

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 4 June 2018

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, I Faulkner, R Small, P Lane; D/Cllr A Sharp, Cllr Fitzgerald (from 7.40 pm)

56/18 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public

57/18 Apologies for absence: None

58/18 Declarations of interest: None

59/18 Co-option of Parish Councillor: Following the notification of the vacancies arising from the resignations of Cllrs Mitchell and Walsh, there were no requests from residents for a poll. One application was received from Mr T Fitzgerald in response to the subsequent notice of Casual Vacancy. The Parish Council unanimously resolved to co-opt Mr Fitzgerald onto the Council

60/18 Minutes of the meeting held 14 May 2018: Signed by the Chair as a correct record

61/18 Matters arising from the May Meeting:

- **Recreation Ground – lease of Roller Blade area:** pending
- **Issues regarding the Shed:** D/Cllr Sharp confirmed that all outstanding issues had been resolved with the Enforcement Officer but will report back on the content of the resolution following contact with the Officer
- **Recreation Ground – removal of thistles:** The Clerk reported that the selected contractor had failed to respond in the timescale set and reluctantly concluded that they could not be relied on to complete the work. Approaches have been made to Truelink to establish whether their quotation from December 2017 is still valid but no response has been received to date. The Clerk had spoken with Richard Beardsmore who agreed to research possible solutions but was not optimistic. Cllr Lane suggested contacting other Parish Clerks on the basis that similar problems must have arisen elsewhere. Cllr Stevens pointed out that he had sought advice from the District Council without success.
- **School Transport:** As C/Cllr Shuter has not sent details of officers to whom the letter should be sent, it was agreed that Cllr Stevens would send the letter and seek advice from D/Cllr Lis Every about which officers should be copied in

62/18 County Council Report: None

63/18 District Council Report: D/Cllr Sharp reported that the Annual Meeting of ECDC took place recently; D/Cllr Cresswell was re-elected as Chair and D/Cllr Every as Vice Chair. D/Cllr Sharp is Vice Chair of the Resources and Finance Committee and also sits on the Licensing Committee. He represents the District Council on the Police and Crime Panel and also on the Scrutiny Committee of the Combined Authority.

Regarding the Anglesey Abbey Planning Application for temporary catering facilities in the paddock behind Mill Road, he explained that he had called it in for consideration by the Planning Committee but withdrew the call-in when the Planning Officer determined that permission should be refused on the grounds that it lies within the Green Belt. It is possible that the National Trust could appeal but Cllr Stevens pointed out that exceptional grounds are required for permission to be granted within the Green Belt.

Cllr Stevens raised that the grass on three parcels of land owned by the District Council (Northfields, part of Fairhaven Close and Millard's Lane) had grown very long and were not being cut on the 10 day cycle to which the Council is committed. D/Cllr Sharp agreed to pursue with the relevant section of ECDC

64/18 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** No report

- **NT Liaison:** Cllr Platten has emailed the NT to ensure that the Orchard Field, in which the NT permit parking on the day of the Village Fete, is mowed in advance of the event

Cllr Small reported that Natasha Woollard has advised that it had not been possible to finalise the NT's intentions regarding the Sunray allotment site, or to inform the Council of the valuation, before the Parish Open Meeting in May. She advised that Emily Tydeman, the Trust's surveyor, returns from leave soon after which more information should be available. Wicken Fen may not be able to prioritise purchase of the Sunray site in the context of other "Stepping Stone" sites it plans to develop within the Wicken Fen Vision area. He raised the possibility of agreeing with the NT to designate the land as a "common". It could be registered as a Village Green or as an asset of Community Value. Cllr Stevens suggested an alternative might be for the land to transfer to the Fields in Trust charity and be linked to the Fassage Recreation Ground
- **Cycle Path:** Cllr Platten plans to cycle the path next week to monitor any weeds which may be damaging the path. She suggested liaising with Quy Parish Council over arranging mowing of the verges to the path. Cllr Platten has received an email from Jason Tyrrell detailing the signs that are to be installed to complete the work on the path – she will circulate this to Council members. Cllr Stevens said that white posts had been installed on the ditch side of the path presumably as a warning to users
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Martyn Lord reported that the area PCSOs were generating alerts each day which indicate that most issues within the area arise in Ely. He said that vans had been seen in local villages whose drivers were scavenging for scrap metal in skips. He noted that Anglesey Abbey are currently in the process of installing the height restriction barriers in the car park
- **Speedwatch:** There was discussion about the changing role of Speedwatch volunteers. Martyn Lord was concerned that the level of record-keeping now required meant that the activity seems to be moving towards policing rather than educating road users which had been the original intention. Given the regularity with which drivers are evidently exceeding the 30 mph limit by a wide margin, Cllr Stevens suggested that the Police be approached to operate speed guns in the 30 mph section of the B1102
- **Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust:** Cllr Stevens read the email from Charlie Platten inviting members of the Council to meet with him on 13 June. He set out the respective objectives of the LLVT, the Fassage Hall and Recreation Ground Charity, as well as the Parish Council and noted that there was considerable overlap especially in respect of promoting recreation opportunities in the village. In that context, there could be benefits for the organisations working together. Cllr Lane pointed out that any development would have revenue implications and that should be factored into any planning. Cllr Small highlighted the opportunity to apply for Rural Community Energy Funding from WRAP to explore the feasibility of setting up a renewable energy project. Focusing on the Sunray allotment site it was felt that the ideal outcome would be for the land to be added to the Fassage Recreation Ground and held by Fields in Trust, and managed through the Fassage Hall and Recreation Ground Charity. Cllr Small pointed out that the National Trust has expertise on conserving land which could be very valuable in this context. It was agreed that Cllrs Stevens and Small would attend the meeting on 13 June
- **Sports Club:** It was noted that Burwell football club has removed the nets (which they own) from the goals which protects them from damage over the summer. Members felt that young people using the ground would benefit from having football nets that they could use and Cllr Small agreed to liaise with Liz King who knows of a suitable product
- **Tree Warden:** It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a scythe mower as identified by Cllr Small – this would be an asset for maintaining the Orchard as well as the edge of the Recreation Ground
- **Wicken Fen Liaison:** No report

65/18 Parish Council Reports

- **Allocation of areas of responsibility to Parish Council Members:**

- i) **Allotments:** Cllr Small
- ii) **Cemetery & Street Furniture:** Cllr Faulkner
- iii) **Play Area:** Cllr Fitzgerald
- iv) **Fen Area :** Cllr Platten
- v) **Cycle Way:** Cllr Platten
- vi) **Main roads:** Cllr Stevens
- vii) **Lode Rd:** Cllr Lane
- viii) **Fassage Hall Management Committee:** Cllr Stevens

Cllr Small suggested that it would be helpful for the Council to develop its strategy for the resources it manages. He proposed discussing the format of a session to develop this with Liz King which was agreed

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

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£360.58	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£155.36	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
W Jaggard	Petrol	£18.98+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity pd by DD	£177.48+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink Ltd	Grasscutting	Inv pending	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Community Action Suffolk	Fassage Hall Insurance	£484.89	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Community Action Suffolk	Parish Council Insurance	£857.04	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Mike Hatley	Repair to Fassage Hall gate	£151.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
St James' Church	Photocopying	£13.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Swaffham Internal Drainage Board	Cemetery drainage rate	£27.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Wrights Mower Centre	Quotation for supply of Scythe Mower	£707.50+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Anthony Martin Carpentry Services	Quotation for Pergola in Cemetery	£475	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

- **Planning:** No new applications were received this month
- **Allotments:** Cllr Small reported that Meleena Walsh is taking over a small additional area on the allotments which the current holder is unable to cultivate. There are still three vacant plots which will be advertised in Lode Star. Cllr Stevens will also highlight them in his regular article
- **Cemetery:** The erection of a pergola to be undertaken by Anthony Martin was agreed

- **Footpaths:** Cllr Faulkner highlighted his concern that there hadn't been an outcome to the issues raised by residents over the damage to the railway track bed. The Clerk said that he was awaiting a response from Emily Tydeman who had been in contact with the tenant

66/18 Correspondence: The Clerk has forwarded emails received from the CBWIN group who are campaigning against the incinerator to be built at Waterbeach.

67/18 Date of next meeting: Monday 9 July 2018