

**Lode Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 8**  
**November 2021**

These minutes comprise 5 pages

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

**Items from the public:**

- i) **Fassage Hall:** Lisa Fisher raised a question with the Council about the availability of the Fassage Hall for community use. She has sought to book the hall on previous occasions in the past five years and when she last asked was advised that it is not available because the nursery would have to pack away all their toys etc. Cllr Small responded that the running of the hall is done by the Fassage Hall Management Committee on behalf of the Parish Council which is the Managing Trustee of the Fassage Hall and Recreation Ground Charity. The Council is very grateful to the committee members for whom this is a time-consuming task. Now that the Covid epidemic is being managed, the hall's facilities should be available for community use again. Cllr Stevens pointed out that the Charity's facilities are for sport, social and recreational purposes. He said that the nursery has a concession that equipment does not have to be put away when there is no booking but the agreement is clear that they do have to when the hall is booked between nursery opening times. Cllr Small said that a review of the Fassage Hall as a community facility was an item on the agenda for the meeting and the Council's discussion will be recorded in the minutes. He thanked Lisa and Tina for attending the meeting to raise the question
- ii) **The Guildhall:** Doug Durrant sent the following written submission which was read out to the meeting:  
"Could you please let Lode Parish Councillors and Residents of Lode know that The Guildhall (having been empty for many years) my mother and I are open to ideas for its use in the community. We are asking anyone to come forward with proposals for community use of the building. In considering the future of the building and its prominence in the village we feel it is right to explore all possible uses in particular a way of mixing ideas and projects to maximise its benefit to the community. Ideas coming forward should seek ways of helping the village, people of all ages, sustainable commercial and charitable activity, training, offering information, an art outlet, catering, meeting of groups, activities that enhance and attract visitors of Anglesey Abbey. Projects that time wise need an evening, a day, days in a week would be considered preferably still allowing multiple use of the building. I would be very happy to attend a LPC meeting in the future to discuss with Councillors and Residents."  
In response to a question about how the project might be financed, he responded as follows:  
"I would expect in offering community use that government / local council funding would be applied for and used which I feel is fair. Hopefully there will be numerous workable ideas coming forth from residents for valuable community use. I and the PC would need to consider and agree how any chosen ideas would work and the community benefits . I would at that time expect to have the PC's endorsement and full backing for funding. Having funding for refurbishment is one thing but there is also a very big commitment in having a building locked into community use which I don't take

lightly. If councillors feel they or the PC should not endorse any community project backed with funding as the majority are it would be useful to know.”  
 Council members were grateful for being advised of Mr Durrant’s plans at this stage and suggested that he might wish to submit an article to Lode Star to encourage direct responses from local residents

**86/21 Chair’s Welcome:** Cllr Small welcomed those present to the meeting

**87/21 Apologies:** D/Cllr J Trapp

**88/21 Declarations of interest:** Cllr Purbrook declared that he knows the applicant for Planning Application 21/01524/RMA and would therefore not take part in the discussion on this item

**89/21 Minutes of meeting 11 October 2021:** These were approved unanimously

**90/21 Clerk’s Report:** The Clerk advised that he had asked Truelink to quote for removing the brambles to allow for the installation of the metal store which is to be delivered in February. Cllr Small said that the aim was to reduce the area covered rather than remove them altogether.

**ACTION:** Cllr Small will produce a plan showing the area to be cleared for forwarding to Truelink

The Clerk advised that Street Scene had made a second attempt to clear the graffiti off the Perspex bus shelter at the crossroads. This has left the surface badly smudged and was a very disappointing outcome. It does not appear that the approach described by Mr Norman, the ECDC Officer responsible, was followed. The Council had been asked to sign an indemnity before the work was commenced but concern was expressed that the cleaning approach had not been trialled in a small area to find out whether it worked before tackling the whole of the affected area.

**ACTION:** The Clerk will write to ECDC to express the Council’s concern with the outcome and copy to D/Cllrs Cane and Trapp

Regarding the timetable for resurfacing the old perimeter path on the Fassage Green, C/Cllr Sharp said that he was in contact with Jonathan Clark, the responsible officer in Highways and will report back once the information is available

**91/21 Finance matters:** The following payments were approved by the Council:

J E Giles	Salary & PAYE	£405.30	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery	£163.14	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Vishal Gokool	Wellbeing Programme	£50.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
Suzanna Trowsdale	Wellbeing Programme	£50.00	Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19
Truelink	Grasscutting	£380.80+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Asgard	Steel Storage Shed (reimburse Cllr Platten)	£625.00+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Parish Online	Mapping Programme	£80+VAT	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Barcham	Trees	£573+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Ultimate One Ltd	Wire mesh (tree protection) Reimburse Cllr Small	£197.50+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
Simpsons	Trees (A1303 compensation)	£397.50+VAT	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10

**92/21 Planning:**

- a) **21/01524/RMA – site south of 60 Longmeadow CB25 9HA:** There appears to be a discrepancy between the site as shown in the architect's drawings and the area covered by the Land Registry cadastral parcel 40007198. The latter shows the notice board and telephone box as outside the parcel whereas the architect's plans appear to include them within the site. The Parish Council believes that the verge is part of the Highway and, as such, remains the property and responsibility of the County Council.
- b) **21/01562/FUL – St James' Church, High Street, CB25 9EW:** The Council had no concerns relating to this application

**93/21 County Council Report:** C/Cllr Sharp said that a County Council meeting is taking place on 9 November with the confirmation of the new Chief Executive appointment being a key item. The Children & Young Persons' Committee is working on the budget for 2022-23 when considerable pressure is anticipated. Highways & Transport Committee is considering active transport options. He highlighted the importance of the consultation by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) on the Cambridge Eastern Access which closes on 22 December. The Highways Improvement Board had a presentation on new technology for identifying incipient problems with road surfaces before they require larger and more expensive repairs. He highlighted the work being done on to identify options for the Ely rail junction. The local impact of this could be reduced lorry traffic on the A14 if two additional freight trains per hour could run through this junction.

**94/21 District Council Report:** D/Cllr Cane reiterated the importance of the GCP consultations as there is major impact for East Cambs from the Eastern Access proposals despite the fact that the Council is not represented on the Partnership.

She reported that she will be attending a briefing on staff disquiet within the Street Scene section. This team kept operating throughout the pandemic, but is possibly unhappy that the new waste collection vehicles have not yet been delivered. She also noted that the Chair of the Operations Services Committee has resigned. Commenting on matters discussed at this meeting, she said that the Guildhall would only be able to apply for central Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) if it were a registered charity. She believes that it is not appropriate for the District Council to require a signed indemnity against liability for damage to Parish Council property during repair work – removal of graffiti from Perspex bus shelters must be a common requirement for the team so they should be able to anticipate where problems might arise.

Cllr Stevens asked about the District Council's plans for food waste collection. D/Cllr Cane replied that the Council is awaiting clarity about national policy before finalising the local strategy.

**ACTION:** D/Cllr Cane will send information about the eligibility for centrally held CIL

**95/21 Council Administration Matters:** Cllr Small has signed the Statement of Work agreement with Freethought which will allow the application for the Lode-pc.gov.uk domain to proceed

**96/21 Environmental & Open Space Matters:**

- a) **Sign for Passage Green Car Park:** Cllr Small explained that the proposed wording had taken account of comments received and it was agreed that the best location would be by the new waste bin in the Car Park with the wording being black on white for ease of reading. It was proposed by Cllr Walsh and seconded by Cllr Purbrook that the wording and expenditure of £133.61 be agreed. This was approved unanimously

- b) Suitability/limitations of the Fassage Hall as community building:** Cllrs Small, Crickmar and Platten had met with the Fassage Hall Management Committee (FHMC); they recorded their thanks for the hard work of the committee members. Cllr Stevens pointed out that originally the committee had included representatives of the various clubs using the facilities but that this had ceased over recent years with all the responsibilities devolving on the committee members, eg arranging white-lining before football matches. There was discussion about whether it was possible to hold events in the hall at the same time as bookings of the Recreation Ground. Cllr Small said some reconfiguration could be possible within the existing building to separate the Hall's facilities from those for sport, which would be a less costly solution than extending it. Suggested ways of reducing the burden on the committee included developing an online booking system, having a key box to enable those who had paid for bookings to access the building, and requiring all sports teams to arrange white-lining where required. There was discussion about the charges for using the facilities and how they compare with similar facilities locally.

**ACTION:** Cllr Walsh will collate information on costs of hiring similar facilities locally

It was agreed that the first step was to arrange a consultation for current and potential users of the facilities which was proposed for 2-3.30 pm on Sunday 12 December, subject to there being no prior booking of the hall. It was agreed that there would be liaison between the Council members to agree the format of the consultation, possibly including options for the building

- c) Trees:** Cllr Small confirmed that trees had been ordered with the remaining A1303 compensation money. He has consulted with those neighbouring the former allotments where trees are proposed to be planted. Once these trees are in place, the land under the control of the Parish Council will be near capacity for trees. Liaison continues with the National Trust so that if further trees are offered, they might be planted in the Anglesey estate woodlands where the Trust is working on increased diversity of species to reduce the spread of disease. It was noted that Wicken Fen is having a tree-planting weekend from 27 to 29 November so it may be possible to collect the trees ordered from Barchams early to link in with that activity. (They would otherwise be delivered on 6 December.) There is a damaged tree on the Recreation Ground which requires attention.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to approach Eastern Tree Surgery for a price to make the tree safe

- d) Design for Swift Tower:** Cllr Small presented the proposed design for the tower and will bring costings to the December meeting
- e) Water supply to the Allotments:** A number of responses have now been received with all but one being positive. Cllr Small stressed that if the project is to proceed, it will need practical involvement from allotment holders
- f) Cemetery Paths:** Following a walkround by some members of the Council, it was concluded that the key outstanding tasks were the spraying of the paths and the removal of encroachment of grass back to the wooden edging

**ACTION:** The Clerk to seek quotes

**97/21 Communications:** Cllr Stevens agreed to write the article for Lode Star for December to include details of the consultation on the Fassage Hall & Recreation Ground

**98/21 Date of next meeting:** Monday 13 December

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

## **District Councillors' Report to Parish Councils November 2021**

At the last Council meeting we had a very interesting presentation from Superintendent James Sutherland (Cambridgeshire Police) about a pilot scheme for speeding and parking enforcement in the District. The Council agreed that the Cambridgeshire Police Pilot Scheme to integrate community-based enforcement of speeding, anti-social and illegal parking under Section 38 of the Police and Crime Act 2017, be supported. Furthermore, Cambridgeshire Police have proposed to target identified 'hot spots' in the District with enhanced on-street and speeding enforcement in 2021/22 be supported.

Although this pilot scheme won't be operational until the New Year, we think that identification of so-called 'hot spots' in our parishes should be undertaken by Parish Councils, and this will help in the selection and training of personnel for this pilot scheme. It is important to identify not only locations, but also the time of day where infringement of speeding and parking is rampant. Please send the list to one of us, and we shall forward it onto the Superintendent. This pilot scheme, most likely the first in the country, and the responsibility of the police, will be reviewed during the year. Charlotte and I still feel that the Council should take on the responsibility with Civil Parking Enforcement, which is done in almost all other Districts in the country.

The change in the operation of Committees in which members should submit questions in writing before the meeting was useful and more efficient as it was still possible to ask follow-up questions in the Finance & Assets Committee. The papers will also be issued more than a week before the meeting to give members more time to reflect on the contents. We shall see what happens in other Committees, and whether the chairman continues to allow supplementary questions.

A very limited partial update of the Local Plan will be going out to consultation. The update is to the *Housing Requirement* figure; the Council can demonstrate a more than required five-year land supply test, and thus restrict development to areas within the Local Plan or within Neighbourhood Plans. Although our Local Plan needs an update, particularly to incorporate energy efficiency and other climate protection measures, there seems little point in doing so until the Government stops dithering on its housing policy.