

## **Lode Parish Council**

### **Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12 February 2018**

These minutes comprise 4 pages

**Present:** Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), E Mitchell, F Platten, I Faulkner; D/Cllr A Sharp  
Alexei Moulton, Chris Hammond, Martyn Lord, Sharone Freed, David Pencheon, Jackie Lince and Coral Hatley

**13/18 Welcome to Alexei Moulton & Public Question Time:** Cllr Stevens welcomed Alexei Moulton in his new role as Webmaster and expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Parish Council for taking on the role. Mr Moulton said that he did not anticipate making significant changes at this point though would look at how key users such as the Passage Hall Committee and Parish Council might be given guidance as to how to upload information onto the site themselves.

Members of the public made the following comments in respect of the planning application 17/02077/FUL made by Anglesey Abbey to install a catering unit and outdoor picnic tables for a period of three years:

- One resident is not reassured by the explanation from the NT that the trailer containing the freezer will be moved to the site at 9am and driven away at 5.30pm – this activity in itself will cause noise;
- Mill Rd residents value the quiet offered by the location and this will bring large numbers of people into the location affecting the peace of the area, particularly on Sundays;
- The freezer unit is a potential problem at any time of day. The intention of the proposal is to attract people to the paddock area. The experience of the development of other parts of the Anglesey Abbey site is that large numbers are attracted to newly developed areas;
- It is possible to access the site through the back gate to the Abbey site which would lead to more parking in Mill Rd to avoid the congested car park. This would result in damage to verges;
- Concern at experimental nature of the proposal which might facilitate non-paying visitors accessing the catering outlet;
- Lack of clarity about the overall purpose of the application; risk that a temporary development becomes permanent. It is possible to use suitable storage containers to maintain frozen items for several hours without the need for a freezer;
- Concern that despite the large perimeter of the overall site, this development is proposed to be sited at the nearest point to established housing;
- The proposal will encourage visitors to walk around the site with takeaway drinks and food; this would adversely affect the ambience and runs counter to the overall purpose of the National Trust in relation to conserving heritage.

**14/18 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs M Walsh, P Lane, R Small; D/Cllr D Chaplin

**15/18 Declarations of interest:** None

**16/18 Minutes of the meeting held 8 January 2018:** Signed by the Chair as a correct record

**17/18 Matters arising from the January meeting:**

- **Designation of pavement between the end of the cycleway and Lode crossroads as “shared use”:** The Clerk reported that C/Cllr Shuter was still awaiting a further response from Jason Tyrrell
- **Reassessment of safety of route between Lode and Bottisham Village Primary School:** The Clerk had reported to Cambridgeshire County Council the need to restore the shared use

path from Lode Crossroads to Bottisham to its proper width to allow cyclists and pedestrians to pass

- **Letters to National Trust and Cambridgeshire County Council regarding Pigeon Wood footpaths:** The National Trust have responded that they will take up the issue of damage to the railway track bed with their tenants and a response is awaited from CCC regarding the request to alter the route of the designated footpath and make the railway track bed into a bridleway
- **Metal posts on pavement outside 1 Quay Road:** The Chair and Clerk met with the developers on 13 January. They agreed to remove the posts which they have subsequently done
- **Uncultivated allotments:** Cllr Small to advise whether those sent notices have now started cultivating their allotments
- **Local Highway Improvement Fund:** Cllrs Stevens and Platten attended the Area Panel on 29 January to support the Council's application. The decision of the panel is awaited
- **Recreation Ground:** Lease of Roller Blade Area from NT – pending
- **Passage Hall Gateway:** Still awaiting alteration by Mike Hatley
- **Issues regarding the Shed:** D/Cllr Sharp reported that a meeting had taken place but that he had not been advised of the outcome
- **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** Cllr Stevens reported that he would have a further conversation with one person that he has approached. Cllr Faulkner also raised the possibility of someone who might be interested

**18/18 County Council Report:** none

**19/18 District Council Report:** D/Cllr Sharp reported that all comments on the Local Plan had been forwarded to the Planning Inspector. He will notify the Clerk of dates when Parish Councils can make representations to the Inspector once these have been set. The Waste Services Contract will be taken in-house with effect from 1 April 2018. He explained that it could not be placed within the already existing Trading Company as the contract has been taken back in-house without a competitive tender process being undertaken. He agreed to write an article for Lode Star explaining the difference between the two trading companies. He reminded the meeting that residents will be able to purchase a second blue bin from 1 February which will be eligible for collections without further charge once the new contract starts in April. D/Cllr Sharp will forward information about current recycling rates to the Clerk.

**20/18 Parish Reports**

- **NT Liaison:** The next meeting of this group is scheduled to take place in March after the date of the next Parish Council meeting
- **Cycle Way:** Cllr Platten reported that solar studs will be installed on the full length of the new path. Plans for the opening event include assistance by Police Cadets with marshalling – it was emphasised that this would be done in such a way as to ensure that parents remain fully responsible for their own children at all times. The estimated cost for food and drink for the event is £400. There will be liaison with the Communications section of CCC to secure news coverage of the event. Cllr Stevens reported that damage to the new path had been caused by the Internal Drainage Board driving heavy equipment across it to access the drainage ditch for maintenance
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Martyn Lord had heard from the PCSO covering Soham that there had been a number of break-ins to commercial premises and outbuildings. There was evidence of the activity drifting south towards the Swaffhams so he advised local residents to be alert to maintaining security
- **Speedwatch:** Martyn Lord raised concern about drivers approaching from Quay being unaware of the new cycle path. Cllr Stevens responded that the County Council have been asked to install Cycle Path warning signs. In addition, the application to the Local Highway Improvement Fund was for a moveable speed indicator sign which could be used in this location

- **Tree Warden:** Liz King had sent information about the Biodiversity Grant. An “Orchard Day” has been fixed for 25 February when volunteers are asked to help prepare the orchard area for the coming season

## 21/18 Parish Council Reports:

- **Planning**

- **17/01163/OUT Erection of 5 dwellings to the rear of 1 Longmeadow, CB25 9HA** The Applicant is appealing against the refusal of outline planning permission by ECDC. One of the reasons for refusal is that it would result in the loss of employment within Lode as well as concern about the character of the proposed development. The Parish Council had not itself raised an issue about the loss of employment from this site and resolved that its comments on the application should be repeated to the Planning Inspectorate in the context of the Appeal
- **17/02077/FUL Temporary change of use for installation of catering unit for 3 years plus outdoor picnic tables, paddock to rear of 51-57 Mill Rd, Anglesey Abbey** The Council resolved to comment as follows:
  - The proposed location of the catering unit is unnecessarily close to housing given the substantial perimeter of the estate; other siting options should be considered. The current proposed location would potentially alter the character of the neighbourhood for residents bringing noise and potential disruption to a location valued for its quiet rural character. In this context the Council noted that Hoe Fen had been identified as a possible alternative
  - There should be no cooking or use of freezers in connection with such an outlet
  - There would need to be improved fencing and gates to ensure access to the site is gained via the main entrance to the Abbey only
  - The Parish Council is concerned that such a facility might lead to increased litter and would be particularly concerned at any that might end up in the watercourse.

- **Finance**

- The Council resolved to agree the draft budget for 2018-19 with the exception of Special Projects, on which further work is required to establish priorities, and inserting an amount of £600 to allow for aeration of the Fassage Playing Field
- The Council agreed the following payments:

J E Giles	Salary	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
J E Giles	Expenses (Office & travel)	38.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	147.60	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Fassage Hall	Hire of hall (Litter pick)	12.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Hedge cutting (Play Area)	180.00+ VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Kirkhouse	Fassage Hall chairs	2770.99+VAT	Local Government act 1972 s 133
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	164.10+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

	Electricity pd by DD		
HMRC	PAYE re Clerk (already paid)	250.20	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Better Planet	Fassage Hall Heating Maintenance	820.25+VAT	Local Govt Act 1972 s133

- **Allotments:** The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Small to establish whether the allotment holders sent non-cultivation notices have taken any remedial action
- **Cemetery:** Cllr Mitchell said that there had not been any responses so far to the article in Lode Star showing a proposed area for quiet contemplation within the cemetery. The plan is for further discussion of the proposal as part of the planning for special projects
- **Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens reported that Alan Lamb had liaised with the original installer of the heating system, Better Planet, and that the problems have now been resolved. Cllr Stevens has resigned from his role as Parish Council representative on the Fassage Hall Committee and the Parish Council will be asked to identify a new representative at its next meeting. Alan Lamb advised that the aeration of the field is a necessary task which is the responsibility of the Parish Council as the managing trustee given that it extends to the whole field and not just the pitches used by the Sports Club. This was not previously identified as a budget item but was carried out by the PC last year.
- **Lode Village Fete:** The Fete committee has written to the Parish Council seeking permission to hold the fete this year. The Clerk will liaise with the Insurers to confirm their stipulations in relation to controlling numbers admitted
- **Parish Reports:** Cllr Platten had received a complaint about the storage of silage and damage to the verge on the highway outside Anglesey Farm. Cllrs Platten and Mitchell agreed to talk with the tenant
- **Cllr Mitchell** advised that she will not be able to continue as a Councillor on health grounds. She will step down after the March meeting.

**22/18 Date of future meetings:** The next meeting will take place on 12 March at 7.30pm. Please note the date of the June meeting has been changed to 4 June (instead of 11 June)