

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

**These minutes comprise 4 pages.**

**Present:** Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Dean, E Mitchell, F Platten and A Rolland.  
together with Mr A Cassidy (Audit), Mr M Lord (NHW), Mr C Platten (Social Club) and Mr R Stephens (Ex ECDC)

**Apologies:** Cllrs P Lane and J McNeely, D/Cllr V Campbell, Mr A Lamb (Sports Club) and Mrs A Forecast (NT)

**62/15 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 September 2015 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Declaration of Interest**

(a) **Prejudicial** – there were none

(b) **Other** – there were none

**63/15 Matters Arising**

The Clerk reported that:-

- A further collection of waste electrical items was due. After discussion it was agreed that a date early in 2016 would be most suitable.
- The contractor responsible for the installation of the Church Walk sign had been stopped from doing his work by a member of the village who objected to its positioning. After discussion it was agreed that the most suitable position would be at the eastern end of Shrub Corner (i.e. the end facing traffic coming into the village). The Clerk was instructed to progress the work.
- He was having difficulty contacting the Hereward Housing Officer responsible for arranging the security lights on the Fairhaven Garages.
- He had delayed putting the allotment adverts in the Lode Star and Cresset as some interest had been shown. However, the adverts will be placed in the November editions.
- Work to trim back the vegetation encroaching onto the Fassage Close footpath has been requested.
- Mr LeGgatt had advised by the Footpaths' Officer (FO) that he would need the approval of the PC if he wished to install gates on the footpath on the bank of the Cam. After discussion Cllr Rickard volunteered to contact the FO and Mr LeGgatt to resolve the matter.

**64/15 C/Council Report**

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

**65/15 District Council**

In a written report, D/Cllr Campbell stated that there was little to report this month other than that the manifesto pledge to meet the 100 Day Commitment of initiatives and actions had been met and if there were any issues affecting Lode he would be happy to assist.

## 66/15 Parish Council Reports

**Finance** The Clerk reported that:-

- The Intermediate External Audit had been completed successfully with only one minor comment being made in the Fixed Assets section.
- The Finance Sub-Committee will meet at 7.30pm on Monday 26 October 2015.
- £7000 (precept), £161 (Council Tax Grant), £7000 (Tennis Club) and £510 had been banked.

### Invoices

The Council agreed that the following payments could be made.

|                |                          |        |                                  |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Clerk          | Salary                   | 295.61 | Local Govt Act 1972 s112         |
| Clerk          | PAYE                     | 73.90  | Local Govt Act 1972 s112         |
| Green Energy   | Fassage Hall Electricity | 177.44 | Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10 |
| Truelink       | Grass Cutting            | TBA    | 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                   | 9.25   | Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10 |
| PKF Littlejohn | External audit           | 120.00 | Local Govt Act 1972 s112         |

Last month's payments were checked and signed off.

**Planning** The following applications were received

|                                       |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Mr S Isaacson<br>67 Longmeadow        | 15/00889/CLP Rear extension. An application for a Certificate of Lawful use | ECDC Approved                          |
| R Sawalmeh<br>43 Fairhaven Close      | 15/00960/FUL Alterations and extension to dwelling                          | ECDC Approved                          |
| Mr D Durrant<br>10 Mill Road          | 15/00014/DEM Demolition of existing building                                | Replacement dwelling already approved. |
| Mr James MacSwiney<br>Saddleduck Farm | 15/00681/FUM Phase 1 Habitat survey   | PC to review and respond, see below    |

Cllr Dean reported that the habitat survey for Saddleduck Farm incorporated records of birds only up to 2012. Cllr Rickard to respond to ECDC.

Cllr Rickard reported that the letter he had sent to the Head Planner about progress with the application for Anglesey Farm had not even been acknowledged. Mr Stephens suggested that ECDC would not respond if they were still deliberating. Cllr Rickard will pursue the matter.

### Cemetery

Cllr Mitchell reported that the cemetery continued to be maintained at a high standard.

### Fassage Hall

Mr Lamb by email reported that:

- He has made an informal enquiry to ECDC to see if planning permission is required for the fixing of solar panels to the roof. Grant funding has been obtained.
- As project manager for a new concrete skate park in Waterbeach he has become aware that several pieces of equipment that can be salvaged and reused could

be obtained by Lode. In discussion of this item concern was expressed about the likely level of use, the lack of a suitable site, and the need to keep the equipment safe and serviceable. It was decided to decline but to thank Mr Lamb for the offer. Some cllrs were still in favour of purchasing external sports equipment.

In answer to a question about the lack of light on the approaches to the Fassage Hall, Cllr Rickard stated that two previous attempts to seek grants for extra external lighting had been unsuccessful.

### **Footpaths**

Cllr Platten reported that the track leading from the Cemetery to Fassage Hall is in a poor state and asked if repairs could be carried out. It was agreed that as the track is NT property she should seek their approval and obtain an estimate for carrying out the work.

### **Play Area**

Cllr Platten reported that:-

- Mr Jaggard will replace the damaged gate post.
- The waste bin had been removed from its original position. As the one at the crossroads' bus stop had also disappeared she wondered if it is a case of vandalism. Cllr Rickard is to investigate.

It was noted that:-

- The timber steps up the side of the slide have sharp projecting edges.
- There is still a depression at the top of the slide. Mr Stephens reported that he has a number of lawn off-cuts that he will use to fill this in.

### **67/15 Parish Reports**

#### **Anglesey Abbey**

Mrs Forecast by email reported that:-

- She is ready to submit the planning application to have the condition lifted on the Paddocks and she was grateful for the support shown by the PC. Mr Stephens cautioned against offering support at the application stage as this would show an 'interest' which could prevent the PC making any comment at the discussion stage. It was agreed that she be asked to withhold the PC letter of support at this stage.
- The leases on the sunray allotments and the bus shelter are due for renewal. In discussion of this item it was agreed that the allotment lease referred to the land on which the village orchard is planted. Cllr Rickard reported that it was his understanding that the orchard lease covered a number of years. (A trawl of the minutes has identified that the lease ran for 3 years from 11 March 2013).

Cllr Platten reported that at the Liaison meeting the following had been discussed:-

- The Sunray allotments are to be cleared of the weeds and offered for rent at £30 pa.
- The question of seeking the introduction of a speed limit down Fen Road to White Fen Drove.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Mr Lord by reported that:-

- He had accessed the Highways' Department web site to report the outgrowth of trees along Fen Road.

- As the conditions governing the Speedwatch operation had been changed a number of neighbouring villages had opted out of the scheme. This has resulted in Lode now having its own equipment.
- Following thefts from a number of vehicles three suspicious vans had been seen in the village. Fortunately two vigilant residents had obtained the registration numbers of two of these and they had been forwarded to the police.

**Social Club**

Mr Platten reported that:-

- Charitable status of the Club is being sought with a number of social events being planned.
- It has been suggested that a number of Christmas trees be placed around the village. After a lively discussion it was agreed that for this first year only two trees, one on the verge opposite the Church and the other in Longmeadow, should be considered. Mr Platten undertook to ensure that any tree erected would be securely anchored in place.

**Sports Club**

Mr Lamb by email reported that:-

- he had had a meeting with a local football club and they are considering if they would like to use the Lode football pitch for either senior or junior football games.
- He has advised Cambs FA that the pitch can be made available for hire on a regular or occasional basis. For this to happen, the pitch needs to remain marked out so regular mowing is required whilst the grass is still growing.

**Cycle Way**

Cllr Platten reported that agreements with landowners are being finalised and the planning application can proceed shortly.

**Tree Officer**

Mr Platten reported the ash die back had reached Brinkley. There is no way of stopping it and this will lead to wholesale felling of trees. Tree surgeons are likely to be very busy.

**Village Sign**

It was noted that the sign has not been put back into place. Cllr Mitchell to investigate.

**68/15** There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9pm.

**Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 9 November 2015.**

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

**These minutes comprise 4 pages**