

Lode Parish Council

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

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, I Faulkner, R Small, T Fitzgerald; M Lord (Neighbourhood Watch); M Platten (LLVT); T Crickmar

87/18 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public

88/18 Apologies for absence: Cllr P Lane, D/Cllrs A Sharp & D Chaplin

89/18 Declarations of interest (prejudicial/other): none

90/18 Minutes of July & August meetings: agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

91/18 Matters arising from the July meeting:

- **Recreation Ground – lease of roller blade area:** Emily Tydeman (Surveyor for the National Trust) advised that she could arrange for the agreement to be finalised but the Parish Council may agree to let the issue be subsumed within the purchase of the Sunray site – any new documents would have to be considered by our solicitor and add to their costs
- **Damage to old railway track bed:** Contact was made with Emily Tydeman who undertook to make urgent contact with the Fairhaven Estate to require that cultivated fields are to be harvested no closer than 2 metres of the track bed to prevent further damage
- **Issues regarding the Shed:** No information as D/Cllr Sharp was unable to attend the meeting
- **Recreation Ground – removal of thistles:** Cllr Small has led the work to eradicate the thistles. Fencing and warning notices were required by the risk assessment to ensure the safety of the public and animals. These costs are shown in the table of payments below
- **School transport:** The information about parents' views collated by Cllr Small has been passed to C/Cllr Shuter as requested. The Clerk will contact him to ascertain how the matter is progressing
- **Cycle Way verge cutting:** Following the July meeting, the Clerk sent a note to CCC Highways to request that they cut the verges in April and July of each year and the Parish Council would consider if this was sufficient and approach Highways about paying for a third cut if this proved insufficient. The note was acknowledged but no formal reply has been received. The Clerk will chase
- **Verge to rear of Old Vicarage:** Truelink have given an indicative price of £15 per cut which was agreed by the Council

92/18 Matters arising from the August meeting: none

93/18 County Council Report: none

94/18 District Council Report: none

95/18 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** Cllr Platten reported that a new manager, Polly Ingham-Watts, had been appointed with a start date of 1 October. The next National Trust Liaison Meeting takes place on 30 Oct when Cllr Platten will invite her to attend a Parish Council meeting to meet the members
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** Mr Lord advised that there was lots of crime centred on Ely and Soham which was gradually spreading into surrounding areas. Some of this appears to be associated with the selling of drugs. He indicated that there were continuing problems with parking in Mill Road. He had recently reported an abandoned vehicle which was impeding the flow of traffic – he was particularly concerned that a fire engine might not be able to access the mill, which is one of the most combustible properties in the vicinity. He suggested that, as a number of people parking there were dog walkers, the NT's published dog-walking route should encourage people to park in the Abbey Car Park

- **Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust:** Regarding the proposed purchase of the Sunray site, Charlie Platten advised that we are awaiting the proposed wording for the covenant from the National Trust. He explained that the Committee of LLVT have two broad roles currently. The first is to organise social events (primarily the summer picnic and the Christmas Fair) while the second is to advise the Trustees of LLVT on capital expenditure. Given that the recent picnic made a loss, the Committee will consider at its October meeting whether it should discontinue undertaking the first of these roles
- **Sports Clubs:** Cllr Stevens reported that Cambridge City and Bottisham Veterans have booked the pitch for the new season. He is drafting a new form of agreement to cover their use of the facilities
- **Tree Officer:** Cllr Small (reporting on behalf of Liz King – Tree Officer) said that there had been some wind damage to trees in the Orchard, partly due to the weight of apples on the branches. This indicated the need to undertake some pruning in the autumn. He said that Liz will be promoting the autumn Pressing Day and would encourage people to pick apples in advance of that event. A further application would be made to the Woodland Trust to enhance the hedging on the orchard boundary
- **Wicken Fen Liaison:** Cllr Small is unable to attend the next meeting on 27 September. Cllr Faulkner agreed to attend on his behalf

96/18 Parish Council Reports:

- **Finance:** The Clerk reported that the external auditor had signed off the Parish Council accounts for 2017-18 which would now be published on the website.
The following payments were agreed:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£360.58	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£155.36	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
W Jaggard	Fuel	£6.76	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Grasscutting	£171.78+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit Fee	£200 + VAT	Local Audit & Accountability Act 2014 ss 20(2) & 25
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	£95.89+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
UK2.NET*	Fassage Hall (website charges)	£7.08+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
UK2.NET*	Fassage Hall (website charges)	£12.98+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
UK2.NET*	Fassage Hall (website charges)	£23.76+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Tool Station	Safety fencing and poles - Rec ground	£171.70+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
The Sign Shed	Warning signs	£30.90+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

*Paid by clerk under delegated authority

The Council agreed to purchase two moveable goal posts for use by young people at a cost of £45.99 each plus delivery

- **Planning:**

<p>Mr & Mrs R Peters, Anglesey Farm Lode Fen CB25 9HD</p>	<p>18/01079/FUL Proposed agricultural building (part retrospective)</p>	<p>The Parish Council has concerns with this application as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The original proposal for the building was refused by the District Council in Dec 17 as contrary to the criteria required by Sch 2, Pt 6, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. The proposal to use the building for animals within 400m of a protected building requires an application for full planning permission as indicated in the notice of refusal from ECDC - The Applicant then changed the proposed use of the building to the storage of agricultural machinery and ECDC determined that this did satisfy the requirements under “general permitted development” - The Parish Council is concerned to see that, as the building is being constructed, a new application has now been made again involving animals in the building. The Council noted that while the documents listed on the ECDC Planning site indicate three neighbours are being consulted, 96 dwellings actually fall within the 400m radius. Given the nature of the proposal, the Parish Council believes that far more of those potentially affected within the designated radius should be consulted - The Council queried the intensity of farming planned for the site as a whole and the impact this may have on the surrounding area, including dwellings within the 400m radius <p>In summary, the Parish Council does not feel that there is adequate information to support this application and will convey its view to the District Councillors for this ward</p>
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- **Allotments:** Cllr Small reported that he had received one complaint about the non-cultivation of a plot from a neighbouring plotholder – the matter will be raised with the latter by the Clerk
- **Cemetery:** Cllr Platten thanked Cllr Stevens for the extra work he had done on the pergola which has created an aesthetically pleasing finish. She plans to arrange the planting around it in the autumn. Cllr Stevens noted that it appears vehicles using the cemetery are no longer using the turning area provided at the far end. This is probably because the area has become

somewhat overgrown. The Clerk will ask Will Jaggard to cut it back

- **Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens has done work to improve the ventilation system for the toilets. A letter of thanks has been received from the Nursery for the new moveable fencing which is a great improvement on the previous arrangement they were using
- **Footpaths:** Cllr Stevens reported that, with the agreement of the landowner, he had cleared a new start to the path through the hedge leading off Harvey's Drove northwards towards Lodemoor Drove
- **Trees:** Cllr Stevens reported that there is still a fallen branch at Swan's Corner. The other fallen and damaged branches which were at risk of falling onto the roadway have been cleared by Highways dept. This land is not owned by the Parish Council so there is concern that if the Council takes steps to remove the remaining fallen tree, it might be considered as having responsibility for the land in future. The branch does not appear to constitute a significant risk to the public
- **Co-option of Parish Councillor:** Mrs Teresa Crickmar took part in an informal discussion with the existing Council members. Following this, the Council confirmed its decision that she be co-opted onto the Council at the October meeting

97/18 Correspondence: Relevant items are listed on the information sheet circulated to members

98/18 Date of next meeting: Monday 8 October 2018, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm