

Lode Parish Council
Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21
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 J Trapp;

43/20 Items from the public: None

44/20 Apologies: None

45/20 Declarations of interest: None

46/20 Minutes of previous meetings: The minutes of meetings on 9 March 2020 and 6 April 2020 were approved unanimously

47/20 Matters arising:

- **Cycle Path:** Ms Ingham-Watts, National Trust, had advised the Clerk that although she had not yet received the full agreement with regard to the Cycle Path, the Heads of Terms which she has received are clear that maintenance is the responsibility of the County Council. There has still been no response from the County's Maintenance team about measures for maintaining the area inside the hedge near the Abbey
- **Lode/Bottisham Cricket Club:** Cllr Stevens has produced a first draft of an agreement which has been shared with the Chair of the Club whose response is awaited. The draft proposes an hourly hire charge of £18 per hour which would include both the hall and sports changing rooms in the Passage Hall. If the Club has difficulty in raising these sums (which are comparable with rates for similar clubs locally), it could make application to the Parish Councils in whose areas its members live. It is understood that Mr Beardsmore is still maintaining the cricket square at present
- **Passage Recreation Ground:** It appears that one or more people have been using the green for hitting golf balls. The grass is being damaged as they seem to be being hit from the same spot. Cllr Platten will contact someone she is aware uses the Ground for practice in case he can shed any light on how this has happened
- **Trees to replace those felled on the A1303:** Cllr Small agreed to prepare an interactive map and then convene a small group during May to identify where the trees should be planted. Cllr Platten said that she had identified the three trees which need replacement with Rowan trees in the Cemetery – these are part of the compensation for the felling of the Silver Maple in Northfields
- **Play Area Inspection:** This will be on the agenda for the May meeting when the Council will decide what work is necessary following receipt of the inspection reports. As in previous years, gaps have opened up in the safety tiles around some the equipment. It was queried whether it might be safe to remove them where the items are surrounded by grass or to use matting similar to that under the cantilever swing which allows grass to grow through
- **Licensing Applications:** Cllr Stevens confirmed with the Licensing Team that the Parish Council should be routinely consulted when applications are received for premises within the parish

48/20 ECDC Report: D/Cllr Trapp said that the District Council was now holding meetings on Zoom. The first, a meeting of the Planning Committee lasted for 6.5 hours. He is trying to establish whether small businesses are being supported. So far the takeup on grants has been around 30%. The Clerk advised that

the Fassage Hall had been invited to apply for a grant under the retail and leisure scheme. He encouraged people needing assistance to contact ECDC. Information is also available on the website of Lucy Frazer, MP

49/20 Parish Reports: Anglesey Abbey Cllr Platten said that Ms Ingham-Watts had requested that residents keep an eye out for any potential crime while the Abbey is closed to visitors. It was reported that a local resident had seen someone apparently stealing plants from the orchard area. They called out and the intruder ran off

50/20 Parish Council Reports:

- **Temporary delegation of finance approvals to Chair and one other Councillor if spending within budget:** This motion was not discussed as these approvals can be satisfactorily managed through remote meetings
- **Finance approvals:** The following payments were approved:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£393.33	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£169.16	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Sainbury's Fuel	Cemetery	£5.75+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
CAPALC	Membership and Data Protection insurance for 2020/21	£390.92	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Wave (Water)	Cemetery	£27.51	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Truelink	Grasscutting	£44.20+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Border Farm Timber	Picnic table repair	£30+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Emorsgate Seeds	Fassage Green	£40	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Zoom	Remote meeting software	£14.39	Local Govt Act 1972 s 111
EON	Street lighting	£93.05+VAT	Highways Act 1980 s 301
RoSPA	Play Area Inspection	£221.50+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

- **Items already paid**

FHMC	Meeting Room rental	£172.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Lode Mutual Aid	Emergency Covid-19 Grant	£200.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s137

Members noted the payment of £200 made to Lode Mutual Aid on 25 March under the "extreme urgency" provision within Financial Regulations to facilitate the local response to the Covid-19 crisis

- **Cemetery:** Cllr Stevens reported that Mr Jaggard was having some difficulty getting the mower repaired by Doe's. In the meantime, he has borrowed a mower from the Clerk. The Clerk has reminded him about the issue of subsidence with some recent graves and the Parish Council agreed that top soil may be purchased to complete the levelling should Mr Jaggard say that it is required. Cllr Walsh offered to remove the weeds which are growing around the pergola in the memorial garden. Cllr Stevens reported that the loose fence at the far end of the Cemetery had now been anchored with a rope and stake. He had advised the owner of the adjoining property that the fence was not the responsibility of the Parish Council
- **Covid-19 Working Group to advise the Council for the duration of the epidemic:** Cllrs Crickmar, Platten and Small agreed to serve on the group and would bring any issues requiring decision to a meeting of the Council. Cllr Crickmar said that £150 remains of the £200 granted by the Council. Cllr Small suggested that if further funds were required, approach might be made to the Lode Charity and the Lode with Longmeadow Village Trust.

Cllr Stevens questioned whether there were some people who were isolated and might benefit from help with technology. Cllr Crickmar suggested that this would be something where a “Tech Team” of local volunteers may be able to help. If there is a need for finance for young people to get equipment for educational purposes, an approach could be made to the Lode Charity. Cllr Platten agreed to contact those within the village who are involved with the distribution of the Charity’s income.

It was felt that most older residents of the village have sufficient financial resources but it was recognised that younger people laid off from work may experience difficulties and it would be helpful if one of these charities could assist in that case. Cllr Walsh said that schools were anticipating that the earliest likely reopening date is September. While many pupils are able to engage with their schools online there are some pupils who do not have access to the internet within their homes

- **Co-option to Parish Council Vacancy:** ECDC have indicated that the Parish Council can now move to co-opt a new member to replace Ian Faulkner. The Clerk will draft an advert and place it on the website noticeboard
- **Licensing Application 20/00208/LIQ_02 Lode Fen:** The Clerk has been advised that the the applicant has been given up until the end of the year to resubmit the application for consideration at a Licensing Hearing. The Council will be given 10 days notice of a hearing date

51/20 Correspondence:

- PKF Littlejohn, the external auditor has emailed indicating that the issuing of audit instructions has been delayed
- Steve Shaw, of Power for People had emailed to advise that the Local Electricity Bill is being presented to Parliament on 28 April. The Clerk was asked to write to Lucy Frazer, MP to advise of the Council’s interest in and support for the Bill
- The Clerk advised that he had received a number of emails alleging that the Council wished to stop the posting of notices by Neighbourhood Watch, including on cars of people visiting the village during the lockdown. He will reply explaining that this is a matter under the control of Neighbourhood Watch and that the Council is not involved

52/20 Item for next agenda:

- Actions required following the Inspections of the Play and Exercise areas

53/20 Date of next meeting: Monday 11 May, 7.30 pm. This meeting will be held remotely

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm