

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 11**  
**January 2021**

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;  
C/Cllr M Shuter; D/Cllr J Trapp; MS P Ingham-Watts, National Trust

**134/20 Items from the public:** None

**135/20 Apologies:** None

**136/20 Declarations of interest:** None

**137/20 Minutes of meeting 14 December 2020:** These were approved

**138/20 Matters arising:**

- **Parish Council Vacancy:** No further enquiries have been received. Cllr Stevens will draw attention to the vacancy in Lode Star
- **Speed Indicator:** The Clerk had received a call from an officer Highways explaining that, following the discovery that the item was faulty, no replacement has yet arrived. The officer will keep us updated on progress
- **Reducing the height of the hedge at Lode Crossroads:** The Clerk spoke with the landowner who agreed to the proposal. The hedge has since been cut from the road side. It will only be possible to cut it from inside the field once the ground has dried out later in the season
- **Cambridge Eastern Access Consultation:** The response finalised by Cllrs Platten and Purbrook was submitted to the Greater Cambridge Partnership and was acknowledged

**139/20 County Council Report:** C/Cllr Shuter reported that a Flood Working Group is being set by C/Cllr Witherspoon. Its first aim is to gather data on areas across the County that flood regularly. In all cases it will follow through from the location of the flooding to establishing where the water should drain and whether the outflow from the drain is operating properly. Highways will ensure that water collecting on the highway is able to escape through grips into ditches. It will then establish who is responsible for maintaining the ditches and their outflow. This means that the solution may often involve several parties eg Highways, landowners, Anglian Water, the local drainage board etc. He stressed that Highways is not responsible for water that flows onto the highway from other land. A specific investigation is underway into the cause of regular flooding in the centre of Bottisham. He invited the Council to submit information via the Clerk on any areas within the parish which are subject to regular flooding.

In relation to the pandemic, he reported that vaccination centres are functioning well within Cambridgeshire. D/Cllr Trapp asked about volunteers for the Centres and he replied that there has been a substantial response. Recycling centres remain open but appointments must be made.

Cllr Stevens said that Highways had renewed the white lines at the junctions with the B1102 but the double bend within the village had not been done despite earlier assurances. C/Cllr Shuter said that this might have been due to issues about where the line should be located which Cllr Stevens said arose from the road being widened some time ago. C/Cllr Shuter also suggested that it may have been left because there was research that suggests that drivers approach corners more cautiously when there are no white lines

**140/20 District Council Report:** Cllr Trapp referred to the report that he and D/Cllr Cane had circulated last week. The report highlights the major meetings due to take place during the month with two meetings of the Finance and Assets Committee. He indicated that the District Council is not increasing its share of Council Tax in the next financial year. He agreed to look into how this affects council tax payers as the advice for parish councils has been that the estimated tax base has reduced as a result of people being unable to pay as result of redundancy or furloughing during the pandemic. This has led to a slightly increased charge per household to achieve the same level of precept in 2021-22 as for the current year.

He advised that the recommendation to the Council is to continue funding the W Suffolk CAB – this benefits users in this part of the District Council area who find it easier to access the service in Newmarket rather than in Cambridge.

Waste collections are continuing as normal through the lockdown

**141/20 Parish Report - Anglesey Abbey:** Ms Ingham-Watts said that the National Trust has reduced the number of available visits by half in response to the requirements of the new lockdown. The aim is to ensure that it can remain safe for local visitors. The Visitor Centre is closed as it is not viable to offer a takeaway service for the reduced numbers able to use it. A limited service is available from a trailer in the car park.

She advised that recent feedback has been positive in contrast to the disquiet expressed during the first lockdown. A number of compliments have been received expressing gratitude that it had remained possible to visit when so many other options for exercise were not available.

Ms Ingham-Watts alerted the Council to work which is to commence on the woodland across the Lode from the Abbey. In that context it is planned to undertake thinning of about 30% of the trees. She stressed that this is to promote the health of the of the whole woodland by allowing the trees to develop properly

**142/20 Finance:**

- **Precept:** The Council reaffirmed its decision in December to require a precept of £16,500 from the District Council
- **Payments:** The following payments were approved:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£405.30	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£173.39	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Zoom (pd by card)	Remote meeting software	£14.39	Local Govt Act 1972 s 111
Helping Hand Environmental (via Cllr Platten)	Litter bag hoops	£45.92+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
CPRE	Subscription	£36.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s 111

- **Planning:** The following application was noted:  
20/01508/TRE  
Proposal: T1 Walnut – Fell as the tree looked poor in the summer, with smaller than average leaf size, very thin crown and areas of hollow sounding bark  
54-56 Mill Road, Lode, Cambridge CB25 9EN  
Application approved 10 December 2020
- **Diversion of Lode Footpath 9:** The Council reviewed the objection to the Diversion Order in the light of the representation from Mr White to its December meeting. It concluded that

there was no substantial evidence presented to change its view that the diversion should not be permitted. It did recognise that the pond within the wood appears to have been dug since the original line of the path as shown on an OS map from the 1920s and accepts that it is reasonable for the path to follow round the pond rather than through it. The Clerk will check the status of the Order with the relevant officer in Cambridgeshire County Council

- **Covid-19 Working Group:** Cllr Crickmar reported that the initiatives around Community Spirit Champions and Christmas Cards had been well received. There had been a complaint raised about the Woodland Walks but this was resolved through the involvement of Public Health. Cllr Walsh reported that the Food Bank was continuing to operate successfully with a balance between the level of donations and the maintenance of the stock which she manages on a regular basis
- **Environment:** Cllr Small advised that the trees from CCC are due to arrive this week. Given the difficulty of assembling a working party during the lockdown, he will heel them in on his allotment for the short period until they can be planted. Cllr Crickmar advised that she still has 7 oak saplings available.

Cllr Platten said that she had been asked about potential activities for a young person from the parish undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award. There were suggestions about litter picking or removing brambles from the Fassage depending on the sort of activities he is able and willing to undertake.

Cllr Platten said that the roller is still left on the Recreation ground and does not appear to have been used for a considerable time. It was agreed that she would ask the Chair of the Cricket Club to arrange for its removal if it is no longer required.

Although she has advised a member of the household where there is an overgrown hedge that needs cutting back in Mill Road, no action has been taken. The Clerk will send a letter

**143/20 Date of next meeting:** Monday 8 February 2021 at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm