

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 14 May 2018

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, I Faulkner, R Small, P Lane; D/Cllr A Sharp, Mr L Johnson (Internal Auditor), C/Cllr M Shuter from 8 pm

43/18 Public Question Time: Mr Johnson raised a question about which body has responsibility for pruning trees when they are growing into telephone wires. Cllr Stevens responded that while the responsibility probably lies with the District Council or Sanctuary Housing, BT have taken responsibility in the past and it may be best to start with them

44/18 Apologies for absence: None

45/18 Declarations of interest: None

46/18 Election of Chair: Cllr Stevens indicated his willingness to stand again and was proposed by Cllr Platten and seconded by Cllr Lane. He was then unanimously elected as Chair and completed the declaration of acceptance of office

47/18 Minutes of the meeting held 9 April 2018: Signed by the Chair as a correct record

48/18 Approval of governance statement: Members considered the clauses set out in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and concluded that all the requirements were met and that the statement should be signed by the Chair

49/18 Matters arising from the April meeting:

- **Designation of pavement between the end of the cycleway and Lode crossroads as “shared use” and Safety of route between Lode and Bottisham Village Primary School:** These items were deferred until later in the meeting so that C/Cllr Shuter could update the meeting
- **Recreation Ground – lease of Roller Blade area:** pending
- **Issues regarding the Shed:** D/Cllr Sharp confirmed that he believed all outstanding issues had been resolved with the Enforcement Officer but will report back on the content of the resolution following contact with the Officer
- **Recreation Ground – removal of thistles:** The Clerk reported that the selected contractor had confirmed that the job is listed but is proving difficult to pin down as to when it will be done. Council members were unhappy that this is still not completed. The Clerk will advise the contractor that the Council wishes the first stage of the work to be completed by 25 May and in the meantime will establish whether the price quoted by the other contractor still holds
- **Damage to verge outside 37 High Street:** The Clerk reported that he had contacted the occupier who has now repaired the damage
- **Fassage Hall Electricity Supplier:** The Clerk advised that he had not changed the supplier as the proposed replacement supplier had just advertised a substantial increase in its charges. He will contact the Fassage Hall Management Committee to alert them
- **School Transport – letter to Lis Every:** see below in County Council report

50/18 County Council Report: C/Cllr Shuter reported that the County Council had agreed to impose the 2% permitted levy for social care costs and had increased Council Tax by 2.99%. The Council was clear that no more savings can be made without cutting services. At the end of the last financial year it was not possible to make the required saving of £4m out of the total budget of £650m. The Council has allocated money to a “smoothing fund” to allow for emergency allocations of cash to meet pressures that emerge during the course of the current financial year.

He advised that the Council has determined that it needs to move out of Shire Hall; it is occupying a valuable site and is no longer fit for purpose. The preferred option would be for the Council to lease the site rather than sell it. The Council would move into new purpose designed premises: the two

short-listed sites are Alconbury and Northstowe. He indicated the buildings would be multi-purpose respecting the possibility that future local government reorganisation might lead to the abolition of the current County and District Councils with them being replaced by unitary authorities.

C/Cllr Shuter is chair of Highways and Community Infrastructure in which role he has responsibility for potholes. This year to date, there have already been more than three times the number of reports of potholes than for the whole of last year. Weakened surfaces mean that new holes are continuing to appear. The Council has been using a pioneering new machine for filling potholes – the Dragon Patcher. This machine is able to heat the area surrounding the potholes so that it can bond with the hot aggregate used to fill the hole. The machine is able to fill 80-100 holes per day compared with about 20 for the traditional method. Unrecyclable plastic can be used as part of the aggregate – the only other option for its disposal at present would be landfill. He advised that there is a marking system for potholes which have been reported: those with yellow paint are urgent repairs to be undertaken within 5-21 days while white markings indicate that more substantial work is required. The Council has also reinstated its maintenance programme for ‘grips’ which drain water from roads into ditches at the verge – standing water which freezes is a major cause of potholes.

C/Cllr Shuter noted the completion of the Lode to Quy Cycleway and hoped that its use would be promoted. Cllr Small pointed out that the lack of signage was a major factor preventing cyclists from using the path – this is particularly significant in Quy where there is no signage indicating the start of the path. It was concerning that cycling groups going to the recent Reach Fair had been advised to travel via Bottisham rather than using the new path. C/Cllr Shuter confirmed that shared path signs for the section of pavement between Anglesey Abbey and the crossroads are on order. Cllr Stevens reminded the meeting that the large yellow signs which had included the speed limit at the entrances to the village had not been replaced as promised – these are much more prominent than the basic 30 mph signs currently in place. He also mentioned the importance of restoring the shared use path from Lode crossroads to Bottisham to its proper width. C/Cllr Shuter undertook to raise these issues with Jason Tyrrell.

Referring to the impending works on the A1303, C/Cllr Shuter said that a new system of surveying had been used to identify the specific danger areas of the route that required improvement using selective widening, rumble strips etc. He said that some trees will have to be felled but pledged that two would be planted for each one lost.

The discussion then moved to the matter of School Transport. Before the item Cllr Small declared his interest. Cllr Stevens said that when the village school closed, all children were able to access free transport for Bottisham Village Primary School. The County Council had changed its policy 8 years ago at which point only those living more than two miles from the school were eligible. There are numerous hazards on the route (including the narrowed shared use path from Lode crossroads towards Bottisham and numerous road crossings required in the centre of the village). All the children live at least 1.5 miles away from the school. Cllr Small pointed out that it can take more than 45 minutes for a child to walk the route and some will then be too tired to concentrate when they arrive at school; parents walking both ways would be spending 3 hours per day having to make two return journeys on foot. Cllr Stevens then read out the letter he had drafted which was agreed by the other Council members. C/Cllr Shuter proposed that it should be copied to all relevant County Council members and will advise the names of the officers to whom it should also be sent – he suggested that the letter should stress the divisive impact of the County Council’s policy on the village

51/18 District Council Report: D/Cllr Sharp reported that the District Council has passed a motion to eliminate single use plastics. Implementing this will be challenging particularly where bin bags are concerned. The project to clear areas of fly-tipping has made a significant impact – 26 tons of waste has been from the verges of the A1303. Now that the waste management contract is held by the in-house trading company it is easier to divert spare capacity towards projects such as this. Cllr Stevens asked about some material dumped on White Fen Drove where he believes there was some

documentary evidence. D/Cllr Sharp said he would enquire whether this has been able to be followed up.

52/18 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** No report had been sent for this meeting but a report has been submitted for the Annual Open Parish Meeting
- **NT Liaison:** Cllr Platten has submitted a report for the Annual Open Parish Meeting
- **Cycleway:** see above for discussion within C/Cllr Shuter's report
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Martyn Lord has circulated members with the revised structure for the Police service
- **Speedwatch:** Cllr Stevens said that more volunteers would be needed to establish Speedwatch in the village
- **Lode & Longmeadow Village Trust:** Report will be available at the Annual Open Parish Meeting
- **Sports Club:** Having attended an event on Sports Field management, Cllr Stevens asked some representatives of Burwell FC how they found the facilities at the Fassage Recreation Ground; they responded that the pitch was well-maintained
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small referred to a report prepared by Liz King. This has been circulated to Councillors and will be available to attendees of the Annual Parish Open Meeting
- **Wicken Fen Liaison:** Cllr Small reported that a Liaison Officer will be appointed in 2019 to link with all the communities that are part of the vision area. Wicken Fen is launching a three year plan. He noted that there are 60,000 visits per year to the main Wicken site

53/18 Parish Council Reports:

- **Finance:** Lionel Johnson (Internal Auditor) reported that he had examined the records for the financial year ended 31 March and did not identify any issues. Accordingly, he had signed page 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return signifying his judgement that the Council has met all its internal control objectives. He confirmed the figures in the Accounting Statements on page 5 of the return. The Council confirmed its approval of the figures and the statement was signed off by the Chair
The following payments were approved 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
Green Energy	Fassage Hall Electricity pd by DD	£144.08+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink Ltd	Grasscutting	£334.43+ VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Playsafety Ltd	Play Area Inspection	£136.50+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
CAPALC	Annual subscription	£278.99	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Wickes (reimburse RS)	MOT1 Chippings	£165+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Mike Hatley	Fassage Hall Gate repair	TBA	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

- **Planning:**

Ms C Hatley, 29 Mill Rd, CB25 9EN	18/00471/FUL Single storey front extension	The Council had no comments
National Trust, Anglesey Abbey	17/02077/FUL Installation of catering unit for 3 years plus outdoor picnic tables, paddock to rear of 51-57 Mill Road	Cllr Stevens advised that this application will be considered at the ECDC Planning Committee on Weds 6 June

Members raised concern at the deteriorating state of the Guildhall. It was commented that it is a significant building to the village containing a fine ceiling. When the matter was last raised, ECDC buildings section said it was not in a serious enough condition to warrant issuing a notice. D/Cllr Sharp will enquire whether the building, which is not formally listed, is registered as a building of local interest

- **General Data protection Regulation:** The Clerk had circulated a paper identifying key issues for the Council and outlining work underway to comply with the Regulation
- **Allotments:** Cllr Small circulated a proposal to plant two trees on the allotment designated 1B. It was agreed that a decision would be made on what trees to plant by the autumn. It is not clear who, if anyone is using the sheds at the end of Plot 7A. It was agreed that notices would be pinned to the doors asking anyone using them to make contact with the clerk within three weeks. Cllr Small raised the possibility of the Council purchasing a scythe mower – this would help the clearance of overgrown allotments but also be valuable in maintaining the Orchard and, potentially, the Sunray allotment area. It was agreed that he would obtain some quotations. Cllr Lane highlighted the need to ensure that if this equipment were to be used by volunteers, they would need to be fully trained in their use as they can be hazardous both to users and other people
- **Cemetery:** Cllr Platten is meeting with Tony Martin to draw up a plan for building a pergola over the seat in the area to the right hand side just inside the cemetery. There is £500 already available from the jumble sale towards the cost but once the full cost is known, some contribution may be needed from the Parish Council
- **Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens reported that the heat pump is still giving problems and requires attention every couple of weeks. He said that 30 nitrous oxide capsules had been found outside the Fassage Hall. These can be hazardous, especially when used by young people. While it is illegal for them to be supplied except for catering purposes, possession is not illegal. Martyn Lord said that he had reported the concern to the local PCSO
- **Footpaths:** Cllr Stevens has bought MOT1 chippings as discussed at the last meeting and filled in a number of the larger holes between the cemetery gate and the Fassage Hall. He has also put limestone chippings on the path through to Fairhaven Close – he suggested monitoring how durable this surface is over time
- **Village Reports:** Will Jaggard is undertaking repairs to the bus shelter in the High Street

54/18 Correspondence: The Clerk had received an invitation to renew the subscription to Clerks and Councils Direct but members have not found this useful so it will not be renewed

55/18 Date of next Parish Council Meeting: 4 June 2018 at 7.30 pm – Fassage Hall