



Lode Parish Council

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

clerk@lode-pc.gov.uk

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 13th MARCH 2023

Time: 7:30pm

Venue: Fassage Hall

Present: Cllr R Small – Chairman
Cllr F Platten – Vice Chairman
Cllr C Ferdinando
Cllr R Page
DCllr C Cane

Also present: Su Field, Clerk

Members of public: 2

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr A Sharp – Apologies – accepted.

D/Cllr J Trapp – Apologies – accepted.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Public Participation

- a) Jonathan Larmour – Greenways – will affect the B1102. Long Meadow junction – GCP proposing a set back away from the B1102. Sight lines are not good. Resident feels that the proposed siting of the greenway will create a dangerous crossing.
- b) Robert Stevens – Road sign issue – reported but no response from County. Path between Lode and Bottisham – issues with undergrowth encroaching on the pathway and children are not using the path but are cycling in the road. Lack of signage. Requesting the Parish Council join in with request for new/better signage.

5. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed accordingly.

Chair's Report

M Walsh has now stepped down from the Parish Council. She will be sorely missed and thanks were expressed for all the work that she had done whilst a Parish Councillor.

The Chair expressed the desire for more people to come onto the Parish Councillor.

6. Finance Matters

a) The Chairman was provided with invoices in relation to each of the items listed below. 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.

All payments and receipts have been input into the Scribe accountancy software package and the Clerk furnished the Chairman with the bank reconciliation printout for March 2023 for signature.

S Field	Salary/PAYE & Home Working Allowance	£473.42	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
S Field	Reimbursement – black ink cartridge	£26.29	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
W Jaggard	Cemetery Maintenance for February	£183.78	Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9 & 10
UK2	Website Hosting for 2 years	£202.56 (inc VAT)	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Fassage Hall	Booking Fee – Feb 2023 meeting	£24.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Fassage Hall	Booking Fee – March 2023	£24.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Freethought	Business Basic Account x 1 (new Cllr)	£69.96 (inc VAT)	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Freethought	CyberSecurity Essentials	£9.60 (inc VAT)	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
Fassage Hall	Meeting Hire Charge (8 meetings – April, May, June, July, September, October and November 2022 and January 2023)	£192.00	Local Govt Act 1972 s111
TOTAL PAYMENTS		£1,205.61	

b) The transfer of the bank account from Barclays to Unity Trust bank is being progressed and those Councillors present were requested to sign the signature sheet from Unity Bank. The Clerk will arrange for the copying of 6 months of bank statements from Barclays which will accompany the signature sheet and application form. The authorised signatories on the Barclays accounts were requested to sign a cheque in the sum of £500 which would enable the account with Unity Bank to be opened and the switch to proceed. The cheque was duly signed by Cllrs Small and Platten.

7. Planning Matters

a) 23/00248/FUL – 23 Station Road – Proposed two storey and single storey extension.

It was RESOLVED to send the following response to ECDC:

No comments.

b) 23/00060/FUL – Montrose Farm, 21 Millards Lane – proposed erection 1No detached bungalow, new access, car parking and associated works.

Additional information had now been uploaded to the ECDC Planning Portal and the Parish Council RESOLVED to submit the following comments to ECDC:

No comments.

8. County Council Matters

Cllr Sharp was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report for the Parish Council's information:

Congestion Charging & Newmarket Road Access

We await the result of the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) consultation on implementing a £5 congestion charge between 7am and 7pm on weekdays across the Greater Cambridge area, which is due to be released in the middle of the year.

By the time that you read this, the latest consultation on another proposal in terms of Newmarket Road access and widening bus lanes and footpaths with more bus lanes and the relocation of the Newmarket Road Park & Ride will have closed.

I spoke at the rally on 26th February about the unaccountability of the GCP and the lack of a cohesive plan and will continue to fight for what I believe is right for residents.

Mill Road Bridge

On the 7th of March, Liberal Democrat and Labour members of the Highways & Transport Committee voted to close Mill Road bridge to all traffic except for buses, taxis and blue badge holders. I led our team in opposing that decision until we had received data on the effect that the closure would have upon Cherry Hinton Road and Coldham's Lane together with side streets off Mill Road, that will be subject to extra pollution and traffic. Despite some Labour members agreeing with the concerns that I raised, they still voted in favour of closure, so were obviously being told to vote a certain way.

Swaffham Heath Road/ A1303 Crossroads

Work is expected to start soon on a staggered junction at the Swaffham Heath Road/ A1303 Crossroads, which is long overdue and has been a bad accident blackspot. I look forward to seeing this bring a reduction in accidents at the junction.

Alan Sharp Cambridgeshire County Councillor – Woodditton Division

Tel: 01638 507485/ 07794292941

E-Mail: Alan.sharp@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

9. District Council Matters

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

Voters will need photographic ID to vote in person at the elections in May – that's a passport or photographic driving licence or other options listed at - <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a-voter/voter-id>. People without the necessary ID can get a Voter Authority Certificate from the Council, by applying at - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>.

The Council approved a budget with no increase in Council Tax. Charlotte seconded an amendment to the budget which also would not have increased the Council tax but included funding for:

- *A new Local Plan, to protect our towns and villages from inappropriate development;*
- *Implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement;*
- *Doubling the Environment Fund; and*
- *Setting up a small grant fund for parish councils and community groups to mark the coronation.*

But this amendment was lost.

The Swaffham Bulbeck Neighbourhood Plan was adopted.

Council agreed an additional £500,000 fee to ECSS for the current financial year. Charlotte proposed an amendment that the £500,000 should be a loan and that the Directors, Observers and auditors should provide reports to relevant committees about why it had taken so long for the overspend to be brought to Councillor's attention and what changes were being put in place or needed to be put in place to ensure better financial management and service delivery going forward. This amendment was defeated despite one of the Observers admitting that neither she nor the Directors had reviewed Management Accounts before January 2023, which is very worrying given the well-known inflationary pressures; the extra costs of getting back on track with missed deliveries after the round reconfiguration; and the significant increases to staff pay. We would have expected the Directors and the Observers (who attend Directors' meetings on behalf of the Council) to be reviewing Management Accounts regularly. If they had done so, they would have spotted the overspend sooner and might have been able to take mitigating actions or at least warned the Council that they were likely to request increased fees.

10. Council Administration Matters

a) Clerk's Update – nothing to report to this meeting.

b) 2023 Elections – The Clerk had distributed the timetable for the forthcoming elections for Parish and District. The Notice of Poll must be displayed in the village noticeboard on 27th March 2023. The Clerk provided Parish Councillors, wishing to stand, with the nomination packs that need to be completed and returned to ECDC no later than 3rd April 2023. The Clerk requested for a volunteer Councillor to take receipt of the nomination forms and ensure that they are delivered to ECDC prior to 3rd April 2023. An appointment with a member of the Electoral Services Team needs to be arranged in order for the forms to be checked. The Clerk will provide those standing with the electoral roll number for their proposers and seconders upon receipt of full names and addresses.

Cllr Platten offered to undertake the task of submitting the nomination papers to ECDC.

c) Burial Pack – The Clerk had previously provided all Councillors with an updated burial pack for use by local funeral directors and requested that the pack be adopted.

It was RESOLVED to adopt the new burial pack and this would be uploaded to the website for use by both residents and funeral directors.

d) Change of Bank Accounts – an update was provided earlier in the meeting under item 6 on the agenda.

11. Environmental and Open Space Matters

a) Update following meeting with CCC Highway Officer

Helpful meeting held with Jonathan Clarke from CCC in respect of Swan Corner. It is suggested that the Parish Council take over the management of the area. Signage required to advertise the fact that the Parish Council manage the area.

Also looked at the path around the Rec. He has committed to reinstate the path to it's correct width. There is a possibility that if the Parish Council were to contribute some funds there is a possibility that it could be widened.

b) Pollarding of willow tree at Swan Corner.

Three quotations had been received in respect of works required to the willow tree at Swan Corner. Following discussion it was AGREED to accept the quote from Eastern Tree Surgery. The Clerk was instructed to contact the company to order the works to be carried out as soon as practicable.

c) The Clerk had created a map of the allotments annotated with the names of the holders. She is in the process of creating an email distribution list with a view to, in the first instance, ascertaining whether the current holders wish to continue with their tenancies. Once all the holders have been contacted and tenancies confirmed a meeting will be arranged to discuss the water management matters.

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

The Clerk provided those present with an estimation of costs from one provider of bus shelters to inform the discussions.

Following discussion it was AGREED that further investigations would be undertaken and would be placed on the agenda for April for further discussion.

c) The Clerk provided those present with an illustration of a double noticeboard by a company called Greenbarnes to inform discussions.

Following discussion it was AGREED that further investigations would be undertaken and the item would be brought back to the Parish Council meeting in April. Various examples will be circulated and then a site visit will be arranged and a decision made as to which style.

d) DCllr Cane had provided, via email, an update to the County Council's change in policy in respect of 20mph speed limits. Funding is available to put schemes in place and the Parish Council were invited to consider whether they wished to submit an application.

Following discussion it was AGREED that a consultation with residents needs to take place to ascertain desire for an application to be made. Parish Councillors will contact all residents within the village WhatsApp programme to gauge opinion.

e) GCP Consultation – Swaffhams and Bottisham Greenways

The Clerk had invited an officer from CCC to attend the meeting to discuss the greenways project but no-one was available. CCC have offered to conduct a briefing via Zoom. The consultation closes on 24th March 2023 and it was AGREED that due to time constraints a full response would be composed and circulated to all Parish Councillors for comment prior to submission.

Comments had been received from Parishoner specifically concerning sight lines at the Long Meadow junction. Overall there was support of investment in the scheme but no comments about scheme at Quay. Comments are required to be made concerning sight lines at Long Meadow and the Parish Council would like to see improved connectivity between Lode and Bottisham.

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
Nothing for this meeting.

15. Items for next agenda (17th April 2023)
Bus Shelter
Noticeboard

Next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 17th April 2023 [moved due to Easter Monday Bank Holiday] commencing at 7.30pm at Fassage Hall.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____