

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 14**  
**October 2019**

These minutes comprise 4 pages and Appendix

**Present:** Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), T Crickmar, F Platten, I Faulkner, R Small;  
Ms P Ingham-Watts (National Trust), Mr M Lord (Neighbourhood Watch), Mrs J Sale (St James Church)

**95/19 Questions from the public:** none

**96/19 Apologies:** Cllr T Fitzgerald, D/Cllr J Trapp, D/Cllr C Cane

**97/19 Declaration of interest :** Cllr Stevens declared an interest in respect of the item on the War Memorial trees in the churchyard as Mrs J Stevens is a member of the PCC of St James, Lode

**98/19 Minutes of previous meeting:** These were agreed and signed by the Chair

**99/19 Matters arising:**

- **18/01416/FUL 39 Longmeadow:** The Clerk advised that he had heard nothing further from D/Cllr Trapp who was looking into the delay in processing this application and that there is still no response from the Conservation Officer to the recent historic building descriptive report
- **Cycle Paths:** Cllr Stevens has recently cut back the hedge which was encroaching on the shared use path along the B1102 between Lode and Longmeadow. Regarding the new path between Lode and Quy, he has reported the failure to deliver the second and third cuts to CCC Highways. Cllr Platten will pursue this with C/Cllr M Shuter
- **Allotments:** The Clerk advised that most rents due by the end of September have been paid and those outstanding will be chased. It was agreed that the swap proposed by one of the tenants who will then be able to have their plots side by side should be approved
- **Repairs to matting in Play Area:** Cllr Stevens confirmed that the materials have been obtained and Cllr Fitzgerald has proposed a date when the work can be carried out

**100/19 County Council Report:** none

**101/19 District Council Report:** This was circulated to members prior to the meeting and is appended to these minutes

**102/19 Parish Reports:**

- **Anglesey Abbey:** Ms Ingham-Watts advised that the Trust is strengthening the boundary of the Heritage Orchard which means that local residents are asked to access it through the main visitor entrance as the informal access will no longer be available. The Winter Lights preparations are underway, and taking into account the views of residents, only folk music will be played in the Orchard. Professional staff will be engaged to manage car parking and timed tickets will be issued to manage the flow of visitors. Cllr Small commented that the increased traffic made it difficult to cross where the cycle path meets the road near the entrance to the Abbey. Ms Ingham-Watts regretted that impact but advised that the Trust is not permitted to marshal traffic on the public highway. Regarding the wild camping on Oily Fen, which comes under the auspices of Wicken Fen, Cllr Stevens said that Sarah Smith had advised that fuller instructions would be given to campers about access and parking. He highlighted the difficulties that some users might face with the advice that cars should be

parked in the Abbey car park which is a considerable distance from the camping area and is locked outside the normal opening hours. Ms Ingham-Watts confirmed that she will liaise with Sarah Smith

- Maintenance of trees at the War Memorial:** Mrs Sale had written to the Council seeking a discussion on how the trees were to be maintained. It was explained that over a number of years the trees had been pruned by Lord Fairhaven’s estate staff and that this had continued once the Abbey passed into the hands of the National Trust. The Abbey gardeners trimmed the sides last year but did not reduce the height of the trees. There was some discussion about whether the trees might be damaging the wall of the memorial. One radical solution might be to fell the existing trees and plant replacements of more limited size but, if possible, the hope is that the current arrangement can be retained if the trees are pruned appropriately. Ms Ingham-Watts indicated that she would wish the Trust to continue to undertake this task for the benefit of the village and would instigate a discussion with the relevant staff. The only basis on which this might not be possible is if the Trust does not have the means to carry out the task to the required health and safety standard. Cllr Stevens expressed grateful thanks on behalf of the Council for something which is much appreciated in the village. Cllr Platten added her thanks that the Trust had made the Orchard car park available for the recent jumble sale
- Highways – Trees at Swan Corner:** Cllr Stevens reported that he had been asked by a local resident to arrange for the Parish Council to deal with a large willow tree at this location which the resident considered a potential risk to people and property. There was discussion about the difficulty posed by this site as no ownership has been established; it is clear that it is not the property of the Parish Council. If it has an impact on the safety of the highway, then it is the responsibility of the County Council who did respond when another tree at the site was identified as a significant risk after storms last year. Cllr Stevens had obtained a quotation for pollarding the tree from a local contractor which was £1675+VAT. There was concern that if the Parish Council agreed to fund this it would set a precedent for other issues arising on land not owned by the Council. He noted that in the past both County and District Council staff had identified the need for ongoing maintenance of the trees at this location. Cllr Small advised that it would be helpful to obtain a report from an arboriculturalist who would have the best perspective on how to manage the tree. He agreed to seek advice on who to contact from Liz King, Tree Officer

### 103/19 Parish Council Reports

- Finance approvals:** The following payments were approved by the Council:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£393.33	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
J E Giles	Printer cartridge and paper	£23.75+VAT	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Shaws Stationers	Burial Book	£179+VAT	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£169.16	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
W Jaggard	Cemetery-Mower fuel	£6.71+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink Ltd	Grasscutting	£175.13+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink Ltd	Grasscutting	£295.16+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Wave (Anglian Water)	Cemetery water supply	£29.06	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Octopus Energy	Fassage Hall electricity (collected by DD)	£161.90+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

Regarding the additional amounts sought by Ashtons Legal in respect of the purchase and lease of Fassage Green, Cllr Stevens proposed, and the Council unanimously agreed, that £600 +VAT of the amount sought should be paid on account. (This represents the Parish Council's 20% share of the amount originally quoted to LLVT for the preparation of the lease.) In the meantime, a more detailed report on the time spent on the legal work would be sought, followed by a discussion between Cllr Stevens, Mr L Johnson (Chair of LLVT) and the Clerk to develop a proposal for the final settlement to be brought to the November meeting of the Parish Council for approval

- **Fassage Green:** Now that the purchase has been completed, Cllr Small proposed that the joint working group with members drawn from LLVT and the Parish Council be reconvened to consider the management plan based on the document he drafted earlier this year. Cllr Stevens reported that, following a conversation with a visitor to the village, he had been sent a donation to the Parish Council of £120 towards the development of Fassage Green from someone who is particularly keen to encourage planting that will feed bees. The Clerk will write a letter of thanks
- **Co-option to vacancy on the Parish Council:** Cllr Stevens reported that he had spoken with someone resident in Longmeadow who may be interested in being co-opted onto the Council; he requested him to read the vacancy notice on the Parish notice board and contact the Clerk. He can then be invited to attend a meeting to see how the Council works
- **Planning:**
  - 19/01234/FUL – 26 Station Rd, Lode**  
The Council had no comments on this application
  - 19/01376/FUL – Anglesey Farm, Lode**  
Cllr Small explained that the basis of permission being granted for an agricultural dwelling is that the business requires there to be accommodation on site for the worker and that the business generates sufficient income to support the worker. The Council commented as follows:
    - i) Given that the proposed development is in flood zone 3, the plans do not indicate that the floor is raised above ground level
    - ii) The area of land held in the immediate vicinity of the proposed dwelling only extends to 7 acres
    - iii) The Council expects that the dwelling will be subject to an agricultural occupancy condition if approval is granted
- **Parish Questionnaire:** Cllr Crickmar reported that so far 14 responses have been received, the majority of which have been completed on-line. There were very positive responses to the questions about whether the village is well cared for and whether it is a good place to live. Regarding new facilities, there was most support for evening and Sunday bus services. There was also a very positive interest in litter picking. Cllr Crickmar will issue a further invitation for people to respond in the next edition of Lode Star as well as planning to call on residents over the next couple of months
- **Cemetery Charges:** Now that the government has made a special fund available to ensure that parents who lose a child under the age of 18 do not have to bear the costs of a funeral and burial, the Council resolved to set the Cemetery charges relating to children at the same level as those for adults. Should this fund be withdrawn at any time in the future, the

Council stated that its policy remains that parents should not have to bear these costs and would review its charges accordingly

**104/19 Correspondence:** The Council noted the correspondence listed by the Clerk. In respect of the contact from a resident of Station Road regarding the danger from vehicles travelling too fast through the village, especially entering the village from the Fen, this concern was shared by Council members. While the Parish Council does not have direct control over speed control measures generally, permission has been obtained to fix the Speed Indicator to the signpost near to the cemetery road. The Council resolved to purchase the bracket which will enable the sign to be placed here as part of the rotation with the other approved locations

**105/19 Date of next meeting:** Monday 11 November 2019 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

District Councillor report to Parish Councils in the Bottisham Ward October 2019

1. Finance & Assets Committee agreed to give £10,000 to Bottisham Village College for improvements to the swimming pool, including a new cover and a disabled pool hoist
2. East Cambridgeshire District Council is reviewing bus services in the district and has formed a working group to consider how bus services can be improved, Charlotte is a member of the working group, which is due to report by 31 March 2020. Isleham Parish Council had put forward an interesting and imaginative proposal to operate a bus that would connect with the Newmarket – Ely bus on market days, unfortunately, the decision on their grant request was deferred because it was decided to use the funds budgeted for community bus grants as seed corn funding for any actions from the bus review.
3. ECDC had drafted its response to The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Local Transport Plan consultation. Unfortunately, the vision for East Cambs is wider roads, hardly any mention of public transport, the dualling of the A10 from Ely to Cambridge which will only bring traffic more efficiently to the bottleneck at the A14 junction. The much-vaunted Cambridge Autonomous Metro has no stations planned for East Cambridgeshire, and so increasing the dependence on private cars. The plan does not include any consideration of protecting and enhancing the environment; for example, there is no encouragement for electric vehicle charging points or a significant improvement to bus services. We therefore voted against the response and have submitted our own calling for greater investment in public transport and proper provision for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
4. The external audit of ECDC's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 is due to start on 14 October and report to the November meeting of Finance & Assets Committee .
5. The accounts for the East Cambs Trading Company, effectively the commercial property arm of the District Council, were not presented to the meeting, despite being on the Agenda and listed as papers to follow. As at 1 October, they had still not been circulated to Councillors. There were significant concerns about the Business Plan for 2019/20, not least that approval was being sought 6 months into the year. Although several Conservatives also raised concerns, they approved the Business Plan by 5 votes to 4, with John and Charlotte voting against – the Plan will go to Full Council later in October for their approval.

John and Charlotte asked whether ECDC was supporting the Woodland Trust Tree Planting campaign and were told that the Council Leader had decided that this should be left to Parish Councils and Community Groups. Charlotte raised this at F&A Committee and was assured that Parish Councils and Community Groups could request permission to plant trees on District Council Land – the list of Council owned land can be found at <https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/notices/open-data> and is called 'asset register'.