

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 5 June 2017

These minutes comprise 5 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), R Small, E Mitchell, F Platten, P Lane and I Faulkner
D/Cllr D Chaplin

36/17 Public Question Time: Although no questions were raised directly from the public, Cllr Small reported that a question had been raised with him about eligibility for the School Bus. The rule is that only those living more than 2 miles from the school are eligible for free transport. The application of this rule means that the bus is half empty while there are large numbers of cars in Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham, near the school, which causes pollution and a potential safety hazard. The question was raised about whether there was a covenant with the County Council to provide transport following the closure of the school in Lode. It was resolved to raise the issue in Lode Star and ask parents affected to notify the clerk, so that they could be involved with the Council in seeking a better solution.

Apologies: Cllr M Walsh, D/Cllr A Sharp

37/17 Matters arising

- **Interactive sign:** Both Cllrs Platten and Stevens have pursued this matter during the last month with Kate Ellis from Cambridgeshire County Council but the sign on the approach to the Lode crossroads from Swaffham Bulbeck is still not functioning and most present could not recall it ever working. Cambridgeshire County Council has suggested that the reason for this is that there is no electricity supply to the sign but have failed to remedy the problem despite promising to do so on several occasions. Cllr Platten agreed to reaffirm to Kate Ellis (with a copy to C/Cllr M Shuter) the Parish Council's serious concern at the failure to act; she will ask for prompt action and also seek confirmation of the date for implementation of the 30mph limit at this junction.
- **Thistles on Recreation Ground:** Cllr Platten expressed concern that this matter was still not resolved given that April-June is the best time for undertaking weed eradication. The Clerk reported that Truelink had expressed concern about the health and safety aspects of carrying out the work when he spoke with them. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Parks and Open Spaces Team in East Cambridgeshire DC to seek advice about how the problem could be tackled. At the same time, Cllr Faulkner and Cllr Platten will pursue contacts with a potential local contractors to enquire whether this is a task they might be able to undertake. Anyone doing the work would be required to have insurance and set out their method of work to minimise risk to members of the public and animals.
- **Picnic Table for Play Area:** This has now been delivered to Cllr Small. He will explore the feasibility of removing the old table himself; if this is not possible Cllr Platten suggested a contact who might be able to assist with the removal and preparing the hole for the new footings.

- **Cover letter for External Auditor:** Cllr Stevens and the Clerk signed the letter to be enclosed with the audit submission.

- **Proposal for 6500 home development on site of Waterbeach Barracks:**

Cllr Stevens advised that the response from Waterbeach Parish Council could be seen at waterbeach.org.uk/opus/opus285.html

He agreed to collate comments from the Parish Council for submission to South Cambridgeshire DC Planning Team following members recent visit to the site. The key areas are:

- Visual impact of the development with some buildings up to 8 storeys and a 30m high energy tower
- Light pollution
- Impact on A10 (it was reported that the A10 Transport Plan is due to be published in July which will be reviewed for how it takes the new development into account). There was concern that increased local traffic on the A10 might cause greater migration towards the B1102 with impact on the villages from Burwell to Quy.

D/Cllr Chaplin advised that East Cambridgeshire DC are also concerned about the impact on the A10. He indicated that he would favour greater connectivity from Junction 36 of the A14 to the east of Bottisham which might reduce some pressure on the A10.

There is a possibility that Waterbeach Station might be moved closer to Bottisham Lock in the context of the Barracks development which would have implications for Lode.

Cllr Small pointed out that the Cambridgeshire Greenways Project has identified the possibility of establishing a link between Waterbeach and Lode in the context of the plan to develop Waterbeach. The relevant plan can be seen at:

https://ccc-live.storage.googleapis.com/upload/www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/Appendix_2_Waterbeach.pdf?inline=true

Cllr Platten declared an interest in this item as her home is closest to the one of the proposed routes.

- **Fassage Hall Electricity:** The Clerk advised that the Tariff had been changed to the one requiring Direct Debit payment to secure a discount. Cllr Stevens pointed out that a climate change levy had been levied on some bills though it did not appear on the current one. The Clerk will investigate.

38/17 District Council Report: D/C Chaplin reported that Charles Roberts was now Leader of the Council following the election of James Palmer as Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

39/17 County Council Report: None

40/17 Parish Reports

- **Anglesey Abbey:** Cllr Stevens had seen that one of the barriers on the cinder railway track bed had been removed. Cllr Small said that he would check that the second one has also been removed.
- **National Trust Liaison:** no meeting has taken place since the Parish Council last met

- **Cycleway:** Cllr Platten advised that the work was still expected to be done within the timescale planned
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Martyn Lord circulated a report. It was noted that where previously there had been 3 PCSOs for 15 villages locally, now there is only one covering those villages and part of Soham.
- **Village Trust:** no further update since Open Parish Meeting
- **Sports Club:** No report
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small reported that he and Liz King would use the Fete to invite people interested in the Orchard and Tree Planting to leave their email addresses. He is also attending the East of England Orchard Conference in July

41/17 Parish Council Reports

- **Finance:**
 - The Parish Council confirmed the re-appointment of Mr Tony Cassidy as Internal Auditor for the current Financial Year
 - The Parish Council received and approved the accounts for the Fassage Hall for the year ended 31 March 2017.
 - The Parish Council agreed that the following invoices could be paid:

J E Giles	Salary	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
CAPALC	New Clerk Training	200.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Community Action Suffolk	Insurance – Parish Council	794.16	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Community Action Suffolk	Insurance – Fassage Hall	492.42	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10
Evershed Products	Millennium Table for Play Area	477.00 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10
Truelink Ltd	Grass cutting	349.04 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	131.42 + VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10

- The Parish Council further authorised payment to Mr Jaggard when the relevant invoice is received subject to it being at the agreed level with reasonable expenses
- **Planning:** The Clerk reported that he had today received a letter from East Cambridgeshire DC stating that planning permission had been granted for the erection of a single storey oak framed garden room to the rear elevation of Frolic Farm. As he had previously been advised by letter dated 4 May that this application had been withdrawn, he contacted the Planning Team for an explanation. They responded with an apology that the letter of 4 May had been

a mistake but, while they could not revoke the permission, invited comments from the Parish Council.

Council members were very concerned that this had occurred. Cllr Mitchell proposed and the Council agreed that the Clerk should write to the Planning Team saying that although this particular application was not contentious, the Council seeks assurance that should a further breach occur, Planning Permission would be revoked until such time as the Council had had the proper opportunity to comment.

It was noted that the applications in respect of the sites north and south of Broughton Hall had been rejected by the Council. In considering how the Council might respond to any new proposal to develop these sites, Cllr Small asked for it to be presented as a single application rather than two separate ones.

- **Allotments:** Cllr Small presented his thinking about developing water availability for the allotments. It would be possible to install some rainwater harvesting tanks (estimated cost for new tank in a reconditioned frame is £100 each plus £50 delivery) alongside one or two dip tanks from which allotment holders could fill watering cans (estimated cost £250 each). He estimated the total project could be delivered for around £1000 and that the Community Infrastructure Levy recently received by the Council might be an appropriate source of funds. There was enthusiasm for further development of this proposal which would involve consideration of safety aspects as the facility would be close to the children's play area and consultation with the Fassage Hall Committee.
- **Cemetery:** no report
- **Fassage Hall:** no report
- **Footpaths:** Cllr Stevens advised that Truelink were not mowing the area beyond the footpath on the Recreation Ground. Cllr Faulkner expressed a similar concern about the area beside the path from the cemetery to the allotments. It was agreed that Cllr Stevens and the Clerk would prepare a specification of all the areas which require to be mown and then determine who should be undertaking it.
- **Orchard:** Cllr Stevens reported that the agreement between the Parish Council and the National Trust regarding the Orchard had expired. Cllr Platten agreed to raise the issue with Amanda Forecast.
- **Playground:** Cllr Stevens reported on the site meeting that had taken place with Caloo who are supplying the new playground equipment. It was decided that the best position for the cantilever swing would be between the horse and the big swings while the Rower and Skier would be placed near the table tennis table.

The supplier had quoted a price of £4000 for installation of the equipment which the Council felt was very high so Cllr Stevens proposed a working group to comprise himself, and Cllrs Lane and Platten as well as other volunteers to effect the installation. The Clerk advised that a work plan for the installation be prepared which could be submitted to the Council's insurer, together with the manufacturer's specification to ensure that both the installation itself and all future use of the equipment would be covered.

Cllr Stevens has identified some safety matting to go around the equipment which has holes allowing grass to grow through. It was agreed that in principle this was preferable to solid matting though the latter could be used in areas of heavy use where grass gets worn away.

- **Village Report:** Cllr Small shared maps prepared by Liz King which would facilitate consideration of whether the residents of Lode and Longmeadow wish to support the development of a Neighbourhood Plan.
Cllr Stevens reported that there is a Parish Forum organised by East Cambridgeshire DC on 29 June which he volunteered to attend on behalf of the Council.

42/17 Items for next meeting: Allocation of roles and portfolios to Parish Council members

43/17 There being no further business, the Chairman formally closed the meeting at 9.25pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 10 July, 7.30pm at the Fassage Hall, Lode