

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9 April 2018

These minutes comprise 4 pages

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

33/18 Public Question Time: No questions were raised

34/18 Apologies for absence: Cllr P Lane

35/18 Declarations of interest: None

36/18 Minutes of the meeting held 12 March 2018: Signed by the Chair as a correct record

37/18 Matters arising from the March meeting:

- **Designation of pavement between the end of the cycleway and Lode crossroads as “shared use”:** The Clerk had received an email from C/Cllr Shuter on 14.3.18 with the following response from Jason Tyrrell: “There is still signage left to do on site, so although I cannot promise, I am looking to get another shared use sign up at the cross roads to cover this section of path.”
- **Safety of route between Lode and Bottisham Village Primary School:** This matter was being pursued by D/Cllr Chaplin with C/Cllr Shuter. As the former was not present no update was available
- **Allotment notices to quit:** The Clerk reported that the notices given will expire on 19 April at which point the two allotments will become available for reallocation
- **Recreation Ground – lease of Roller Blade area:** pending
- **Fassage Hall:** Mike Hatley has altered the gate. He has also installed a new metal post adjacent to the existing wooden post
- **Issues regarding the Shed:** D/Cllr Sharp reported that there had been liaison between the Enforcement Officer of ECDC and the owner of the Shed. The contents of a report from the acoustic consultant had been shared with the owner so that the noise from the extraction system could be reduced. D/Cllr Sharp believes that a satisfactory solution has been agreed but will confirm with the Enforcement Officer
- **Recreation Ground – eradication of thistles:** The Clerk reported that the contractor had responded to the questions regarding safety and also provided a copy of their insurance policy. It is planned that the work should take place following the end of the football season on 21 April
- **Damage to verge outside 37 High Street:** The Council agreed the text of the letter to be sent
- **Fassage Hall – Electricity Supplier:** The Clerk reported that the FHMC had agreed to the proposed change of supplier to Bulb

38/18 County Council Report: none

39/18 District Council Report: Cllr Stevens reported that he attended the Parish Conference arranged by ECDC. A key item had been the focus on local support to reduce pressure on social services. Cllr Stevens also spoke with C/Cllr Lis Every about the continuing concern over school transport. She suggested that a letter be sent from the Parish Council to all County Councillors with an interest in the issue. It was agreed this would be drafted by Cllr Stevens with the Clerk. One family are now pursuing the issue with the Local Government Ombudsman.

D/Cllr Sharp reported that the waste contract had been taken in-house with effect from the beginning of April – he would welcome any feedback on how well the service is operating under the new arrangements. He also referred to the recent Parish Forum where there had been a presentation on Neighbourhood Plans. While they are positive in delivering increased control over development at a parish level, the amount of work required to prepare them is considerable. This has led to some parishes considering working together to secure economies of scale – there are, however, some downsides as the process required there to be a lead Parish Council. The Clerk will circulate the presentations for information.

D/Cllr Sharp also reported on the development of a Community Land Trust in Haddenham which is eligible for loan finance from the new Combined Authority. There are plans for the development of 54 new homes of which 20 will be affordable. One of the attractions of this scheme is that landowners may achieve a better price for their land than they would achieve from selling to a Housing Association

40/18 Parish Reports:

- **National Trust Liaison:** Cllr Small reported that a team of 12 NT volunteers had been involved in the recent clearance of the Sunray Allotment area. There may be scope for further involvement by the volunteers if workload within the Abbey permits. He reported that Amanda Forecast is meeting with Wicken Fen to decide whether the latter will purchase the Sunray site. If it does proceed, the land would then become inalienable; there could then be opportunity for the Parish Council to work with Wicken Fen over their plan for the site. Cllr Platten reported that the NT had provided wood chippings to maintain the path by the tennis court. There was discussion about where the liability for maintenance of this path actually lies – Cllr Platten will raise the issue at the next NT Liaison Meeting. Cllr Stevens said that Veolia had refused twice weekly emptying of a dog bin on this path – D/Cllr Sharp will take this up with David White who is now responsible for the in-house service. Cllr Platten presented a map showing the proposed diversion of the footpath in Pigeon Wood; the NT will provide signs showing it is a permitted footpath. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not seek a formal change to the public footpath route. Cllr Stevens said that the long term aim should be the establishment of the railway track bed as Public Bridleway. Regarding Church Walk, between Wild Rose Cottage and Rosemont, it appeared from the map that this is in fact the responsibility of Highways rather than the NT, so Cllr Stevens will report its poor condition to CCC. Cllr Platten advised that the NT were considering holding an Open Meeting in the village to present their plans for the next 10 years.
- **Cycle Way:** Cllr Platten reported that CCC had given Charlie Rickard £300 to purchase wild flower seed which has now been bought and planted alongside the new cycleway
- **Speedwatch:** Cllr Stevens reported that the interactive sign which the County Council is funding for Lode is not recognised by the Police for use by Speedwatch.
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Martyn Lord reported that the village postperson had been bitten by a dog whilst on the round earlier in the day. The car number of the owner had been taken and he hopes the incident will be reported to the police. Generally, he reported that there seems to be a shift away from traditional crime towards fraud perpetrated online. He advised that personal information should not be disclosed to unknown callers
- **Wicken Fen Liaison:** The next meeting is on 26 April and Cllr Small is attending on behalf of the Parish Council

41/18 Parish Council Reports

- Election of Parish Councillors to fill vacancies:** The Clerk reported the period of notice during which local electors could call for a poll following the resignation of Cllr Mitchell had elapsed without a poll being called. The Parish Council can now move to fill the vacancy by co-option. Accordingly, the Council agreed to the posting of a notice inviting expressions of interest to be received by the Clerk by 5pm on 4 May. The period of notice regarding the vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr Walsh will expire on 19 April. The Council can consider any expressions of interest in co-option at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on 14 May
- Finance:** The Council agreed the following payments:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
J E Giles	Expenses (Stamps & Stationery)	15.77	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	147.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity pd by DD	168.35+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Kirkhouse	Fassage Hall (Chair trolley)	196.49+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Cllr F Platten	Expenses re Cycleway opening	318.97	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
FHMC	Hire of Fassage Hall for Cycleway event	12.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
St James Church , Lode	Hire of Church for Cycleway event	50.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Wave (formerly Anglian Water)	Water charges	49.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
FHMC*	Hire of hall for PC meetings	180.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Lode Star*	Donation	200.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111

*These items were paid during March following email approval from elected members

- Planning:**

National Trust Anglesey Abbey, CB25 9EJ	18/00174/FUL Installation of two height barriers at car park	Planning consent granted 28 March 2018
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- Allotments:** There was brief discussion about managing water supplies to the allotments – one local resident appears to have a number of large tanks that could be suitable for water storage so enquiries will be made as to whether they are surplus to requirements and might be re-used in this context. Cllr Small and the Clerk will arrange to have a walk around check of the allotments
- Cemetery:** Cllr Stevens has cut back the grass which had grown over the path and revealed the solid edge. Cllr Platten proposed using the proceeds of the recent jumble sale to improve the area to the right of the entrance. Bearing in mind the need for any improvement to require modest maintenance, she suggests obtaining two large pots which can be placed near the seat – these could be planted with bulbs to flower in the early part of the season followed by geraniums which are relatively drought tolerant for the summer. As Liz Mitchell and Meleena Walsh had been keen to improve this area, she will consult with them to check

their views. Cllr Small suggested that a working party be convened for the installation of the pots

- **Fassage Hall Committee Rep:** It was agreed this should be considered in the context of allocation of roles to Councillors at the AGM
- **Footpaths:** Cllr Platten reported that a large amount of rubbish had been dumped on White Fen Drove. Cllr Stevens said that it was important that such incidents were reported to the District Council and that the waste was not disturbed as any evidence linking it to the person(s) who dumped it might be invalidated if moved. There was discussion about the surface of the path linking Fairhaven Close to the Cemetery Road and also the track going from the Cemetery entrance to the Fassage Hall – the latter has become very muddy. Cllr Faulkner has obtained a quotation from Meads for a tarmac surface on the path from Fairhaven Close. It was felt the quote was very high, probably because the scale of the work was small. It was agreed that a further quotation would be sought for both the path and the track, with a surface comprising MOT1 chippings for the latter
- **Village Reports:** Cllr Platten reported that there was problem with the bus shelter which Cllr Stevens confirmed is the responsibility of the Parish Council; he agreed to investigate the problem

42/18: Date of Annual Parish Council Meeting: 14 May 2018 at 7.30 pm – Fassage Hall

Date of Open Parish Meeting: 21 May 2018 at 7.30 pm – Fassage Hall