

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 6
April 2020

These minutes comprise 3 pages

Note: This meeting was held remotely under the provisions of **THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020**

Present: Cllrs R Stevens (Chairman), F Platten, T Crickmar, C Purbrook, R Small, M Walsh; D/Cllr C Cane;

36/20 Items from the public: None

37/20 Apologies: None

38/20 Declarations of interest: None

39/20: Licence Application 20/00208/LIQ_02 for Premises Licence for Kings Field, Lode Fen

Motion proposed by Cllr Stevens and amended in discussion:

“Lode Parish Council comments on the Licence Application ref 20/00208/LIQ_02 for Premises Licence for Kings Field, Lode Fen as follows:

“Lode Parish Council OBJECTS to this Premises Licence application on the grounds of Public Safety and Nuisance.

“The application states that a licence for up to 15,000 attendees is required and that a small percentage will only be able to come by car and park by the main arena. If the number coming by car were limited to 1,000 attendees, it would amount to about 400 cars, which may be acceptable.

“However, the proposal for the rest to arrive by contracted buses is quite impractical. Even if 9,000, this would mean 120 double-decker buses (each with a capacity of 75) arriving on the site, plus their empty return journeys, or about 240 single-deckers. Over a 4-hour period for arrival, this would entail a bus every 2 minutes or 1 minute respectively.

“This would be a serious matter of public safety, and a nuisance to residents in the parish. Fen Road is a single track, no through road, only 12 to 14 feet wide. It is suffering from subsidence into Bottisham Lode, which is immediately by its side, with parts of the road splitting and subsiding towards it. It is also very uneven in places, particularly near Bulls Farm. The lack of passing places would mean that one bus arriving every 15 minutes would be its maximum capacity. This means that they would not have to pass one another on Fen Road, and give time for unloading. Over a 4-hour period, only 16 buses would be able to enter the site and then leave. Even then, the returning buses will also have to pass the arriving cars.

“In addition, the Fen Road forms part of the National Cycle Network. This is well used, particularly during summer weekends: cyclists would be placed at risk by this route being heavily used by significant numbers of buses.

“At the end of the day, the buses would have to compete with cars leaving and there would be queues leaving the site and through the village before reaching the B1102.

“16 buses with a capacity of 75 would only enable 1,200 passengers on double-deck buses,

but these would be in danger of toppling into the lode.

“S&C Productions have been advertising an event on 20th June. Buses every 10 minutes are being advertised from the Newmarket Park and Ride Site from 10.30 to 2pm. This would amount to 21 inward movements with a passenger capacity, if double-deck, of only 1575. Buses from Cambridge North and Newmarket Stations are also advertised, but with an undisclosed frequency. The Council understands that this event has now been cancelled. “Events could take place, but the licence should be limited to no more than 2,500 persons by pre-booked ticket. The maximum for those arriving by car should be limited to 1,000 and that buses arriving at the site are no more frequent than every 15 minutes over a 5-hour period. No more than two separate days on two weekends in June should be permitted, not successive days over any weekend.

“There may be other events on at the same time in the parish, such as Lode Village Fete, Cricket, and Tournaments, music and alcohol events on the Polo Fields (under existing licence).

“It is imperative that clear and unobstructed access is maintained for the emergency services, residents and businesses within the parish. Lode Parish Council request Cambridgeshire Police and County Highways pay special attention to this application now and at any future Safety Management Meetings.

“If the Licensing Officer is minded to approve this application Lode Parish Council asks that the application be referred to the Licensing Committee for decision.”

This motion was agreed unanimously

40/20 Planning Application 20/00296/OUM: Development of retirement care village to the rear of 163-187 High Street, Bottisham

Motion proposed by Cllr Platten: “Lode Parish Council comments as follows on Planning Application 20/00296/OUM for the development of a retirement care village on land to the rear of 163 to 187 High Street, Bottisham:

“The plans look better now that they have been reduced from 250-170 units, and they will not be conspicuous from the High Street.

“The area is well set out with a parkland area at the front which means the buildings are at the back of the site away from the High street and its original houses.

“There is another park abutting the land to the west so the residents of Beechwood Avenue will be set away from the new housing. This area includes a much needed playground, and extra leisure facilities.

“The application for TPO’s on the trees has been respected, so there will be mature trees in the development.

“The new development will free up existing houses that are too big for older residents.

“The development will provide care, communal health facilities, well being and leisure facilities.

“However, Bottisham already has two care/nursing homes including Hilton Park and Queens Court, so there is already quite a lot of extra work for the local surgery, and this would very much increase their work load with more elderly people coming into the village.

“The bus systems locally are very patchy so care workers, visitors and the residents themselves would almost certainly have to come and go by car, so traffic would be very much increased along the High Street which would very much spoil the attractiveness and quiet along that part of the village.

“Another issue is there is no provision of affordable units for local people.

“The buildings will be on Green Belt Land, which was not considered and released in either the 2015 local plan or the later withdrawn one.

“Finally, the application is only an outline plan, and we hope that the final application, if it is granted, does not dilute the attractive aspects of this planning application. “

This motion was agreed unanimously.

40/21 Items for next agenda: To include: Adoption of temporary amendments to Standing Orders and Establishment of Coronavirus Working Group

40/22 Date of next meeting to take place online: Tuesday 21 April at 7.30pm