

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of ordinary meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12 November 2018

These minutes comprise 5 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, I Faulkner, R Small, T Fitzgerald, T Crickmar, P Lane; D/Cllr A Sharp; M Lord (Neighbourhood Watch); M Platten (LLVT); P Ingham-Watts (National Trust)

112/18 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public

113/18 Apologies for absence: D/Cllr D Chaplin

114/18 Declarations of interest (prejudicial/other): none

115/18 Minutes of October meeting: signed as a correct record

116/18 Matters arising from the October meeting:

- **School transport:** The Council agreed that the letter drafted by the Clerk to Bottisham Parish Council eliciting their agreement to work together over the issues regarding school transport should be sent
- **Special Project Funds remaining:** The Clerk confirmed that the proceeds remaining from fundraising activities now stand at £443. This includes an amount of £75 remitted by Cllr Platten this month
- **Defibrillator:** Cllr Stevens has raised the question of whether the Ambulance service hold the code for the defibrillator cabinet and is awaiting their confirmation. It was pointed out that it is very difficult to read the key pad at night due to lack of light
- **RoSPA Annual Safety Check:** The Clerk will advise RoSPA of the additional items (including the goal posts) to be included in the safety check next year

117/18 County Council Report: none

118/18 District Council Report: D/Cllr Alan Sharp reported that the proposal by the Police and Crime Panel to take responsibility for the Fire Authority was now the subject of Judicial Review. He highlighted the recent Parish Forum, addressed by Rebecca Saunt, Senior Planner for ECDC, as a very useful event. He is expecting that the Planning Inspector will complete her review of the new Local Plan by December so that a further consultation can be undertaken in January prior to adoption by the District Council in March. He also mentioned the work of a local charity called Our Special Friends who support people going into hospital or unable to go out with the care of their pets; such a service has been shown to remove a significant worry for the people using the service, whose pets are a very important part of their lives. He said that Sanctuary Housing have appointed a new manager locally, Lorna Philcox; she has responded quickly to issues raised with her. In relation to the ongoing questions about the Shed, he said that the enforcement team were under pressure and this accounted for the delay in resolving this issue. He reported that the Council had arranged sweeping of churches and war memorials in preparation for Remembrance Day. Cllr Stevens said that he had contacted Darren Hughes (the officer responsible for dog bins) about the provision of an additional bin at Lode Mill

119/18 Parish Reports:

- **National Trust:** Polly Ingham-Watts (General Manager) reported that she is now 6 weeks into her new role and finding just how many areas it covers. In relation to the proposed purchase of the Sunray site (to be known as Fassage Green) she queried whether there was any lease covering the car park area next to the cemetery. It was confirmed that no lease document had been found but it was agreed that the Clerk would write to our solicitor and confirm that it accepts that any leasing arrangements that have existed in favour of the Council will terminate at the completion of the purchase by the LLVT and the Parish Council. This will also apply to the lease on the basketball area which has rolled over rather than being formally renewed. Ms Ingham-Watts said that it is not yet clear whether the funds arising from the sale will accrue to Anglesey Abbey or to the central organisation of the

National Trust. She highlighted the willingness of NT volunteers to get involved in some projects, such as clearing the Passage Green site and the verges of the cycle path, under the direction of the Volunteer Manager. Councillors expressed gratitude for this offer and the work the volunteers have done in the past. Regarding security of the Abbey site, she indicated that there were some issues, particularly close to Lode Mill where people have gained access to the site through the hedge. She thanked the village for bearing with the Abbey during the Winter Lights season and is reviewing the additional noise this year arising from use of the Paddock area. She highlighted that included in the programme for this year had been a special event for children with autism which had been very successful. Cllr Stevens referred to the condition of Church Walk (which joins Lode Rd with the Passage Recreation Ground) which has properties owned by the National Trust on either side. He had raised the matter with Cambridgeshire County Council who have indicated that they would maintain the path to their standard as a path but not as a roadway.

- **NT Liaison:** Cllr Platten said that an advert would be placed in the Lode Star to seek representation on the group from a resident of Fairhaven Close
- **Cycle Path:** Concern was raised that the speed indicator for which application had been made 15 months ago had still not been delivered. It was agreed that this would be chased by the Clerk
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Lord reported that there have been continued thefts from vans and cars, some of which have been committed during the early evening indicating that the perpetrators are relatively unconcerned about being seen. He emphasised the benefits of security marking property: it makes it much more difficult for thieves to sell on and also helps the police reunite it with the owners if it is found. He agreed that this advice should be passed on through Lode Star
- **Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust:** Charlie Platten reported that the annual Christmas Fair is taking place in St James' Church on 8 December. The Defibrillator course had been successful and some participants are interested in taking a full 1st Aid Course. The legal work related to the purchase of the Passage Green is proceeding; the main outstanding item from the purchase side is receipt of the proposed covenant from the National Trust solicitor. In anticipation of the purchase an action planning event was held on 27 October when villagers were invited to submit their ideas for the use of the site. This underpins the work of the Committee to produce an action plan for implementation once the purchase is complete
- **John Salisbury Charity:** Charlie Platten responded to the suggestion that the LLVT might consider taking over the John Salisbury Charity as its aims may be included within those of LLVT. He said that if a merger were to take place, LLVT's governing document would need to be amended properly to reflect the specific objects of the Charity. However, he reported that two members of the committee were interested in becoming trustees of the Charity in its current form. Cllr Crickmar asked whether the trustee vacancies would be publicly advertised and it was confirmed that a notice would be placed in Lode Star to invite expressions of interest to Lode Parish Council. As the governing document of the charity also provides for nominees from Bottisham, the Council agreed that the letter drafted by the Clerk to Bottisham PC should be sent. The Clerk will send a copy of the governing document to Mr Platten. Cllr Stevens pointed out the document doesn't actually require the income from the charity to be sent to Bottisham and Swaffham Bulbeck Primary Schools as has been the recent practice; the requirement is that the funds are used for the benefit of children from Bottisham and Lode by "providing such special benefits of any kind not normally provided by the local education authority..."
- **Tree Officer:** Cllr Small said that the recent pressing event had been successful with around 100 litres of juice being produced and raised £104 in voluntary contributions. He will circulate an application to the LLVT for a grant to purchase additional trees for the orchard area. This will include an element of funding from the Parish Council. This will be an item on

the agenda for the December meeting of the Parish Council. Cllr Stevens raised the issue of the fallen branch at Swan Corner and the Clerk advised that he had today received a response to the report made to CCC stating “these trees do not appear to be on the adopted highway so are down to landowner responsible”. It appears that there may be map evidence supporting the case that this is part of the highway. It is also understood that verges may default to the ownership of the County Council where no landowner has claimed the land. The Parish Council wishes to ensure the safety of the site whilst being clear that this land is not in its ownership. It was agreed that three quotations should be sought for making the site safe. Cllr Small will pass to the Clerk details of a contractor from Burwell who could be approached for a quotation

- **Timebanking:** Cllr Crickmar agreed to write an article for Lode Star to help identify whether there is an interest in such a scheme in the village.

120/18 Parish Council Reports:

- **Finance (including budget):** The Clerk is preparing a draft budget for the financial year 2019-20 for full discussion at the December meeting. It was suggested that this item be brought forward on the agenda to enable full discussion

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
Truelink	Grasscutting (Sept)	£306.07+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	£153.52+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Fassage Hall Mgt Cttee	Fee for use of hall for Fassage Green event	£24.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Medisave (via R Stevens)	Replacement electrode pads for Defibrillator	£42.94+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Grasscutting (Oct)	£306.07+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

- **Planning:**

Mead Homes Ltd 6 Regent Place Soham	18/01413/FUL 39 Longmeadow Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of 4 semi-detached dwellings and associated site works	The Parish Council commented on this application as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It regrets that if the existing building is demolished, Longmeadow will lose its most historic dwelling - Advice should be sought from the Conservation Officer before any decision is made to demolish the existing building - Consideration could be given to a design which would retain the existing building and create two dwellings by extending at the rear - The Council is concerned that for such a significant building only the two immediate neighbours have been consulted - For the proposed scheme itself, the Council
---	---	--

		<p>did not have objections to the design and recognised that it provides additional housing and appears to meet current planning expectations, including those for parking</p> <p>In view of the issues identified by the Council, it requests that the application should be considered by the Planning Committee.</p> <p>D/Cllr Sharp will also visit the site</p>
--	--	--

The Council noted the following planning decisions by East Cambs DC:

Mrs A Mahaffey Bulls Farm, Lode CB25 9HE	18/01036/FUM Change of use from agricultural arable field to 4 shallow wildlife ponds, creation of wildflower meadow and kingfisher bank	Application approved 9 October 2018 subject to conditions
Ms L Rice 3 Mill Rd, Lode CB25 9EN	18/00976/FUL Amendment involving obscured glass in proposed sash window to east elevation	Application approved 18 October 2018 with conditions
Mr Botham 5 Willow Grove, Lode CB25 9EL	18/01279/TRE works to 4 trees	Application allowed 18 October 2018
Mr & Mrs R Peters Anglesey Farm Lode CB25 9HD	18/01079/FUL Proposed agricultural building (pt retrospective)	Application approved 26 October 2018 subject to conditions
Mr Clive Purbrook Land at E 552203 N 265512 Lug Fen Droveaway	18/00882/FUL Permanent consent for structure for which temporary consent was previously granted ref 16/01415/FUL	Application approved 1 November with conditions

- **Allotments:** Cllr Small said the scythe mower has a puncture; he is obtaining a new inner tube to make a repair. Cllr Stevens said that he had obtained the key to a large shed (20'x8') on the allotments: keys are with Cllr Small and Charlie Platten
- **Cemetery:** Cllr Platten said that Meleena Walsh will plant winter jasmine on the pergola. Roses will added in the spring
- **Recreation Ground:** Cllr Platten reported that the Fete Committee had counted 450 attendees at this year's event. This will be noted as it is information required by the insurers when confirming cover for next year's fete
- **Play Area:** Cllr Fitzgerald said a contractor he had approached regarding the replacement of the Play Area fencing had not wanted to quote. He will seek others and report back. Cllr Crickmar suggested Eco Fencing could be considered as an option
- **Fassage Green:** It was suggested that a quote could be sought for mowing the footpaths on the Green but Cllr Small confirmed that he is prepared to continue maintaining them for the time being

121/18 Correspondence: The Clerk had circulated the notes of the Low Carbon Britain conference attended by Cllr Crickmar. She reported that a site of around 4 acres could be sufficient to develop a solar farm. These have been developed elsewhere under a community ownership model. A key factor would be the capacity of the local sub-station to handle the charge generated.

122/18 Items for next agenda:

- Budget for 2019-20
- Application to LLVT for additional trees to Orchard

123/18 Date of next meeting:

Monday 10 December 2018

Meeting closed at 9.20pm