

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 11
May 2020

These minutes comprise 4 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; C/Cllr M Shuter, D/Cllr J Trapp; Ms P Ingham-Watts

54/20 Items from the public: None

55/20 Apologies: Cllr M Walsh

56/20 Declarations of interest: None

57/20 Minutes of previous meetings: The minutes of the meeting on 21 April 2020 were approved unanimously

58/20 Matters arising:

- **Parish Council Vacancy:** The vacancy is advertised on the Parish Website with a closing date of 1 June 2020
- **Topsoil to repair subsidence in Cemetery:** The Council agreed that the restoration of the graves which have subsided should be managed separately from the creation a bund on the boundary of Fassage Green. It was agreed that 2 tons of topsoil could be purchased based on the estimate of £60 per ton.
- **Cycle Way:** C/Cllr Shuter advised that Cambridgeshire County Council is awaiting advice from the Mayor about the level of Central Government Grant towards the urgent creation and maintenance of cycle ways to reduce pressure on public transport in the context of the pandemic. He will emphasise the priority for maintaining the section behind the hedge on the approach to Anglesey Abbey. Cllr Stevens pointed out two further points on the path at the Quy end which need attention: first is the lack of signage and a safe route to join the path at the top end of Quy village while the second is the need to improve the shared path from the Wheatsheaf to Quy Church. C/Cllr Shuter pointed out that these fall into the S Cambs area but will nevertheless highlight their need to be prioritised
- **Lode Cricket Club:** No response has so far been received to the proposal sent to the Cricket Club by Cllr Stevens. He reported that the cricket square is still being maintained by Mr Beardsmore
- **Trees to replace those felled on A1303:** Cllr Small is convening a group by the end of May to confirm the type and location of trees
- **Speed Indicator:** The Clerk reported that the County Council Officer responsible has agreed to the request that an indicator fully compatible with the current one is ordered quickly so that the existing brackets and locations can be used. The required Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the Clerk on behalf of the Council
- **Fassage Hall Covid-19 Grant:** The Clerk confirmed that this has now been received

- **Audit 2019-20:** The Clerk has drafted the year end returns and submitted them to the Internal Auditor. In order to meet the revised timetable, they will need to be presented and approved at the June meeting of the Council
- **Zoom subscription:** NALC misunderstood the discount from Zoom – this was only available for organisations having a minimum of 10 operators! The Clerk has set up a monthly subscription for £11.99+VAT (which, as it is levied in the US is not reclaimable)
- **Damage to Fassage Recreation Ground:** Enquiries with some people who use the Fassage Recreation Ground for sports practice elicited the suggestion that the damage had been caused by small animals like rabbits. Cllr Stevens reported that the damaged area had started to regrow so no further action is required

59/20 County Council Report: C/Cllr Shuter reported that Highways are maximising the opportunity to repair potholes with the two available Dragon Patchers while the roads are relatively quiet. He said that the County Council are following their strategy of a single annual cut of verges and ditches except where more are required to ensure safe visibility. This policy is designed to promote biodiversity but it will be reviewed to ensure that it doesn't have the perverse effect of allowing rampant species to thrive at the expense of less vigorous ones. The works to the A1303 are nearly complete; the main outstanding work is to stagger the junction at the crossroads between the Heath Rd and Dullingham Rd where they cross the A1303.

He reported that staff are having to take some different roles during the pandemic which inevitably does disrupt some routine work. He said that additional resources had been allocated to Hilton Park where an outbreak of the virus was now contained. He said that there were no problems with the availability of PPE.

In response to a question from Cllr Stevens he said that white lining works should now be able to proceed. Cllr Stevens suggested that where the white line was now off centre at Shrub Corner following previous road widening, a hatched area could be created to keep vehicles on the correct side of the road as they turn the corner. C/Cllr Shuter proposed that Highways should be asked to undertake a safety audit on that location prior to doing any work.

C/Cllr left the meeting

60/20 District Council Report: D/Cllr Trapp said that so far applications had only been received for 70% of the available emergency grant funding to businesses and charities affected by the crisis. The District Council has undertaken two Planning Committee meetings through Zoom and a full Council Meeting is scheduled on the same basis. The Enforcement and Tree Officers are able to inspect sites on a drive by basis but are not able to engage in face to face meetings at present. He suggested that work schedules were probably delayed by about 4 weeks as a result

61/20 Parish Report - Anglesey Abbey: Ms Ingham-Watts thanked all local residents who have been vigilant over the Trust property during the lockdown; the reports of incidents have been very helpful. At this stage there is insufficient clarity about the date when the site can be re-opened but planning is already underway to facilitate a phased re-opening. Initially it is proposed to offer access to the grounds only for up to 420 people per day. All will have to pre-book and up to 30 people will be admitted during each 30 minute period. Priority for the first and last slots of each day will be given to keyworkers, charities (eg those working with disabled people) and Lode residents.

In response to a question from Cllr Stevens about car parking, Ms Ingham –Watts said that pre-booked visitors would be directed to parking near the point at which they would enter the site while those wanting to walk in the locality would be able to park as well. It was hoped that this might

alleviate some of the problems that have recently arisen for residents of Mill Road. Two sets of toilets will be open: the temporary ones in the Car Park and one set within the grounds.

Ms Ingham-Watts said that there had been enquiries regarding milling of flour at the mill. As the Miller is currently furloughed, research is being undertaken to acquire the necessary knowledge to begin milling to make flour available locally.

She reported that, overall, the National Trust estimated that its losses may amount £200m nationally. Cllr Purbrook asked whether any government support was available. Ms Ingham-Watts said that the furloughing provision was being used for 87% of Abbey staff but beyond that, the organisation is assuming it will not be eligible for further funding.

Cllr Platten offered grateful thanks for the gift of the Easter eggs that had been intended for an Easter Egg Hunt at the Abbey for children over the holiday. All who had received one had been delighted

62/20 Parish Council reports

- **Finance Approvals:** The following payments were approved:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£393.33	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
J E Giles	28 additional hours arising from 2 nd meeting, amending Standing Orders, preparing accounts for audit	£367.11	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£173.39	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Oil & Spark Plug	Cemetery	£9.00	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Sainsbury's Fuel	Cemetery	£5.15+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd	Cemetery mower repair	£353.69+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Community Action Suffolk	Parish Council Insurance	£618.24	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Community Action Suffolk	Fassage Hall Insurance	£377.14	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Zoom (pd by card)	Remote meeting software	£14.39	Local Govt Act 1972 s 111
CPRE	Annual subscription	£36.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
AM Pilates	Donation towards materials for Scrubs (via Fran Platten)	£100.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s137

In relation to the final item, Cllr Platten said that so far 18 scrubs have been provided for Papworth Hospital and a further 8 for Hilton Park

- **Risk Review:** The Clerk invited comments on the matrix which identifies potential risks and then assesses their likelihood and impact before listing mitigating measures. He pointed out that a new section had been added to take account of the specific issues arising from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Clerk confirmed that he had clarified with the Council's insurers that the Fassage Green was covered in the same way as the Recreation Ground with no additional premium being required. There was discussion about the risk of a traveller incursion onto the Green following the recent experience in Swaffham Bulbeck. It was pointed out that the access to the Green in Lode is much more restricted and once a bund has been created the Green will be inaccessible to large vehicles. D/Cllr Trapp suggested that the installation of a lockable height restrictor at the start of the Cemetery road might be a worthwhile precaution. The Clerk agreed to investigate whether the insurance covers legal costs associated with eviction proceedings
- **Creation of Bund on Fassage Green Boundary:** Cllr Small said that a proposal was being

submitted to the Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust (LLVT) to allocate the necessary funding. The Parish Council, as tenant, would commission the work. If the cost is likely exceed £500, three quotations would be required

- **Covid-19 Working Group update:** Cllr Crickmar highlighted the following
 - LLVT have earmarked £590 of immediate funds with the proviso of qualifying, and a further amount of £5,000 has been retained for applications
 - The Mutual Aid group is working well. The food and sanitary supplies bank is being used by a small number of people; the church porch is being kept tidy and clean
 - A small team of people have come forward to offer technical support to any who need it – so far no requests have been received
 - Members of the group are involved in making the scrubs previously referred to
 - Cllr Crickmar has liaised with Ms Ingham-Watts over placing brightly coloured textile craft on the railings at the far end of Mill Road to discourage people from touching them
- **Allotments:** Cllr Small reported that the allotments had become friendlier over the past few weeks and are being well-used
- **Play Area:** Cllr Platten has prepared a list of priority items arising from the recent report and will visit with Charlie Rickard to arrange for the work to be undertaken. The key issues are checking the cantilever swing bush, replacing the rotting posts on the boat and placing plastic guards around the posts of the new climbing frame to prevent further strimmer damage. While the rotting perimeter fence posts can be replaced as a short-term measure, it was agreed that those quoting for this work should also be asked for an indication of how much a replacement fence would cost to facilitate future budgeting. Quotations will be obtained from Jacksons and Foxcotte Fencing based in Comberton. If the work is likely to exceed £500 (net of VAT), a third quotation will be required.
In the context of this discussion, D/Cllr Trapp advised that Swaffham Bulbeck Parish Council retain a handyman to undertake tasks such as these. The Clerk will seek details of the arrangement from the Clerk to Swaffham Bulbeck PC
- **Noticeboards:** For the duration of the pandemic arrangements, all notices are being placed on the Parish Council website. The Clerk will post a paper notice on the two noticeboards in Lode and Longmeadow highlighting the website address as well as the online availability of Lode Star

63/20 Date of next meeting: 15 June 2020 at 7.30pm. The meeting will take place remotely on Zoom with the same arrangements for public access as for this meeting

The meeting closed at 9pm