



Lode Parish Council

Lode Parish Clerk, 3 Feast Close, Fordham, Ely, Cambs, CB7 5PH

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www.lode.org.uk

Chairman: Cllr Rob Small *Vice Chairman:* Cllr Fran Platten *Parish Clerk:* Su Field

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9TH JANUARY 2023

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Fassage Hall

Present: Cllr R Small – Chairman
Cllr M Walsh
Cllr F Platten – Vice Chairman
Cllr C Ferdinando
D/Cllr J Trapp
CCllr A Sharp (arrived at 20.35)

Also present: Su Field, Clerk

Members of public: 2

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

2. Apologies for Absence

None.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Public Participation

In November the Footpath Officer recommended the installation of a new signpost in the field (behind Out Lode Road). The Footpath Officer said he would write to householder suggesting that it should be widened to 1m – the Footpath Officer wished to know if the Parish Council had any comments in respect of this.

The issue of the missing/broken sign just prior to Angelsey Abbey on the verge had been reported previously to Highways but nothing had been done to resolve the issue. It was agreed that the matter would be re-reported and CCllr Sharp would be asked to progress the matter directly with the relevant officer. A possible 'way in' was to speak to officer who has been dealing with Fen Road issues and this would be progressed.

5. Approval of Minutes

Confirmed as a correct record.

6. Finance Matters

a) The Chairman was provided with invoices received from Freethought for 2 months of cyber security hosting, Microsoft 365 Business Basic annual charge, W Jaggard for cemetery works during

December 2022 and the HMRC Basic Tools payslip for the Clerk. These items were agreed for payment and initialled accordingly.

The Chairman was also provided with the most up to date bank statement from Barclays bank for perusal and was initialled accordingly.

Invoices agreed for payment illustrated in table below:

S Field	Salary/PAYE & Home Working Allowance	£438.60	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Freethought	CyberSecurity Essentials inc AV (Nov 2022)	£9.60 (inc VAT)	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Freethought	CyberSecurity Essentials inc AV (Dec 2022)	£9.60 (inc VAT)	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Freethought	Microsoft 365 Business Basic and Business Standard	£569.52 (inc VAT)	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery Works – Dec 2022	£183.78	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
	TOTAL TO BE PAID	£1,211.10	

b) A virtual meeting had taken place on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 to discuss the precept request to be submitted to ECDC for the financial year 2023/24. It was agreed that the precept request should be submitted in the sum of £18,992.50 (7% increase on 2022/23). The Clerk had interrogated the current budget structure in respect of earmarked reserves and informed Councillors that it was best practice to illustrate within the accounts sums earmarked for specific items.

The Clerk suggested that it would be prudent for some funds to be 'earmarked' and, whilst not exhaustive, the items below were suggested:

King Charles III Coronation	£ 2,500
Playground upgrades/enhancements	£ 8,000
Contingency Fund for Locum services	£ 5,500
Allotments Contingency	£ 2,500
Cemetery	£ 8,000
Total to be earmarked	£26,500

This will be discussed again, to ascertain whether there are other elements that will require funds to be earmarked, at the meeting scheduled to take place on 13th February 2023.

c) The Clerk had obtained information concerning the services provided by Unity Trust Bank in respect of the Parish Council's accounts having regard to the difficulties posed by Barclays and discussion took place about whether the Parish Council should move their accounts to Unity Trust. It was AGREED that the Clerk should obtain the relevant forms to enable all Councillors to be registered with Unity Trust and that as soon as the transfer had taken place the correct and transparent procedures would be adopted for payments for services. These arrangements would consist of the Clerk/RFO raising payments and two Councillors to authorise payments after the relevant Parish Council meeting had taken place. The Clerk/RFO would have no authorisation rights to ensure transparency/accountability.

d) The invoice for the new village sign had been authorised (as evidenced in previous minutes) in the sum of £2,750 and paid accordingly. Clerk to request £1,250 from LVTT as their contribution to the replacement sign.

7. Planning Matters

- a) 22/01458/FUL – Woodlea, 26 Abbey Lane – 2 storey side extension, first floor side extension, alterations to porch, replacement windows and doors and 2m high entrance gate posts and gates

The Parish Council RESOLVED to submit the following to ECDC:

“The Parish Council have no specific concerns other than there appears to be an over reliance on uPVC within the design. The Parish Council feel that there should be more consideration for usage of sustainable materials given the prominence of the location of the property. The Parish Council would also like to see the incorporation of ‘swift bricks’ or another biodiversity enhancement.”

8. County Council Matters

Congestion charging in Cambridge – consultation has now closed. Will await results. Has to go to full meeting of Council.

New 20mph scheme – highways and transport approved in December – opening date for applications is sometime in February. Clerk will receive details from CCC in due course.

Mill Road Bridge – proposal going to Full Council to make closure permanent.

Can any resident who has issues with the work on Fen Road please let Cllr Sharp know directly.

LHI bid – Cllr will meet with James Toombs re the plan viz a viz dropped curbs for safe children crossing.

Tree pollarding issue – Cllr Sharp will liaise on behalf of the Parish Council.

Date to be arranged for meeting with Jonathan Clark from CCC to discuss the resurfacing of the pathways.

No report received from the County Council at the time of the meeting.

9. District Council Matters

The Clerk has contacted the relevant department at East Cambs District Council and has received information concerning eligibility to apply for a Facilities Improvement Grant (“FIG”) for works to be carried out in the playground. Details of which has been circulated to all Parish Councillors.

Below is the report received from the District Councillors for information.

District Councillors’ Report January 2023

Happy New Year!

In December the Licensing Committee agreed to consult on the installation of CCTV in Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles, as set out by the Department for Transport. The consultation opened on December 19th and will end at 3pm on Monday 13th March 2023 - [Licensing Policies | East Cambridgeshire District Council \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](#).

At the Special Council meeting on 15 December the Council approved its response to the GCP ‘Making Connections’ consultation. There was no motion on the agenda, so the motion and any amendments were put at the meeting, without any notice. Once the motion was moved, Charlotte moved an amendment:

Calling for the response to explicitly refer to the Council’s declaration of a Climate Emergency and recognise the problems of congestion, including on the B1102 and A1303;

Welcoming the proposed improvements to bus services;

Calling for rail improvements and fare reductions and integration of various modes of public transport;

Calling for 'PlusBus' tickets – allowing travellers to pay a small supplement on their train fare to cover buses from home to train and from train to Cambridgeshire destination and back;

Calling for travel hubs along rural bus routes and key bus corridors (travel hubs would have secure cycle storage, car parking, well lit and weather proof bus shelters, security measures, eg CCTV, and real-time bus information); and

Calling for 'school student tickets' ensuring that rural school students pay no more than Cambridge school students for travel to school or sixth form college.

The amendment was defeated by the administration. They went on to approve the submission even though it asked for a reduction to the proposed bus improvements, stating – “The Council is concerned that the proposed operating hours for both Key Bus Corridor services, Rural services and DRT services do not represent best use of public funds and are unsustainable.” As well as rejecting the proposed improvements to our bus services, the response also confirmed its rejection of congestion charging, stating – “At its Full Council meeting in April 2022 East Cambridgeshire District Council agreed a motion opposing congestion charging in Greater Cambridge and upholds that decision.”

The Council can no longer collect waste containing Persistent Organic Pollutants (known as POPs). POPs are found in waste upholstered domestic seating (WUDS) textiles and foams treated with fire retardants, such as sofas, chairs, cushions or beanbags. This is because the County Council will not accept them, as it cannot dispose of them now that they are banned from putting them in landfill – which is currently how Cambridge County Council dispose of all waste that cannot be recycled. The short notice for this change is because the Environment Agency only informed Councils on 19th December that it would be enforcing this law from 1 January 2023. The County Council is urgently looking for incinerators which will take this waste. The Council is asking residents to take advantage of re-use schemes or trade-in initiatives used by retailers or hold onto such items until they can provide an update. At the time of the meeting this situation has now changed and these items will be collected and incinerated by a separate contractor.

We are getting reports that street cleansing is falling below expectations. It was also reported to Operational Services Committee that ECSS had understandably been prioritising bin collections over street cleaning, due to the recent problems. Rather than us just asking generally for street cleaning to be improved it would be helpful if Parishes could let us know which streets are your priorities.

10. Council Administration Matters

The Clerk had attended one Scribe training session and would be booking further sessions (which are free of charge) to enable the system to be fully utilised.

It was AGREED that if the Clerk requires to purchase any storage facilities (ie 2 drawer filing cabinet) this would be brought back to the Parish Council before any decision were made as there may be opportunities to acquire such storage at minimal cost or free.

It was AGREED that the Clerk can apply to join SLCC which will provide a wealth of information/guidance in respect of policies/Government issued legal notices etc.

11. Environmental and Open Space Matters

a) Replacement tree at the allotments – increased cost

An agreement had been reached a few months ago concerning a replacement fruit tree following one that had fallen at the allotments. Due to the elapse of time it had been ascertained that the prices had increased and, following discussion, it was AGREED to purchase the plum tree at a maximum cost of £100.

b) Meeting with Allotment Tenants re water management matters – a meeting will be arranged in due course.

c) Review of urgent items contained within Tree Report

Clerk to obtain quotes for anything listed as moderate in the tree report – AGREED to allocate up to £2,000 for the relevant works.

12. Community Matters

a) Meeting to be arranged with Fassage Hall Committee – this will be arranged in due course.

b) Future upkeep of Parish Council owned bus shelters

This item will be discussed at the meeting to be held on 13th February 2023.

13. Correspondence (for information only)

The Clerk has forwarded all Weekly Planning Lists from ECDC via email as received. No other communications received.

14. Communications

None.

15. Items for next agenda

Buses

Bus Shelters

Rescheduling of meetings scheduled for 10th April 2023 (Easter Monday) and 8th May 2023 (King's Coronation Bank Holiday). Dates to be agreed.

Next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 13th February 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at Fassage Hall.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____