

## **Lode Parish Council**

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

These minutes comprise 5 pages

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

**23/18 Public Question Time:** Mr D Durrant raised three issues:- the broken sign at the top of the cycle path opposite the entrance to Anglesey Abbey; he suggested putting white markings around the new traffic island to make it more obvious to approaching motorists, and pointed out that designating the railway track bed as a bridleway would mean that horses might use it creating concerns for walkers, especially families with children. He said that horses would churn up the ground making it too muddy for walkers

**24/18 Apologies for absence:** None

**25/18 Declarations of interest:** None

**26/18 Minutes of the meeting held 12 February 2018:** Signed by the Chair as a correct record

**27/18 Matters arising from the February meeting:**

- **Designation of pavement between the end of the cycleway and Lode crossroads as “shared use”:** The Clerk had emailed C/Cllr Shuter to ask whether he had had a further response from Jason Tyrrell as promised by the latter in his earlier reply
- **Reassessment of safety of route between Lode and Bottisham Village Primary School:** The Clerk made a report to CCC about restoring the shared use path from Lode crossroads to Bottisham to its proper width to allow cyclists and pedestrians to pass safely. A response was received to indicate it will be considered in the next financial year. Cllr Stevens pointed out that this should be a matter of routine maintenance rather than requiring to be reported. D/Cllr Chaplin agreed to pursue the issue through C/Cllr Shuter
- **Allotments:** Cllr Small reported that one tenant had begun to cultivate their plot but no action had been taken by the two others sent warning notices who will now be issued with notice to quit
- **Recreation Ground:** Lease of Roller Blade Area from NT – pending
- **Fassage Hall Gateway:** Mike Hatley has indicated he plans to undertake the work during March when he hopes the weather will be better
- **Issue regarding the Shed:** D/Cllr Chaplin had no information on the issue and suggested pursuing with D/Cllr Sharp
- **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** The Clerk reported that he had met with Mr Lionel Johnson who had indicated his willingness to undertake the role. The Parish Council resolved to confirm his appointment. The Parish Council wished to record its thanks to Tony Cassidy who has performed this role for a number of years

**28/18 County Council Report:** none

**29/18 District Council Report:** D/Cllr Chaplin alerted the Council to issues in connection with the proposal for the waste incineration plant at Waterbeach. He pointed out that there may be light pollution from the plant as well as a risk from microparticles generated by the incineration process – this is a particular issue for Lode as the prevailing wind blows from the West. It is envisaged that waste may be transported into the site from as far afield as the Isle of Wight. He indicated that the

site was chosen because the operator is already running a related business from that site. He also recognised that there is a benefit that the incinerator will generate sufficient power to supply the new development planned for Waterbeach. There is a petition on the internet.

D/Cllr Chaplin pointed out that ECDC has not raised their precept for Council Tax for the coming year. Finally he reminded the Council that ECDC are taking the Waste Contract back in house from the beginning of April. Cllr Stevens pointed out that only half of households appeared to be putting out their green bins during the winter and wondered whether that meant food waste was going into ordinary waste rather than being recycled.

### **30/18 Parish Reports:**

- **NT Liaison:** The regular planned liaison meeting is due to take place this week. Cllr Small reported that the meeting with Natasha Woollard (Deputy Regional Director) and Emily Tydeman (Surveyor) to discuss options for the Sunray Allotment site had been very positive. He quoted from an email he had sent following the meeting:

“ I thought it would be helpful to share some notes from the meeting. These are from memory so please do feel free to make any corrections to the following.

“The ex-Sunray allotment land and area of trees up to the boundary with the village recreation ground was surveyed in 2017 as an annual requirement by the National Trust. However on this occasion it became apparent that the land was classified as alienable investment land.

“We noted that the local context of the land had changed since this classification was made (on the acquisition of the land as part of the Anglesey Abbey Estate by the National Trust in the 1960’s) and it was clarified that the land is within the Wicken Fen Vision area.

“We had broad mutual agreement that going forward the land could be made available for community use in the long-term, with a positive impact for the environment, recreation and learning. These mutually beneficial aims directly relate to the National Trust’s objectives and have particular resonance with Wicken Fen.

“The National Trust is undertaking an on-going process, led by Emily, to clarify its legal requirements regarding the future tenure of the land, which includes the following:

- Ascertaining, under the terms of the Trust’s investment land classification, if value to be realised from the land can be limited to social and environmental benefits or whether the value has to be in monetary terms.
- If it is the case that the National Trust must sell the land, finding out whether it is possible for the land to be purchased by Wicken Fen as part of the Vision project.
- To share the recent valuation of the land as and when available with the Parish Council

“If an internal mechanism can’t be found by the National Trust the Parish wants to find the means to purchase the land and would seek the National Trust’s expertise in how to secure it for conservation and social benefit in the long-term.

“We discussed near-term management needs for the land to prevent it falling into further disrepair and recognising current limited resources of Anglesey Abbey that this would require a joint effort from the National Trust and the Parish. The National Trust are able to draw upon its Cambridgeshire volunteers to help with an initial clearance of the land which would need to be conducted prior to the onset new growth in the spring (i.e. by the end of next month). Once an initial clearance of the land has been conducted it may be most appropriate to arrange for a local farmer to mow the ground.

“We also discussed the hedging plants that had been granted to the Parish by the Woodland Trust and agreed that these could be planted as a wind break to the community orchard.

“Emily will be attending the next Anglesey Abbey liaison meeting which is being held in March and will be able to give an update on her work regarding clarifying options for future tenure of the land.

“We are keen that we are able to maintain momentum on resolving tenure, management and restoration of the land with the National Trust. We hope that a clear way forward can be found by the summer with a goal of seeding a meadow in the autumn.”

Cllr Small reported that, following the meeting, volunteers have substantially tidied the site. Going forward the NT would need a commitment from the Parish Council to a maintenance plan for the site.

- **Cycle Way:** Cllr Platten reported that the turnout for the opening event had been very good with a lot of support from the village. She hopes that the County Council Press Officer will promote the reporting of the event to raise awareness of the path. She reported that Charlie Rickard had identified funding of £300 for wild flower seeds which could be sown alongside the path. Cllr Walsh said she would let Cllr Platten know of another source of potential funding for such a project. Cllr Mitchell will put an article in Lode Star encouraging local people to plant bulbs in the copse area at the Lode end of the path. Cllr Small pointed out that it is quite hazardous for cyclists to gain access to the path from the Quay end. There needs to be signage to ensure that motorists are aware of the path. He suggests that it may be safer for cyclists to turn off Stow Road onto Main Street in Quay to gain access to the path.
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Martyn Lord said that most alerts were still emanating from Soham though the overall number had been reducing. The Council considered the request for funding from East Cambs Neighbourhood Watch but decided not to send a donation at this stage
- **Speedwatch:** Cllr Stevens advised that the same speed panel for which the Council has applied for funding from the Local Highway Improvement Fund could be used for Speedwatch purposes. Martyn Lord pointed out that Speedwatch should be conducted as a community service and should not stray into policing. Cllr Stevens responded that information collected using the speed panel could be passed to the police to enable them to target their activity more effectively.
- **Lode & Longmeadow Village Trust (LLVT):** Charlie Platten advised that the Trustees have now transferred all the funds into the Charity account and bids are now invited for projects of community benefit. The Trustees would potentially support the purchase of land or facilities on the land, provided the project is supported by the Parish Council. The Trustees would require applications to come from organisations within the parish which would work as a partner with LLVT. They would also expect the organisations to secure match-funding. The Trustees are interested in renewable energy projects, eg solar panels and vanadium batteries. They would like to consider applying to WRAP (Waste Resources Action Programme) who can potentially offer up to £20,000 for a feasibility study, together with a grant of up to £100,000 and an unsecured loan for approved projects. It was agreed Cllr Small would liaise with the Trust as it explores this further and report back to a future meeting of the Parish Council
- **Sports Club:** Cllr Stevens reported that the football season ends on 21 April and cricket starts on 12 May. The Clerk will liaise with the contractor who is removing the thistles from the recreation ground to undertake the main part of their work during this period
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small reported on behalf of Liz King that 65 plants have been planted on the edge of the Orchard. Another volunteer day is planned shortly. The aim is to ensure that the orchard includes local varieties of apple. He indicated that consideration is being given to constituting a more regular group to undertake maintenance of the orchard area

- **Wicken Fen Liaison:** In view of the recent meetings on the Sunray allotment land which is included within the Wicken Fen Vision, it was agreed that Cllr Small would attend the Wicken Fen Liaison meeting

### 31/18 Parish Council Reports

- **Councillor Elizabeth Mitchell:** Cllr Mitchell announced that she was resigning as a Councillor on health grounds and would leave the meeting at 8.30 pm. Cllr Stevens thanked her for her dedicated work as a Parish Councillor over many years
- **Finance**
  - The Council agreed the following payments:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	346.35	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
J E Giles	Expenses (Files & printer cartridge)	27.28	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	147.60+ 9.93+ 40.00*	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Boyd Sport & Play Ltd	Tennis Club	321.22+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity pd by DD	313.70+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

\*Payment of £40 to Will Jaggard to contribute to the cost of Public Liability Insurance allowing the mower to be moved across the public highway. It was agreed that this would be added to his regular monthly payment with effect from April and also that inflation of 3% would be applied to the basic monthly amount he currently receives from that date

- **Planning:**
  - **17/02077/FUL Installation of catering unit for 3 years plus outdoor picnic tables, paddock to rear of 51-57 Mill Road, Anglesey Abbey** The Council decided that the comments made at the February meeting fully reflect its view on this proposed development
  - **18/00174/FUL Installation of two height barriers at car park** The Council was supportive of this provided that the barriers were not located on the public footpath
  - **18/00144/FUL Replacing old barrier at gateway to Anglesey Abbey with metal gate and fencing** The Council had no comment on this application
  - **18/00268/CLP Remove garage and build single storey extension** The Council wishes to ensure that two car parking spaces will be retained within the property once the extension is completed
- **Allotments:** Cllr Small has drafted a new form of tenancy agreement taking account of the decision to operate tenancies from October in future – tenants will therefore be asked to complete an agreement for 18 months to commence from 1 April
- **Cemetery:** It was reported that some people are still disposing of the wire frameworks for flowers in the compost bin in the cemetery. Cllr Stevens noted that there were two holes in the hedge. Cllr Platten suggested that some of the Jumble Sale proceeds might be applied to beginning improvements in the area to the right of the entrance to the cemetery. Concern

was raised at the state of the path from the Cemetery to the car park; it was suggested that road toppings could be laid to improve the surface. It was noted that this would need to be done when the weather was dry

- **Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens proposed that the best solution to fencing the patio area which balances the needs of all the users of the hall is to install posts on which fencing panels can be hung when the Hall is in use by the pre-school. These can then be easily lifted off when the area is in use by other groups
- **Footpaths:** Concern was raised at damage to the verge outside 37 High Street by vehicles being driven over it. The Council resolved that the Clerk should write to the occupier of the adjacent house to ensure that damage is repaired before the grass-cutting season commences. Cllr Faulkner referred to the issue he had raised about the state of the path linking Fairhaven Close with the allotment area which had become very muddy. Cllr Stevens said that he had put down some chippings to raise the level of the path. There was discussion about whether the best solution was to lay a tarmac surface but generally it was felt that this would be too expensive. It was agreed that Cllr Faulkner would explore options for this path as well as the alternative path passing along the side of 26 Fairhaven Close and then along the boundary of the cemetery. (He will also explore options for improving the track linking the cemetery to the Car Park as mentioned above.)

**32/18 Correspondence:**

- **Parish Conference:** Cllr Stevens agreed to attend
- **Electricity Supplier for the Fassage Hall:** The current supplier, Green Energy, has notified its price increases which are slightly above other suppliers. It was agreed that the Clerk would consult with the Fassage Hall Committee about possible alternative suppliers bearing in mind the commitment to maximising the use of renewable energy.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 9 April at 7.30 pm