

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of ordinary meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 10 December 2018

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, I Faulkner, R Small, T Crickmar;
M Lord (Neighbourhood Watch); P Ingham-Watts (National Trust)

124/18 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public

125/18 Apologies for absence: Cllrs T Fitzgerald, P Lane; D/Cllr A Sharp

126/18 Declarations of interest (prejudicial/other): none

127/18 Minutes of November meeting: signed as a correct record

128/18 Matters arising from the October meeting:

- **School transport:** The Clerk has written to Bottisham Parish Council and will forward their response when received
- **Defibrillator:** Cllr Stevens reported that he had discovered that the defibrillator had not been registered with the Ambulance service. It has now been registered. He has placed a small torch inside the keypad cover so that users can see it in the dark
- **RoSPA Annual Play Equipment Check:** The Clerk received a response from RoSPA indicating that the additional items would need to be in a separate report costing £68.50 + VAT. The Clerk will query why a separate report is required, but the Council agreed to the work being done at this cost if there is no option to add items to the scope of the existing report;
- **Letter to Solicitor re Fassage Green Purchase:** The agreed letter had been sent to the Solicitor acting for the Parish Council and LLVT but had not been seen by the National Trust. This has now been rectified;
- **Speed Indicator:** Cllr Stevens is going to collect the indicator from Huntingdon but explained that it cannot be used until the posts and bracket have been installed by the County Council in the agreed locations
- **John Salisbury Charity:** The Clerk reported that the Vicar has nominated Coral Hatley as the Trustee representing St James' Lode
- **Swan Corner:** Two quotations were received. The prices were very similar but there was greater detail in that from Gardenworks, including provision for transporting woodchips, which are to be used as mulch in the orchard. The Council resolved to accept the quotation from Gardenworks
- **Issues regarding the Shed:** Cllr Faulkner queried why this had not been listed as a matter arising as he believes the issues are still outstanding. The Clerk confirmed that this is referred to in D/Cllr Sharp's email (see below). Cllr Stevens said that the issue had not been originally raised as a complaint to the Parish Council but had been brought to the Council's attention because the matter was being dealt with by ECDC

129/18 County Council Report: None. Cllr Stevens reported that he had asked C/Cllr Shuter to pursue the question of ownership of Swan Corner. Any work done by the Parish Council to the trees on the site is strictly to safeguard the public and does not imply that the Parish Council is the owner of the land

130/18 District Council Report: D/Cllr Sharp was unable to attend the meeting as he was unwell. Regarding the Shed he wrote as follows: "...Enforcement are liaising with Environmental Health on this issue. Environmental Health recommended one course of action, which improved the situation, but did not resolve it. The owners are now going to have the equipment cleaned and serviced, to see if this can resolve or identify the issue".

131/18 Parish Council Budget: forecast to 31 March 2019 and draft Budget for 2019-20: In discussing the proposed budget, the Council noted the contingency for election expenses, as

estimated by the District, should the election be contested. If this expense is incurred, it was pointed out that there would still be sufficient reserve remaining after taking this and the pending purchase of the Fassage Green site into account. The key aim for the precept and other charges (for the allotments and cemetery) is that the ongoing revenue commitments of the Parish Council are covered. This would be achieved, firstly, by increasing the precept by 3%. 0.8% of the increase would be covered by the increase in the number of Band D households, while householders would pay an increase of 2.2% which is equal to the current rate of CPI inflation. Secondly, it was recognised that the administrative cost of running the allotments is not covered by the current rent level. The Parish Council resolved to:

- Request a precept of £15,150 from the District Council
- Reduce the budget for weed clearance on the Fassage Playing Field to £400, and provide a budget of £200 for tree maintenance
- Increase the annual rent per allotment to £12 per year from October 2019
- Seek information about cemetery fees locally before reviewing those applying in Lode

The Clerk was requested to find out when the fields were last aerated and the cost

132/18 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** Ms Ingham-Watts (General Manager, National Trust) reported that the Winter Lights event had gone well, though she will be looking at noise management in planning for 2019. She said that the Abbey is experiencing budget pressures and will be looking at how to increase income in future. She asked for comments about how the community in Lode might be involved in this process. It was suggested that maintaining contact with the Parish Council, writing in Lode Star, using the Parish Council website and the Liaison Group were established routes for this dialogue. Cllr Small said that the recent successful Fassage Green event offered a useful model for community engagement. Ms Ingham-Watts said that she had asked about the availability of bark chippings for the Orchard; unfortunately, none are available at present but she will let the Council know if there are any in future. A meeting is taking place regarding the feasibility of electric vehicle charging points in the Abbey Car Park and the Trust is exploring possible corporate partners. It was pointed out that a high level supply is required for fast charging. She advised that the Trust is not planning to appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the catering outlet; bearing in mind the way the area was used in the past, the Trust is wanting to consider planting a heritage orchard replacing the silver birches; it is planning an event in the late spring to engage local people and canvass their views. Cllr Stevens said that ECDC have placed a larger dog bin by Lode Mill; he suggested that it will need to be monitored to see whether it is adequate for the level of usage. There was discussion about National Trust members not being able to bring dogs into the Abbey grounds and then walking them along the public footpath from the Abbey car park. Cllr Stevens advised that, while landowners cannot require dogs to be kept on leads on public footpaths, they can require that they are kept under proper control and can request that they are kept on a lead. It was suggested that signs might be put up to that effect. Cllr Platten said the annual litter pick is taking place in February (Sunday 3rd was agreed as the date) and invited National Trust volunteers to be involved. Ms Ingham-Watts stressed the Trust's commitment to maintaining their land in a good state but doubted whether they would be able to be involved on that specific date as it coincides with the height of the snowdrop season
- **Cycle Path:** Cllr Platten pointed out that there are ash trees beginning to project onto the path in the Quy section. Cllr Small pointed out that CCC have restored the paths on several local cycle routes and asked that they be reminded about the shared use path between Lode and Bottisham

- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Martyn Lord said that a car had been seen driving too fast in the village. He has the registration number and will be trying to find the owner and advise of the need to drive more carefully. Cllr Stevens said that a caravan had been stolen from Northfields. Mr Lord said that he had previously seen a report that a traveller site had been raided in the South Cambridgeshire area and a stolen caravan recovered
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small reported that a further application would be made to the Woodland Trust for more hedging for the orchard area. Regarding the application to the Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust for the purchase of heritage apple trees for the orchard, he explained that the funding contribution would be the £104 raised at the recent pressing day. As the application needs to come from an organisation, this money can be transferred to the Council, which agreed that the application could be made in the Council's name

133/18 Parish Council Reports:

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

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£360.58	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£159.30	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	£168.58+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Homebase (R Stevens)	Allotment shed padlock	£17.06 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Medisave (R Stevens)	Defibrillator pads	£42.94 + VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Office Outlet (R Small)	Stationery for Fassage Green Event	£27.87 + VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Plan-It Reprographics (R Small)	Printing for Fassage Green Event	£110.00 + VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
R Small	2 inner tubes 2 tyre levers	£22.82 + VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Grasscutting	£316.68 +VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Darwin Nurseries (Cllr Platten)	Cemetery plants	£13.98	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

- **Planning:**

Mr & Mrs R Peters Anglesey Farm Lode CB25 9HD	18/01641/VAR Proposed variation to condition 7 (date of expiry of permission) of previously approved application 15/01159/FUL for the erection of residential log cabin (retrospective)	The Council noted this application
Mr & Mrs G Armstrong 15 Fairhaven Close, CB25 9HH	18/01619/FUL Proposed new 3 bedroom 2 storey end of terrace house	The Council noted that the proposed house has a larger footprint than its neighbours but recognised that this arises from it having three bedrooms rather than two. It asks that planners consider the adequacy of the parking arrangement as the plan appears to indicate that the approach to the parking for 15a encroaches on the land attached to 11a while the revised parking for 15 appears to encroach on that for 17.

Mr R Haynes Adj to 1 Longmeadow, Lode	18/01074/FUL New industrial unit, same style as existing	The Council noted that the application has been approved with conditions
---	--	--

The Council asked the Clerk to seek an update from D/Cllr Sharp on the application 18/01413/FUL regarding 39 Longmeadow

- **Cemetery:** Cllr Platten reported that Meleena Walsh is planning to plant bulbs near the pergola. She agreed to ask Meleena to liaise with Will Jaggard

134/18 Correspondence:

- **East Cambs Parish Conference:** Cllr Crickmar agreed to attend on behalf of the Council
- **Request from Cambridgeshire County Council for Parish Councils to make a financial contribution to the cost of Bikeability cycle training in schools:** Cllr Small expressed concern that the County Council was seeking to pass responsibility to parishes for an area which should be recognised as a core responsibility for the County and paid for through the levies they raise. It was queried whether it is legal for Parish Councils to support County Council responsibilities in this way. The Council recognised the importance of this scheme for the safety of children. It was agreed that a response should be sent to CCC expressing these concerns and seeking information about the overall size of the shortfall and the Council's intentions in respect of maintaining this important training

135/18 John Salisbury Charity: Selection of the Council's nominees for the Trustee Board: As this item involved discussion of individuals, the public was excluded from the meeting at this point. The Council resolved to nominate Cllr Teresa Crickmar and Mr Peter Thurlby to the vacant positions on the charity's board.

136/18 Date of next meeting: Monday 14 January 2019 at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm