

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 8 May 2017

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), R Small, E Mitchell, F Platten, P Lane and I Faulkner
D/Cllr A Sharp, Mr & Mrs A Cassidy, Mr R Durrant, Mr J Kempster, Mr J Lince

Welcome to new Councillor: Mr Ian Faulkner was welcomed onto the council and completed the required declaration.

Public Question Time: No questions were submitted but Mr Kempster gave a presentation on the Tennis Club's plans. He thanked the Parish Council for enabling the club to take advantage of a good value option to resurface the court. At the time the club undertook to replace the money laid out by the council over three years. In the event, the club has raised the funds in a shorter time and Mr Kempster presented a cheque to the Council for the remaining amount outstanding. He outlined the club's aspiration to replace the current fencing with a "Rolls-Royce" standard enclosure, to include a practice wall. He estimated it would take 6 years for the club to raise the entire amount on their own. He indicated the wish to install this type of fence would preclude an application to Amey's grant fund as this would not meet their criteria. It was suggested that the club may wish to apply for the s106 money amounting to approximately £1200 held on behalf of the council. Cllr Lane suggested they may want to consider applying to the Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust. Cllr Mitchell asked whether the club was still offering junior coaching to which Mr Kempster replied that there had been insufficient demand to offer it for this year and last.

Apologies for absence:

Cllr M Walsh, C/Cllr M Shuter, D/Cllr David Chaplin

Declarations of Interest

- a) **Prejudicial** – none
- b) **Other** – none

29/17 Election of Chair

Cllr Stevens was proposed by Cllr Platten and seconded by Cllr Mitchell. As this was supported by the rest of the Council, Cllr Stevens was duly elected.

The Council decided not to elect a Vice-Chair on the basis that other members would take the chair in rotation, should the need arise. The Clerk was asked to confirm the legality of this arrangement.

30/17 Matters arising from the minutes

- **Interactive sign:** Katie Ellis from ECDC has confirmed to Cllr Platten that the faulty sign is on the list for repair. Cllr Platten will chase as Cllr Stevens reported that he had twice been promised action to repair the sign which has not happened;

- Rainwater harvesting: It was confirmed that the Fassage Hall Committee would be asked to approve the alteration to the fabric arising from installing such a system but any cost would be borne by the Parish Council as the facility is intended to benefit allotment holders;
- Cycle path mowing: Cllr Platten has sought a quotation from Truelink and is awaiting a response;
- Removal of thistles on Recreation Ground: The Council agreed that the Clerk should ask Truelink to spray them with weedkiller as soon as possible, taking the necessary precautions of putting up warning signs and fencing off sprayed areas;
- The Council asked the Clerk to order the multi-coloured octagonal table recommended by Cllr Walsh. Cllr Small will advise the Clerk about delivery arrangements.

31/17 Governance Statement for External Audit Submission

The Council confirmed that it had met all the 9 requirements listed in Section one. Cllr Stevens advised the Council that it was the Managing Trustee for the Fassage Hall which is a separate registered Charity. He asked the clerk to draft a covering letter to explain the relationship between the council and the Hall Management Committee for him to sign.

32/17 District Council Report

D/Cllr Sharp reported that the Council had considered the Business Plan for the trading company that will be taking over the Waste Disposal Service when the Veolia contract ends. The Council's committees have been restructured into 4 main committees with a more equitable workload than formerly. In addition there are two statutory committees covering Planning and Licensing. The work of the Trading Company will be overseen by a Scrutiny Committee reporting directly to the Council to keep it at arms-length from the work of the committees.

33/17 Parish Reports

National Trust: Cllr Platten advised that she had contacted the Trust following a serious injury suffered by a local resident tripping over one of the barriers on the cinder railway track bed. Ms Forecast confirmed that the Trust had now made it a priority to remove them. Richard Todd's house will be renovated to provide accommodation for volunteers in future. The Trust confirmed it is working through its legal department to understand the status of the allotment land controlled by the Trust.

Cycleway: Cllr Platten said that, while she been assured that work would begin soon and that the contractors are ready to go, there is a delay in finalising arrangements for the works compound which is dependent on an agreement with Quy Estates. In the meantime, they are looking for another site for the compound along the route so that work can commence while negotiations are being completed. She confirmed that most of the work could be done without the need for traffic control.

Neighbourhood watch: Cllr Stevens reported that the number of thefts seems to have reduced following the recent cluster which he feels arose from both some opportunistic thefts and some more organised criminals who may now be targeting other areas.

Sports Club: Cllr Mitchell advised that sports events could be publicised in Lode Star if the information is provided in advance.

Tree Warden: Liz King and Rob Small have agreed to take on this role and have met with Charlie Platten. The Council endorsed them in their new role and recorded its thanks to Charlie Platten for all that he has done as Warden over several years.

Wicken Fen Liaison: The main issue arising from this meeting was discussion about an outline planning application for 6,500 homes on the Waterbeach Barracks site. There was concern that the size of the proposed development, including some high rise buildings, means that it is more like a new town than an extension to an existing village. It was noted that South Cambridgeshire Council had not consulted with neighbouring villages in the East Cambridgeshire area. Cllr Small will circulate information on the scheme. D/Cllr Sharp will make enquiries through East Cambridgeshire Council and the clerk will write to the Planning Dept of South Cambs to ask that the council be consulted in future as the plans develop.

34/17 Parish Council Reports

Finance:

The Council agreed that the following invoices could be paid:

J E Giles	Salary	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
CAPALC	Subscription (Authorised at April mtg but not paid)	271.96	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Online Playgrounds	Playground repairs	124.32	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Playsafety Ltd	RoSPA Inspection	159.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery	144.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Fuel	9.98	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Truelink	Recreation Ground and Play Area – Grass cutting	418.85	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	102.85	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
Anglian Water	Cemetery	65.10	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

As the above water bill is based on an estimated reading, Cllr Mitchell will show the clerk the location of the meter to facilitate a comparison with the actual usage.

The council considered and approved the Accounting Statements for 2016/17 to be submitted to the external auditors. The clerk will circulate the supporting papers accounting for year on year variations to Council members.

Planning: Cllr Stevens reported that he been trying to contact Planning Officers at ECDC regarding the two applications in respect of sites adjacent to Broughton Hall (17/00439/FUL & 17/00440/FUL). Although the council's comments on both applications had been submitted to ECDC, only one is showing on the website. He will pursue with Planning Officers. D/Cllr Sharp said that he would also seek information about the current status of the application and decide whether it was appropriate for him to seek referral to the Planning Committee.

Allotments: Cllr Small reported that three new allotment holders need tenancy agreements. He will forward details to the clerk. Three allotments are not being tended; he will review with the current holders in case they might be offered to people on the waiting list. One tenant has asked about placing a bee hive on their allotment. As some people suffer seriously with allergies to bee stings, it was suggested that a hive might be placed in the community orchard.

Cemetery: Cllr Mitchell will order the replacement sundial.

Fassage Hall: Cllr Stevens reported that a plumber has adjusted the flush in the Gents so that it only operates when a tap is used. This will save water and reduce condensation. Cllr Stevens has also repaired a partition. Alan Bailey has completed the major tasks of repainting the weather-boarding and re-surfacing the floors in the changing rooms. The outside sockets have been repaired but only one is working. Cllr Platten agreed to pursue.

The clerk advised that paying for Electricity by Direct Debit would reduce the costs under the current tariff by 7.8% on the night rate and 3.1% on the day rate. The council agreed to move to this method of payment.

Footpaths: The clerk had forwarded correspondence from Mr L Leggatt regarding the signs for the Fenland Walkway along the River Cam. He has offered to replace the posts if the Council can provide the signs. The Council were grateful for the offer and Cllr Stevens agreed to respond to him directly.

Playground: Cllr Platten was concerned that the only significant area of risk identified in the recent inspection was the Skateboard Ramp which was actually removed a year ago. This raises a query about the thoroughness of the site visit and the way in which it was recorded.

Cllr Stevens has repaired the fastening to the gate allowing access to mow the playground which is now secured with a padlock. He is sending a key to Truelink. The small swing has been adjusted to ensure it is at a safe height above the ground. He has identified a source for rubber granules and adhesive which can be used to fill the gaps in the safety matting as identified in the inspection. There was discussion about the location of the new swing, and in particular whether it should be located within or beyond the current playground area. It was suggested that members might look at the installation of a similar model in Swaffham Bulbeck. In the meantime, Cllr Stevens will contact the supplier for advice on the basis that the council have committed to buying the swing.

Grass-cutting: Cllr Stevens will work with the Clerk to clarify exactly what areas the council has responsibility for cutting and how this dovetails with the responsibilities falling to the District and County Councils.

Recreation Ground: Cllrs Stevens and Platten will liaise over the possibility of making a funding application to create a cycle path for children. Cllr Stevens pointed out that a trodden path is being established between the Fassage Close footpath and the Longmeadow footpath which is close to the cricket pitch and not on the line of the definitive footpath. There was discussion about whether the path needs to be reinforced in some way. Mr Durrant suggested that a different type of grass able to withstand heavier use might be a good solution.

Lode Star Festival: Mr Durrant was asked about whether the festival will be running this year and he confirmed that he was currently exploring the feasibility of running it as a smaller event than previous years.

35/17 There being no further business, the Chairman formally closed the meeting at 9.20pm

Date of next Parish Council meeting: Monday 5 June 2017

Date of Parish Open Meeting: Monday 22 May 2017