

Lode Parish Council

Minutes of ordinary meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11 February 2019

These minutes comprise 4 pages

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

13/19 Public Question Time: There were no questions from the public

14/19 Apologies for absence: None

15/19 Declarations of interest (prejudicial/other): none

16/19 Minutes of January meeting: signed as a correct record

17/19 Matters arising from the January meeting:

- **School transport:** C/Cllr Shuter indicated that he would cover this issue in his report (see below)
- **Speed indicator:** Cllr Stevens said that we have had the indicator for two months and he had attended a session on how to use it, but we are still waiting for the posts from which it will operate to be installed. The most important posts will be those on each side of the road near the Lode end of the new cycle path. We are also awaiting delivery of a second battery that should have been included with the original delivery. C/Cllr Shuter asked for details of the officer concerned in the County Council so that he could raise the issue with him directly
- **Electric Vehicle Charging:** Cllr Crickmar had prepared a questionnaire for local residents which would gather evidence to support an application for grant funding. She offered to go and collect these in person. In discussion it was suggested that the questionnaire might cover a wider range of issues of interest to residents so that it could support the development of a new Village Plan in 2020. The revised version will be circulated and added to the March agenda. Cllr Faulkner suggested that it could be included in Lode Star as a way of reaching all households and offered to undertake this. Cllr Small offered to set it up on Survey Monkey for those who would prefer to respond online. Responding to Cllr Crickmar's comment that there had been exploration of working in partnership with the National Trust on electric vehicle charging, C/Cllr Shuter said that the Trust as well as Parish Councils could be eligible to apply for funding through the County Council. He indicated that the County is providing some charging points at the St Neots and Madingley Park & Ride sites. The charging points themselves draw power from batteries charged through solar panels. Mr Lord commented that if such a scheme is contemplated in Lode, there would need to be assurance that the transformer had sufficient capacity though Cllr Stevens thought this was a relatively small additional requirement

18/19 County Council Report: C/Cllr Shuter covered a number of issues:

- **Council Tax:** This will increase by a total of 4.99%: 2% is the amount permitted to be raised specifically for Adult Social Care while the other 2.99% is the maximum increase that can be made without calling a referendum of local electors. There is serious pressure on both children's and adults' services. The number of looked after children has increased from 450-800 over the past few years. Over the past two years this has included 30 migrant children who were first detected within the County – their care then automatically becomes the responsibility of the County.
- **Highways:** The County has increased its Highways Budget to £28m. Within this is £900k for pavements – work will be prioritised according to need. The pothole problem is being tackled with the new Dragon Patchers. Their ability to ensure that the repair is bonded to the surrounding road means that the repairs are more durable. Each pothole is photographed before and after repair to ensure that the performance of the system can be

fully audited. The County is also now using a new machine for resurfacing: this replaces the whole width of the surface in one go eliminating the weak point of the old system which arose at the join between the separate strips of new surface

- **Libraries:** These fall within the remit of the portfolio for which C/Cllr Shuter is chair. The County has resolved that there will be no closures. Existing libraries are being developed as Community Hubs. The County is finalising a partnership with the charity Civic to work on this development
- **School Transport:** C/Cllr Shuter reported that he is in regular communication with the Chair of the Committee responsible for School Transport. While both are sympathetic to the wish by rural villages for transport to be available to all children, this runs counter to the current policy. Therefore, finding a solution to the issue will require policy change as well as adequate finance. C/Cllr Shuter emphasised his commitment to carry on working to solve the issue more satisfactorily. He said that the County is trialling an 800 metre exclusion zone around schools at drop-off time. Cllr Small pointed out that the problem has been exacerbated by the rate of increase in the cost of buying a place on the transport by parents whose children were not eligible for free transport
- **Bus Services:** C/Cllr Shuter said that the Mayor of the Combined Authority has the power to take over local bus services; he felt that Cambridgeshire residents were being held to ransom by the current operators. Cllr Stevens suggested that the service running from the city centre to Fen Ditton might be extended on some journeys to Bottisham and Burwell where currently the last bus runs at around 7pm

19/19 District Council Report: D/Cllr Alan Sharp said that ECDC is freezing its element of the Council Tax for the 7th year running. He is a member of the Police & Crime Panel which undertook a survey to establish the level of additional funding local electors would support for policing. 16% voted for £4, 60% for £24 and 24% for £120. Because of the applicable terms and conditions it is cheaper to engage more warranted police officers than to employ more PCSOs. He advised that there is a commitment to enhance community policing in rural as well as urban areas. Cllr Stevens said that the new dog fouling notices which had been promised some time ago had still not arrived. Cllr Platten agreed to take this up with the relevant officer in ECDC. Cllr Stevens also raised the issue of a car which has been parked in Mill Road for a considerable time. Despite reports to DVLA and ECDC no action has been taken. It is understood that the car is not insured. Mr Lord agreed to send details to D/Cllr Sharp

20/19 Parish Reports:

- **Anglesey Abbey:** The Chair invited Ms Ingham-Watts to update the meeting. She asked if there had been any issues during the current busy snowdrop season as the Trust is anxious to ensure that it responds to any issues arising for local residents. She was pleased to hear that there were none and felt that this reflects the investment the Trust is making in traffic management during this period. The Heritage Orchard has now been planted. An Orchard Day will be held during the blossom season. She thanked the Clerk for passing on information about the situation in the district regarding traveller movements – she advised that gate management practice has been changed in response. The Abbey is undertaking a security review of the site and will identify ‘leaky fences’ and holes in hedges etc. There has been a recent break-in of an office on the estate: only a small amount of money was taken
- **Cycle Way:** Cllr Platten reported that Peter Wells had cleaned the solar lights on the path during the litter pick at the beginning of the month
- **Tree Warden:** Cllr Small reported that he and Liz King had attended a pruning day with instruction on how to prune trees under ten years old and those older. They intend to arrange a pruning day in the orchard to pass on the learning

21/19 Parish Council Reports:

- **Purchase of Fassage Green with Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust (LLVT):** Charlie Platten and the Clerk briefed the Council on the meeting they had had with the solicitor acting for both LLVT and the Council. There was a brief discussion about the merits of registering the site as a Village Green or alternatively under the Education Act which would potentially make the removal of trespassers easier. The Parish Council passed the following resolutions in connection with the purchase:
 - Cllrs Stevens and Fitzgerald will be the authorised signatories for all matters connected with the purchase
 - The authorised signatories will sign the Deed of Surrender concerning the current leases held by the Parish Council from the National Trust over the land to be purchased
 - The parties will be joint purchasers in the proportion 80% LLVT and 20% Lode Parish Council.
 - Following completion, the joint purchasers will agree a lease for the whole site to the Parish Council with any reservations required by LLVT
 - That the Clerk will seek advice from CAPALC about the proposed structure of the purchase

- **Finance:** 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
Green Energy	Fassage Hall	£202.93+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Hedge trimming	£180.00+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Darwin Nurseries	Cemetery plants	£12.48+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Sarah Raven	Cemetery plants	£21.34	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
E of England Apples & Orchards Project	Trees for orchard	£306.90	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Simpsons	Stakes & ties for orchard	£74.58+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Gardenworks Tree Surgery	Highways: Treework at Swan Corner	£340.00+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
FHMC	Hire of hall for litter pick refreshments	£12.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Uk2.net	Web hosting fee	£132.09+VAT	Local Govt Act 1972 s142

- **Planning:**

Mead Homes Ltd, 39 Longmeadow, CB25 9HA	18/01416/FUL Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of 4 semi detached dwellings and associated site works	D/Cllr Sharp advised that in the light of the Parish Council's comments he and D/Cllr Chaplin would call in the application if the Planning Officer is minded to approve it
Mr & Mrs M Tavener, Hatley Ho, 23 Station Rd CB25 9HB	19/00053/FUL Front porch and rear extension to dwelling	The Council resolved not to comment on this application
Mr & Mrs G Armstrong, 15 Fairhaven Clo, CB25 9HH	18/01619/FUL Proposed new 3 bed, 2 storey end of terrace house: amendment showing vehicle tracking for access and parking arrangements	The Council reiterated the concerns raised in response to the original application

- **Allotments:** The Council approved the request from the tenant of Plot 5C to put up a lean-to in accordance with the plan supplied
- **Cemetery:** Cllr Stevens reported that the fence has been mended and bare root hedge plants obtained to close the gap at the far end of the cemetery. The Council expressed its gratitude to Cllr Faulkner for his time spent keeping the Cemetery a tidy and dignified place. The Council revised the fees and charges in respect of the cemetery as follows:
 - Exc right of burial for 100 yrs in an earthen grave 9'x4' £100 (£80)
 - Exc right of burial of cremated remains for 100 yrs in plot 2'x2' £ 50(£40)
 - Interment fee for the body of a person aged 18 or over £100(£80)
 - Interment fee for cremated remains of a person aged 18 or over £ 50(£40)
 (The fees were last reviewed in November 2009 to the levels shown in brackets.)
 The right of burial and interment fees are waived in respect of young people under the age of 18. Formerly these were levied at a discount to the full adult rate.
 Charges for monuments etc:
 - Headstone up to 2' wide by 3' high on full sized grave £100(£80)
 - Vase placed on a grave £ 50(£40)
 - Memorial slab up to 2'x2' placed over cremated remains £ 50(£40)
 - Additional inscriptions £ 20(£20)
- **Fassage Hall:** Cllr Stevens reported that the ground source heating system has taken heat out of the ground at a greater rate than it is being replaced. There may be a requirement to dig new trenches to supplement the existing ones or to install additional storage heaters in the hall to top up the system. In the meantime, the situation is being monitored
- **Footpaths/Highways:** The Council resolved that the letter drafted by Cllr Platten be sent to Lucy Frazer, MP
- **Play Area:** The Clerk advised that RoSPA have set a date in April to inspect the play and exercise equipment

22/19 Correspondence:

- The Clerk advised the Council that he is attending a briefing on the nomination process for the May Election
- **Friends against Scams:** Cllr Crickmar proposed that the Council allow this organisation to include Lode Parish Council as a supporter on their website. This was agreed by the Council

23/19 Date of next meeting: Monday 11 March, 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.40pm