

## **Lode Parish Council**

### **Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9 October 2017**

These minutes comprise 4 pages

**Present:** Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), R Small, F Platten, I Faulkner, P Lane; D/Cllr A Sharp.

**65/17 Public Question Time:** There were no questions from the public

**66/17 Apologies:** Cllrs E Mitchell, M Walsh

**67/17 Declarations of interest :** none

**68/17 Minutes of meeting 11 September 2017:** Signed by the chair as a correct record

**69/17 Matters arising from September meeting:**

- **Interactive Sign:** Cllr Stevens is meeting Jason Tyrrell from Cambridgeshire CC regarding the Cycle Path on site on Thursday 12 October. He will check what further signage is planned as the Cycle Way is completed
- **School Transport:** Cllr Stevens is investigating as far as possible where there are children within the two mile radius from Bottisham Primary School. The next stage would be to confirm how many parents would choose to take up the transport if it were to be free or subsidised. The Clerk will contact the Head Teacher to seek a definitive list of contacts of parents. At the same time, Cllr Stevens suggested that local charities, including Lode & Longmeadow Village Trust, should be contacted to see if they would be willing to contribute to a fund to subsidise purchase of places on the existing school transport
- **Replacement sundial for the Cemetery:** The Clerk confirmed that the sundial had been ordered
- **Old Picnic Table:** Cllr Platten confirmed that the old picnic table had been removed
- **Allotments:** The Clerk confirmed that letters had been sent to the holders of uncultivated allotments. One further plot was identified where a letter might be needed; Cllr Small will confirm
- **Hedge cutting of Cemetery and Play Area:** The Council confirmed that Truelink should be asked to cut these hedges, inside and out as well as on top
- **Inspection of new Play Equipment:** The Clerk advised that the cost of such an Inspection would be £395. Having sought information from Playsafe, who undertake the annual inspection, the Council noted the comment on their website that any new equipment would be identified in the routine annual inspection which would be within the warranty period if any defects were found
- **Local Highways Improvement Fund:** It was noted that the criteria for applications to this fund included improvements to road safety so that the resurfacing of the path on the Passage Recreation Ground would not be eligible. It was agreed that the Clerk should notify the County Council that the path was in need of resurfacing
- **Roller Blade Area:** The Council noted that lease of this area is in process of being renewed with the National Trust. The new lease will cover the area where the new gym equipment, table tennis table and cricket net are situated

**70/17 County Council Report:** none

**71/17 District Council Report:** Referring back to the discussion about signage on the B1102, D/Cllr Sharp pointed out that C/Cllr Shuter is now Chair of Highways on the County Council. Cllr Platten agreed to raise questions with him about the County Council's plans for further signage.

D/Cllr Sharp reported that the Full Council meeting on 5 October had adopted the Local Plan. The late proposal to include land at the Old Station for housing development had not been incorporated into the adopted version. As the Plan does guarantee a 5 year supply of land for development, it will be easier to resist speculative applications for development of land not identified in the Plan. Now that the Plan has been adopted it will be the subject of a further 6 week period of consultation before being sent to the Planning Inspectorate at Christmas. The Inspectorate can either accept or reject the Plan in full, or require amendments. If the outcome is the last of these three, the Council must either accept or reject the requirements in full. D/Cllr Sharp pointed out that there is an issue where developers are not moving to complete developments where permission has been granted. It was agreed to ask Cllr Mitchell to alert people to the consultation on the Plan through Lode Star. D/Cllr Sharp indicated that the District Council was also developing its Corporate Plan as well as a Tourism Strategy. The latter includes a possible transfer of Cromwell House to Ely Council

### **72/17 Parish Reports**

- **Anglesey Abbey/National Trust Liaison:** The next Liaison Meeting takes place at 1.30pm on 16 October. Cllr Stevens noted that the Public Footpath through the Anglesey Abbey Car Park had been partially reinstated. Regarding the National Trust land next to the Cemetery, Cllr Stevens had responded to the Development Manager from Hastoe Housing by sending the information from Lode Star about the discussion at the September meeting. He had also invited her to address the meeting tonight. The Clerk advised that following discussion with Amanda Forecast, General Manager at Anglesey Abbey, Amanda had indicated that the next stage was for the National Trust to let the Council know the outcome of an inspection of the site by the Trust's surveyor when their intentions would be clearer. She had advised Hastoe Housing that this would best precede further discussions with the Council.
- **Cycle Way:** It was noted that foundations had now been laid to within 50 yards of the crossing to Anglesey Abbey and that the project was proceeding well. Cllr Stevens pointed out that there is a gap in the pavement between the end of the cycle path and the Lode crossroads – if this could be filled it would enable cyclists to walk to the corner and rejoin the cycle path obviating the need to cross roads four times. This was an issue that he would raise at the site meeting on Thursday 12 October. In relation to concerns about speeding, Cllr Small had identified research about the effectiveness of interactive signs. Cllr Stevens had measured the speed of vehicles on Quay Road on the approach to the soon to be built crossing from the end of the Cycleway close to the entrance to Anglesey Abbey. One vehicle had registered 70 mph zone while others had registered speeds around 50 mph. He pointed out that official Speedwatch exercises need a team of three people. They entail recording registration numbers of speeding drivers and forwarding them to the Police who then send warning letters. The Council resolved that an application should be made to the Local Highways Improvement Fund for an interactive speed sign
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** No report
- **Lode & Longmeadow Village Trust:** Following a discussion about the request from young people for facilities suitable for teenagers, Cllr Platten agreed to ask the Trust if it might consider an application to match fund the provision of a suitable facility

- **Sports Club:** It was noted that both the men's and ladies' teams from Burwell have booked the facilities for this season
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small reminded the Council of the Orchard Day on Sunday 15 October. Laura Fox from Welney is coming to talk about the achievements that have been made there
- **Wicken Fen Liaison:** Cllr Mitchell attended the meeting

### 73/17 Parish Council Reports

- **Finance:** The following payments were approved:

J E Giles	Salary	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit	200.00 +VAT	Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 ss 20(2) & 25
W Jaggard	Cemetery	147.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery	8.98 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Spot On Sundials (amended invoice)	Cemetery	302.50	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	105.12+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Grass cutting	353.93+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Anglian Water	Cemetery	36.19	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

The Council noted the report on financial performance for the first six months. In the runup to preparing the 2018-19 budget, discussion will take place to identify priorities for next financial year

- **Planning:** No new applications were received during the month
- **Allotments:** Cllr Small advised that a further letter had been received from one tenant about dumping of waste on his allotment. The tenant had also spoken with Cllr Stevens. Cllr Small said that this highlighted the need to review the rules for tenants and he will draft a revised set for comment. It was reported that the Fassage Hall Committee had raised concerns about the proposal to install a rainwater harvesting facility. Cllr Small responded that he felt that a mains fed dip tank may be the best option and he would explore the likely cost
- **Fassage Hall:** It was agreed that Mike Hatley would be commissioned to make the improvements to the gate as previously proposed for £100. Cllr Stevens indicated concern that there had been frequent instances of people parking on the grass outside the hall. It was agreed that this practice should cease with the exception of people making delivery of equipment to the Hall when delegation would be given to the Fassage Hall Committee to grant permission. Cllr Stevens had installed three new lights with a time switch on the exterior of the Hall in response to concerns raised by people using the premises after dark
- **Website:** Cllr Stevens indicated that the outline of the Webmaster role had not appeared in the last issue of Lode Star and it would be important that it appear in the next issue as the

appointment needs to be made as soon as possible to allow a handover from Ian Middleton before he steps down at the end of December

**74/17** The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 13 November at 7.30 pm