

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 3
June 2019

These minutes comprise 4 pages

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, T Crickmar, I Faulkner; D/Cllr J Trapp

62/19 Questions from the public: none

63/19 Apologies: Cllrs T Fitzgerald, R Small; D/Cllr C Cane; P Ingham-Watts (National Trust)

64/19 Declarations of interest (prejudicial/other): None

65/19 Minutes of previous meeting (13 May 2019): signed as a correct record

66/19 Matters arising:

- **Items in Cemetery hedge:** The Clerk reported that the owner of the property backing onto the cemetery had responded to his letter indicating that he had been ill but would be removing the items during this week. Cllr Platten said she would email him to ask that the items be removed from the property side to avoid damage to the new hedge plants on the cemetery boundary
- **Cricket net:** The net has still not been fixed and the Clerk will remind the officers of the Club that this needs to be done
- **Removal of thistles from the Fassage Recreation Ground:** Cllr Crickmar circulated details of the electric weed burners as a possible way to treat the thistles. Cllr Platten said that the areas treated with Roundup last year had been successful. Responding to concerns about any risks from the product she said that the concentration level was low and the risk control measures of fencing off the treated areas until the spray had dried protected the public
- **Railway Track Bed – enquiry about harrowing of the land next to the track:** Cllr Platten said she would follow up her enquiry with the NT Surveyor to confirm that this was related to the Stewardship Scheme to protect the environment
- **Strategic Bus Review:** The Council confirmed that the letter as drafted by Cllr Stevens should be sent to Lucy Frazer, MP with copies to D/Cllrs Trapp and Cane

67/19 County Council Report: None

68/19 District Council Report: D/Cllr Trapp reported as follows:

May has been busy with induction meetings at the District Council and starting to get to know the Parish Councils in Bottisham ward. We would like to thank all the Parish Councils for being so welcoming.

The Council has only had one formal meeting so far – The Annual Council Meeting on Thursday 30 May 2019. This meeting largely decided and noted Council Appointments. There was one policy motion and adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan, of which more later.

The key appointments are:

Council Chairman – Cllr Lis Every

Vice-Chairman – Cllr Sue Austen

Conservative Leader, and therefore Leader of the Council – Cllr Anna Bailey

Con Deputy Leader, and therefore Deputy Leader of the Council – Cllr Joshua Schumann

Lib Dem Leader – Cllr Lorna Dupre

Lib Dem Deputy Leader – Cllr Charlotte Cane

John and Charlotte have both been appointed to the Finance & Assets Committee and John has been appointed to the Planning Committee. Charlotte will also sit on the Finance & Assets Hearings Sub-Committee and the Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee.

The policy motion, which was seconded by Charlotte, was passed by 12 votes for and 11 against. The motion called on the Council to revisit its plans for the MOD site which it is buying in Ely. Before the motion the Council was going to sell all but 15 of the 92 properties on the open market. The 15 were to be sold as affordable shared ownership properties, with none available for rent. The motion asks the Council to allocate at least 46 of the houses as affordable, with a significant proportion of those available for affordable rent. There are 710 applicants on the waiting list for social housing and the Council has a target of 130 new affordable homes each year – a target it has not met since 2007/8. These 46 affordable homes will set us on track to meet that target in 2019/20 and offer homes to some of the 710 applicants on the waiting list.

Sutton had completed its Neighbourhood Plan and gained overwhelming approval in their local referendum. The Sutton Neighbourhood Plan was therefore adopted as part of the District's Development Plan. This means that all planning applications in the Sutton Area will be assessed against their Neighbourhood Plan. They are only the second Parish in the District to have a Neighbourhood Plan, with 6 other Parishes working on their plans. There were calls during the debate for the District to give more encouragement and support to Parishes to develop their own Neighbourhood Plan.

Our first District Councillors' Surgery is on Tuesday 25 June at 6.30pm at the Scout Hut in Bottisham, followed by a 'Meet your Councillors' at 8.00pm in the Bell Inn, Bottisham.

69/19 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** Cllr Stevens reported that the footpath from the Mill to the tennis court has become overgrown; Cllr Platten agreed to contact the National Trust
- **Cycle Way:** Cllr Platten has continued work to remove thistles from the new path. It was noted with approval that the County Council has cut the verges to the main Cycle Ways in the area
- **Neighbourhood Watch:** There has been an attempted break-in to a property in Fairhaven Close; the police have been informed. Cllr Faulkner said that Mr Lord had told him of a concern that muntjac deer were being killed and skinned for their meat. A suspicious vehicle was reported to the police but as there was an error in the numberplate reported it has not been possible to identify the vehicle
- **Speedwatch:** Though not itself a Speedwatch operation, the speed indicator is giving detailed information about the speeds of vehicles in the locations where it is placed. It is currently near the entrance to Anglesey Abbey. In that location it does pick up on vehicles legally doing 40 mph as they approach the village (ie before they reach the 30 mph sign) but does appear to be having an impact in slowing them down. There was discussion about the whether the Council should purchase a second indicator. It was concluded that this would be a good question to put on the planned parish survey questionnaire. In order to have this ready for circulation in September, it was agreed that each Councillor would be asked to prepare 3 questions for inclusion in the survey by 1 July and send them to Cllr Crickmar. They will then be collated and circulated prior to the PC meeting on 8 July
- **Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust:** In relation to the proposed purchase of Fassage Green, Charlie Platten had received the following response from the Diocesan Surveyor

earlier in the day: “The enclosure award map details the awards but neither the map nor the award commentary give any greater detail about the exact whereabouts of the boundaries. Our title shows our boundary as the ditch and I am content that that is reasonable. However I would not want there to be any unregistered land between us and your title. Therefore if you sought to include land up to the boundary of ours at the ditch, we would not look to object.” The Parish Council proposed that this should be clarified by stating that the Diocese owns the whole of the ditch and the Fassage Green land should include all the land abutting the ditch to the south

- **Trees:** Cllr Platten reported that three trees had died on the cemetery. One has already been removed. She proposed replacing the one in the Avenue in the autumn. Cllr Stevens has planted a greengage and an apple in the orchard to replace two trees that had died. Cllr Faulkner raised the issue of the Cherry trees in Fairhaven Close. The blossom lasts only a short time and is difficult to remove from cars. In addition, the roots of one tree are causing lifting of the pavement. He has arranged for Kevin Drane, Tree Officer from ECDC to inspect them on 4 June 2019
- **Wicken Fen Liaison:** Cllr Faulkner reported that the minutes of the last meeting had still not been received; he has, however responded to the issues raised by Cllr Stevens which were reported to the May meeting

70/19 Parish Council Reports

- **Finance:** The following payments were agreed by the Council:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£393.33	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Admin	Copying for Annual Parish Open Meeting	£14.80	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
Admin	Postage (pd by deb cd)	£5.92	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£169.16	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Community Action Suffolk	Parish Council Insurance	£618.24	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
ECDC	Costs for uncontested election	£200	Local Govt Act 1972 s112
W Jaggard	Strimmer cord	£18.95+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

Cllr Stevens asked about the invoice from ECDC for the uncontested election. The Clerk explained that there was significant administrative work on the part of the Council even though the election was uncontested. The Clerk was asked to advise on the additional time he had spent on the election as this was additional to the normal duties

- **Co-option of additional member of the Council:** The Clerk reported that had been no response to the advertisements for the remaining vacancy on the Council. The advertisement will be reissued. In the meantime, Cllr Stevens will draw attention to the fact that there is currently no member of the Council resident in Longmeadow in the Lode Star report
- **Planning:**
39 Longmeadow 18/01416/FUL: The Clerk will check the ECDC Planning Website to see whether there is yet a response from the Conservation Officer to the Historic Building Recording & Analysis document reported to the May meeting

Anglesey Farm: An enquiry had been made to Cllr Faulkner regarding alterations apparently being made to the building next to Cambridge Stoves. Cllr Stevens advised that he understands the issue is being dealt with by the District Council

- **Allotments:** Concern was expressed about the overgrown state of the area next to the cemetery. The Clerk advised that on his recent walk around the allotments, Cllr Small had indicated that he planned to clear the area with the scythe mower. There was discussion about the plan to plant a small tree on the plot which Cllr Platten said might best be done in the autumn. Three other tenants are being contacted about their use of the allotment area. There is no-one currently waiting for a plot and Cllr Crickmar will liaise with Cllr Small regarding advertising the availability of plots
- **Cemetery:** Cllr Faulkner has cleared the ivy from some of the trees in the cemetery for which he was thanked by other members of the Council. Cllr Platten reported that the honeysuckle and clematis have now become established on the pergola. The Clerk will ask Will Jaggard to apply weedkiller to the gravel paths
- **Fassage Recreation Ground:** It was noted that some trees here are also covered with ivy which will require attention in due course
- **Footpaths:** Cllr Stevens has completed an audit of local footpaths. He noted that where the paths officially cross a field the farmer should keep a strip clear of planting to preserve the path. In some cases the fields have been planted without this and a deviation is required around the edge of those fields
- **Play area:** Cllr Stevens has knocked in the protruding nails on the basketball net which the inspector had noted on her recent visit. Regarding the perennial problem of gaps opening up between the safety tiles below the play equipment, Cllr Stevens will discuss a product he has identified to repair this with Cllr Fitzgerald
- **Village reports:** In relation to the forthcoming Village Fete, Cllr Crickmar noted that a Punch & Judy show was planned. She regretted this as it portrays domestic violence as entertainment – she asked that this be reconsidered for future years

71/19 Correspondence:

- **Parish Forum:** Regarding the notes of the last meeting, Cllr Faulkner suggested that it would be useful for Lode to be represented. He asked for clarification of the date as this had been wrongly shown on the minutes as Tuesday 17 June

72/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 8 July, 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.20pm