

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 10 April 2017

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), R Small, E Mitchell, F Platten, M Walsh and P Lane
D/Cllr A Sharp, Mr C Platten, Mr A Cassidy, Mr I Faulkner

Public Question Time

No public questions were submitted

Apologies for Absence:

None

Declaration of Interest

(a) Prejudicial – there were none

(b) Other – there were none

23/17 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 February 2017 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24/17 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Cllr Stevens reported that the District Council holds a balance of £1202.05 s106 money which is available to be spent on local infrastructure for the village
- Cllr Stevens advised that the Cricket Club is required to pay rent from the 10th anniversary of their agreement with the Council which is 2019. He believes that the rent would be payable to the Fassage Hall Management Committee rather than to the Parish Council
- Cllr Small asked what signs the County Council were planning to install in relation to the new cycle path. Cllr Platten agreed to ask the C/Council whether they will install interactive signs and at what cost. Cllr Stevens asked what the District Council is contributing to the scheme and D/Cllr Sharp agreed to investigate
- Cllr Small described the type of tanks that could be used for rainwater harvesting from the Fassage Hall roof to be used on the allotments. He will refer the matter to the Fassage Hall Management Committee to investigate the cost.

25/17 District Council Report

D/Cllr Sharp advised that the Council's current waste contract with Veolia expires in March 2018 when it will come back in-house to be run by the Council's own trading company. The 62 staff will transfer to the Council under TUPE regulations. The Council will save an estimated £250,000 by not having to follow the EU tender process. The service will remain as at present.

The District Council published its Further Draft Local Plan on 31 March 2017. D/Cllr Sharp advised that this included an additional site for 41 houses on Station Yard. Parish Councils will have opportunity to comment on additional site suggestions introduced into this draft following the end of public consultation on 22 February.

26/17 Parish Reports

NT Liaison

Cllr Platten reported that the Liaison Meeting took place on 14 March 2017. The bar across Harvey's Drove has still not been removed restricting access to the public. The hedge next to the new cycle path has not been cut by the tenant and there is concern that this might be now be further delayed as the bird-nesting season has begun.

Cllr Platten advised that it would be helpful for Ms Forecast to send a brief email to the Council for its meeting if no full report was required.

Council members noted that Richard Todd, Head Gardener at Anglesey Abbey, is retiring and recorded their gratitude for his substantial contribution to the village.

Cllr Small advised that NT Allotment holders had been given notice – 1 year to those maintaining their plots and 3 months to those not doing so.

Cycle Way

Cllr Platten advised that work on the Cycle Way is planned to commence in May. She had investigated the routine grass-cutting that will be required and advised that it could be undertaken with a small ride on mower. She will ask Truelink to quote for 3 cuts per year.

Neighbourhood Watch

Members noted an email from Mr Lord reporting a break in to a shed in Mill Road and burglaries in Abbey Lane and Mill Road. He also reported that Nitrous Oxide cartridges had been found in the Fassage Hall Car Park. A number of Councillors reported aggressive cold-calling from people offering home improvement.

Sports' Club

Cllr Stevens reported that the Tennis Club are applying for a grant from Amey Cespa to replace the fencing around the court. He advised that the court is owned by the Parish Council but all running costs are borne by the Club. There is still £1000 outstanding from the club to the Council for the loan taken out to resurface the court.

Tree Warden

Mr C Platten advised that he is standing down as Tree Warden and will write an article for Lode Star to seek a successor. Council members thanked him for all the work he has done in this role over the past 4 years.

Wicken Fen Liaison

Cllr Mitchell advised that the next meeting is scheduled for 19 April

27/17 Parish Council Reports

Finance

Invoices

The Council agreed that the following payments could be made.

A D Tomlinson	Salary	296.48	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
A D Tomlinson	PAYE	74.12	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	168.97	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery	144.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery – Fuel	10.73	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery – Path Clear	80.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery – Weed Killer	13.37	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
T Cassidy	Internal Audit	100.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Anglian Water	Cemetery Water Rate	21.62	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
e-on energy	Abbey Lane Light	61.29	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
G-Core Ltd	Repair to Fassage Hall Heat	167.70	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10

	Pump		
Truelink	Recreation Ground and Play Area- Grass cutting	136.92	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 and 10
CAPALC	Subscription	271.96	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

Last month's payments were checked and signed off.

Cllr Stevens pointed out that the charges for the Abbey Lane light had not been altered to reflect the reduction from 100 to 60 watts when the head was replaced at the end of 2016. The Clerk will contact EON to seek an amended bill.

In noting the payment due to Truelink, Cllr Small asked that the contractor be approached to spray the thistles around the edge of the Recreation Ground before they become more established. The Clerk will contact Truelink.

Planning

17/00416/FUL Land East of Peepers Lodge, Lug Fen Drove, Lode Fen

Members were concerned about security lighting and seek assurance that any such lighting be activated by motion rather than on permanently. Regarding potential increase in traffic, the Council requests that the applicant be asked to assess additional traffic usage arising from this development.

17/00440/FUL Land North of Broughton Hall

The Council has previously commented on the need for affordable housing within the village. There was concern that following the reduction in number of dwellings from 7 to 6, the dwelling removed was a 2 bedroom house. The Council believes that a development comprising 2 x 2 bedroom, 3 x 3 bedroom and 1 x 4 bedroom would better reflect local housing need. The provision of a wider road affording better accessibility was noted. The Council resolved that the proposal should be referred to the Planning Committee of the District Council.

17/00439/FUL Land South of Broughton Hall

Members stressed the significance of the site near the entrance to the village and felt that the current proposal was not sufficiently distinctive for such an important site, comprising as it does four identical dwellings in an unimaginative style.

Allotments

Cllr Small has prepared a plan of the allotments and proposed that in future as many users as possible be encouraged to deal with the Council through email and make payments by BACs rather than in cash. He proposed a twice yearly walk around for himself and the Clerk.

Cemetery

Cllr Mitchell has identified a sun dial to replace that stolen from the cemetery costing £200. This was agreed by the Council.

Cllr Stevens has placed a seat in the cemetery for which he was thanked by other Council members.

Fassage Hall

Cllr Stevens reported that Mr & Mrs Lince have resigned from the Fassage Hall Committee so replacements for the role of Chair and Secretary are being sought.

Playground

Cllr Stevens has repainted the horse, touched up the climbing frame and replaced the rubber mats for the steps of the slide. The Council resolved to purchase a recycled plastic picnic table to replace the current table and Cllr Walsh undertook to identify a suitable model.

Cllr Stevens advised that an anonymous donor had agreed to pay half the cost (£4995 + VAT) of purchasing three new items for the play area – a pendulum swing, a rower and a skier. Cllr Small suggested seeking volunteers to undertake the preparatory groundwork to reduce the costs of the installation

Village Reports

Cllr Platten reported that £525 had been raised through local fundraising which is being donated to the Council. She proposed that £400 of that sum be restricted to fund an event around the opening of the Cycle Way with the rest given to the Council without restriction. This was unanimously agreed by the Council.

Cllr Small raised the issue of developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The advantage of doing so would be that the policies in the plan have to be taken into account in planning decisions. He stressed that it would need wider support from local residents as well as the council and proposed a meeting to enable it to be considered by all interested. The Council may be able to apply for funding from central government to develop the plan. It was agreed that that a presentation could be made at the Parish Open Meeting on 22 May and Cllr Mitchell offered to run a stand at the Fete so that more people could see the information.

Co-option of Council Member

Mr Ian Faulkner accepted the invitation of Cllr Stevens to be co-opted onto the Council. The Clerk will provide the required Declaration for him to complete.

28/17 There being no further business the meeting was formally closed by the Chairman at 9.35 pm.

Date of Next Council Meetings

Monday 8 May 2017 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)
Monday 5 June 2017 (please note amended date)

Date of Parish Open Meeting

Monday 22 May 2017

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