

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the annual meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9 May 2016

These minutes comprise 4 pages.

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), P Dean, P Lane, E Mitchell and F Platten
D/Cllr A Sharp, Mr T Cassidy (Internal Audit) and Mr DE Osborn (KWA)

Apologies: D/Cllr D Chaplin and Cllr R Small

47/16 Election As this was the annual meeting the election of the new Chairman was the first item on the agenda Cllr Stevens proposed and seconded by Cllrs Mitchell and Platten. was elected. Cllr Dean volunteered to continue in his role as Vice Chairman.

48/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 April 2016 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interest

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

49/16 Matters Arising

Cllr Mitchell reported that work had commenced on the Neighbourhood Plan with a target of having an outline ready for display at the Fete.

50/16 C/Council Report

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

51/16 District Council

D/Cllr Sharp reported that:-

- due to the bank holiday, there was a clash with the Bottisham PC meeting to which D/Cllr Chaplin had gone to represent the District.
- the main item under discussion during the month had been the question of devolution. The consensus was that more information needs to be made available before an informed decision can be made. He felt, however, that it should not produce an extra level of bureaucracy as among other things it would lead to an increase in costs.

52/16 Parish Council Reports

Finance

The Clerk reported that when revisiting the figures produced for the External Audit Report he had spotted an error. Cllr Dean had volunteered to help resolve the problem and the new figures printed in the Correspondence Sheet gave a true reflection of the matter. The Chairman was authorised to sign the accounting statement 2015-2016 on behalf of the PC.

Invoices

The Council agreed that the following payments could be made.

Clerk	Salary	296.48	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
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Clerk	PAYE	74.12	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	285.05	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery	144.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Mower Repair	325.57	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Fuel	9.15	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Grass Cutting	86.10	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Clerk	Office 365 Software	79.99	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
CAPALC	Subscription	266.11	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Playsafety	RoSPA Inspection	159.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Communicorp	Clerks and Councils	12.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

Last month's payments were checked and signed off.

Planning Broughton Hall.

Cllr Stevens opened the discussion of the proposal by welcoming Mr Osborn to the meeting and pointing out that the PC was not in a position to agree to anything before the planning application is submitted.

Mr Osborn then gave a presentation in which he identified that:-

- Lady Fairhaven is keen to have the planning application submitted at the earliest opportunity.
- the plan calls for two areas of development on either side of the Hall. On the crossroad's side two 4/5 bed thatched dwellings and on the other a further eight (one 3 bed detached, two by 2 bed semis and a terrace of three 1 bed dwellings) are proposed.
- discussions have been held with the ECDC tree officer and in principle she is in favour of the scheme.
- a new entrance will be opened up closer to the bottom corner.
- hedges demarcating the two areas have already been planted.

In discussion of this item the following points were made:-

- there may be a need for the question of land ownership especially along the northern edge of the site to be considered.
- adoption of the access road must be considered if the waste collection lorry is to enter the site to collect waste.
- this scheme is an improvement on the earlier proposal.

The following planning application was then considered:-

Triform Properties Ltd 1 Quy Road	Conversion of outbuildings to create 8 dwellings (1x3bed detached, 4x2bed semis and a terrace of 3x1bed Buildings).
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In discussion of this item it was agreed that the response should identify the need for:-

- all construction vehicles to be parked at all times on site and not on the road.
- visibility splays to be installed as the exit comes out onto the cycle way used by Bottisham Village College students.

Concern was expressed that two 17th century Longmeadow cottages could be in danger of demolition. Cllr Dean is to investigate.

Allotments

The Clerk reported that:-

- a plot holder had asked if a greenhouse could be erected on the allotments. As the rule is that no shed/greenhouse can be constructed the request is rejected.
- Ms Mason had agreed to allow the construction of a greenhouse on the garden behind her flat.

Cemetery

Cllr Stevens reported that he had carried out a repair on the damaged seat and had scraped the lichen away from that and the other seat.

Cllr Mitchell reported that the Lode Star report seeking funding for a further seat had been prepared.

The Clerk reported that the caretaker had been complimented on the appearance of the cemetery by an elderly parishioner.

Fassage Hall

Cllr Stevens reported that:-

- he had improved the fixing of the two weather vanes. This had proven to be difficult as the gable ends were only one brick thick.
- as he was suitably qualified and had the correct equipment he would carry out the testing of the electrics and equipment at regular intervals.

Play Area

Cllr Platten reported that having read the RoSPA inspection report the following were proposed:-

- The picnic table to be painted with wood preservative.
- Using ring fenced funds, the backboard and ring to be replaced. Signs saying 'do not climb on the framework or nets' and 'do not hang on the ring' will also be displayed
- The skate board is to be removed
- The safety tiles which have shrunk and are creating a trip hazard will be tackled. They need to be either renewed or the gaps filled. The filling of the gaps with sand. is no longer acceptable so Wicksteed is to be contacted to see if a more suitable filler is available.
- To remove the weeds from around the climbing frame.
- To build up the ground levels around the rocking horse so that they are even
- As the swings were checked about 2 years ago no action is necessary, however the smaller swings should be set to the correct height

She also reported that a grant for the installation of outdoor equipment is being offered through the Tesco Groundwork Link. The grant could be used to install a table tennis table and adult sports' equipment. Following a meeting attended by Cllrs Stevens and Mitchell she hopes to pursue this matter.

53/16 Parish Reports

Social Club

Mr Platten, in an email, had reported that the new charity has been approved by the Charity Commission and will be put in place over the coming months with the administrative processes being communicated through the Lodestar Magazine. The Club Committee continues to organise activities very successfully. A cycle of events, approximately every 2 months, is now in place.

Cycle Way

Cllr Platten reported that the delay on the progress of the Cycle Way was the failure of the company involved to progress the DNA testing of the great crested newts

Trees

Mr Platten reported that:-

- White Fen Wood is growing nicely this year, and a bid for a further 420 saplings for planting in the autumn submitted.
- hedging along the B1102 commenced last year along the Glebe field and it is anticipated that this will continue in the further field towards Longmeadow in the autumn. Requests for plants have been made to the Woodland Trust and National Trust. Permission to plant along the middle field along has not been given.
- the orchard trees are mostly doing well but 2 or 3 need replacing. The PC might like to consider funding these replacements.

Cllr Stevens cautioned against appearing to give approval for works on any trees growing within the village. Any permission can only be given by the ECDC Tree Officer for trees in the Conservation Area and other trees may be protected by Tree Preservation Orders or by Planning Conditions.

Wicken Fen

The minutes of the meeting were noted.

54/16 Other Business

Agenda Cllr Stevens drew attention to the fact that the NT report appears early in the meeting to enable Mrs Forecast to leave the meeting before the end and, in his opinion, those making Parish reports should be given the same consideration. He also proposed that, at the beginning of the meeting a 'Question Time' slot should be made available to parishioners when contentious issues could be raised. It was agreed to give a trial to these two proposals.

Policies and Procedures. These, including the Freedom of Information document, were approved by the PC

Portfolio Responsibilities In was agreed that as a replacement for Cllr Rickard had not been elected and Cllr Small was absent from the meeting the distribution of responsibilities should be held over until the June meeting.

Wheelchair The Clerk reported that a resident, who was in possession of a chair, believed that it belonged to the village. Investigations had identified that it had been purchased by the Lode Local Charity for use by injured residents. Cllr Platten offered to investigate further.

55/16 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.15 pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 13 June 2016.

..... **Signed by the Chairman Cllr R Stevens**

These minutes comprise 4 pages