

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 8 January 2018

These minutes comprise 4 pages

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

1/18 Public Question Time: Two local residents raised questions about the degradation of the railway track from Fen Road to Pigeon Wood having previously raised the issues by email. Concern was raised about the way that ploughing has impinged on the cinder base of the track reducing its width from what the meeting was advised would have been 22 ft when it was laid. It was pointed out that the track was part of the heritage of the area and as such an important asset for the National Trust to preserve. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the National Trust requesting them to require the tenant to respect the integrity of the railway track and ensure that no further damage is caused. Cllr Stevens pointed out that the railway track bed is only a permitted footpath by the National Trust. He proposed that a letter to be written to Cambridgeshire County Council seeking clarification of their view of the status of the path. He said that requesting that it be designated a bridleway could cause difficulties as it joins footpaths.

A further question was raised about the public footpath from Lode Mill to Pigeon Wood. The concern is that the path has become narrower because ploughing has removed the verge separating it from the field meaning that it is no longer possible for two people to walk side by side. It was also pointed out that such verges promote the bio-diversity of the area. Cllr Stevens advised that the alternative explanation was that the hedge had gradually encroached on the path. He had removed some of the encroaching blackthorn suckers which improved the accessibility of the footpath. He added that the public footpath beyond the wood is continually ploughed and cultivated so the alternative paths in the wood should become public footpaths to link with a public footpath along the railway track bed.

2/18 Apologies for absence: none

3/18 Declarations of interest: none

4/18 Minutes of previous meeting: Signed by the Chair as a correct record

5/18 Matters arising from the December meeting:

- **Designation of pavement between the end of the cycleway and Lode crossroads as “shared use”:** The Clerk reported that C/Cllr Shuter had responded positively to the request for support over this matter and had referred the question to Jason Tyrrell from Highways Department who is Project Manager for the cycleway. He in turn responded that he will look into the matter – his further response is awaited;
- **Metal posts on pavement outside 1 Quay Road:** The Clerk reported that the developer had responded to the letter about removing the posts and that he and the Chairman will attend a site meeting on Saturday 13 January;
- **Reassessment of safety of route between Lode and Bottisham Village Primary School:** Cllr Small had circulated the assessment carried out in 2011 and pointed out that the recent reassessment had not been carried out by an independent body as had been the case in 2011. Cllr Small agreed to circulate the latest reassessment to Council members. In

considering the safety of the route he pointed out that the shared use path between Lode crossroads and Bottisham village is insufficiently wide to allow a cyclist to pass pedestrians and he found the suggestion by a County Council Officer that pedestrians should move onto the grass verge to allow cyclists to pass as unacceptable. Cllr Stevens asked that a letter be written to the County Council asking that the path be restored to its proper width which would create more space for passing safely;

- **School Transport:** The Clerk reported that he had examined papers from the School Transport Working Group from February 1988 which are referred to in the Parish Council minutes. The papers considered the review of certain school transport routes but there was no specific reference to the route including Lode and Bottisham Village Primary School;
- **Allotments:** Cllr Small has sent the Clerk an update regarding the progress or otherwise on the allotments which were identified as uncultivated;
- **Play area hedge cutting:** Truelink have been authorised to proceed but as yet the work has not been done;
- **Facilities for teenagers:** Cllr Platten confirmed that Lode & Longmeadow Village Trust would match fund the provision of equipment. Cllr Small had identified one supplier of a Zip Wire but the cost is quite high at £4995;
- **Local Highways Improvement Fund:** The Council has been invited to represent their application to the Panel determining the award of grants on 29 January. Cllr Platten will attend with the Clerk;
- **Recreation Ground :** Lease of Roller Blade Area – pending;
- **Fassage Hall Gateway:** Cllr Stevens reported that Mike Hatley is hoping to undertake the work during January;
- **Website:** The Council welcomed the appointment of Alexei Moulton as the new Webmaster and wished to thank him for taking on the role. Members also recorded their gratitude to Ian Middleton for the work he has undertaken both in setting up and running the website;
- **Issue regarding the Shed:** D/Cllr Sharp reported that he had chased the Enforcement Section of ECDC but had yet to receive a response;
- **NT land between the cemetery and Fassage Recreation Ground:** Cllr Small had written to Natasha Woollard, as agreed at the last meeting, outlining the Council's views on the use of this land. She had acknowledged receipt of the letter and said that she would respond more fully in the New Year.

6/18 County Council Report: none.

7/18 District Council Report: D/Cllr Sharp reported that a full meeting of the Council had taken place on 4 January and that progress was continuing regarding the setting up of the new Trading Company. The Joint Consultative Council is the forum where the Council is consulting with trades unions about the terms of the TUPE transfer due to take place on 1 April 2018. He is not anticipating major issues arising with this. He said that £25,000 is being spent on improved IT equipment for the Waste Disposal depot so that enquiries from the public could be dealt with more efficiently. He reported that now the Local Plan had identified a sufficient supply of land for future development, the Planning Committee is resisting opportunistic applications by developers on sites not designated in the plan.

8/18 Parish Reports:

- **National Trust liaison:** next meeting planned for 13 March 2018;

- **Cycle Way:** Cllr Platten reported that the opening has been agreed for Sunday 11 March. The ribbon will be cut at Quay at 10.30am; cyclists and pedestrians will then move on to Lode where a reception will take place in St James Church. Given the importance of the project, Cllr Platten has identified a list of people to be invited, including those who have championed the project, those involved in leading from the County Council as well as people from neighbouring villages and cycling groups. Given the likely numbers, she is contacting the police to organise marshalling people as they cross the road at the Lode end of the path. Cllr Walsh is launching a competition through local schools and parish magazines for a logo for the path. It is hoped that winners of the competition could be part of the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Cllr Stevens said that he had asked Jason Tyrrell to ensure that all necessary road markings are completed. Cllr Small pointed out the new island near the entrance to Anglesey Abbey is not wide enough for a bike to be clear of the road at both sides; it was commented that users would need to ensure the road was clear in both directions before crossing. The part of the path near to area where construction plant was parked is very muddy, making it slippery, especially in icy weather.

- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Martyn Lord had not had reports of any incidents in Lode but did mention the theft of a satnav from a car in Ox Meadow, Bottisham;

9/18 Parish Council Reports:

- **Finance:** The Clerk confirmed that Precept request agreed at the December meeting had been sent to ECDC and acknowledged. The Council agreed to give further consideration to the budget at its February meeting, both to confirm the budget for the Council's ongoing commitments and to consider the priority for projects as funding becomes available.

The Parish Council agreed the following payments:

J E Giles	Salary	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	147.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
CPRE	Subscription	36.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Wave (formerly Anglian Water)	Cemetery	56.57	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	192.51+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

- **Planning**
 - **17/02071/AGN-Agricultural Barn, Anglesey Farm:** ECDC refused Prior Approval as the proposed development was within 400m of a protected building, requiring a full planning application to be submitted. A new application for prior approval was submitted (**17/02228/AGN**) changing the use of the barn from animal shelter to tractor storage. A Planning Officer from ECDC advised that, with this amendment, it was likely that Prior Approval would be granted. The Council was concerned that it would not be consulted over this matter;
 - **17/02140/FUL-Erection of 6.4m wide x12.2m long x3.6m tall greenhouse on site of existing polytunnels, Anglesey Abbey, National Trust:** The Council had no comment on this application;

- **17/02212/FUL- Install surface water source heat pump...in existing plant rooms of Anglesey Abbey and adjacent office building, National Trust:** The Council had no comment on this application;
- **17/02213/LBC- Install surface water source heat pump...in existing plant rooms of Anglesey Abbey and adjacent office building, National Trust:** The Council had no comment on this application.
- **Allotments:** The Clerk confirmed that the Council had resolved to increase the annual rent to £10 at the December meeting. In relation to the plan to move the renewal date of tenancy from April to October, it was agreed that tenants should be asked to pay £15 per plot at the April renewal. All those with the necessary facilities would be encouraged to manage correspondence through email and to make payments by BACS, whilst accepting that some tenants may not have email and need to continue paying with cash. Cllr Walsh said she has a contact in Anglian Water who can advise about how to access match funding for the installation of water troughs – she will obtain the information and share with Council members.
- **Cemetery:** Cllr Stevens suggested that the Council obtain additional blue and green bin for the cemetery but this was not agreed at this time.
- **Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens reported that the chairs in the hall need to be replaced; 14 have had to be disposed of as they were found to be unsafe. Although this will be a matter dealt with by the Fassage Hall Committee, the expenditure has to be approved by the Council. This was agreed. Cllr Stevens also reported a problem with sticky buttons on the showers in the changing rooms which had caused water to be running for a considerable time.
- **Recreation Ground:** The Clerk reported that two quotations had been received for removal of thistles from the recreation ground. That from Truelink was more than twice as expensive as that from CGM. The latter provided more detail about the action to be taken which includes a follow up visit to reseed the areas treated. The Council resolved to accept the CGM quotation.
- **Village Reports:** Cllr Stevens reported that the fence near the bus stop in the High Street was leaning badly caused by ivy which needs to be removed. The Clerk will write to the National Trust.
Cllr Small reported that the footpath crossing the field in Longmeadow was not being maintained. He will report the matter to Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Platten confirmed that the next litter pick will take place on Sunday 4 February from 2-4pm.

10/18 Correspondence: All correspondence has come up within the course of the meeting with the exception of the notification of the Policing Precept Consultation. The proposal is to increase the policing part of the Council Tax by £1 per household per month (based on a Band D property). The consultation runs until 29 January with the survey being available at –

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/W3CD8P3>

11/18 Item for next agenda: Parish Council Budget for 2018-19

12/18 Date of next meeting: Monday 12 February 2018 at 7.30 pm