

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 10 July 2017

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), R Small, E Mitchell, F Platten, M Walsh and I Faulkner

44/17 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public

45/17 Apologies: Cllr P Lane, D/Cllr A Sharp

46/17 Declaration of interests: Cllr Mitchell declared an interest in the planning application for 15 Station Road and withdrew from the meeting while that item was discussed by the Council.

47/17 Minutes of meeting 5 June 2017: Signed by the Chair as a correct record

48/17 Matters arising from June meeting:

- **Interactive sign:** This matter had been pursued again separately by Cllrs Platten and Stevens. Richard Ling from ECDC had confirmed that the sign is purely powered by solar energy and that it has no connection to mains electricity. He advised that the council had decided not to maintain it and were going to remove it. Cllr Stevens expressed concern that signs were not being maintained even when the Parish Council had contributed to their installation. It also emerged that the officer was not aware of the impending reduction of the speed limit to 30 mph. It was suggested that the Council write to C/Cllr Shuter but it emerged that, while Cllr Shuter had responsibility for Highways, this only applies to maintenance of completed schemes.

Cllr Mitchell proposed that a letter be sent to the County Council setting this issue in the context of the impending development of the Cycleway. Cllr Small agreed to draft bullet points to cover the key issues. Cllr Stevens said this should include a requirement that the interactive sign should not be removed until there was a proper scheme for the crossroads agreed with the Parish Council.

- **Thistles on recreation ground:** Despite seeking advice from a number of sources, including the Parks team from ECDC, Cllr Stevens reported that no clear approach to dealing with the thistles had emerged. He has now fenced off a small area where thistles have become established so that Cllr Small can test whether the product he has will eradicate them. The Clerk has previously advised that the fencing should prevent access by children or animals into the treated area as well as having warning signs.
- **New picnic table in Play Area:** This has now been installed and it was agreed that the old one should be scrapped.
- **Correspondence with ECDC about granting Planning Permission before Parish Council have been consulted:** The Clerk had written to the Planning Team about the Parish Council's concern at the error which had occurred but has not yet received a reply. Cllr Stevens advised that as the Parish Council was not a statutory consultee, the District Council would not revoke permission if such an error reoccurred. It was generally agreed that ECDC do take note of the comments made by the Council.
- **School bus to Bottisham Primary School:** Cllr Mitchell has explained the issue for families deemed too close to the school to qualify for free transport to the Director of Education of Cambridgeshire County Council. The comparison with Brinkley, as previously mentioned by

Cllr Shuter, was raised. The situation there is that the route between Brinkley and the school has been designated as unsafe as well as there being an agreement of long standing applying to that school. It was noted that while Lode parents have the option of paying for use of the bus where they don't qualify for a free place, the cost of £210 per term is prohibitive, especially if they have more than one child.

Cllr Mitchell advised that C/Cllr Shuter has agreed to discuss the issue with Anna Bailey, the officer responsible for School Transport. Cllr Stevens said that if any solution could be achieved for Lode, it would have to be on the basis that it didn't set a precedent for other places. He pointed out that there is a substantial concern about safety because of the number of vehicles in Beechwood Avenue, Bottisham at the beginning and end of the school day. Ideally, other parents should have access to the surplus capacity in the school bus at no cost, but a reduced rate would be better than nothing. Cllr Mitchell undertook to see if she could find out how many children are affected.

- **Allocation of portfolios:**

- Cemetery – Cllr Mitchell

- Play Area – Cllr Walsh

- Passage Hall – Cllr Stevens

- Street furniture/bus shelters/dog bins – Cllr Faulkner

- Allotments – Cllr Small

- Community Orchard – Liz King

Cllr Stevens advised that there would not be regular meetings of the Finance and Planning sub-committees but meetings would be convened should the need arise.

49/17 County Council Report – none

50/17 District Council Report – none

51/17 Parish Reports

- **Anglesey Abbey:** The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Amanda Forecast in which she confirmed that the National Trust has given notice to their allotment holders with effect from March 2017. She has “discovered that this land is classed as ‘investment land’ which means it can and should be sold”. It was agreed that the Council should respond to this information by stating that the Council would be keen to work with the Trust to maintain the land as an amenity space for Lode and Longmeadow. If there was any suggestion that the land might be developed for housing, it is clear that the cemetery road would be unsuitable for the amount of traffic that would require access. Future plans for the land should take into account its position within the “greater” Wicken Fen scheme.
- **Cycle Way:** Cllr Platten has sought an update which confirmed that the scheme is progressing though no firm date has been given for commencement of the works. The main concern is that it is completed by the end of March which the Council understands is a stipulation for funding.
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** no report
- **Lode and Longmeadow Village Trust:** There was no report as the Trust next meets on 21 July. There are plans for a pop-up pub for the August Bank Holiday.
- **Sports Club:** Cllr Stevens reported that the Cricket Club's fixtures were now posted on the board. The Club has a ten year agreement with the Council for the use of the grounds which has two more years to run. This does not imply exclusive right to use the grounds and there is some interest from another club in using the grounds when it is not booked.

- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small reported that there had been interest expressed in the Community Orchard by people visiting the stall at the Fete. He identified the potential for planting trees on the edge of the allotments.

52/17 Parish Council Reports

- **Finance:**

The following payments were approved:

J E Giles	Salary/PAYE	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
J E Giles	Expenses	52.92	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Cambs CC	C'ty archive network membership fee	100.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Truelink Ltd	Grass cutting	556.84 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10
Caloo Ltd	Cross Rider, Rowing machine, and Cantilever basket swing	4995.00 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery	147.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10
W Jaggard	Fuel	17.52	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity	94.74 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10
Communicorp	Clerks & Councils Direct	12.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Spoton Sundials	Replacement sundial for cemetery	225.00 + 45.00 for engraving +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10

The Council noted that the invoices for W Jaggard have been increased by 2.5% backdated to 1 April. Authorisation was also given for the following payments for July which will fall due for payment during August:

- Clerk's Salary
- Truelink - Grass cutting
- W Jaggard – Cemetery maintenance
- **Planning:**
 - **17/00913/FUL, 15 Station Road, Lode:** The Council noted minor amendments to the previous application and had no further comments to make
 - **17/01163/OUT, land to rear of 1 Longmeadow:** The Council was concerned that this site had not been identified when the District Council called for the identification of further development sites earlier this year. On the basis that it is outside the development envelope, there was no indication from the papers provided that the development would be of such quality (ie exemplary design and construction) that it should be approved. There was concern about noise levels with the houses being so close to a main road. If the District Council is minded to approve the application, a 40 mph limit should apply around the entrance to the development and Longmeadow itself, together with double white lines to prevent overtaking at this point.
 - **17/00949/FUL, 27 Northfields, Lode:** It was noted that this was a massive extension given the size of the current property and goes to the maximum proximity of 1 metre from the neighbouring property. Given the pressure on parking in Northfields, the Council believes that arrangements should be made for two cars to be parked on site side by side rather than one behind the other.

- **17/01104/FUL, 1 Quay Road, Lode:** The Council has no comments on this application
- **17/01096/FUL, 29 Mill Road, Lode:** The Council has no comments on this application
- **Allotments:** Concern has been raised by one allotment holder about the failure of a few other tenants to maintain their plots to the required standard. Cllr Small proposed that the tenancy period should commence in September each year rather than March. Opportunity could be taken to introduce a new template for the agreement between the Council and allotment holders. He also proposed that he and the clerk should review the state of the allotments during the summer so that letters could be sent to holders where improvement is required at the same time as the new agreements.
- **Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens reported that the new sockets had been passed as safe. He also proposed that the Fete Committee rather than the Parish Council should be responsible for insuring the Fete in future years, which would include ensuring that any trade stalls hold their own insurance.
- **Play Area:** Cllr Stevens reported that the new play equipment has now been delivered. Caloo, who supplied the equipment, had quoted a figure for installation, but Cllr Stevens said it was necessary to consider other options. One was for volunteers to undertake the task but there was a strong view from a number of Councillors that this would be too risky an approach. Cllr Stevens has now received a quote from another contractor and will seek one more so that three estimates have been obtained as required by the financial Regulations. Subject to it being within the level agreed by the Council, the work can proceed as soon as the contractor is able to do the work.
- **Maintenance of verges:** There was discussion about the mowing of verges once the daffodils have died back. During that period of leaving the verges uncut, other wild flowers have flourished. It was pointed out that if the mowing was delayed from the end of June to the beginning of July this would allow those species to set seed.

53/17 Correspondence

- **CPRE Workshop: Understanding the Planning System 2 Nov, 2017** Agreed Cllr Faulkner and the Clerk will attend
- **Tree seminar:** The Council approved seminar fee of £50 to enable Liz King (Tree Officer) to attend
- **Dog bin, Longmeadow:** Following report from Cllr Lane that the bin had become detached from its support, the Clerk reported the problem to ECDC. They have replied that their maintenance team say it cannot be repaired. Cllr Stevens will have a further look and if he confirms it is not repairable the Council agreed to purchase a replacement subject to the cost not exceeding £300
- **Concern re lack of maintenance of some allotments:** See item on Allotments above
- **Mr R Dean:** Reported fly tipping opposite the gateway to National Trust White Fen. This had already been reported to ECDC by Cllr Stevens
- **Changes to local bus services:** The changes planned by Stagecoach from 23 July had been notified to the Council by Cambridgeshire County Council. Cllr Stevens will pass the information to the writer of regular articles on transport in Lode Star

54/17 There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 11 September at 7.30 pm