices from Cllr Woolley.</p>   |
| <b>6/15 Parish Reports</b> |  |
| <b>Anglesey Abbey</b>      | <p>The Clerk reported that Ms Tydeman had asked for further information about the skateboard area</p> <p>After discussion of this item the Clerk was instructed to advise that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the area is not fenced.</li> <li>• it is used also by youngsters who wish to practise their basketball shots and provides a turning circle for a fire engine attending an incident.</li> <li>• the Council does not own the ramp and an instruction for its removal had been issued..</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Platten reminded Councillors that the annual NT open meeting was to be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January in the Fassage Hall. It was noted that the triangle of land owned by the NT has been sublet by Gerald Aves.</p> |
| <b>N'hood Watch</b>        | <p>Mr Lord reported that there had been a number of burglaries in neighbouring villages.</p>   |
| <b>Tree Officer</b>        | <p>Mr Platten reported that planting of the extended shelter belt along the B1102 will take place on Sunday 8 February.</p>  |
| <b>Cycle Way</b>           | <p>The progress report by Cllr Platten is printed below. She also reported that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Quy Estates representative is amenable to the cycle path being built around the edge of the small field at the entrance to Quy. A nominal fee may be charged.</li> <li>• Similarly, the agent for the Munro Corporation who owns Quy Court does not foresee a problem with the track going through their car park.</li> <li>• The County Council cycling champion has intimated that there may be Government funding for the proposed path.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Cycle Rollers</b>       | <p>Cllr Mitchell reported that Mr Peck was to hold a second session with the rollers to which all interested youngsters were invited. Further sessions are planned for the summer months.</p>  |
| <b>Social Club</b>         | <p>.Mr Platten reported that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the sale of the building to Mrs Peters had been completed with safeguards and assurances that they will obtain formal approval for a bar/restaurant within two years. This will then operate for a minimum of 10 years. If this does not take place financial penalties will come into force.</li> <li>• it will be necessary for Mrs Peters to apply for a certificate of lawfulness. There is some confusion about the current status of the building and this will need resolution as a first</li> </ul>  |

stage. It is possible to find more information about the application on the ECDC planning portal numbered 14/01307/CLE.

**Street Lighting** Ms Keeley Russell of Balfour Beatty attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation on the ongoing street lighting improvement programme. She took questions from the floor. Notes of the discussion are appended hereto.

**7/15 Correspondence**

**Election Candidate** The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by the Conservative candidate standing in the May parliamentary election asking if she could attend a meeting of the Council. It was noted that it is PC policy that individual candidates should not be invited to attend meetings.

**Fairhaven Close Fences** The Clerk reported that he had been asked if the PC was responsible for the fences between the Cemetery extension and the Fairhaven Close gardens. He had replied that as they had been installed by the developer of the site the PC had no responsibility for them

**Other Items noted.**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>CIL</b> | Guidance for Parish Councils on receiving and the use of Community Infrastructure Levy Funds. Noted  |
| Election   | Councillors were reminded that the election will be held on 7 May. Those prepared to stand for re-election will have to show their willingness by completing a form which will be sent by ECDC. (See ECDC email below). An email from Ms Cox ECDC was noted. |

**8/15** There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.40pm.

**Date of Next Council Meeting** – Monday 9 February 2015

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

Attached:

- Notes on the presentation and discussion on street lighting
- Cycle Way Progress Report.

**Parish Council Meeting – 13 January 2015**  
**Notes on the presentation by Keeley Russell of Balfour Beatty (BB) and subsequent discussion on the proposed changes to street lighting in Lode**

Ms Russell apologised for the fact that the PC had not been given the 45 day consultation period. She explained that the scheme called for two different types of lantern, one for installation in towns and cities and the other in rural areas. She had originally planned for the work in Lode to commence during April but as the supplier had been unable to meet the order for the lanterns in Cambridge it had been necessary to bring forward the work in the villages. This has meant that work has started in Lode before the expiry of the 45 day notice. However, BB has undertaken to make any changes at their own cost if it is later agreed that such changes are appropriate. She also advised that BB was not required to have a meeting with residents as formal contact would be with the PC. Nevertheless, she was pleased to be able to present the proposals at the PC meeting.

She reported that:-

- Following a central Government initiative a PFI contract had been awarded to BB by the County Council. Under the terms of the contract BB will take responsibility over a 25 year period for the replacement and maintenance of the street lights throughout the County. As part of the rationalisation of street lighting in the County, a total of 6000 street lights will be lost, 13 of these in Lode. The remaining lights will be relocated on new 6 metre high posts (generally placed adjacent to the existing post), or new lanterns will be fitted to existing lamp posts. The replacement lamps will provide a better spread of light and will be more efficient and cost effective. The illumination can be controlled from a central management system making it possible to dim the lights for a specified period during the night (say from 10 pm to 6 am).
- Following a survey of the village the proposed arrangements were drawn up showing lamps to be removed, replaced or upgraded. The drawings are available for viewing on the Shape Your Place website. As a result of some of the suggestions made by members of the public at the meeting, Ms Russell agreed to look at several possible changes to the plans.
- Where a new column is being installed close to an existing column, this is generally because the existing column is unlikely to remain in service for 25 years. This is often because of corrosion of the steel column below ground level. All old concrete posts are also to be removed because they are no longer acceptable.
- The PC can require more lights to be installed than are shown on the plans but the associated costs must be borne by the PC. The installation cost of a light and column was about £2300 and there would be a yearly maintenance charge of £60 per light.
- The project has 3 phases (i) installation of the columns, (ii) wiring of the columns by UK Power Networks and (iii) removal of the old columns and repair to any damage. If the damage cannot be repaired compensation will be paid. As photographs were taken during the planning stage it will be easy for BB to identify places which need repair or compensation. There will be a 3-4 week gap between the installation of the columns and the wiring process.
- It is only a legal requirement to retain lighting along transport routes, parking areas, turning areas etc. There is no legal requirement to provide lighting in residential or business areas in villages.
- BB has responsibility for the replacement of all signs fastened to the old columns. The PC should advise her of any missing signs.

## **Lode to Quy Cycle Path**

### **Progress Report - 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015**

#### **Topographic Survey**

The topographic survey commissioned by Emma Fletcher of Marshall's has been completed. This will be of great assistance for the detailed planning and design of the route.

#### **Contact with Land Owners**

We had a meeting with Alec Tompson representing the Quy Estates, just before Xmas. We asked if it was possible for the path to go across the small piece of their land at the entrance to Quy. Mr Tompson thought that this would not be a problem and that associated costs would be nominal provided that the path was located on the edge of the plot to avoid compromising any future use of the land.

We are meeting with Malcolm Watson on 9<sup>th</sup> January to discuss routing the cycle path through the car park of the office building just as you come into Quy (it borders the small parcel of Quy Estates land described above). Mr Watson works for the Munro group who manage the offices.

We are hoping to set up a meeting with the Garrow Estates to talk about the need for land along the south side of the B1102 where the highway verge is too narrow to accommodate the path. We will need a narrow strip of land going behind the trees and behind the hedge.

#### **Funding**

We are in the process of putting together an expression of interest to East Cambs District Council for CIL funding.

We presently have £2,748 in our dedicated account held by Sustrans.

#### **Technical details**

Now that we have the topographic survey we can start outline design for the path. We need information on, *inter alia*:

- Reservation width
- Cycle path width
- Specification for the path construction
- Drainage provisions
- Limitations on cross-fall and longitudinal slopes
- Requirements for signage
- Details of requirements for road crossings.

We would hope to get this information from the Highways Department and/or Sustrans.