

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12 September 2016

These minutes comprise 4 pages and one attachment.

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), P Dean, E Mitchell, F Platten and M Walsh.
D/Cllr D Chaplin and Mr M Lord (NHW) together with 5 members of the public.

New Councillor. Cllr Stevens welcomed Mrs M Walsh to the meeting and it was agreed unanimously to invite her to be a member of the Parish Council.

74/16 Public Question Time

When Cllr Stevens invited the electors to raise their questions it was apparent that they had need to discuss only two topics – the traveller invasion of Anglesey Abbey and the planning application submitted by the owners of 3 Willow Grove. Their comments are recorded, together with those of the Councillors, in the relevant sections below.

Apologies for Absence: D/Cllr A Sharp, Cllrs Lane and R Small and Ms A Forecast (NT).

Declaration of Interest

(a) Prejudicial – there were none

(b) Other – Cllr Mitchell declared an interest as she and her husband had submitted the planning application identified above. She recognised that she would need to leave the meeting when the item was discussed.

75/16 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

76/16 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cllr Mitchell reported that:-

- An article asking for donations towards the purchase of a new seat for the cemetery would be printed in the October edition of the Lode Star.
- She had published the cricket fixtures in the magazine at the beginning of the season but had been unable to get any further information as the season progressed. In answer to a question she reported that she would make every effort to identify the football fixtures for the coming season.

Cllr Stevens reported that the setting up of a work party to clear the outflow from the Shrub Corner drain was in hand.

77/16 C/Council Report

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

78/16 District Council Report

D/Cllr Chaplin reported that two topics were under discussion; the Local Plan and the problem of traffic congestion in and around Cambridge. In answer to a question he identified that it would be in the interests of the village if Councillors and Parishioners provided their views to the respective committees and attended the forthcoming meetings especially those called to carry the Plan forward.

79/16 Parish Reports

Anglesey Abbey

Concern was expressed about the July traveller invasion of the Abbey Car Park. In discussion of this item it was noted that:-

- In the absence of Mrs Forecast, who was on holiday, it was not possible to effectively carry the discussion forward.
- Cllr Stevens had intended inviting a representative of the police to attend the meeting but in the absence of Mrs Forecast he had decided not to take that action.
- Members of the village, especially those living in Abbey Lane, had felt intimidated by the presence of the travellers and feared that as they now knew the village environs they could return and take up residence, unless access was secured, in the paddock
- Fortunately the damage to the tennis court had been only of a minor nature albeit a major irritation to members.

It was agreed that:-

- Mrs Forecast and a representative of the police should be invited to attend the October meeting.
- Cllr Platten should ensure that the matter is placed on the agenda of the October meeting of the NT Liaison Committee.

Cycle Way

Cllr Platten reported that the planners had received an objection to the application from the British Horse Society based on the fact that the proposed cycle path will not be a bridleway and will not, therefore, be suitable for use by horses. This had generated a robust response in the form of a letter, which is printed below, from Cllrs Platten and Stevens and Mr Rickard. It was agreed that Cllr Platten could represent the PC at the Planning Committee meeting to be held on Thursday 6 October.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Lord reported that:-

- after a quiet summer there had been five burglaries in surrounding villages.
- if the normal practice occurs the turning back of the clocks will lead to an increase in this type of behaviour.
- He had found a large quantity of rusting objects in the bank of the lode used by children and animals to gain access to the water. He will use a metal detector to ensure that he has removed all the objects. Cllr Platten took the box of offending items as she intended taking them to the tip.

Cllr Dean reported that:-

- as the crops had been harvested the hare coursers had made a reappearance. He asked all present to report to the authorities any incident they note.
- The hunting of deer using a high power rifle has manifested itself in the Burwell area. He is concerned that this dangerous practice may spread to Lode Fen.

Tree Warden

Cllr Stevens reported that Mr Moules had drawn attention to the dangerous state of a cherry tree in Fairhaven Close. The normal practice of Hereward Housing is to remove any tree considered to be in a dangerous state. It was agreed that Mr Platten be asked to inspect the remaining trees.

80/16 Parish Council Reports

Finance

The Clerk reported that due to a change in the method of recording the financial information receipt of the external audit report would probably be delayed. The information identifying this change had only recently arrived and had resulted in an extra 10 hours of effort. Not surprisingly Parish Clerks are up in arms.

Invoices

The Council agreed that the following payments could be made.

Clerk	Salary	296.48	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Clerk	PAYE	74.12	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	45.78	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery	144.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Fuel	8.87	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Grass Cutting – Field	149.40	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Grass Cutting – Play Area	74.64	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Grass Cutting – Verges	206.72	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
A Shepherd	Fassage Hall Parking Sign	35.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

It was necessary to raise a cheque to pay Mr Shepherd.

July and August payments were checked and signed off.

Planning

The following applications were discussed

NT Anglesey Abbey	16/01004/FUL Installation of photo voltaic panels and associated infrastructure to the roof of Redwood's Visitor Centre
Mr and Mrs P Webb 10 High Street	16/01142/VAR ECDC had approved the new build This application had been submitted to vary condition 1 of the approval.
Mr&Mrs J Mitchell 15 Station Road	16/01017/FUL Demolition of 2 bungalows and to replace them with 4 houses with an additional house on an adjacent garden.

16/01004/FUL It was agreed that, as this would have financial benefits for the NT and as it did not impact upon the village no action needs to be taken.

16/00034/FUL As this new build has already been approved by ECDC and as the building occupies a smaller footprint no action is required.

16/01017/FUL This application required careful consideration. The following points were made:-

- The site was considered to be overdeveloped, but it was agreed that there is a need for affordable homes in Lode and none have been built for the last 30 years.
- The location of the houses on the plot was criticised, as the larger house by the lode is positioned close to the bank which would not only endanger the bank, but also the house. The distance should be 8m from the top of the bank. This is also necessary to provide access for the Environment Agency
- The report refers to garages being provided, with no structures being plotted on the drawings
- Houses 4 and 5 have no turning space for their cars
- Traffic issues The farmyard is the base for two articulated vehicles and potentially more, so there could be a conflict at the junction which is on a bend. Although the agricultural vehicles operate mostly during the daylight hours residents will be using it both day and night.
- "The application form states there will be four three-bedroom dwellings and one four-bedroom dwelling. The design and access statement states there will be four

3/4 bedroom dwellings and one 4/5 bedroom dwelling. However, the drawings show them all as three-bedroom dwellings, which would be preferred."

- "The definitive footpath map shows a public footpath going along the middle of the unmade track. There will be increased traffic which will conflict with pedestrians."
- Contrary to what is said the application was not presented to a formal meeting of the PC Council pre application, it was just mentioned to two Councillors Parishioner attending the meeting echoed several of the points raised by the PC and in addition commented as follows, "It was considered that the site was overdeveloped resulting in two of the houses overlooking neighbouring properties in Station Road".

Allotments

Cllr Stevens reported that the allotments were badly infested with weeds. A major cause of this problem comes from the neglected state of the NT allotments. Cllr Platten will raise the matter at the liaison meeting and Cllr Small asked, by this minute, to tackle the PC problem.

Cemetery

The Clerk reported that the cemetery tap had been damaged by over enthusiastic use. It had been necessary to call out Dyno Plumbing and Anglian Water to fix the problem. Unfortunately, as the stop cock was very badly corroded, it had not been possible to have the tap fixed for some ten days.

Fassage Hall

Cllr Stevens reported that:-

- a number of maintenance items had been carried out on the hall. These included, a thorough check of the heat pump which is in good order, time clocks being adjusted to ensure electricity usage is reduced (this has shown that the kitchen water heater does not require replacement), the spare solar light placed by the gate, the external lights put on a timer, the carpets cleaned, the septic tank emptied and a new small fridge installed.
- All the maintenance manuals have been located with outstanding checks updated.
- The only remaining item is the provision of an external plug to replace the one being used for the defibrillator.

Play Area

Cllr Platten reported that:-

- The application for funding from Tesco had failed but that she was hopeful, through a second application, of a successful outcome. To that end she is having the proposal checked, for possible improvement of the case.
- As she has £1758 available she is going ahead with the purchase of the table tennis equipment. It will be necessary to install a concrete base. As quotations for this work are extremely high she hoped to have the work carried out by volunteer labour. Cllr Walsh offered to investigate the Swaffham Bulbeck set up.

81/16 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.30 pm.

Date of Next Council Meeting – Monday 10 October 2016.

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

These minutes comprise 4 pages and one attachment

**To Cambridgeshire County Council Planning Department
Planning application for the Lode to Quy Cycle Path**

We understand that an objection has been raised to the recently submitted planning application for the cycle path linking Lode to Quy. This objection comes from the British Horse Society (BHS) and is based on the fact that the proposed cycle path will not be a bridleway and will not therefore be suitable for use by horses.

We have been actively promoting the cycle path for four years now with the full support of Lode Parish Council and, indeed, the residents of the parish. In fact, the initial impetus for a cycle path came out of a Village Plan exercise in which residents identified the link as a priority project. In the early stages of pursuing the objective of a safe and convenient route for cyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users we did consider the possibility of use by horses. However, it became clear that this would add greatly to the cost and, in a time of diminishing opportunities for funding, we decided to focus on the primary objective. It was also clear to us that the demand for a bridleway between Lode and Quy was lacking, certainly when compared to the clearly expressed need for a safe cycle path.

As a result of our efforts, and with the generous support of Marshalls (who funded the feasibility study and topographic survey), we managed to raise the profile of the project. With the early involvement of Sustrans, and the full support of the County Council highways team, funds were identified and secured for the cycle path. Negotiations with landowners followed and it became clear that land acquisition should be kept to a minimum, not only to keep the costs in line with available funding, but also because the landowners were keen to avoid excessive loss of land. More recently, one of the major landowners has made it clear that he would not be happy to have horses using the path on his land.

Another very important consideration is the location of the proposed path. We were keen to have the path remote from the road but it has been necessary to compromise to meet the requirements of the landowners. Therefore the route takes the path on the roadside verge for some of its length. Whereas this is acceptable for use by pedestrians and cyclists, it would be unacceptable for use by horses, even if the space was available on the roadside verge for dual use (which it is not). Furthermore, whereas the proposed cycle path will connect with the existing cycle paths (Lode to Swaffham Bulbeck, Lode to

Bottisham and Quy to Cambridge), there are no existing bridleways for the route to connect to.

The provision of the path is fully supported by the National Trust which is keen to promote access to Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen by bicycle. Since the Cambridge catchment is a major source of visitors to these National Trust venues, the provision of the missing link in the cycle route between Lode and Quy is very important in terms of environmental impact and safety..

In summary we regard this intervention by the BHS as vexatious and unjustified. We hope that the Planning Authority will agree and will therefore grant permission for the construction of this much-needed cycle path.

Signed:

C E Rickard, former Chairman, Lode Parish Council

F Platten, Project Champion and member of Lode Parish Council

R Stevens, Chairman, Lode Parish Council