

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 15**  
**June 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 (from 8.15pm), M Walsh, C Purbrook, R Small; C/Cllr M Shuter, D/Cllr J Trapp; Mr L Johnson; Ms P Ingham-Watts

**64/20 Items from the public:** None

**65/20 Apologies:** None

**66/20 Declarations of interest:** none

**67/20 Minutes of meeting 11 May 2020:** With reference to minute 58/20 Cllr Stevens advised that the path from the Wheatsheaf to Quy Church was inaccurately described as a shared use path: it is only currently a footpath only and Cllr Stevens proposed that it should be upgraded to a shared use path

**68/20 Matters arising:**

- **Parish Council Vacancy:** The Clerk reported that there have no expressions of interest to date
- **Topsoil to repair subsidence in the Cemetery:** Will Jaggard has obtained two bags of topsoil, as agreed, and levelled off the graves where sinking has occurred. He will also sow grass seed as necessary. He mentioned a seat placed in the right hand portion of the Cemetery extension: this is in poor condition and needs to be repaired or removed. Cllr Stevens will check the seat and repair or remove as appropriate
- **Cycle Way:** Cambridgeshire CC Highways have invited the Parish Council to apply for the usual grant of £1010 for maintaining verges. The Clerk indicated that the PC would consider maintaining the Lode end of the Cycle path on CCC's behalf if remunerated at the actual cost (uprated for inflation each year) and the Council has been invited to respond with figures. Truelink responded just before the meeting as follows: "Cycleway from the Quy boundary to the edge of the village: cut/flail a strip to keep the pathway clear... cost £75 plus VAT per cut". The Clerk will respond to CCC with this information proposing 3 cuts per year
- **Lode Cricket Club:** No response has yet been received to the proposed agreement. Cllr Stevens noted that some limited practice sessions had taken place but no matches had been arranged
- **Trees to replace those felled on the A1303:** Cllr Small shared a map showing possible locations. It was agreed that a Zoom meeting would take place on Thursday 18 June at 7.30pm where the proposed locations and species could be agreed. A request will then be passed to Cambridgeshire County Council
- **Speed indicator:** The Clerk reported that no further progress had been made during the month: he had signed the agreement with CCC prior to the May meeting so we are now awaiting final details of our contribution and information on delivery

- **Road markings on Shrub Corner:** The Clerk submitted a Highways report to CCC with a request for a Safety Audit. The response stated: "The matters you have reported do not require immediate attention and ... have been added to a 3 year programme of work". C/Cllr Shuter confirmed that this was a reasonable response given the location is not a high speed area. On that basis it has been assessed as not being a safety issue. Cllr Stevens noted that a lamp standard that had been damaged in the village was replaced very quickly while the globe light at the cycle crossing just outside Anglesey Abbey which was damaged before Christmas had only just been replaced
- **Legal Expenses insurance:** The Clerk confirmed that the cover would include legal costs arising from the eviction of illegal occupants of land owned or occupied by the Council

**69/20 County Council Report:** C/Cllr Shuter reported that extending the Cycleway as far as Burwell was one of the possibilities under consideration for the Covid-19 funding received from central government to promote safer travel. The total awarded to the Combined Authority is £2.9m so bearing in mind the Lode to Quy section cost around £400,000, there is unlikely to be a major change in this locality. Overall, he said that the instance of Covid-19 infection was low in Cambridgeshire apart from a few hotspots in care homes. The County's equivalent of COBRA is ensuring that emergency assistance is available to those providers. 70% of the County's primary schools have reopened though the numbers of children returning has been lower than hoped. Academies are responsible for making their own decisions about when and how to reopen.

Cllr Stevens advised that he had written to John Williams, County Councillor representing Quy to propose the upgrading to shared use of the path between the Wheatsheaf and Quy church. He also noted the impending roadworks on the B1102. C/Cllr Shuter advised that resurfacing work on busy routes had been brought forward to take advantage of a period when traffic was lighter than usual. Through traffic would be diverted via the A14 and A142 but C/Cllr Shuter felt that residents may use other more local routes.

C/Cllr Shuter was asked about the link between the possible Cycleway to Burwell and the recent consultation on the Greenways project. Insofar as it follows a route already identified there may be a link but he indicated that the particular impetus on this occasion is the government grant and meeting the specific conditions attached to that

C/Cllr Shuter advised that a revised proposal for the Metro system has brought estimated cost down from £4bn to nearer £2bn. This would be achieved by using lighter vehicles within smaller tunnels which account for a major part of the development cost

**70/20 District Council Report:** D/Cllr Trapp reported that District Council has set up a Covid-19 Recovery Working Group. The intention is to liaise with individuals, groups, Parish Councils etc, to identify the actions that could be taken to hasten the return to normal life and activity following the pandemic. He and D/Cllr Cane are maintaining their offer to meet with local electors though the takeup has been limited in the current climate. Cllr Platten complimented the District Council for maintaining the refuse collection service throughout the lockdown which has been much appreciated

C/Cllr Shuter left the meeting at this point

#### **71/20 Parish Reports**

- **Anglesey Abbey:** Ms Ingham-Watts reported on the reopening of the Abbey site after three months of closure. The initial reopening was based on 30% of normal capacity (420 pre-

booked visitors per day) to assess how social distancing could be managed within the site. This has now been increased to offering pre-bookings to 960 visitors per day, though typically around 800 of those booking actually arrive. The important achievement is that staff and visitors feel safe with the arrangements, which now include a small takeaway outlet. The shop and plant centre are planned to reopen on Thursday 18 June. Ms Ingham-Watts said the National Trust is beginning to consult with around 300 staff nationally about redundancy. A national reset is planned for July as the Trust seeks to balance safety, social distancing and staff welfare. She has valued the feedback she has received from many sources over the past few weeks and reported that she had received communications from local people expressing a wide variety of views: this makes it impossible to leave everyone satisfied. She thanked Cllr Stevens for securing permission to place signs warning users of the path between the Car Park and the Mill that there is limited space for passing people coming in the other direction. Cllr Stevens responded that the reopening has gone well and he has not seen any illegal parking by NT members. He has explained in Lode Star that the Parish Council has no powers over parking and that residents with concerns need to raise them with the County Council or Police as appropriate.

Cllr Small said that local children have enjoyed making dens in the wood across the bridge from the Mill during the lockdown. Ms Ingham-Watts said that unfortunately the woodland playground area within the Abbey site was not open at present as it was difficult to maintain social-distancing

**72/20 Fassage Hall and Recreation Ground Accounts:** These were presented to the Parish Council as the managing trustee of the Charity. Mr Johnson had audited the accounts and advised that they showed a healthy position going into the crisis. It was noted that the Charity has received a grant of £10,000 from the District Council to help secure its survival during the pandemic. The accounts were unanimously accepted by the Council

**73/20 Lode Parish Council Accounts – Internal Auditor’s Report:** Mr Johnson’s report had been circulated to Council members prior to the meeting. He commented that the Council’s finances were run carefully with no wastage of funds. The Council’s income and expenditure were transparently presented and he found no issues arising from them. The report was unanimously accepted by the Council

**74/20 Annual Governance Statement 2019-20:** Cllr Stevens went through each item on the statement to ensure the Council members were in agreement. He signed the document to signify the Council’s approval

**75/20 Accounting statements 2019-20:** The Clerk presented the figures for the year 2019-20 and highlighted the areas where the external auditor required information because of the extent of the variance from the previous year’s figures. These variations arose almost entirely from the refurbishment of the Parish Council’s Tennis Court, where there was receipt of funds raised by the Club members and the grants secured from the District Council and larger payments than usual represented by settlement of the bills arising from the Tennis Court and also the contribution made to the purchase of Fassage Green together with the Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust. The accounts were unanimously approved by the Council and signed off by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer. The Accounts and notice of public rights will be posted on the website from 22 June to 31 July

**76/20 Finance Approvals:** The following payments were agreed:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£393.33	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£173.39	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
BP Express Fuel	Cemetery	£4.08+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Zoom (pd by card)	Remote meeting software	£14.39	Local Govt Act 1972 s 111
Truelink (April)	Grass cutting	£345+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink (May)	Grass cutting	£390+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Wicksteed (per F Platten)	Play Area parts	£67.98+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Travis Perkins	Play Area parts	£15.08+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Mead Construction	Cemetery (topsoil)	£50.00+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
CCAN	Archive fee	£100.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Wave (Anglian Water)	Cemetery water	£15.84	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

**77/20 Planning:**

- **20/00520/VAR: Depot adjacent to 1 Longmeadow, Lode** The Council made no comments on this application
- **18/01376/FUL: Proposed permanent agricultural dwelling at Anglesey Farm, Lode** The Clerk advised that this had been approved by East Cambs DC on 8 June. The Council noted that it had been given a very short time to consider the variation to this long delayed application

**78/20 Parish Council Reports**

- **Play Area:** The horse has been repaired by Charlie Rickard who has also undertaken to carry out maintenance on the cantilever swing. The Council asked the Clerk to convey their gratitude for all the work he has done to ensure the Play Area will be fully functional once it is able to reopened. Cllr Stevens had removed the safety tiles as agreed at the last meeting only to discover that they had been laid on concrete. It would not be possible to lay grass over the concrete and obtain a sufficiently soft surface so the tiles have been relaid. Cllrs Stevens and Platten met with Lloyd Clarke regarding the repairs to the perimeter fence. The main necessary work is the replacement of a number of uprights. These can be obtained by the Council and will cost around £200 while Mr Clarke quoted £400 for the labour involved
- **Covid-19 Working Group:** Cllr Crickmar reported that the information leaflets prepared by ECDC had been delivered to all residents. The Food Bank located in the Church porch is being used, though not extensively. Cllr Walsh is ensuring that all the items are fresh and the location is kept clean. Cllr Stevens reported that the surgery have announced that prescriptions should now be collected as they have now stood down the volunteers who were delivering them. It is not clear what the arrangements are for people who are shielding
- **Fassage Green:** Cllr Small has mowed the new orchard area and has made a hand bailer for binding the hay that resulted. Rather than having a formal Volunteer Day while it is risky bringing a group together, an email will be sent to volunteers setting out the tasks currently required which can be undertaken by individuals at any time

**79/20 Correspondence:** The Council noted the correspondence received

**80/20 Date of next meeting:** Monday 13 July 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 9.25pm