

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11 April 2016

These minutes comprise 4 pages.

Present: Cllrs C Rickard (Chairman), P Dean, P Lane, R Little, E Mitchell, F Platten and R Stevens. D/Cllrs D Chaplin and A Sharp, M Lord (NHW), T Cassidy (Internal Audit) and I Middleton (Web Site)

Apologies: There were none.

39/16 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 March 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

40/16 Matters brought forward

Cllr Stevens reported that:-

- He had ordered 10 dog fouling signs from ECDC and they would be despatched once payment was made.
- He explained his proposal that Councillors take responsibility for roads near where they live, covering such things as litter, dog mess, potholes and lights. After discussion it was agreed that all parishioners should be encouraged to take responsibility for these matters, with the following named Councillors acting as focal points:

Cllr Lane - Swaffham Road, Quy Road and Lode Road.

Cllr Stevens - Northfields, Millards Lane, Recreation Ground and local footpaths.

Cllr Small - Abbey Lane, High Street, Fassage Close, Mill Road.

Cllr Mitchell - Station Road, Fairhaven Close, Willow Grove.

Cllr Platten - Fen Road, White Fen Drove, Lug Fen Drove.

Cllr Dean - Longmeadow.

Cllr Mitchell reported that the article requesting donations towards cemetery furniture would be included in the next issue of the Lode Star.

With regard to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan, it was agreed that the next step would be to define the area and to identify the benefits of the plan. Cllr Mitchell agreed to investigate further. Cllr Small also agreed to help, explaining that his wife Liz King has relevant experience. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to get an officer from ECDC to present the case for a Neighbourhood Plan to the Parish Council. D/Cllr Chaplin said that the person to contact is Richard Kay (Strategic Planning Manager).

41/16 C/Council Report

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

42/16 District Council

D/Cllr Sharp reported that:-

- There was not much to report with little business being transacted.
- The question of devolution was to be the main topic of discussion at the next meeting of the full Council.

Cllr Mitchell asked if a monthly report could be provided for inclusion in the Lode Star. D/Cllr Sharp agreed to prepare this. The article could be any length up to 400 words and should focus on issues of interest to Lode residents.

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Finance

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	342.25	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery	144.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
ECDC	Dog Fouling Signs	12.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Clerk	Dell Laptop	329.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	Scanner	89.99	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
e-on	Abbey Lane Electricity	35.97	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

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, which did not apply, 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 this section of the document on behalf of the PC. The Councillors approved the signing of the accounts section but the Clerk was asked to supply information in support of the figures to Cllr Rickard.

Following a request from Cllr Platten, it was agreed to purchase a number of plastic rings for holding the litter picking bags open. Cllr Platten will find out the cost of these devices. It was agreed that the necessary funds could come from the ring-fenced footpaths account.

Planning The results of the following applications were noted:-

Mr Clive Purbrook Gally's Farm	15/01559 Out Rural worker dwelling	ECDC refused
Mr Cater and Ms Jay Drovers Cottage	15/00428/FUL Extension of existing property	ECDC Approved

The reason for refusal of the Gally's Farm application was that a need for a permanent dwelling for a rural worker has not been adequately justified. The applicant's evidence was not sufficient to form the view that the enterprise is and would remain financially viable such that a permanent dwelling of the size proposed would be sustained by the business.

The following application was then considered:-

Mr P Webb 10 High Street	16/00034/FUL To construct a new 2 bed dwelling and to demolish the existing summer house
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In discussion of this item it was agreed that the PC's response to ECDC should note that the proposal is for an annex to the existing property (i.e. not a separate dwelling) and comment on the need for adequate off street parking.

The Clerk reported that the Broughton Hall planning application had been placed on hold.

Cllr Lane expressed concern that the PC Lode Star report did not accurately reflect the decision of the Council regarding the discussion of the planning application for 66 Lode Road. The Clerk responded that it had been his understanding that where an application for a rear development has no impact upon the village street scene the PC would not normally comment unless it considered that the proposal constituted over-development of the plot.

Allotments

The Clerk reported that an allotment holder had complained that a dog walker had used his compost bin for the disposal of dog waste. It was agreed that unless the culprit could be identified the PC was powerless. This is true of all such complaints. The only answer is to “name and shame” those responsible. Cllr Stevens said that if those responsible can be named, or identified via their car registration, the best approach was to advise ECDC who would then take action.

Fassage Hall

Cllr Rickard reported that the Hall continues to be financially sound even though 2015/2016 had seen considerable expense. In answer to a question he replied that the hall accounts were audited by Mr Cassidy. It was agreed that, as previously stated, the day to day management of the hall should be left in the hands of the management committee (FHMC) but that the PC should be consulted when projects involving large expenditure were considered necessary.

Cllr Stevens asked about responsibility for emptying the waste bin outside the hall. It was explained that Mr Lamb has to date taken on this duty, but it was no longer clear who would do it. Cllr Stevens volunteered to find out whether it can be added to the other bins in the parish for which ECDC takes responsibility for emptying.

Footpaths

It was noted that both the footpath leading from the NT allotments to the mill and from the kissing gate to the NT parking are getting very muddy. Cllr Platten agreed to follow up the request for chippings from the NT which would be used to resolve the problem.

Cllr Stevens reported that two unused solar lights had been stored in the loft of the Hall for some years. He has now installed one to replace a broken light and he will keep the other spare until it is needed.

Street Lighting

Cllr Stevens reported that unlike Cambridge city and Ely the lights in Lode do not dim at 10pm or switch off at midnight.

Play Area

Cllr Stevens reported that he had:-

- Tightened the play area gate post.
- Put some turf on a badly eroded step on the slide so that the steps are equal
- Washed and cleaned the Pugwash boat outside and inside to make it more ship-shape

In discussion of this item it was agreed that ways of increasing the attraction of the area should be explored by consulting the parents of the children who use it. It was noted that new equipment especially that for adults is expensive, hence the need for grant availability to be investigated. Cllr Mitchell agreed to use the village fete as a vehicle for communication with local children and their parents.

44/16 Parish Reports

Anglesey Abbey

Cllr Platten reported that the Japanese Knotweed had started to grow again on the NT land. She had spoken to Mrs Forecast who had agreed to take the matter in hand.

It was noted that an Easter event on Good Friday had caused considerable parking problems on Quy Road and within the village resulting in the police attending and ticketing cars. Mrs Forecast had been made aware of the inconvenience and safety concerns caused by this. She maintained that even if the overflow parking area had been opened the problem would still have occurred, although not to the same extent. Nevertheless, it was agreed that better planning and preparation by the NT is required for such events, especially when fine weather is predicted.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Lord reported that a group of itinerant door to door salesmen (“Nottingham Knockers”) had descended on the village and as a precaution the police had been called out. It is hoped this will deter any future visits. Cllr Stevens noted that a licence is required by these salesmen for them to operate within the law (later clarified as a Peddler’s Licence which is obtained from the Police).

Cycle Way

Cllr Platten reported that she had not heard anything recently about progress. There was some concern amongst cllrs that progress was slower than anticipated. Cllr Platten agreed to check the situation with the CC.

Web Site

Mr Middleton reported that the site is going well with PC information going back as far as 2014 being available for download. Cllr Rickard thanked him for his efforts in not only producing an excellent site but also for ensuring that it was kept constantly up to date.

45/16 Resignation

There being no further business Cllr Rickard closed the meeting by presenting his letter of resignation from the PC to the Clerk who, on behalf of the Councillors, thanked him for the work he had carried out on behalf of the village.

46/16 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.10pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 9 May 2016.

..... **Signed by the Chairman**

These minutes comprise 4 pages