

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9 July 2018

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, I Faulkner, R Small, T Fitzgerald; D/Cllr A Sharp from 8.15pm

68/18 At the beginning of the meeting, the Chair invited all present to keep one minute's silence in memory of Elizabeth Mitchell

69/18 Public Question Time: Ms Prill Barrett and Ms Rima Page raised their concern about continuing damage arising to the railway track bed since they raised it first around Christmas. Early in the year the damage arose from machinery when the ground was wet. Subsequently the ground had become very dry and friable – the contractor driving a vehicle across the track from one cultivated area to another had caused the track to collapse at that point. Prill Barrett pointed out that the comment from the Agent of the Fairhaven Estate to the effect that the contractor would be asked to not to cultivate “within 18 inches, or so, of the track” in future did not provide sufficient reassurance. If the term “cultivation” refers to when the fields are next sown, it ignores the risks that arise from the use of heavy machinery to harvest this year's crop which will be due imminently. She believes 18 inches is not a sufficient margin and that the previous damage should be repaired rather than being left to re-establish itself. Cllr Stevens suggested that it might be helpful to propose that the track should be reinstated to its original width using the central line between the wheel ruts as a bearing. Cllr Small pointed out that any approach to the National Trust should take account of the fact that they have no legal duty as the path is not a public right of way and the track is not formally listed. The Trust does, however, have environmental and conservation policies which would be relevant in this context.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Trust's surveyor, Emily Tydeman, as a matter of urgency and explain the concerns raised. He will suggest a site meeting

Concern was also raised in respect of the path from Lode Mill to Pigeon Wood which Ms Barrett believed has been encroached upon by the contractor ploughing close to the edge of the field. Cllr Stevens explained that the situation here was different as pedestrians have tended to walk closer to the field edge as growth from the ditch side has made walking on the original path more difficult. He has cut back this growth on a number of occasions to make the original path more accessible. The solution here would be to get agreement on the width of the area between the ditch and the ploughed field, and ask the Trust to ensure that under- and overgrowth was kept under control to allow pedestrians to keep to an established path with a verge on either side

70/18 Apologies for absence: Cllr P Lane, D/Cllr D Chaplin

71/18 Declarations of interest: Cllr Small declared an interest in planning application 18/00835/FUL

72/18 Matters arising from the June meeting:

- **Recreation Ground – lease of Roller Blade Area:** the Clerk reported that an amended plan had been sent to Emily Tydeman to enable completion of the lease
- **Issues regarding The Shed:** D/Cllr Sharp agreed to send the Clerk details of the resolution achieved between the owner and the Enforcement Team at ECDC
- **Recreation Ground – removal of thistles:** The Clerk reported that he had had no response from Truelink as to whether they would honour their earlier quotation. CGM had sent an invoice despite not doing the work! As no other contractor could be identified willing to undertake the work, he had spoken with the Council's insurer and agreed that the work could be done by volunteers provided that a full risk assessment is undertaken and mitigation provided to risks identified. Cllr Small indicated his willingness to lead the task and will liaise with Cllr Fitzgerald to fence off an area and treat it over the weekend. The

weedkiller to be used is a glyphosate based substance which is harmless to humans and animals once it has dried

- **School transport:** C/Cllr Shuter had responded quickly to the email drafted by Cllr Stevens and said that he supported the request from the Council and asked for information on any representations that had been received by the Council. Cllr Small will forward these to the Clerk
- **ECDC Grass cutting:** Cllr Stevens reported that the relevant areas of grass had been mown within a couple of days of the last meeting. It is assumed that any issues have now been resolved but he will raise it again if the problem recurs

73/18 County Council Report: none

74/18 District Council Report: D/Cllr Sharp reported that a consultation on Taxi fares was currently underway – there has been no increase in fares since 2013. He reported that the Council had lost a planning appeal on a development in Fordham on the grounds that the Council doesn't currently have a 5 year land supply. This was disappointing as the newly drafted plan which does have sufficient supply is still with the Planning Inspectorate. He hopes this will not lead to opportunistic planning applications being made in the interim. He expects the new plan to be in place by the end of the year

75/18 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** none
- **NT Liaison:** none
- **Cycle Way:** Cllr Platten had circulated council members with a note setting out her concerns about maintaining the verges of the track prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that he had spoken with the maintenance team of Cambridgeshire County Council who have responsibility for the track now that it has been completed. They indicated that the County Council would cut the verges twice a year. If the Parish Council believes the task needs to be done more often, it could propose an arrangement similar to that which applies within the village, whereby the County Council makes a payment to the Parish to undertake the maintenance on its behalf. This allows the Parish Council to engage its own contractor and specify additional cuts. It was noted that Quy Parish Council had arranged for Truelink to trim the edges of the path on the section within that parish. Quy Parish Council is concerned at the height of hedges shielding sight of the track from road, feeling that this may create a risk to children. Whilst understanding the issue, the view of Lode Parish Councillors was that this was not a significant risk on what is now a well-used path. Cllr Stevens reported that the pavement from Lode crossroads towards Anglesey Abbey on the Bottisham side now has a sign designating it as shared use for pedestrians and cyclists. The outstanding item is a cycle warning sign on the approach to Lode from Swaffham Bulbeck. It was agreed that the Clerk should ask Cambridgeshire how much the Council would contribute to the cost of cutting the verges and also get a price from Truelink. The Parish Council can then confirm if it is happy to proceed with the arrangement
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** no report
- **Speed panel:** Cllr Stevens confirmed that he had met with the officer responsible for the Local Highways Improvement Fund and agreed where the interactive speed panel could be used. The sign will be battery operated and can run for about one month on a single charge. It will also be able to store traffic data which can be downloaded. The County Council will install a pole on each side of the B1102 about 50 yards from the new cycle crossing south west of the Lode Crossroads. As this location is well within the 30 mph zone, the indicator should not pick up vehicles legitimately going at a higher speed before entering it. The panel may also be used on Lode Road near Broughton Hall where a bracket can be affixed to a lamppost. Further locations may be proposed but must first be agreed with CCC. The Officer said that he is meeting with all councils who were awarded funding so that the equipment can be ordered in bulk – it is hoped that it would be available by the end of the year

- Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust:** Cllr Stevens invited Charlie Platten to address the Council in respect of the proposal for the Trust to work in partnership with the Parish Council to purchase the “Sunray” allotment site from the National Trust. Charlie Platten said that the National Trust had indicated that they were keen to sell the land to a local charity. The indicative price is around £42,000. A valuation is being obtained from Carter Jonas before a formal offer is submitted. The LLVT has sufficient funds for the purchase. A Preliminary Planning Group (PPG) has been set up to coordinate a partnership approach to the purchase between the Parish Council and LLVT. The membership of this group is: Cllrs Stevens, Platten and Small, and LLVT Trustees, Charlie Platten, Coral Hatley and Pauline Holmes. Cllr Small has also been invited to join the LLVT Committee in an advisory capacity. The first meeting of the PPG welcomed the potential purchase as a village amenity on the basis that it is accomplished as a partnership between the Trust and Parish Council with appropriate management and environmental plans established. A consultation and planning day will take place in the autumn to promote ownership of the plans by residents of the village. Charlie Platten reported that a National Trust representative has offered to advise the PPG on legal aspects; Emily Tydeman, the National Trust’s surveyor, will attend the meeting of the PPG on 12 July.

The Parish Council resolved the following:

- To endorse the Parish Council representatives on the Preliminary Planning Group and Cllr Small as an advisory member of the LLVT Committee
- To confirm its involvement as a partner in establishing management processes for the acquired land
- To contribute 20% of the purchase price and associated costs, subject to the purchase proceeding
- To commission the Valuation from Carter Jonas on behalf of the LLVT and Parish Council
- To contribute to the Planning Event with villagers in the autumn
- To work in partnership with LLVT to explore uses of the land after the Planning Event
- Sports Club:** There was no report from the Cricket Club but Cllr Platten proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Richard Beardsmore for the work he does in keeping the ground to a high standard during the season
- Tree Officer:** It was noted that the newly planted hedging by the orchard is suffering in the drought. A request was made for members of the Council to take the opportunity of filling a watering can from the cemetery and putting it on the plants when in the area
- Wicken Fen Liaison:** no report

76/18 Parish Council Reports:

- Finance:** The following payments were agreed by the Council:

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	Bus shelter repair	£86.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity pd by DD	£118.94+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink Ltd	Grasscutting	£503.39	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Community Action Suffolk	Parish Council Insurance – scythe mower	£35.84	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Cambridgeshire County Council	County Council Archive Network	£100.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Lionel Johnson	Internal Audit	£120.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Wave (Anglian Water)	Cemetery	£55.01	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
UK2	Parish Council website domain fee	£12.01+VAT	Local Govt Act 1972 s112

Fenland Leisure	Play Area	£300.00+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Ridgeons	Cemetery	£53.06+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

The Council resolved that Cllr Stevens should be reimbursed for repairs to the Pirate boat totalling about £54 for which he will submit receipts. Advance approval was also given for regular payments for July which fall due in August, (Clerk, Cemetery maintenance, Green Energy, Grasscutting)

- **Planning:**

Cllr Small withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item

Ms Liz King 32 High Street CB25 9EW	18/00835/FUL Single storey rear extension, conversion of existing outbuilding into family study with ground floor WC and demolition of another outbuilding	Liz King introduced the key aspects of the application. Members of the Council commended the application on its sensitivity to the heritage of the village and to the environment, and concluded no comments need to be made to ECDC
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- **Allotments:** The recent publicity in Lode Star has led to new applications for allotments so all plots are currently allocated
- **Cemetery:** The pergola, for which expenditure was agreed at the June meeting, has now been installed and payment will be made on submission of an invoice from Anthony Martin Carpentry Services. Cllr Platten is liaising with Meleena Walsh about the planting scheme, as she was involved in the design – the plan is that planting should take place in the autumn
- **Fassage Hall and Recreation Ground:** The Clerk was asked to instruct Truelink to cut the verge on the path at the rear of the Old Vicarage. Cllr Stevens explained the option he has found for providing a means of fencing the area in front of the Hall to allow children to play safely. He proposed buying the type of barrier used for public events. They are available in packs of 10 which is the number that would be required to fence off the area – the pack of 10 costs about £300. Each section weighs 11 kg achieving a balance between portability and sufficient weight to provide a strong barrier. He has consulted with members of the FHMC, and also with the head of the school, who feel it is a good solution. On the basis that the fencing could be useful for other events (eg children’s parties) he suggested that they should be purchased by the FHMC or the Parish Council rather than asking the school to buy them. After discussion, this was agreed by the Parish Council. Cllr Fitzgerald agreed to explore options for purchasing 2 goals for young people using the Recreation Ground
- **Play Area:** Cllrs Stevens and Fitzgerald have installed a wheel and post in the boat in the play area. Cllr Stevens renewed the decks with decking boards since the plywood aft deck collapsed last week due to rot around the edges. He also fitted new seats to the toddler swings

77/18 Correspondence: Relevant items are listed on the information sheet circulated to members

78/18 Date of next meeting: Monday 10 September 2018